



2025-2026



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



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# **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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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***

We, the children of God at Saint Michael Catholic School, strive to learn and embody the Gospel message, achieve academic excellence, and selflessly serve others.

## ***STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK***

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

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

its policies and/or prevent a student from enrolling or continuing to be enrolled at the school.

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

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

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

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

## ***PARENTAL/GUARDIAN ROLE***

In this handbook, the term “parent” refers not only to a child’s natural or adopted parent, but to a student’s non-parent legal guardian or to any person or agency authorized to act in place of parents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***SEXUAL IDENTITY POLICY***

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

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

### ***NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE***

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

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

### ***Non-Catholic Students***

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

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

## II. ACADEMICS

### ***CURRICULUM***

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

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

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

#### **GRADES FIVE TO SIX**

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the sixth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

#### **GRADES SIX TO SEVEN**

For placement in Algebra I in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

#### **GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT**

For placement in Geometry in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

#### **GRADES SIX TO SEVEN**

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

#### **GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT**

For placement in Algebra I in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

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

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

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

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

## ***VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION***

If the need arises for the school to move to virtual instruction:

- 1. Maintain effective communication between teachers, students and families about the virtual learning plan.
- 2. Teachers must include a balance of synchronous and other offline opportunities for learning and feedback.
- 3. Feedback is paramount and students should be accountable for their work. Assignments shall be assessed in a timely manner to provide feedback to the student.

## ***ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES***

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

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

clearly established in writing.

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

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

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

### ***IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM***

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

### ***TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS***

#### **TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

| Subject        | Grade(s) | Series/Publisher                           |
|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| Religion       | PRK      | Pflaum Seeds                               |
|                | K-8      | Faith in Life Series/Ignatius Press        |
| Mathematics    | K-8      | Progress in Math/Sadlier                   |
| Honors Math    | 8        | Algebra 1 Sadlier-Oxford                   |
| Vocabulary     | 1-8      | Vocabulary Workshop/Sadlier                |
| Reading/LA     | K-8      | McGraw Hill Wonders                        |
|                |          | McGraw Hill StudySync                      |
| Handwriting    | K-6      | Handwriting/A Reason For                   |
| Spelling       | K-5      | Spelling Connections/Zaner-Bloser          |
| Science        | K-8      | McGraw Hills Inspire                       |
| Social Studies | 3        | Communities/Scott Foresman                 |
|                | 4        | Virginia/Scott Foresman                    |
|                | 5        | My World Geography/Pearson Education       |
|                | 6        | Discovering our Past: History of our World |
|                | 7-8      | Discovering our Past: History of the US    |



All workbooks must be covered. Clear contact is acceptable. Textbooks must be covered with book socks. All students must use bookbags. A replacement fee will be charged for all lost and torn textbooks, library books, and trade books.

### ***RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)***

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 email 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 email are:

- a. When using networks or computing resources of other organizations, students must observe the rules of that organization regarding such use.
- b. Users should not reveal their personal addresses or phone number(s) and shall not reveal the personal address or phone number(s) of others without their authorization/permission.
- c. Users are reminded that e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Operators of the network/system have access to all e-mail. Messages relating to, or in support of illegal activities, may be reported to the authorities.
- d. Students shall immediately notify the system administrator/school administration if they suspect that a security problem with the system and/or the internet exists.

- e. Any attempt to log onto the internet or the school's network/system as a systems administrator will result in a loss of user privileges at the school. Any user identified as a security risk by the school administration/systems administrator due to a history of actual or suspected unauthorized access to other computer(s), network(s), or system(s) may be denied access to the school's computers, networks, and/or systems.
- f. Users of artificial intelligence (AI) shall generally abide by:
  - i. Teachers and administrators are responsible for supervising students using AI technologies to ensure compliance with this Responsible Use Policy (RUP).
  - ii. Users are accountable for their actions when using AI technologies. Any misuse or violation of this RUP may result in disciplinary action.
  - iii. Students must use AI technologies in a respectful and responsible manner, treating others with courtesy and consideration in both virtual and physical interactions.
  - iv. Students are expected to create and consume content that is appropriate for an educational setting. Content that is offensive, discriminatory, or violates school policies is strictly prohibited.
  - v. Users should create and access AI content appropriate for an educational environment. Permission and supervision by a teacher or school administrator are mandatory for students to use AI tools at school. Please note that many AI programs require users to be at least 13 years of age for use. Schools should be thorough in their research of the AI programs' Privacy Policy.
- g. Users shall abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette, which include but are not limited to:
  - i. Messages to others shall be polite and shall not be abusive.
  - ii. Messages shall use appropriate language and shall not use obscenities, vulgarities, or other inappropriate language.
  - iii. Use of the network shall not disrupt use of the network by others.
- h. The diocese/school makes no warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, for internet service. The diocese/school will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence, user errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the internet is at the user's risk. The school specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through internet sources.
- i. Examples of Unacceptable Uses – Users are not permitted to:
  - i. Use technology in sexting or cyber bullying: to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
  - ii. Post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane, or sexually oriented material. Users must not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, or threatening language. Users must not knowingly or recklessly

post false information about persons, students, staff, or any other organization.

- iii. Use a photograph, image, video, or likeness of any student or school employee without express permission of the individual, individual's parent/guardian, and the principal.
- iv. Create any site, post any photo, image, or video of another except with express permission of the individual, the individual's parent/guardian, and the principal.
- v. Attempt to circumvent system security.
- vi. Deliberately visit a site known for unacceptable material or any material that is not in support of educational objectives.
- vii. Violate license agreements or copy other protected media.
- viii. Use technology for any illegal activity.
- ix. Use of the internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an educational site.
- x. Breach confidentiality obligations of school or school employees.
- xi. Harm the good will and reputation of the school or school employees.
- xii. Transmit any material in violation of any local, state, or federal law. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, licensed material, and threatening or obscene material.

Users must immediately report damage of school equipment to the appropriate school officials. The school has the right to monitor student use of school computers, computer-accessed content, AI, and social media. Social media refers to activities that integrate technology, telecommunications, and social interaction through the use of words, images, video, or audio tools. Examples include, but are not limited to, social websites, blogs, message boards, wikis, podcasts, image and/or video-sharing sites, live webcasting, and real-time communities. Because this is a constantly evolving area, this policy applies to all new social media platforms whether or not they are specifically mentioned in this policy.

Violation of the above policy will be dealt with by the administration of the school. Violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following:

- a. Loss of use of the school network, computers, and software including Internet access.
- b. Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal and/or legal action by the school, civil authorities, or other involved parties.

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.

## **Saint Michael Technology Code of Conduct**

Students must use the device assigned to them.

