

Parent–Student Handbook

2016–2017

St. Mary's Catholic School
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St. Mary's Catholic School is a Catholic Parochial School of the Austin Diocese School District.

The school is dedicated to the Christian education of boys and girls from Pre-kindergarten through Grade 8.

St. Mary's Catholic School is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED) through the Texas Commissioner of Education of the Texas Education Agency.

**Member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)
Participant of the Education Service Center, Region 12**

St. Mary's Catholic School complies with all applicable State and Federal laws on discrimination. Preference may be given in admission of Catholic students.

The Principal and School Pastor retain the right to amend this Handbook for just cause at any time. Parents receive prompt notification of any and all policy changes made during the school year.

Handbook Revised April 2016

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Mission of St. Mary's Catholic School

The Mission of St. Mary's Catholic School is the commitment to academic excellence and the spiritual development of our students toward a life of prayer, service and love.

Prayer for Our School

Be it known to all who enter here, that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen, but ever present, teacher in its classrooms. He is the model for its faculty and the inspiration of its students. Amen

St. Mary's School Song

To the tune of
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

One hundred years, have come and gone
One hundred years have come and gone
The light of learning shines at St. Mary's,
Shines with brilliance true and strong.

And when the falcons stand out tall
And when the falcons stand out tall
How I am proud to be of St. Mary's,
Stand up for falcons proud and tall.

The color blue, belongs to us
The blue and white belong to us.
How proud I am to stand up with valor,
For Mary's color, faith and truth.

And when the blue, white banner waves,
Under the clear blue Texas sky.
My spirit soars to touch the future,
Embracing all that's good and right.

One hundred years, have come and gone
One hundred years have come and gone,
The light of learning shines at St. Mary's
Shines with brilliance true and strong.

Letter to the Parent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our St. Mary's Catholic School Family. We are so happy you have chosen to become part of such a wonderful community. At St. Mary's Catholic School, we believe in the education of the whole child: spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

When you choose a Catholic school, you join a faith and academic community which provides a foundation for life. St. Mary's Catholic School is a community built on collaboration among parents, students and staff resulting in a comprehensive learning environment. Your child is in a safe and secure environment supported by school personnel who believe in their vocation to educate and love your children.

Our mission at St. Mary's Catholic School is to support and assist parents as the primary educators in the faith formation and academic achievement of their child. We provide a Christ-centered education in which Catholic identity permeates the entire curriculum, encouraging our students to reach their fullest capacity, spiritually, academically, physically and socially.

Please review the contents of this handbook and discuss important points with your child. To fit the ever changing needs of the school, certain rules and procedures may have been altered. Please be mindful of these changes and bring any concerns that you may have to our attention.

Thank you once again for your support and trust in us as we educate your children. At St. Mary's Catholic School, we live our faith, serve our community, excel in our academics and develop life-long friendships.

God bless you.

Mrs. Theresa Wyles, Principal

Mission Statement of Catholic Schools of Texas

The ministry of Catholic Education in general is the fulfillment of the educational mission of the Catholic Church and has as its primary goal the continuous formation of the Christian person.

As a pastoral instrument of the Church, the strength of the Catholic Schools is its ability to respond to the needs of the whole person, to serve the Church in time of transition, and to demonstrate to the world a global perspective for a peaceful and sustainable future.

The Catholic School is a unique environment in which pupils can experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. The School's focus is on the individual's spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical development. In the Catholic School, pupils and teachers are drawn to proclaim the Gospel message, to unite in worship, to respond to the needs of the community through fellowship and social justice, and to serve all people through the sharing of their spiritual gifts and temporal goods.

Intellectually, pupils are challenged to work to the best of their abilities. In a world of diversity and absolutes, pupils need to be "free" to appreciate and understand the planet Earth, the people and cultures that inhabit it, and to develop global perspectives by which lives and consciences are formed. Pupils are provided opportunities to develop basic academic and physical skills, pursue knowledge, and critically study and analyze the world in which they live.

The effective Catholic School must call its pupils to the conviction that people are more important than material gain, that justice is more important than success, that love is more important than esteem, and that collaboration unites while competition divides. The truly successful Catholic School student is not necessarily one who is successful in every endeavor, but one who accepts Christian responsibility for fulfillment of personal potential and shares these gifts with others.

- From the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department

Goals of Catholic Education

- † To provide an environment in which students are enabled to build and deepen their relationship with God
- † To foster an academic culture aimed at the pursuit of truth
- † To actively promote growth in virtue

Philosophy of Education of St. Mary's Catholic School

We believe that each child is loved by God and uniquely created for a sublime purpose. Therefore, we must help our students to love God and neighbor with a whole heart; to think, judge, and act with right reason; and to use their education to better embrace Catholic teachings and the example of Christ.

To accomplish this aim, the school strives to create a Christian atmosphere of care and concern in which all children may grow toward their full potential spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. The very nature of the child requires a coordinated education, which is the product of a cooperative effort by home, church, and school. It is through this harmonious partnership that the aim of Catholic education is achieved.

We believe that the “effective Catholic School must call its pupils to the conviction that people are more important than material gain, that justice is more important than success, that love is more important than esteem, and that collaboration unites while competition divides. The truly successful Catholic School student is not necessarily one who is successful in every endeavor, but one who accepts Christian responsibility for fulfillment of personal potential and shares these gifts with others.” (Texas Catholic Conference Education Department)

Education Objectives of St. Mary's Catholic School

A. The school fosters:

1. A Catholic identity through the religious atmosphere, which permeates the total instructional program.
2. Gospel values as modeled in school procedures and actions of staff and students.
3. A faith community expressed through religious experiences through classes; programs for personal spiritual formation; opportunities to worship; service to others; sacramental preparation; and the sponsoring of adult programs.
4. Active interaction between the school and parishioners.
5. The formation of behavior in accord with Christian standards.
6. Sensitivity and responsiveness to social concerns and economic justice.
7. Development of Christian attitudes towards life, human sexuality, and the family.
8. Formation of students to set goals and attain them, to be self-disciplined, responsible, responsive, compassionate, and empathetic to the feelings and needs of others, and to respect individual differences in others.

B. The administration and staff will:

1. Communicate on a regular basis about school activities and general accomplishments.

2. Provide systematic reporting to parents about student progress.
3. Communicate expectations for student academic performance to students and parents.
4. Organize opportunities for the school and business community to advise and support the school.
5. Provide a safe and orderly environment with a clear disciplinary code.
6. Inform parents of school policies and regulations concerning rights and responsibilities of staff, students, and parents: grievance procedures; discipline code; school policies; grading system; and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
7. Provide a guidance program through all grades.
8. Provide school facilities that project a positive image and environment for teaching and learning.
9. Provide programs of instruction to meet students' diverse learning needs.
10. Develop excellence in education through compliance with TCCED and diocesan guidelines.