Students will:

- Handle Chromebook and iPad with care.
  - Keep food, beverages, and other liquids away from the device.
  - Use only a soft, lint free cloth to clean the device, instead of liquids, cleansers, or household cleaning products. Commercial disinfecting wipes may be used to gently wipe the device.
  - Keep the device where the temperature is between 35 and 90 degree F. (Do not leave it in the car on a cold or a hot day.)
  - Store the device properly at the end of the day. (Make sure your device is plugged in and put in the proper storage place.)
  - Keep account login private to ensure personal information is kept confidential.
  - During instructional time, use only apps and websites as directed by the teacher or as required for assignments.
  - Use the device to access, submit, post, publish or display material that is legal, true, nonthreatening, to uphold the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church.
  - Avoid plagiarism by giving credit to sources cited.
  - Not use the device to bully, harass, harm someone's reputation, or spread lies or misinformation about others.
- 
- ***Additional Technology Concerns***

### **Social Media**

Engagement in online social media sites such as, but not limited to, Facebook®, etc. may result in disciplinary actions (including expulsion) if the content of the student's or parent's post includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students, or the parish. Parents should refrain from creating a class/grade Facebook® page without the written authorization of the principal. Negative or defamatory comments about the school, the faculty, other students, or the parish made on a parent's Facebook® page may result in the children of the parent being separated from the school. If a student is involuntarily separated from the school, there will be no reimbursement for tuition and/or fees.

### **Instagram®, Snapchat®, Twitter®, and Other Photo Social Media**

Photos, captions, or other information on a student's or parent's social media account that depict the school, the faculty, other students, or the parish in a defamatory way may result in disciplinary action.

### **Cell Phones**

Use of cellphones in school or on school property during school hours by students is not permitted. School personnel are not responsible for cell phones brought to school. Students must drop off their cell phones in the school office on arrival and can pick it up at dismissal. If a student fails to follow this policy and is found in possession of a cellphone, It will be immediately confiscated and brought to the school office. The student will be suspended which could also lead to expulsion after the second offense.

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are permitted to bring cell phones to school-sponsored dances to be able to reach a parent at the end of the dance. Phones will be placed in a plastic bag during the dance and kept in the office. Phones will be returned at the end of the dance.

The school personnel are not responsible for any electronic device that a student brings to school.

### **Smart Watches**

Smart Watches are not allowed.

If a smartwatch is brought to school, it will be taken away. A parent must come to the office to obtain the smart watch and the student may not wear the watch to school thereafter.

### **Sexting**

Students involved in possession or transmission of inappropriate photos on their cell phones or other electronic devices face suspension and/or expulsion.

### **Texting**

Students should at no time be involved in texting during the school day. Students involved in texting at school face detention, suspension and/or expulsion.

## ***TESTING***

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

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

Students are tested weekly in most subjects. Graded tests are sent home for parent signature. Parents may view grades on the PowerSchool Parent Portal

**Kindergarten Readiness Test:** This test is administered to incoming kindergarten students to assess their Kindergarten readiness skills.

**MAP Growth:** All students in grades 3-7 are administered the MAP Growth test diocesan-wide in Reading, Language Arts, and Math.

**Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE):** This assessment is administered to 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It helps to determine student understanding of basic doctrine and attitudes towards living the Catholic faith. It helps us evaluate the effectiveness of our religion instruction.

## ***HOMEWORK***

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

### **SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENTS**

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

|     |                 |
|-----|-----------------|
| K-2 | 15- 30 Minutes  |
| 3-5 | 30 - 60 Minutes |
| 6-8 | 60 - 90 Minutes |

In addition, reading for pleasure or practice can also be assigned as homework.

Parents help their children by acknowledging the importance of homework and by providing the conditions that children need to accomplish the task in a reasonable amount of time. A set time and place for homework is recommended. Teachers explain their homework procedures during the Back-to-School Night classroom meeting.

All students are required to complete homework assignments for the assigned due date.

The practice of keeping a daily homework planner is initiated in grades 2 – 8. Parents should check student planners daily. Parents are required to sign their child's planners.

Teachers update their Schoology pages or email the homework assignments daily or on a weekly basis.

Saint Michael Schools offers use of an online Parent Portal called PowerSchool to help parents and students keep track of their grades in a timely fashion. Because parents have access to grades continually, no interims are necessary.

At the Back-to-School night in September, each teacher will explain his/her procedure with regards to graded work. Signing and returning of papers is left to the discretion of the teacher. Homework counts as a percentage of each student's grade.

Completion points are awarded to all homework completed. Late assignments will be accepted up to 2 days after the due date. After 2 days late, the student's grade will be zero unless otherwise designated by the teacher.

If homework is missing or incomplete, a student will earn a missing/incomplete homework grade.

Parents are encouraged to check their child's planner every night, in addition to checking their Schoology account.

For an excused absence, there will be 2 days allowed for everyday absence up to one calendar week for an assignment to be considered submitted on time.

When a student is absent, please email the teacher and check your Schoology account for missed homework assignments. If a student is absent for more than two days, parents may request to pick-up classwork and books from the school office after 3:10 pm.

Assignments are given Monday through Thursday. Honors Math homework and may be assigned on Fridays in grades 6 - 8. Homework will not be assigned on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter breaks.

Long range projects, incomplete and/or absent work may necessitate that students do work over the weekend.

Projects will have a scheduled and published due date.

If a project is submitted one day late, the student's grade will drop 10 percent and will continue to drop by 10 percent each day, up to five days.

If the student is absent due to illness on the day a project is due, the work must be submitted to the teacher on the day the student returns to receive full credit. For an extended illness, parents can conference with teachers to ensure that the student is given an opportunity to turn in necessary 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.

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

### **SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

Although the calendar provides time for parent/teacher conferences in the first trimester, conferences may be requested at any time during the school year. Requests are made through email or telephone messages and should allow a twenty-four-hour response time. Parents are requested not to go to classrooms or to engage teachers in conversation about students when there has not been sufficient time to prepare for the meeting and a suitable place designated. All visitors to the school must first report to the school office to identify themselves and the purpose of their visit. They must obtain a "Visitor's Pass" which shall be worn while they are in the school. They must also sign out at the time of their departure.

## ***GRADING/REPORT CARDS***

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

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

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

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

#### **Grades 1-2**



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

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRESS SCALE**

The letter M, P or NI is indicated in the appropriate box for each subject area.  
 \*(asterisk) indicates modified curriculum.

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

#### **INDICATORS FOR EFFORT, SPECIALS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

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

Report cards will be sent home in November, March, and June.

A parent signature is required on the report card before being returned to the teacher

The final report card will be distributed on the last day of school as soon as tuition and other fees (lost and damaged textbooks or library books) are paid.

### ***PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT POLICY***

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

- a. The final decision to promote or retain a student is based on the student's academic performance and best interest as determined by the principal.
- b. Teachers will notify parents/guardians if their child is not progressing satisfactorily toward a passing grade in the course.
- c. Elementary students failing one or two academic areas must successfully complete a remediation program approved by the principal in order to be promoted to the next grade. If a student fails three or more core academic subjects, the student will not be promoted to the next grade.
- d. Students who have not successfully completed summer school or another program

approved by the principal but would not benefit from being retained in the grade may be “placed” in the next grade level; however, the school must prepare and implement an “Academic Intervention Plan” for the student as a condition of placement.

## ***SCHOOL COUNSELORS***

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

Saint Michael School does not have counselors on staff. However, we assist parents in finding one through the diocese.

# **III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

## ***ADMISSIONS***

### **DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

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

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

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

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

## AGE FOR ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

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

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION: PRESCHOOL – GRADE 5

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

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO GRADES 6 – 8

- 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. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. A Virginia High School League (VHSL) sports physical is also acceptable in lieu of a MCH 213G and is also required if a student will be participating in athletics.
- e. Records from previous school, including standardized test scores
- f. Proof of custody where applicable
- g. Completed Diocesan Elementary or High School Application Form (*Appendix J*)
- h. A non-refundable application fee
- i. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or other U.S. state equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
  - i. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia. Immunization records are required to be signed and verified by a licensed healthcare provider.
  - ii. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable.
- j. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former diocesan school if previously enrolled in a diocesan school.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

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

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

## **F-1 (NON-IMMIGRANT)**

1. F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students who apply for admission to a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school will be considered for admission, upon meeting the following conditions:
  - a. Meets Diocesan admission requirements:
    - i. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
      1. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia with signature of licensed healthcare provider.
      2. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A pre-school physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even though it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening.)
    - ii. F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation that they are free from communicable tuberculosis.
  - b. Currently holds or is in the process of obtaining an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student visa;
  - c. Resides at the same U.S. address as the guardian, who is identified as such on the I-20 application and recorded in SEVIS;
    - i. Guardian Permission and Agreement Form must be completed and signed by parent and guardian. (*Appendix AJ-2*).
    - ii. Guardian cannot house more than two international students. Policy may be amended if requested in writing from a guardian in certain situations. For example, if international students are related to one another and/or related to the guardian.
  - d. Pays tuition in full upon school admission;
    - i. There is no refund given for registration, tuition or other related fees.
  - e. Carries applicable healthcare insurance, including for emergencies, that may be needed while in the United States;
    - i. The Diocese of Arlington does not provide healthcare insurance for international students.

- f. Shows adequate English proficiency for the grade level to which they are applying. The level of English proficiency should allow students to pass all classes/subjects, including world language class. Schools cannot substitute normal curriculum classes with English support classes and must report an official grade for all subjects.
2. Students meeting the above criteria and accepted for admission must complete the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form and return the form to the school the student will be attending. The school must forward the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form to the Office of Catholic Schools with the original signature of principal or admissions director.
3. When a student is transferring *from* another school outside the Diocese, the originating school must transfer the existing I-20 in active status to the Diocese of Arlington. A Diocese of Arlington *International Student Transfer Report* must be completed by the originating school and returned to the Office of Catholic Schools along with the *I-20 Application Form*. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the originating school within 15 days of leaving that school to have the I-20 transferred;
  - a. A student must maintain status by attending classes until the transfer release date. Lack of attendance before the transfer date would be a violation of status and the student's SEVIS record should be terminated;
  - b. The student must report to the school within 15 days of the program start date and enroll full time in the first required session/term at the school;
  - c. When a student is transferring *to* a school outside the Diocese of Arlington school system, the Diocese of Arlington must transfer the existing I-20 in active status to the new school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the Office of Catholic Schools within 15 days of leaving the Diocesan school to have the I-20 transferred.
4. In order for international students to maintain F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student status, the Department of Homeland Security requires ongoing accounting. In that regard, schools are responsible for ensuring the enrollment status of all F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students is reported correctly. Reports for elementary school international students will be accessed through the Student Information System district database. Specifically, the school shall:
  - a. Create and update elementary F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student record in the Student Information System, ensuring all fields pertaining to international students are completed. All F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student records must be completed and/or updated within 15 days of the beginning of every semester;
  - b. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students Form if an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student has been accepted by that school and fails to report to the school within 30 days of their program start date;
  - c. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students Form within 15 days when an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student transfers to another school or departs the United States;

- d. Report via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students form any legal change in the name, address, or guardianship of an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student within 10 days.
- 5. For students who hold a visa other than F-1, refer to Visa Types (*Appendix AJ*);
  - a. Students who are currently in B-1 or B-2 status cannot begin their studies prior to approval of their change to F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student. Obtaining a change of status is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
  - b. Students who are currently in B-1 or B-2 status may be enrolled to audit classes at the discretion of the principal for a limited time (generally not more than two months) but must still meet Diocesan admission requirements pertaining to the MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form and provide documentation that they are free from communicable tuberculosis.
  - c. Students with a J visa for short-term exchange students will not be accepted into diocesan schools.
- 6. Any student applicant whose passport, United Nations travel document or other United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents indicates that the student is a refugee, asylee, parolee, lawful nonimmigrant or legal permanent resident may be admitted to the schools of the Diocese of Arlington under normal requirements for admission. This policy would also include undocumented children.

## **CLASS PLACEMENT**

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

## ***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 no fewer than 180 days per academic year or the length of time as required by the Virginia Catholic Education Association.

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

parent(s)/guardian(s).

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

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

#### **ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL**

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.



## **ATTENDANCE/REPORTING PROCEDURES**

### **Absence**

If a student is absent on a given day, the parent/guardian must call the school or email **attendance@stmikes22003.org** before 9:00 am to report the student absent. If you call before 7:30 am, please leave a message. Please request homework before 9:30 am. Requests after this time cannot be guaranteed to be available on that day.

### **Tardiness**

Tardy students interrupt class that is already in session.

Students arriving after 8:05 am must report to the Main Office in the Senior Building. Students in the senior building will be given a late slip to be given to their teacher. Students in the Junior Building will be walked over by school staff.

### **Medical Excuses**

A student who arrives late with an excused reason (i.e. doctor's note) is counted tardy. Students must report to the main office to sign in before going to class.

### **Anticipated Absence**

If a student needs to be out of school for any length of time, a note from a parent/guardian is requested prior to the absence. The school/teachers are not obliged to provide make-up work or special testing schedules for such a period of absence. Exceptions and/or accommodations will be made for students who miss several days of school for medical reasons.

### **Release of Students**

Appointments during school hours should be kept to a minimum. All requests for early release must be in writing. A parent/guardian is required to come into the main office and sign the student out before the student will be released.