C. All students should:

1. Develop a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and personal relationship with God as evidenced by attitude and practice.
2. Develop proficiency in language arts and mathematics in the lower grades followed by studies in advanced mathematics, technology, science, social studies, fine arts, English, and foreign language.
3. Develop higher order level thinking skills of research, analysis, evaluation, and problem solving.
4. Develop proficiency in the use of basic communication skills and technology, as well as the ability to recognize propaganda in their lives.
5. Develop skills of problem solving for integrating information and a framework within which to sort out the diverse values present today.
6. Acquire knowledge and appreciation of the culture of the ethnic groups of our American heritage.
7. Develop an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity together with skills needed within the global community.
8. Acquire an understanding of the importance of physical and mental health in one's life by developing healthy attitudes regarding human sexuality, nutrition, and healthy life skills.
9. Acquire knowledge of the democratic process and develop an understanding of the privileges of citizenship and learn to assume its responsibilities.
10. Develop an understanding of human geography and world cultures of today.
11. Be knowledgeable in government practices, political principles and current activities suitable to grade level.
12. Be aware of the principles of consumer economics.

Parents as Partners in Education

As partners in the educational process at St. Mary's Catholic School we ask parents to:

- Meet all financial obligations to the school.
- Support the religious and educational goals of the school.
- Support the discipline policy and support the school in helping students take responsibilities for their actions.
- Be respectful of faculty and staff at all times.
- Actively participate in school activities.
- Inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety and health.
- Notify the school office of absences and changes in important contact information.
- Read newsletters and website to keep current on school information.
- Set rules, times and limits so your child gets to bed early on school nights, arrives at school on time and prepared, is dress according to the school dress code, completes assignments on time and has lunch money or a nutritional lunch each day.

St. Mary's Catholic School was founded in 1897 under the name of St. Mary's Academy by Father Heckmann, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Under his direction, with the active support of a dedicated group of parishioners, Divine Providence Sisters guided the pupils for several years. The Divine Providence Sisters withdrew in 1912 and not until 1919 could teaching sisters be found to continue their good work. Sisters of the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament from Houston, Texas, began their mission at St. Mary's Catholic School in 1919 and had a presence in the school until the retirement in May 1995 of long-time librarian, Sister James Philip Davison. In 1974, Mrs. Loris Edwards became the first lay principal.

Today, the school is staffed by lay teachers who, together with the clergy, parents, and students, work for its uninterrupted growth and success to the greater honor and glory of God.

St. Mary's Catholic School Hours

The Instructional Day Pre-K through 8th Grade: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday
Pre-Kindergarten Half Day Program: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

St. Mary's Catholic School will not accept responsibility for supervision of students before 7:45 a.m. or after 3:45 p.m., other than through school-supervised activities such as clubs, sports, tutoring, or the Extended Day program.

Extended Day Hours:

- **7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.** No charge for a.m. supervision
- **Pre-K 3 & 4 Extended Day Program: 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.** (offered on as needed basis)
- **K-8 Extended Day Program: The Zone: 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.**
- **Each program cannot accept children on a "drop-in" basis.**

Children who are not picked up by 3:45 p.m. will be brought to the school office. Parents will be called and expected to pick up their children immediately. We understand that there may be rare incidents where the parent is running late. (If this is the case, please call the school.) However, those who are consistently late will be billed \$20.00 for each fifteen minutes after 3:45.

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

An appointment is necessary to see the Principal. School entrance doors will be locked at all times.

Academic Program

St. Mary's Catholic School's academic program is designed to help students achieve their highest potential. The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin use the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) state standards, which have been adopted by the Texas State Board of Education. CSDA are accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED), which is recognized by the Texas Education Agency. As part of the accreditation process, the Catholic schools must demonstrate teaching the Texas state standards.

In addition to skills in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Religion, St. Mary's Catholic School incorporate other key disciplines into the curriculum. Christian Service is core to our Faith and is integrated into our school through required community service projects and volunteer hours throughout the school year. Christian service is encouraged in all grade levels and is part of the student's Religion grade in grades 4-8.

Also offered as part of the daily program are the following:

Foreign language studies – Spanish in grades 2-8

Technology program including iPad, Chrome Book and Computer Lab utilization
Music and band programs
Fine Arts
Middle School elective and advisory programs

Extracurricular Activities for students in grades 6-8

Extracurricular activities may include, but not be limited to, team sports, athletics, National Junior Honor Society, interscholastic competition (in particular, Private Schools Interscholastic Association meets), student council, prolife club, God Squad, cheerleading and church choir.

*Students must maintain passing grades (70+) in all subjects and have a **conduct grade no lower than a C** to participate in school extracurricular activities, including sports.*

PSIA competition is also open to elementary students.

Enrichment Activities

These include field trips, classroom presentations by outside consultants, participation in community events and programs at the Cultural Activities Center.

Placement Level

The Principal, in consultation with faculty and parents, determines a student’s placement level. Such decisions rest upon consideration of the student’s (1) past performance, (2) achievement test scores, when appropriate, and (3) emotional and physical needs.

Semester Exams

Semester exams are administered in Grades 4 through 8 at the end of each semester.

Grading Policy

Teachers’ grading policies are based upon class or group participation, tests, quizzes, assignments, projects, reports, and other criteria.

Students receive report cards at the end of each academic quarter (nine-week block). At the midpoint of each quarter, a progress report will be sent home to parents addressing their student’s general academic standings and conduct. Report Card and Progress Report must be signed and returned to the child’s teacher. **Parents have access to web based grade book at all times.**

Grading Codes (Pre-K and Kindergarten)

<u>Outcomes Measurement Codes</u>
M – Has met Objective
P – Acceptable Progress
I – Improvement/Practice Needed
/ – Not Applicable (at this time)

Grading Codes (Grades 1-8)



	<u>Knowledge</u> <u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Skills</u> <u>Initiative</u>	<u>Skills</u> <u>Individual</u> <u>Improvement</u>	<u>Attitudes</u> <u>General</u>	<u>Attitudes</u> <u>Cooperation</u>
“A” 90-100	Student exhibited an excellent understanding of the academic material.	Student showed tremendous amount of skill and initiative to complete the task required.	Student was able to exhibit a marked and significant improvement from the last grading.	Student exhibited a positive disposition and showed a high level of positive attitude in the face of challenging work.	Student exhibited a high degree of positive influence towards the group and showed excellent leadership and character.
“B” 80-89	Student exhibited good or above average understanding of the lesson objectives.	Student showed a high average amount of skill and showed above average ability to complete the assigned task.	Student was able to show a somewhat significant improvement from the last grading.	Student exhibited a good disposition and good attitude in the face of challenging work.	Student showed a positive influence towards the group and showed good leadership.
“C” 75-79	Student showed an average understanding of the lesson objectives.	Student exhibited an average amount of skill and completed the assignment satisfactorily.	Student showed some improvement as compared to the last grading.	Student’s attitude is fair and satisfactory but needs improvement.	Student was somewhat able to satisfactorily contribute positively to the group.
“D” 70-74	Student barely met the minimum understanding to pass the lesson objectives.	Student showed very minimal or below average ability to complete the task.	Student showed minimal improvement as compared to last grading.	Student’s attitude meets minimum standards and needs tremendous amount of improvement.	Student’s ability to contribute to the group’s overall performance was poor.
“F” 69 or less	Student did not meet the minimum to pass the lesson objectives.	Student did not show satisfactory skill or ability to complete the task.	Student was not able to show any improvement from the last grading.	Student does not show a productive or positive attitude.	Student’s attitude is not wholesome for the group.