## ***TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL***

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

## ***ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL***

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

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.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Arrival**

Cars – Students traveling by car arrive between 7:45 AM and 8:05 AM, and are dropped off by the Senior Building and assembled in the cafeteria. Cars enter via St. Michael's Lane and stop by the Senior Building in the coned off area. The Carmine Street entrance is for Faculty/Staff use only.

If parents need to visit the front office, they should drop off their children first, then park in front of the Church or on the side of the Senior Building (where teachers park), and proceed to the front office.

Students arriving after 8:05 am must be accompanied by a parent into the Senior Building. Parents must sign the tardy binder and report to the Main Office. The front office staff will ensure that tardy students are escorted to their classrooms by an adult.

### **Dismissal**

Students are dismissed at 3:10 PM. Each student has a carpool number that the parents display on their dashboards. As the cars enter the parking lot, their carpool number is entered on a google sheet document that is displayed on Electronic Boards in the classrooms. The students exit their classrooms as soon as they see their carpool number on the google sheet. All teachers participate in leading the students to the dismissal areas.

Drivers are to line up perpendicular to the senior building. Students should walk quickly to their car at dismissal. Once the children are in the cars, the teacher will signal for the cars to move, beginning with the line closest to the Junior Building. Cars arriving after the first departure must also be parked in lines. The drivers must wait until the teacher on duty directs the remaining children to their cars.

Only students who won first in carpool are permitted to exit from the Senior building and use Carmine Street.

Parents with the VIP Blue Tag have the privilege of lining up in the first carpool lane. This lane will always be dismissed first.

Walkers – Students who walk home are led to the end of St. Michael's Lane by a teacher. Students are permitted to cross Ravensworth Road only at St. Michael Lane, with a designated teacher. Students are not permitted to cross Ravensworth Road at Carmine Street.

All students must be picked up by 3:30 pm (12:20 pm on early dismissal days) unless enrolled in Extended Care. There is drop-in offered in extended care services for late pickups at an additional charge, if possible please notify the office 24 hours in advance. Habitual tardiness may lead to students being disenrolled.

### **Dismissal Policy Reminder**

All students must be picked up by **3:30 p.m.** Students who are not picked up by this time will be sent to **Extended Care**.

- Families who have not completed the Extended Care paperwork will be charged **\$10.00 for every 10 minutes** after 3:30 p.m.
- To avoid these charges, please be sure to pick up your child(ren) on time or complete the necessary paperwork for Extended Care.

Please follow the directions for arrival and dismissal. There is to be no driving or parking in the schoolyard during the school hours as the children cross between buildings and play in the yard. Please observe the cones, which block off the walk and play areas.

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.

### ***LUNCH/MILK PROGRAM***

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

## **IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES**

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE***

#### **STUDENT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP**

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

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

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

#### **ACCESS TO RECORDS**

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

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

Student records shall be open to authorized school personnel only (principal, assistant principal, and those to whom they extend access within a given year).

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

#### **TRANSFER OF RECORDS**

Schools may disclose a student's cumulative record (i.e. Permanent Record card, attendance card, test results) to another school with legitimate educational interest provided a written request for such records is received, or when those individuals to whom the custodial parent/guardian

has given written permission, have requested the child's records to be released. Parent signature is required for release of a student's confidential file (i.e. special education records, psychological reports, disciplinary records, anecdotal information, or reports by the school counselor).

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

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

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

#### **CONFIDENTIAL ACADEMIC RECORDS**

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

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

#### **RETENTION OF RECORDS**

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

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

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

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

- a. Application

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

### **SCHOOL VISITORS**

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

Visitors and volunteers should also sign out at the time of departure. Visitors may be asked to show identification in the form of a driver's license or other government issued identification. Please note that parents who serve as volunteers during the school day in any capacity may not drop into a classroom to see their child during the day. This is an interruption to both the teacher and all the children in the classroom. All volunteers must complete a Diocesan Background check in order to participate in school events. Please see the front office for more information.

### **SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

### **PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATION**

A Google calendar is provided online so that parents stay current with all important dates and events. All updates are posted in the weekly newsletter with a note from the principal. Emails are sent home on a regular basis with reminders about upcoming events.

### **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.

Information is sent home every Wednesday in a folder called the Wednesday Folder. It may include all graded work for the students that should be reviewed and returned to school. Also included are papers from the office with flyers for events or other important information.

### **TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS**

The office phone is not available for student use. In rare cases a student may be given permission to use the phone. Parents may call and leave a message for their child if daily plans have changed.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

In addition to the traditional 180 school days, schools should add at least three extra days to the school calendar each year to accommodate days off due to inclement weather or other non-weather-related emergencies. In the event these inclement weather/emergency days are not used, schools may dismiss for the summer after completing the required 180 school days. If, however, during the course of the year, the school uses more than three inclement weather/emergency days, it is not necessary for the school to extend its school year beyond the 183 budgeted days, provided the school has surpassed 1,038 hours of instructional time (as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia).

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

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

Saint Michael School follows Fairfax County Public Schools for all school closings and delays due to inclement weather.

### **ONE HOUR DELAY**

PreK will begin at 9:00 AM with normal closing times.

Grades K-8 arrival will begin at 8:45 AM and dismiss at 3:10 PM.

Morning Extended Care will open at 7:45 AM

**TWO HOUR DELAY:** PreK will begin at 10:00 AM with normal dismissal times. Grades K-8 will arrive at 9:45 AM and dismiss at 3:10 PM. Morning Extended Care will open at 8:45 AM.

If the school closes for any reason, the morning and afternoon Extended Care will not operate. Please arrange to pick up your child at the announced dismissal time.

Early dismissals or late openings due to inclement weather or other emergency situations are published on Radio station WTOP-FM (103.5) and major TV stations (ABC, CBS, NBC. Fairfax County Public School closings/delays. Fairfax County Public Schools also uses channel 21 to give all closing/delayed opening information. We follow their 1 hour/2hour delay options. If Saint Michael School closes due to weather or other emergency, you will receive a phone call and an email via the School Messenger System.

If we were scheduled for an early dismissal and a 2-hour delay is called, we will open 2 hours late and proceed to have a full day of school. All students must bring lunch from home in this situation.

If Fairfax County Public Schools call for cancellation of afterschool activities due to weather related emergencies, Extended Care will be canceled regardless of FCPS SACC program opening and closing status. Parents will be informed in a timely manner to make arrangements to pick up their kids.

IF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED BUT Saint Michael School is open, we will make announcements regarding it on our school website and social media platforms. In addition, School Messenger system will be activated and you will receive a phone call and an email from us.

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.

Saint Michael School works to protect the confidentiality rights of all students. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1973 (FERPA) and the Child Protect Act of 2021 (CPA) were designed to protect personally identifiable information of minors. Saint Michael adheres to these laws in its attempt to protect the privacy rights of all students. As a result, the parents of students enrolled in Saint Michael School are forbidden from posting photographs taken at



school-sponsored events that include the images of students other than their own on their personal Facebook page, unless permission has been granted by those parents. Such postings are a violation of Saint Michael School's adherence to FERPA and the Child Protect Act. The students of parents who post such photos may be separated from Saint Michael School.

## **MEDIA CENTER**

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

Parents, guardians or teachers who object to print or multi-media materials used in the classroom must complete an Objection to Content Form (*Appendix K*) after they have read the book or viewed the media and then submit it to the school principal. Those objecting to materials obtained in the school media center should complete Objection to Content Form for Library Materials (*Appendix K-1*). A review committee (to include an Office of Catholic Schools member) will subsequently discuss the objection and decide the disposition of the challenged material. The parent or teacher initiating the review should be personally notified of the results of the review. The Superintendent of Schools has the final say in any subsequent question of this review.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

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

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

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

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

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

Cell calls and texting are not permitted while driving.

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

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

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

School-sponsored ski trips are not permitted.

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

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

## **OVERNIGHT TRIPS**

Overnight trips are not permitted for elementary school children.

## **MARCH FOR LIFE POLICY**

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

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

Students who accompany parents on the March for Life should not be marked as absent for that day. From time-to-time it has been the case that world or local events raise concern about the advisability of school-sponsored student participation in the March for Life and related events.

When this happens, principals should use prudent judgment when deciding on attending the March and should consider appropriate alternatives that can be conducted at the school level.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/CEREMONIES**

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

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

Graduation ceremonies should be simple and dignified.

The Liturgy is highly recommended. Certificates signifying completion of studies may be given upon completion of 8<sup>th</sup> 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 support the principal to advance the school's mission.

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

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

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

PTOs shall have by-laws which establish, among other things, term limits for officers as well as

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

**Each family is required for the 2025-26 school year to complete 25 volunteer hours, five of which must be recess hours. Families must volunteer the other 20 volunteer hours in various PTO hosted events. You may opt out of volunteer hours for \$25 an hour.**

## ***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).

Parents are encouraged to participate in the various fundraisers throughout the year as a means of supporting the PTO and the school in addition to the fees and tuition paid.

## ***TRANSPORTATION/PARKING***

There is no parking in or driving on the schoolyard blacktop during school hours. If you are picking up a student early, visiting the office, dropping something off, or volunteering during the day, please park in the teachers' parking lot by the Senior Building.

Please follow the arrival and dismissal procedures found earlier in the Arrival/Dismissal procedures. To avoid accidents, parents may not back out of the yard or make a u-turn during dismissal.

## **Class Holiday Parties**

Classes may have holiday parties at the teachers' discretion. Treats brought in for class parties should be store bought, individual servings, and include ingredient labeling.

## **Birthday Observances special treats for children with allergies**

Students wishing to pass out birthday invites or other events must send them via US Mail or by email unless the whole class is invited.

Students who would like to bring treats to school on their birthday to share with class must get permission from the teacher. All treats should be individual servings and must include ingredient labeling. Treats should be delivered to the main office.

## **Gifts**

Students should not exchange gifts with other students at school. This gesture only creates hurt feelings among other students.

# **V. FINANCES**

## ***DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM***

### **APPLICATION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS**

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

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

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

The deadline for submitting applications to the contracted vendor is determined annually.

Applications received after the stated due date will be considered for tuition assistance if funds are still available.

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

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

### ***SCHOOL TUITION POLICIES***

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

## **TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES**

### **New Student Application Fee: \$25.00**

After review of records you will receive a letter of acceptance or non-acceptance.

### **Registration Fee (Non refundable)**

\$495 Registration Fee for the first child

\$355 Registration Fee for each additional child

Registration Fee includes all fees, including standard supplies given on the first day of school.

### **Tuition**

One child \$8,086

Two Children 14,555

Three or more \$19,730

No additional charge for 4 or more children enrolled at the same time.

### **Non-Catholics Student Tuition**

One Child \$9,193

Two Children \$16,547

Three Children \$22,430

International Students \$13,084 per child

Other fee information, specific to a particular grade is supplied to those grades involved.

Each Family using FACTS tuition pays an additional fee of \$50.00. This fee is added to your first month tuition payment to FACTS.

The school will assess a \$35.00 fee for any check which may be returned due to insufficient funds. The \$35.00 fee along with the amount of check, must then be rendered in cash or money order. Should this occur in excess, no further checks will be accepted by the school.

### ***MANDATORY VOLUNTEER HOURS***

**Each family is required for the 2025-26 school year to complete 25 volunteer hours, five of which must be recess hours. Families must volunteer the other 20 volunteer hours in various PTO hosted events. You may opt out of volunteer hours for \$25 an hour.**

## **VI. CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### ***PARTICIPATION***

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

Participation in co-curricular and extracurricular 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 extracurricular activities.

When possible, separate athletic teams will be offered for each sex. Young people will participate on teams consistent with their biological sex and may not participate on teams offered for the other sex. When (for example, in swimming or track) a team may include both sexes, individuals will participate in events consistent with their biological sex. In the case of golf, if separate male and female teams are not offered, members of both sexes may participate together on a single team in the same events. Girls are not allowed to participate in boys football and/or wrestling activities. Male wrestlers may not compete with female wrestlers from other schools at any time.

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

## ***TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES***

Students participating in a school-sponsored sport who wish to travel to and from practice and games in a privately owned vehicle must have a written permission from their parent/guardian.

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/after care 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 Responsible Use Policy for Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
- k. will demonstrate good sportsmanship when engaged in all school-sponsored co- and extracurricular 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 1,000 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 1,000 feet of the school (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from school or a school-sponsored activity), the student will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. In the event school officials believe that a student is under the influence of an illegal substance, the parents/guardians will be notified, and the student will be removed from class. School officials reserve the right to require that the student be taken for drug testing within 24 hours and that the results of the testing be shared with the appropriate school officials. If a violation of the law has occurred, the proper law enforcement agency will be contacted.

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

A student shall not possess, use, or threaten to use on the property of the school, on any school bus; and/or at any school sponsored activity, any weapons (including but not limited to any pistols, revolvers, rifles or other firearms, stun weapons, tasers, knives, flailing instruments [which may sometimes be known as nunchucks 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.

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment that allows students to develop and prosper academically, physically, and spiritually, consistent with Catholic teachings and principles. When a student has expressed to another student or adult, that he/she wants to harm or kill another individual, do harm to the school, mentions weapons, etc., it is the responsibility of the school leadership to investigate this further. A behavioral threat assessment will be conducted. In consultation with the Diocese, it will normally be the case that the non-emergency police line in the school's jurisdiction will be notified when threats are made.