Promotion and Retention Standards

The Diocese of Austin and The Texas Catholic Conference Education Department prescribe the following standards:

Early Childhood – (PreK3, PreK4, Kindergarten)

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain for the year an overall average of satisfactory or above.

Grades 1 and 2

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain for the year an overall average of above or 70 or above, which is derived by averaging the final grade for the following subjects: language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and religion. In addition, a student shall attain an average of 70 or above in language arts and in mathematics. Grades for health, fine arts, and physical education may be determined by school polices using numerical grades, letter grades, or indications such as “excellent,” “satisfactory,” “unsatisfactory,” or “needs improvement.”

Grades 3-5

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain for the year an overall average of 70 or above, which is derived by averaging the final grade for the following subjects: language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and religion. In addition, a student shall attain an average of 70 or above in language arts and in mathematics. Grades for health, fine arts, and physical education may be determined by school polices using numerical grades, letter grades, or indications such as “excellent,” “satisfactory,” “unsatisfactory,” or “needs improvement.”

Middle School Grades 6-8

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain an overall average of 70 or above for the year in all courses taken. In addition, a student shall attain an average of 70 or above in the following subjects: language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and religion.

Assistance to Individual Students

St. Mary’s Catholic School is not able to employ special teachers to assist individual students, nor does the principal or teachers formulate Individual Education Programs (IEPs). The teacher will alert the parents when students are having difficulty achieving a passing grade. After a consultation with the Principal, an assessment may be obtained through the student’s local public school at no charge.

In some instances, after consultation with the Principal, teacher(s), and parents, St. Mary’s Catholic School may make reasonable accommodations to assist individual students as long as there will be no altering or lowering of standards or expectations in either the instructional or assessment phases of a course of study.

St. Mary’s Catholic School’s teachers offer tutoring after school to assist students.

Accidents

Injuries receive first aid treatment. The school notifies an injured student’s parent or guardian at home or at that person’s place of business. The parent or guardian decides whether the child should remain at school for the remainder of the day.

Admissions

As a condition of admission, parents agree to submit their child to the rules and regulations adopted by the school. The application process may include an interview with the Principal for prospective students in grades 5 – 8. Any student in grades 5 – 8 will be placed on a probation period for the first nine weeks.

By 1 September of the academic year, a child must be ...

- ... 3 years old (**and fully toilet-trained**) to enter Pre-Kindergarten 3*
- ... 4 years old (**and fully toilet-trained**) to enter Pre-Kindergarten 4*
- ... 5 years old (**and fully toilet-trained**) to enter Kindergarten*
- ... 6 years old to enter Grade 1*

Age must be documented with an official birth certificate.
(* Indicates regulation of the Diocese of Austin.)

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Schools within the Diocese of Austin do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in: (i) the admission of students; (ii) the offerings of rights, privileges, programs, or activities generally made available to their students; or (iii) the administration of educational policies, admissions policies, loan programs, athletic programs, employment practices or policies, or other school-administered programs.

Registration and Building Fees

Registration fee is collected at the time of registration or may be added to the monthly tuition payment. The building fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. The full registration fee is required for students who transfer to St. Mary's at any time during the school year.

IMPORTANT: ALL FEES AND TUITION PAID ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Catholic families qualify for reduced tuition rates, if they are registered in a local parish. St. Mary's Catholic School will verify a family's active status; the school will assign appropriate rates —standard or reduced— if this status changes during the year.

Documents Required

- Completed SMCS Application form
- Completion of FACTS
- Signed Authorization to Release Information form
- Official Birth Certificate
- Current immunization record
- Social Security Card
- Race/Ethnicity form
- Current report card
- Current Standardized Test Scores (grade 1-8)
- Custody section of divorce decree or proof of guardianship, if applicable
- Teacher Recommendation form
- Parish Affiliation Verification form

Parents of Catholic students must also present sacramental certificates for Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Communion.

Admission Restrictions

St. Mary's Catholic School does not accept students on a part-time basis.

St. Mary's Catholic School may not accept children with behavioral problems, as they may require attention of specifically trained personnel that we do not provide.

The Principal determines if a student will be accepted into the school; therefore, the school may accept a student with a special physical or learning need but only after a conference to ascertain the exact nature of the child's need. The Principal may require parents of a student with special needs to agree to enrollment on a conditional basis.

St. Mary's Catholic School's staff deals with all students on an individual basis; however, certain needs may require professional attention of a kind other than the school provides. In the child's interest, we reserve the right to refuse admission in such cases.

Should learning, behavioral, or physical problems surface later in the school year, we will determine whether the school can accommodate the child's learning needs, or, if other arrangements should be

made. Such action will be done through consultation with the parents and all involved staff members.

Tuition and Fees

With the exception of the registration fee all tuition and other fees are paid through FACTS Management Company on the terms you agreed to on your online FACTS application. No in-house tuition payments can be made. Any payment that is not posted by FACTS by your due date is considered late and will receive a \$40 late fee. A NSF fee will be applied to your account for dishonored payments. In the event that your account becomes delinquent, FACTS will contact the school. For payments two or more months delinquent, the family may be requested to withdraw the student(s) until the account is brought up to date.

Readmission of a student for the following school year requires either payment in full of outstanding tuition, fees, and fines, or else a satisfactory arrangement with the School Principal.

When a child is withdrawn from school, the parent/guardian is responsible to pay for the entire semester in which the child is enrolled. Under certain circumstances, the balance of the tuition owed may be waived if the family is moving a distance greater than 100 miles from the school. **No refund can be given on tuition paid in advance or on any fees** (registration, resource, etc.).

School Supplies

Supply lists are available in the school office and on the school website.