## ***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**

Saint Michael School observes a code of conduct that is built on fundamental Catholic social teaching. The dignity of the human person is held in esteem by all members of the school community. Through self-discipline, students learn to promote the common good and experience the satisfaction of work that is well done. Peace and harmony are goals of a disciplined environment. To ensure this, principles of justice are held as standards.

Rules of conduct apply at all times to behavior in the cafeteria, on the playground, and throughout the buildings. Regulations are clearly articulated, and violations incur suitable consequences

### **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 (e.g. automobiles, etc.) or at school activities may be conducted by the school principal/administration or other designated officials. It is only necessary that a search be reasonable and related to the school rights in these regards. The failure of a student to voluntarily submit to a search shall be presumptive evidence of the existence of contraband and grounds for appropriate disciplinary action.

### **INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS**

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

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

- a. The principal, the assistant principal, or the principal's designee shall be alerted.

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

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

#### **STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY**

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

#### **SCHOOL LOCKERS AND DESKS**

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

Each student in grades 4-8 is assigned a locker to store jackets, backpacks, and textbooks. To maintain a quiet atmosphere for class, students are allowed to go to their lockers only at specified times. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time. Lockers may not be decorated on the outside except for birthdays. Backpack, drawstring bags, etc. will not be carried during the school day.

#### ***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.

Destruction of school property may result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension. Depending on the type of destruction, expulsion may be possible.

## ***DRESS CODE***

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

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

## **UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION**

Uniforms are to be purchased from

Flynn and O'Hara School Uniform Co. Inc.  
9650 Main Street  
Unit 20  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
Phone: 703-503-5966

The winter uniform is worn from November 1 – April 3 unless the principal modifies the regulation and notifies the parents. The P.E. uniform is worn by students all day of the day when they have physical education class.

## **Uniform Guidelines**

### **PRESCHOOL**

Preschool students wear the PE uniform each day.

### **PE UNIFORM**

#### **Boys & Girls – Kindergarten – 8th Grade**

Winter: Green sweatpants & green sweatshirt, both with white school name imprinted, gold T-shirt with school name, plain white crew socks, and sneakers. Green fleece should be worn in addition to green sweatshirt if cold. No non uniform jackets or sweatshirts permitted inside the buildings.

Fall and Spring: Green mesh shorts with white school name, gold T-shirt with school name, plain white crew socks, and sneakers.

## **STANDARD UNIFORM**

### **BOYS – KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE**

- navy dress slacks
- belt (brown or black)
- plain white polo (long or short sleeves)
  - solid navy sweater vest, long-sleeved v-neck pullover, or green fleece zip-up with school name.
- plain white, navy, or black crew socks
- school shoes (see *Shoes, Grades K – 8*)

Spring/fall option

- plain white short-sleeved polo
  - navy walking shorts or navy dress slacks
  - belt (brown or black)
  - plain white, navy, or black crew socks
- School shoes (see *Shoes, Grades K – 8*)

### **GIRLS – KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE**

- green plaid jumper or long navy blue pants
- white blouse (long or short sleeves with “peter pan” collar)
- solid navy cardigan sweater or green fleece zip-up with school name.
- plain navy knee-socks, navy tights, or black tights

**White crew socks are not worn during the winter uniform time frame.**

School shoes (see *Shoes, Grades K – 8*)

Spring/fall option

- plain white short-sleeved polo
- navy walking shorts
- belt (brown or black)
- plain white crew socks – all socks must cover ankles

School shoes (see *Shoes, Grades K – 8*)

### **BOYS – GRADES 4-8**

- navy dress slacks
- belt (brown or black)



- plain white oxford shirt with button-down collar (long or short sleeves)
- solid navy tie of appropriate length
- solid navy sweater vest, long-sleeved v-neck pullover, or green fleece zip-up with school name

**\*\*Grades 7 and 8 wear “Prescott Red” uniform sweater or vest or green fleece zip-up with school name.**

- plain white, navy, or black crew socks
- School shoes (see Shoes, Grades K – 8)

Spring/fall option

- plain white short-sleeved polo
- navy walking shorts or navy dress slacks
- belt (brown or black)
- plain white, navy, or black crew socks (no logos)
- School shoes (see Shoes, Grades K – 8)

#### **GIRLS – GRADES 4-8**

- green plaid skirt or kilt – **to be worn to the top of the knee**
- plain white oxford shirt with button-down collar (long or short sleeves)
  - Navy sweater vest, long-sleeved v-neck pullover, or green fleece zip-up with school name

**\*\*Grades 7 and 8 wear “Prescott Red” uniform sweater or vest or green fleece zip-up with school name.**

- plain navy knee-socks, navy tights, or black tights

**White crew socks are not worn during the winter uniform time period.**

School shoes (see Shoes, Grades K – 8)

\*Spring/fall option

- plain white short-sleeved polo
- navy walking shorts, green plaid skirt, or green plaid kilt
- belt (brown or black) if shorts are worn
- plain white crew socks – All socks must cover ankles
- School shoes (see Shoes, Grades K – 8)

#### **ALL STUDENTS**

- Shirts must be tucked in so that the waistband is visible. When wearing a sweater, the shirt must still be tucked in so that it does not hang below the bottom of the sweater.

- Undergarments worn under school shirts must be plain white, and must have sleeves that do not exceed the length of the sleeves of the uniform shirt.
- Pants, shorts, and skirts/kilts are to be worn at the waist.
- Clothing must be in good condition, clean, with no holes, missing buttons, or loose hems.
- Nail polish and cosmetics are not permitted.
- Both boys and girls may wear a religious necklace and a watch to school. Additionally, girls may wear one set of simple post earrings. No other jewelry may be worn.
- Extremes in hairstyles or fad hair cuts are not permitted. Hair may not be bleached or colored and should be neatly cut. (Boys' hair should not touch their shirt collar or go past their eyebrows).
- All students who wish to wear a sweater in class must wear the uniform sweater or fleece.

### **SHOES, GRADES K-8**

**BLACK, FLAT OR LOW HEELED SHOES THAT ARE STURDY, AND NEAT IN APPEARANCE. BOOTS, SANDALS, SNEAKERS OR ATHLETIC-STYLE SHOES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. SNEAKERS ARE WORN WITH THE PE UNIFORM ONLY.**

### **UNIFORM GUIDELINES FOR DRESS DOWN DAYS**

#### **Allowed items**

- jeans
- tennis shoes
- short ankle socks
- shorts no shorter than three inches above the knee
- skirts and skorts no shorter than three inches above the knee
- sweatshirts
- jogging suits
- dresses no shorter than three inches above the knee
- slacks

#### **Items NOT allowed**

- open-toe sandals or shoes
- open-back shoes
- tank tops
- t-shirts with inappropriate writing
- tennis shoes that convert to roller skates
- biker shorts
- pajama pants
- yoga, exercise, or running pants
- any clothing that is extremely tight
- leggings worn as pants – leggings, if worn, must be worn with a dress or skirt
- make-up
- low-cut blouses or tops
- hats (in the building)

ALL UNIFORM REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE PRINCIPAL

### ***INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS***

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

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

Weapons (real, toy, or look a likes)  
Fireworks  
Laser pens/pointers  
Inappropriate written materials/pictures  
Sharp objects such as pocket knives  
Gum  
E-cigarette or vapors  
Alcohol, drugs, or any tobacco products

#### **Cell Phones**

Use of cellphones in school or on school property during school hours by students is not permitted. If students do bring in a cell phone, they must turn it into the school office and can retrieve it at the end of the day

### ***PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS***

Students are to be respectful and play fairly. Playground equipment is provided, and students should treat all equipment with respect. Students may play on the blacktop or in the playground on the lower part of the hill leading up to the rectory.