Immunizations (SMCS follows Texas Dept. of Health Immunization Guidelines)		
DTP/DT/DTaP: 5 doses, with one after 4 th birthday	HibCV (Haemophilus influenza type B): Primary series, or dose after 15 months of age for child under 5 years	Measles Booster: By Kindergarten entry date
Td (Tetanus/Diphtheria booster): within 10 years of DTP - Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & acellular pertussis-containing vaccine: all students in grade 7 th , required 1 dose. Students in 7 th grade will require a booster dose if it has been 5 yrs have passed. Students in grades 8 – 12 require booster dose if 10 yrs. have passed.	Varicella vaccine (chicken pox): all students entering Kindergarten and 7 th required 2 doses. Documentation of chicken pox in lieu of immunization.	PCV 7 (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine): 1 dose before age 5
Hepatitis B: 3 doses before age 5	Polio: 4 doses, with 1 dose after 4 th birthday	TB Skin Test: St. Mary's Catholic School requirement. Date and results must be recorded on Immunization record to be considered valid.
Hepatitis A: all students entering Kindergarten, required to have 2 doses	MMR: (Measles, mumps, rubella): all students entering Kindergarten, required to have 2 doses	Meningococcal Vaccine: all students entering 7 th grade, required to have 1 dose

Attendance

Attending a Catholic School is a privilege, not a right. The Principal can at any time mandate withdrawal of a child pursuant to the procedure for resolution of disputes when this is in the best interest of the school and/or the student. The Principal reserves the right to determine the acceptability of excuses for missing

school.

In accordance with the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and Diocesan Board policies, the following shall apply:

1. A student will be subject to failure in a class if he/she misses more than **10% of the school year.** **Attendance at Mass is part of Religion class and will be included in the Religion grade.**
2. All absences without telephoned or written notice from a parent or guardian are considered unexcused. The office must receive a written excuse on the day the student returns to school.
3. An absence may be excused for illness of the student, death in the family, doctor and dentist appointment, or school activities that necessitate absence. Students with excused absences will be given an opportunity to make up work within an established time frame, determined by the teacher. The school reserves the right to classify an absence as unexcused.
5. The school requires a doctor's note for any student absent due to illness for more than three days in a row.
6. Absent students shall be responsible for making up class assignments. The work must be completed by a deadline arranged by the teacher. *Students absent the day before a test are not automatically excused from taking the test.*

Students are counted as present for a full day only if in attendance for the full day; 8:00-3:30. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. or leaving after 2:30 will be marked as tardy. Students arriving after 10:00 a.m. or leaving any time before 2:30 will be marked with a half -day absence.

All learning time is important to your child. Tardies result in missed instruction time and may have a negative effect on your child's learning. It is essential that your child be on time for school. An absence will be recorded for each 5 unexcused tardies. Tardies will only be excused with a doctor's note or due to unavoidable circumstances. Forgetting homework or oversleeping are not unavoidable circumstances.

Students arriving after school begins are considered tardy and must be signed in by the parent or guardian in the health room. No child should be "dropped off" after 8:00 a.m. This is for the safety of your child. Parents who do not come in to the school to sign in their child will be called back. The child will remain in the office until he/she has been properly signed in and receives a tardy slip.

Doctor/Dentist Appointment

Parents are asked to avoid making doctor/dental appointments during the school day in order to minimize any disruptions in student learning. However, if such cannot be avoided, only doctor/dentist appointments *in writing* are considered excused. The procedure follows:

1. At the appointed day and time, the parent signs out the student from the school office.
2. Upon returning to campus, the student must report to the school office, sign in, submit the doctor/dental excuse and receive an admittance slip to present to the classroom teacher.

Tardy to School

The first bell rings at 7:55 a.m. School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. **Late students may not enter class without a tardy slip. Students arriving after school begins are considered tardy and must be signed in by the parent or guardian in the health room. No child should be "dropped off" after 8:00 a.m. This is for the safety of your child. . Parents who do not come in to the school to sign in their child will be called back. The child will remain in the office until he/she has been properly signed in and receives a tardy slip.**

Tardy to Class

Roll call will be held in the homeroom periods and at the beginning of each class period for Middle School. Teachers notify the school office of students who are not in class and have not been excused. **A student known to have arrived on campus who does not attend class is marked as truant and receives a demerit. Students who arrive on campus must go to class. Students will not be marked present until the student joins his or her class.**

Each class period begins when the teacher closes the classroom door and begins prayer. (A late student may not enter the classroom until the prayer ends.) To join the class after this time, late students must present a pass from the office or previous class.

Absent from Campus

A student may not leave campus without permission and accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Family Vacation

The school strongly discourages school absences for reasons of personal travel or family vacation. The school calendar provides for extended weekends through the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times so as to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process. However, if the parent/guardian decides, the family should provide the Principal a written request *at least one week in advance*. If the Principal approves the absence, the student must complete missed homework. No advanced assignments or tests will be given in anticipation of the vacation.

Students who are absent shall be responsible for completing any work missed. The work must be completed to a satisfactory degree by a deadline arranged by the teacher. (*Diocese of Austin, Policy 303*)

Attendance at School Events

Certain evening events are "mandatory for all students," for example, PTC presentations, awards assemblies, the annual Christmas pageant, concert and theatrical performances, and athletic practices and games— are "mandatory for students directly involved." The school will notify parents and students of all such events well in advance; **only in emergency situations or extenuating circumstances may a student's absence be excused.**

Students in Grade 8 must attend the Graduation Mass scheduled at the end of the school year. Students and parents of Grade 7 host a breakfast following the Baccalaureate Mass.

Awards

Honor Rolls

At the end of each grading period, St. Mary's Catholic School recognizes students in Grades 3 through 8 who have demonstrated academic excellence in the core classes (language arts, math, religion, science, and social studies) and who have maintained grades no lower than "B" in all classes and conduct.

- *Pastor's Honor Roll* (5 "A"s in the core subjects)
- *Principal's Honor Roll* (4 "A"s and 1 "B" in the core subjects)

Perfect Attendance

At the end of each grading period, St. Mary's Catholic School recognizes students in Pre-K through 8th who had perfect attendance for the quarter. This would include no tardies.

Other Awards

Additional awards may be given in recognition of outstanding contributions at the discretion of faculty with approval of the Principal.

Eighth Grade Awards

Each year, one Grade 8 student receives the *Outstanding Achievement Award* based on the following measures: students grade average in the five major subjects for 7th grade and through the third nine weeks of 8th grade and students Honor, Leadership, Service, and Respect as voted by teachers of the five major subjects. The second-ranked student receives the *Merit Achievement Award*.

Star Awards are presented to 8th Graders who have been enrolled at St. Mary's Catholic School since Pre-K or Kindergarten.

The Kiwanis International presents the *Top Boy and Top Girl Awards* to qualified 8th graders. Awards are given to the boy and girl with the highest scholastic grade average in the five major subjects for 7th grade and through the third nine weeks of the 8th grade year.

Band Program

St. Mary's Catholic School offers an entry-level band program for beginners in Grade 4, intermediate Band for students in Grade 5, and Advanced Band for Grades 6 through 8.

Payment

Payment of the Band Fee is due in full at the beginning of the school year. Band fees cannot be refunded or credited after the first week of September.

Intermediate and Advanced Band

Students must qualify to enter Intermediate and Advanced Band in Grades 5 through 8. A student may be accepted "conditionally," with the understanding that the student must advance his or her skill by completing scheduled practice sessions. "Conditional" students are encouraged to enroll in private lessons.

Performances

Public performance is the test of the band student. Band members must participate in all recitals scheduled by the Principal and Band Director. Failure to participate for other than medical reasons will result in a cut in grade or dismissal from the band. The Principal and Band Director determine the dress code for band performances.

Instruments

St. Mary's Catholic School furnishes some instruments; other instruments may be rented or purchased from local music stores. Students are responsible for the security and care of band instruments.

Practice

The student takes responsibility to follow a regular practice schedule to develop competency. Failure to practice or to turn in required reports of practice will directly affect the grade for the course and may result in dismissal from band. Sectionals are held each week.

Conditions for Removal from Band

A student who wishes to drop from band must have a parent provide notice, in writing, to the Band Director. To drop band during the first semester, notice must be received no later than the third week of the school year; to drop band the second semester, notice must be received by the end of the first semester. Dropping band in mid-semester will result in zero course credit.

At any time during the year, the Band Director—in cooperation with the Principal—may ask for a student's removal from band for *lack of practice* or *detrimental conduct*. The parent will receive notification from the Band Director, and the student will be given an opportunity to correct the behavior before removal.

Bulletin Boards

Postings on School Bulletin Boards are subject to approval by the Principal. Only upon such approval may any notices be posted.

Cafeteria

Students may purchase a hot lunch or bring lunch from home. All students must eat lunch in the school cafeteria, unless excused for special class activities. The school's hot lunch program provides well-balanced meals for students.

During meal times, students should use appropriate table manners and should refrain from loud talking or laughing.

Collection Procedures

1. Prepay account through the cafeteria.
2. Phone call or email as a reminder of low or negative balance.
3. Account referred to the principal.

The school invites parents and family members to eat lunch with the students.

Care of School Property

Care of School Property (including books, electronic devices and other materials)

Books, electronic devices or materials checked out to a student, or used by the student, are the responsibility of that student. Fines and/or replacement costs are assessed for lost, damaged, or misplaced property.

Lost school books remain the property of the school and must be returned to the school if recovered.

Every textbook must be protected at all times by a cover that does not adhere to the surface of the book.

Damage to School Property

It is the duty of teachers and students alike to safeguard and protect the school's property. If a student defaces or destroys school property, he/she will be subject to administrative action, the severity of which will be based upon the degree of the damage and culpability of the student. At the very least, the parents will be contacted and the student asked to pay for the damage out of his own money.

Contact Information and Family Status

Any change to the Emergency Notification sheet—including address, telephone number, parents' marital status, and changes in employment, guardianship, or custody arrangements— must be made known to the school office as soon as possible *in writing with the appropriate documentation or can be changed directly on RenWeb.*

Collections

All monies turned in by students for whatever purpose must be brought from home in a sealed envelope clearly identified on the outside with the name of the student, grade, amount of money envelope contains, and purpose of collection.

Community Service Requirement

Elementary Service Requirements Grades 4 and 5

To promote goodwill with those around us and to help students learn the value and pleasure of serving God by serving others, St. Mary's Catholic School asks that fourth and fifth grade students provide service to our community.

Community service is a component of the Religion curriculum and will be considered a part of the quarterly Religion grade. A variety of activities is expected, students should perform at least three different types of service projects during the course of the year. Students should perform 3 hours of service each quarter. Volunteer work needs to be done without compensation. Additionally, the reflection paragraph must be completed on the following page.

Examples of activities:

Visiting a nursing home, completing a project for the school or community, participating in a clean-up campaign, performing housework or errands for ill or elderly persons, helping with after school safety patrol (15 minutes each day), altar serving (30 minutes for School Mass and 1 hour for a Weekend Mass), singing in the choir at church.

A student may use his or her own money to purchase items for a shelter. However, the money may not be counted as the Christian Service, only the time taken to purchase and deliver said items

Junior High Service Requirements

To promote goodwill with those around us, and to help students learn the value and pleasure of serving God by serving others, St. Mary's Catholic School requires all students in grades six through eight to provide service to our community outside of school hours. "Community service" is defined as "any activity benefiting an organization or individual in need of such activity and leading to an improvement of the quality of life". Community service does *not* include work done on behalf of a family member or family business, tasks for which a student receives payment, or activities (such as altar serving) the student already regularly performs. The amount of service required by each student each school year is listed below. Students providing more service may become eligible for special awards during the year, including the American Citizenship award.

Grade 6: 15 hours: 3 to 4 per quarter until 15 is met
(American Citizenship Award eligibility: 25 hours by April 14th)

Grades 7 & 8: 20 hours: 5 hours per quarter
(American Citizenship Award eligibility: 35 hours by April 14th)

Community service is a component of the Religion curriculum, in the area of Social Justice, and therefore will be reflective in the quarterly Religion grade. Incomplete Service requirements will result in the Religion grade being lowered.

Examples of community service activities:

Visiting a nursing home; completing an arts-and-crafts project for the school or community; participating in a clean-up campaign; performing housework or errands for ill or elderly persons; baby-sitting (up to five hours, total) for someone (not a relative) unable to provide compensation; providing credible, needed assistance (approved by the school office) for an established community organization or institution. Note that a variety of service is expected, with a student performing at least three diverse types of activities or projects during the year.

Students are encouraged to perform as many hours as possible during the fall, as opportunities for service in the spring tend to be few.

NON school masses, choir and altar serving for student's home parish may be counted toward service hours, not to exceed 5 hours per year.

Exceeding Requirements

Grade 6 students who give at least 25 hours by April 14th, and Grade 7 & 8 students with 35 or more hours of service by the same date, receive the American Citizenship Award.

Conduct and Discipline

Acceptable Use of Communications Technology

The purpose of use of electronic media and telecommunications at St. Mary's Catholic School is for education and research. Parents of children in all grades will be asked to sign the *Statement of Acceptable Use*, which applies to educational use of electronic images and the Internet. Instructional applications may include distance learning and video-conferencing. "Acceptable use" includes proper iPad, Chrome Book and computer usage (including on-task vs. off-task behaviors), e-mail etiquette, prevention of copyright violation, plagiarism, cyber bullying, texting, or access of non-approved materials, and other potentially harmful actions. Teachers will supervise and instruct students in these areas to achieve high moral, ethical, and social practices in use of electronic communications.