Students in grades PreK – 8 grade may use the two enclosed playground areas as long as there is an adult to supervise.

## ***LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS***

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

The school administration can determine if middle school students may use a microwave oven.

Students are to be respectful and play fairly. Playground equipment is provided, and students should treat all equipment with respect. Students may play on the blacktop or in the playground on the lower part of the hill leading up to the rectory.

Students in grades PreK – 8 grade may use the two enclosed playground areas as long as there is an adult to supervise.

## 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.

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.

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.

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.

#### **STUDENTS WITH SUICIDAL IDEATION**

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment that allows students to develop and prosper academically, physically, and spiritually, consistent with Catholic teachings and principles. When a student has expressed to any adult, that he/she wants to harm or kill

him/herself, it is the responsibility of that adult, school counselor, school nurse or administrator to investigate this further. The school may require documentation and information regarding the threat to self and request accommodations that may impact their academics or social interactions while at school.

### **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.

Saint Michael School has a full-time nurse. In the absence of the nurse, the ill or injured student will go to the main office for care. Parents will be notified either by a clinic card or a phone call depending on the seriousness of the illness or accident.

### **AIR QUALITY AND PREVENTION OF HEAT/COLD RELATED ILLNESS**

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

### **GENERAL ILLNESS PROCEDURES**

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*.

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 a child is determined to need to go home, a parent or guardian must pick up their child from school within a reasonable amount of time to control the spread of illness. If parent or guardian is not available, the emergency contact will be called. 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. This policy also applies to resuming 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.

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

- a. When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration);
- b. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;
- c. When the parent/guardian provides and transports the medication to and from school and the medication is given directly to the school nurse/health assistant or a senior member of the school administration;
- d. When there is a licensed health care provider's written order signed by the parent/guardian requesting the school administer the medication or to permit the student to self-administer the medication;
- e. When the medication is brought to the school in its original container stating the name of the student, the dosage and method of administration prescribed by a licensed health-care provider. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription. The new prescription must also be brought to the school in the original container as stated above;
- f. When the appropriate medication authorization form (*Appendix F-6*) has been

completed, signed by the parent/guardian and accompanies the medication;

- g. For any medication, parents must document the number of tablets or dosages to be secured for administration by authorized school personnel. If tablets are to be divided, the parent or guardian is responsible for dividing the tablets in order to achieve their child's proper dosage.
- h. Herbal and homeopathic medications will not be given in Diocesan schools without written authorization by a LHCP that shall include desired and adverse effects. Protein supplements will not be administered unless directly requested by a physician with a health treatment plan.
- i. Students should not attend school while taking prescribed Schedule II narcotics (e.g. Percocet, oxycodone, hydromorphone) for any legitimate reason. If a student needs a Schedule II narcotic analgesic, they shall remain home until they are able to control pain with OTC medications.
- j. Benzodiazepines (e.g. klonopin, Ativan, diazepam) prescribed as needed (prn), should not be administered in any school setting. This does not apply to students diagnosed with a seizure disorder.

Under no circumstances are medications to be shared with other students.

If a student with a known condition warrants oxygen treatment at school, the treating LHCP and registered nurse shall develop a written plan of treatment including all equipment and supplies.

The Diocese of Arlington does not permit the use, possession, or transfer of marijuana including Cannabidiol (CBD), Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC-A) and Cannabis Oil, for any purpose. Students who qualify under local law to use marijuana for medical purposes may not possess, store, use or share marijuana on school property or school-sponsored events.

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

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

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

All diocesan schools will maintain non-student-specific school stock epinephrine. This school



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

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

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

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

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

Within one week after expiration of the effective date on the order, or on the last day of school, the parent/guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication. Medications not claimed within that period will be destroyed.

#### **LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY**

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

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

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

Parents/guardians of students with a life-threatening allergy must inform the principal and school health personnel of any allergies and provide schools with fully executed diocesan documents.

Parents/guardians are expected to supply schools with any emergency medications as prescribed and may additionally provide the student with “safe” foods for classroom celebrations involving food. Schools will utilize diocesan documents to formulate an emergency care plan for the student and will share this care plan with those involved with the student including, but not limited to: teacher(s), food service, bus drivers, and janitorial staff.

#### **TELEHEALTH**

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

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

#### **SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS**

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

#### **TOILETING/INCONTINENCE**

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

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

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

#### **USE OF CRUTCHES**

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

## ***CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES***

### **DISEASE**

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

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

- a. No daycare/preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary school student may attend class without documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health's school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form MCH-213G (*Appendix F-2*).
  - i. A certificate of immunization is not required for any student for whom the school has written certification from a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or the local health department, that one of more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health. The certification must indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization. The Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213G) provides a space for such a certification to be made
  - ii. On a basic level, for the good of society, the Catholic church generally encourages the use of immunizations. The Church teaches that questions of immunization are "left to a matter of conscience" and parents have the right to decide about the health of their children in this matter. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption form (*Appendix F-18*), which will be retained in the student health record. Schools may request a statement from their parish priest or affiliate, describing such objection to specific immunizing agents. If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness occurs, the student who is not immunized against that disease, will be excluded from school for an undetermined period of time, as per the instructions of the State Health Commissioner and the public health department.
- b. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for three months or more

where tuberculosis is common are required to provide documentation, prior to school entry, of a negative tuberculosis skin test or chest x-ray result. All diocesan schools are responsible for compliance with local health department regulations pertaining to tuberculosis screening and treatment.

- c. Students with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to the Virginia Department of Health regulations. (See General Illness Procedures.)
- d. School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart, found in the *Virginia School Health Guidelines*, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.
- e. The Diocese of Arlington has comprehensive guidelines for school/parish-based influenza vaccination clinics. The liability associated with the vaccination of children is great. The Diocese of Arlington does not promote school-based vaccination clinics for children during school hours, and in the absence of the parent, with the exception of a state or federal emergency. Any school wishing to offer an onsite school immunization program must comply with all aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement Vendors wishing to serve as vaccinators must be fully vetted by the Office of Risk Management prior to the signing of any contract for services.