Consequences for a serious or repeated violation of Acceptable Use Policy will result in banning the student from all technology use for a designated period. Alternative assignments will be provided if regular technology use is part of class work.

Student Conduct

St. Mary's Catholic School is committed to the principle that teaching students to conduct themselves properly in all situations must be a shared effort between parents and educators. This effort is vital to both the student's academic progress and self-discipline.

All students have a right to an educational setting that is orderly and free from disruption of a normal teaching/learning situation. In order to do this, all students must respect principles of good conduct.

Regulations governing student conduct apply to all school sponsored activities whether on or off campus. Teachers and administrators have the authority to enforce conduct standards at all school-sponsored functions. **Conduct detrimental to the school, whether in or outside of school, is ground for expulsion.** Respect for those in authority must be shown at all times. Rudeness, discourtesy, or disobedience will not be tolerated.

Disciplinary consequences shall be applied to students who violate conduct standards. In general, consequences shall be progressively administered so that penalties increase due to the severity or persistence of the misbehavior, in keeping with the maturity level of the student. Some examples are listed below under Section A *Consequences*.

Disciplinary action will depend upon a careful assessment of all circumstances, including the nature and severity of the offense.

Bullying and/or Harassment

St. Mary's Catholic School considers learning and providing a safe environment for all individuals as the highest priority. St. Mary's Catholic School strives to provide all students with an educational setting that is orderly and free from disruption of a normal teaching/learning situation. In order to accomplish this, all students must respect principles of good conduct.

Bullying or harassment of any kind, matter, or means is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated by this School, its staff, or administration.

Bullying is:

- the expression of any kind, whether written, oral, or physical conduct, that is determined to have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property; or
- any conduct that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment for a student.
- Further, any conduct designed or likely to result in causing physical, emotional, or psychological harm of a persistent nature will be considered bullying.

Bullying occurs when an individual or group whether seriously or in jest, actively or passively, uses strength or power to cause harm, either physically, verbally, or emotionally, by intimidating or demeaning others. It is usually persistent and is often covert and is a conscious attempt to hurt, threaten, or frighten someone.

Bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following types of conduct:

- Physical assault against a person or group of people because of some perceived physical, economic, intellectual, cultural, or racial difference.
- Derogatory name calling of an insulting and/or personal nature designed or likely to result in offending a person or group of persons.
- Verbal and /or written abuse and/or threats against another of any kind.
- Demanding money, material, goods, or favors by means of threat or force.
- Ridiculing an individual or group of individuals because of physical, economic, sexual, intellectual, cultural, or racial difference.
- Graffiti or any form of vandalism designed to intimidate or embarrass.
- Incitement of others to commit acts of bullying.
- Racist, sexist, anti-gay, and/or anti-homosexual behavior.
- It may involve the use of any electronic form such as cell phones, computers, or the internet.
- Deliberate exclusion or isolation of an individual or group of individuals for any reason not rationally related to any activity approved by the School.

Students or faculty are to report all allegations or believed cases of bullying, or harassment, of any kind to the Principal. All allegations of bullying, harassment, and cyber-bullying will be taken seriously and promptly investigated. The student found in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action including possibly in-school suspension, out of school suspension, or expulsion. The proper disciplinary action will be determined by the Principal at his or her discretion based on whether it is the student's first offense or second offense, and/or depending on the severity or pervasiveness of the offense, among other factors.

Cyber bullying is defined as sending inappropriate texts, email, or instant messaging, posting inappropriate pictures or messages about others in blogs, on websites, on cell phones or smart phones, in chat rooms, or home pages, or by any internet means, or electronic, or using someone else's user name to spread rumors or lies or other information designed to embarrass, harass, or threaten someone.

Students engaging in such cyber-bullying behavior (seriously or in jest) will face such disciplinary action as would be appropriate for any other type of bullying conduct.

Parent/Staff Conduct and Responsibilities

Staff, parents, and other members of the school community are called upon to model good standards of behavior both in and out of School. **Adults in the school community should be good listeners, remain mutually supportive and inclusive of one another, maintain appropriate confidentiality, and handle disagreements in a spirit of conciliation.** All members of this school community know that the examples of the adult members are the best teachers of student conduct for the future.

Volunteers on the campus are especially reminded to keep conversation positive and limited to appropriate topics.

A special word is needed about the goal of inclusiveness, since this principle is frequently violated among children and in schools. Students of all ages will be taught that name-calling, bullying, ridiculing, teasing, and excluding have no place at school and that these actions are not only unnecessary, but also intolerable. Parents are expected to reinforce these ideas at home.

Offenses Involving Property

Lockers, desks, and other storage spaces are school property. The school reserves the right to search possessions at any time. Prohibited items may be seized and retained in the school office for pickup by parents.

Students are prohibited from vandalizing or otherwise damaging or defacing any personal property belonging to, rented by, or used by the school or parish personnel. No student shall steal any property; likewise, no student shall take or borrow any property that does not belong to him or her, without the consent of the person to whom the property belongs. A person shall not, without the consent of the owner, damage or destroy property of the owner. (*Texas Penal Code 828.04*)

Student Standards

A fundamental aspect of educating our students is to teach them to treat others with love and respect. School standards of behavior help the student learn self-control and proper social behavior. Our students are expected to meet school standards at all times throughout the day.

The following examples are prohibited both at school and school-sponsored activities:

- Failure to comply with school policies, standards, and regulations, or with directives issued by school personnel.
- Showing disrespect for others. This includes rude behavior or insubordination.
- Spreading of gossip or slander.
- Engaging in verbal abuse (such as name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements.)
- Use of profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures.
- Use of physical or verbal intimidation of others through threats, bullying, harassment, pushing, hitting or lifting up students or any other demeaning behavior.
- Participating in classroom disturbances.
- Throwing of objects.
- Chasing or running in rooms or halls.
- Pushing, tripping, or fighting in school or on school grounds.
- Chewing gum, eating candy, or eating/drinking outside designated areas.
- Bringing toys, CD players, or other electronic entertainment items not used for class work to school.
- Use of electronic organizers unless required by class.
- Selling, bartering, renting or trading of goods.
- Tardiness, truancy, or skipping classes or other scheduled activities.
- Leaving school grounds or the classroom without permission.
- Cheating, forgery, plagiarizing or copying the work of another student.
- Any public display of affection, or other inappropriate physical contact.
- Sexual harassment (written, verbal or physical.)
- Gambling for money, candy etc., for personal gain.
- Possession and/or use of illegal drugs, tobacco products and/or alcoholic beverages with or without the intent to distribute.
- Extortion, coercion, or blackmail (i.e., using force or threat of force to obtain items of value or to cause harm to an individual).
- Possession or use of fireworks, explosives, firearms, knives or objects of any kind that may be considered a weapon.
- Unauthorized distribution of group letters, newspapers or other unofficial publications on school grounds, and posting of signs (permission must be obtained through the school office.)

- Possession of vulgar pictures or pornography of any kind.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off and must be turned in to the school office immediately upon entering the school building. They are not to be carried or operated during the school day, which includes checking text messages.

Cell phones and other electronic devices taken up from students, lockers, backpacks, etc., must be picked up by the student's parents from the Principal. They will not be returned directly to the student. The school is not responsible for items that are not turned in to the office.

Discipline

The purpose of discipline is to teach the student to make correct choices that are consistent with the Christian principles taught by the family, church and school. Discipline involves the molding, strengthening, and correction of pupils, and by encouragement to make the best choices.

By creating an atmosphere of orderly activity, discipline makes work possible and develops character in the exercise of virtue. It has the spiritual basis of authority and obedience: *"All authority comes from God."*

Students who violate the school's standards of conduct bring about the negative consequences of their own choices. **In most cases, consequences can be progressively administered so that penalties increase due to the severity or persistence of the misbehavior.** This gives the student opportunity to learn to make better choices.

A. Consequences

Disciplinary consequences may include, but are not limited to, these approaches:

1. Verbal reprimands
2. Time out to reflect and pray on the problem
3. Special assignments or duties, including written reports
4. Strict supervised study
5. Withdrawal of privileges
6. Temporary removal from class
7. Silent lunch
8. Detention after school
9. Saturday Detention
10. Partial or complete denial of attendance or participation in extracurricular, or other special activities
11. Behavioral contracts
12. Staff counseling
13. Individualized behavior modification program
14. Probation
15. Suspension from school
16. Expulsion from school for remainder of year
17. Other reasonable actions necessitated by unforeseeable special circumstance

Discipline Policy

Daily Progression of Consequences

1st Infraction - Verbal redirection stating what the student should be doing. (i.e. on time to class, bringing materials to class, engaged in class activity in a positive manner.)

2nd Infraction – Teacher consequence (i.e. silent lunch, missed recess, loss of privilege). Parent

communication by teacher.

3rd Infraction – Sent to Principal. Student writes reflection. Parent communication.

Cheating, plagiarism, insubordination, extreme disrespect, extreme verbal infraction, physical infractions and infractions involving destruction of property will be elevated to principal visit where further consequences will be determined. The principal has final determination in matters regarding discipline.

General Classroom Policy

A basic responsibility of the classroom teacher is to help students to develop self-discipline in studies, personal organization, and good behavior. A student who disturbs the learning of other students is literally stealing time from education and must be taught the moral value of self-disciplined study. Teachers are responsible to communicate their expectations of appropriate classroom behavior to the students. When a student fails to maintain proper behavior, the teacher will work with the student and parents in order to develop an approach in common to help the student learn to work in the classroom.

Normally disciplinary consequences are handled in the classroom. Serious transgressions that fall outside the classroom scope of instructive disciplinary action or repeated warnings will result in a meeting with the Principal.

Detention- After School Thursdays from 3:45-4:30

A form and/or a phone call stating the reason and setting the day/date for the detention is made to the parent. Detentions will take place after school on the Thursday following the issuance of the detention. **Students who have earned a detention may not participate in after school activities on that day. This includes athletic practices and games.**

If the student misses serving the detention for any reason other than absence from school due to illness, a second detention will be issued. Students are to be picked up at the classroom. In lieu of detention, administration reserves the right to have a student involved in an alternative activity designed to improve or change student behavior.

Any faculty and staff members may issue a detention. If the detention slip is not signed by the parent/guardian and returned the next day, the student will receive an additional detention.

Individual teachers may also provide a detention period for those students who habitually fail to turn in class assignments. Parents/Guardians will be notified in advance regarding the date and time of all detentions.

After the third serious behavioral misconduct detention, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the student may be required to serve an in-school suspension

Saturday Detention

Students may be referred to Saturday detention either for disciplinary, academic, or attendance reasons or the accrual of demerits in Middle School. Due to the need for adult supervision, parents of any student requiring Saturday detention will be charged a fee of \$50.00.

Students will know in advance and must come in school uniform. Students are expected to come with appropriate school work; teachers may assign make-up tests for the student to complete. The fee must be paid before the student is allowed to participate in extracurricular athletic and academic activities.

Suspension

A student may be suspended from school when other disciplinary measures have failed to bring about desirable behavior or when a student has made serious transgressions of school rules.

If a student is suspended, the parent will be billed \$50.00, to cover the cost of the substitute who will monitor the student for the day. If a student is suspended for multiple days this amount will be adjusted accordingly.

A parent conference will be held where the situation is explained and specific requirements for the suspension and reinstatement of the student are outlined in a written contract.

Repeat offenses will result in a longer suspension. Further transgression of the school rules will result in the student being expelled from school.

The following offenses committed by a student while under the jurisdiction of the school are grounds for suspension/expulsion:

- a) Actions gravely detrimental to the moral, physical, or spiritual welfare of other students.
- b) Committing an obscene act or habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- c) Assault, battery, or any threat of force or violence directed toward any school personnel, or pupil or any other person or their property.
- d) Open persistent defiance of authority of the teacher, supervisors, or administrators.
- e) Verbal/physical abuse toward any person, including fighting of any kind; destruction of property.
- f) Continued willful disobedience, dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, forgery or general disrespect.
- g) Use, sale, distribution, or possession of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, or intoxicants of any kind.
- h) Theft.
- i) Willful cutting, defacing, or otherwise damaging any property, real or personal, belonging to the school, school personnel, or another student.
- j) Habitual truancy.
- k) Possession of harmful weapons, objects, or materials that can be used as a weapon.
- l) The continued presence in school of the student is determined to be damaging to the general welfare of the student body as manifested by his/her activity outside of school.

A student who acts in a disruptive, aggressive, or destructive manner may be required to leave school for the remainder of the day. This action may be deemed necessary, especially for a student who has had excessive or repeated behavior or attitude problems. In such a case, the administration will contact the child's parent/guardian who must come and pick up the student immediately. The parent/guardian may choose to have another responsible party, whose name is listed on the student emergency card, pick up the child for them. Additional day(s) of suspension from school may accompany this action if it is deemed necessary.