## **LICE**

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

## ***BLOODBORNE DISEASE***

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

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

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

### ***FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS***

Fire drills are held regularly. Lockdown, Tornado and “Shelter in Place” drills are held twice a year. Silence during drills is mandatory.

### ***HARASSMENT***

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

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

Furthermore, since student behavior, whether inside or outside of school, reflects on our schools and can have a significant impact on life at school, there are times when it is appropriate and important for school administration to respond to incidents that occur outside of school and beyond school hours. Therefore, the schools reserve the right to discipline those in the community who engage in harassment of other school community members at any location and at any time if such harassment takes the form of obscene, libelous, slanderous language or incites violence, invades the rights of others, or contributes to a substantial disruption of the school

community. Therefore, if such harassment originates outside of school and it comes to the attention of school staff, appropriate action will be taken to maintain a safe and respectful work and academic environment. As the primary educators of their children, parents have the responsibility to handle harassment issues not involving the school and that are occurring outside of school.

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

### ***SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE – STUDENTS***

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

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

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

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

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

reporting of such conduct to the appropriate authorities.

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

## ***BULLYING***

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

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Physical intimidation or assault
- b. Extortion
- c. Oral or written threats, including text messaging
- d. Malicious teasing
- e. Putdowns
- f. Name calling
- g. Threatening looks
- h. Gestures or acts of aggression (overt and covert)
- i. Cruel rumors & false accusations
- j. Social isolation
- k. Cyberbullying

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

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

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

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

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

## ***HAZING***

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

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

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

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

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



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

## ***RACISM***

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

Examples include but are not limited to:

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

Racism is prohibited. School personnel will not tolerate any racism on Diocesan school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity (on or off school grounds). In addition, the Office of Catholic Schools expects students and parents who become aware of an act of racism to report it to appropriate school personnel (e.g. principal, teacher, school counselor). The Office of Catholic Schools expects staff members who become aware of any racism incident to take appropriate steps to intervene unless intervention would be a threat to staff members' safety. Every instance of suspected racism should be brought immediately to the attention of school leadership.

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

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

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

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

### ***RESPECT FOR LIFE***

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

### ***ASBESTOS MANDATORY YEARLY NOTIFICATION***

#### **ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION**

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

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

### ***VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS***

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

- a. Video surveillance cameras may be placed in public locations deemed appropriate. Such locations may include, without limitation, school entrances/exits, lobby areas, hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, athletic areas, gathering spaces, and outdoor grounds, as well as school buses.

- b. Restrooms, changing rooms, private offices, nurse's offices, and locker rooms are excluded from security camera use.
- c. It is recognized that it will not be possible to monitor all building areas, rooms, and grounds, or to monitor any location at all times.

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

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

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

## **X. EXTENDED DAY**

### ***EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM***

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

### ***CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN***

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

### ***OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS***

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

For all over-the-counter skin products:

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

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

## ***LICENSING INFORMATION***

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

## ***RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION***

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

If you would like additional information about the licensing of child day programs or would like to register a complaint, please call the Office of Child Care Licensing toll-free at 833-778-0204.

## ***INSURANCE***

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

## ***TAX INFORMATION***

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

## ***PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT***

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

Morning Care: 6:45 AM – 7:45 AM

Parents must walk students into the Senior Building and sign them in.

After School Care: 3:10 PM – 6:00 PM

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM on half days

### **Morning Care Only (Monthly Rate Only):**

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| 1 Child    | \$200 |
| 2 Children | \$340 |
| 3 Children | \$420 |
| 4 Children | \$440 |

\*Morning Care will only be offered if we reach a minimum enrollment of 10 children.

### **Afternoon Care Only (Monthly Rate):**

|              | 1 Child | 2 Children | 3 Children | 4 Children |
|--------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 Day/Week:  | \$80    | \$120      | \$150      | \$160      |
| 2 Days/Week: | \$160   | \$240      | \$300      | \$320      |
| 3 Days/Week: | \$240   | \$360      | \$450      | \$480      |
| 4 Days/Week: | \$320   | \$480      | \$600      | \$640      |

5 Days/Week: \$400      \$600      \$750      \$800

**Morning & Afternoon Care (Monthly Rate):**

|              | 1 Child | 2 Children | 3 Children | 4 Children |
|--------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 Day/Week:  | \$90    | \$130      | \$150      | \$160      |
| 2 Days/Week: | \$180   | \$260      | \$300      | \$320      |
| 3 Days/Week: | \$270   | \$390      | \$450      | \$480      |
| 4 Days/Week: | \$360   | \$520      | \$600      | \$640      |
| 5 Days/Week: | \$450   | \$650      | \$750      | \$800      |

Drop In service available at \$14 an hour.

**Parents running late will be charged \$15 per child for every 5 minutes after 6:00 pm**

- Morning Care is from 6:45 am-7:45 am
- Afternoon Care is from 3:10pm-6:00pm
- Early Dismissal Day 12:00-6:00 pm (all students must bring their own lunch and drink)
- Options:
  - Monthly (every day, Monday-Friday)
- You will be billed even if your child doesn't attend on selected days.
- Parents running late to pick up their kids after dismissal will be sent to aftercare. Parents are responsible for fee incurred.
- You will be billed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month via FACTS Tuition.

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| <b>APPENDICES</b> |
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School Forms

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Additional School Information

Diocesan Forms:

Permission for Emergency Care Form (*Appendix F-1*)

Confidential Student Health History Update (*Appendix F-1A*)

Confidential Student Health History Update (Spanish) (*Appendix F-1B*)

Confidential Student Health History Update (Vietnamese) (*Appendix F-1C*)  
Virginia School Entrance Health Form (*Appendix F-2*)  
Asthma Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-3*)  
Anaphylaxis Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-4*)  
Diabetes Quick Reference and Indemnification (*Appendix F-5*)  
Virginia Diabetes Medical Management Plan (*Appendix F-5A*)  
Diocese Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*)  
Wind Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (*Appendix F-15*)  
Certificate of Religious Exemption (*Appendix F-18*)  
Seizure Action Plan (*Appendix F-20*)  
Code of Conduct for Personnel and Volunteers in the Diocese of Arlington.English (*Appendix G-1*)  
Codigo de Conducta para el Personal y Voluntarios en la Diócesis de Arlington.Spanish (*Appendix G-2*)  
Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (*Appendix N*)  
Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation.English (*Appendix R*)  
Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Escuela.Spanish (*Appendix R-A*)  
Use of Personal Vehicle (*Appendix R-1*)  
Elementary/Middle School Handbook Agreement Form (*Appendix AG-1*)

Signature Page