When a suspension occurs, the student is responsible for all work missed, including a suspension assignment. Suspension and class work must be completed before a student is able to return to class. The student may not participate in or attend any school-sponsored activity, including practice, games, tournaments, social activities etc. on the suspension day(s). Any student who has been suspended three (3) times during the school year may be dismissed from St. Mary's Catholic School. 12

After every effort has been made to correct the student's behavior and evidence is shown that the student's behavior and the philosophy and objectives of the school are incongruent, the parents will be asked to withdraw the student from the school. Non-compliance with the request will result in expulsion from the school. The Pastor and Diocesan Office of Education will be closely informed of the impending action. Expulsion is an extreme but sometimes necessary measure for the common good. The administration shall arrange a conference with the student and parents/guardians who shall be informed of:

- a) The pattern of conduct in question and evidence present.
- b) The right of the student to present a statement on his/her behalf.
- c) The specific course of action or improvement necessary so that expulsion will not be necessary.

NOTIFICATION OF SUSPENSION:

Parents will be notified immediately of the suspension and a prompt meeting or conference will be held at which time matters pertinent to the suspension will be discussed by the principal, teacher, parent and student.

SUSPENSION BY A TEACHER:

In NO CASE will a teacher on his/her own authority suspend a student.

NOTIFICATION OF EXPULSION:

Parents will be notified immediately of the expulsion and a prompt meeting or conference held at which time matters pertinent to the expulsion will be discussed by the pastor, principal, teacher, parent and student.

Expulsion

The expulsion of a student from a Catholic school is invoked only as a last resort. When it becomes apparent that the pupil's behavior continues to disrupt the learning situation in the school or presents a serious moral problem, the Principal, with approval of the School Pastor and Superintendent, will expel the pupil from the school. This serious disciplinary action will be entered in the student's record.

Counseling and Guidance

St. Mary's Catholic School is involved with the whole child; therefore, his spiritual, moral, intellectual, and social growth and adjustment are of as much concern to us as is his physical well being. Classroom teachers are instructed in guidance techniques. The Principal and Pastor are ready to provide counseling. If referral is indicated, the parents, through consultation with the school decide on an appropriate choice among the private and public resources.

Disputes and Conflict

Disputes or conflicts can arise in the educational setting. It is important that such matters be resolved as quickly as possible. **If the dispute/conflict is with a teacher, the first step for parent/guardian is discussion of the problem with that teacher.** If the problem is not resolved satisfactorily, the parent/guardian may proceed to the second step and request a meeting with the Principal.

If the dispute/conflict is with the Principal, the first step for parent/guardian is discussion of the problem with the Principal. If the problem is not resolved satisfactorily, the parent/guardian may proceed in the second step and request a meeting with the School Pastor.

Adult Civility Code

As an adult member of St. Mary's Catholic School community, I hereby agree to conduct myself with conspicuous civility at all times. All of my exchanges with students, faculty, staff, parents and visitors will be marked by respect and kindness, even in times of stress or disagreement. This Civility Code for teachers, staff members, parents, guardians and students focuses on Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. In order to be an effective member of the St. Mary's community, I pledge to follow this Civility Code for the good of the whole community and, especially for the children who learn from my example.

Consequences:

While the normal consequences for a violation of the Civility Code follow, the sequences below, some violations may be so severe or extreme that they require immediate probation or separation of students and/or adults.

1. The individual will be contacted to discuss the situation and consequences of the behavior. A written warning is given at this time.
2. If the individual commits another violation, the person is placed on probation. The terms /length of this probation are determined on a case-by-case basis
3. If the individual's behavior continues to be deemed a problem during the defined probation period or if

he/she violates that probation, where applicable:

- a. The child of the individual will be dismissed from St. Mary’s Catholic School without tuition refund.
- b. The adult will be restricted from school campus.

All members of our community (parents, students, faculty, and staff) will be held to the same civility standard. While Civility Code violations are usually held in the strictest confidence, some civility code regulations may be so public or significant the Principal may inform the school community. In these instances an individual name is not used.

Any questions regarding such policies or procedures should be directed to the Principal or Pastor as appropriate.

Dress Code

The Principal has sole authority to determine the school uniform/appropriate dress and enforce standards for all St. Mary’s students as the need arises during the school year.

St. Mary’s students must be in full uniform before the first bell rings and until they leave the school campus and at school events where the school uniform is required. Students who are not in full uniform will be sent to the office and the parent will be called to bring the proper clothing. For students not following the dress code, first offense will result in discussion with student. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary action.

Required:

- Girl’s jumpers in Pre-K through 5th must have a school logo.
- White New Balance shoes will replace the saddle shoe for the girls. The Junior High girls may choose to wear the white New Balance shoe or the slip on black shoes they currently wear.
- Boys: Black New Balance shoes or solid black dress shoes.

Optional

- The girls in Pre-K through grade 5 may wear a light blue polo, with the school logo, and a skort, Monday through Thursday.
- The boys in Pre-K through grade 5 may wear a light blue polo, with the school logo, and their regular school pants Monday through Thursday.
- The boys and girls in Junior High may wear a dark blue polo, with the school logo, and their current skirt for girls and pants for boys, Monday through Thursday.

Uniforms with school logo must be purchased through Parker uniform company.

St. Mary’s Catholic School Uniform

	Girls From Parker Uniforms*	Girls From store of choice	Boys From Parker Uniforms*	Boys From store of choice
Pre-K – K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navy drop waist jumper with school logo, white Peter Pan collar blouse, and biker style modesty shorts ● White New Balance shoes ● Monogrammed navy cardigan sweater, vest or fleece (optional) ● Optional navy blue skort and light blue polo (with school logo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plain white, black or navy knee high or over the ankle socks or same color tights; no pantyhose (no ankle socks) ● Navy biker style modesty shorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soft navy pull-on shorts/pants or navy walking shorts/pants ● Blue/white striped oxford shirt ● Navy tie for Mass ● Black New Balance Lace or Velcro Shoes ● Monogrammed navy cardigan sweater, vest, or fleece jacket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navy , brown or black leather belt ● Solid navy, black or white crew socks (no ankle socks) ● Black New Balance shoe or solid black dress shoe.

	to be worn Mon.-Thurs. only.		(optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional light blue polo (with school logo) to be worn Mon.- Thurs. only 	
Grades 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy drop waist jumper, with school logo, white Peter Pan collar blouse, and biker style modesty shorts • White New Balance shoes • Monogrammed navy cardigan sweater, vest or fleece (optional) • Optional navy blue skort and light blue polo (with school logo) to be worn Mon.- Thurs. only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain white, black or navy knee high or over the ankle socks or same color tights; no pantyhose (no ankle socks) • Navy biker style modesty shorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy pants or navy walking shorts/pants • Blue/white striped oxford shirt • Navy tie for Mass • Black New Balance lace shoe or leather, solid black dress shoe • Monogrammed navy cardigan sweater, vest, or fleece jacket (optional) • Optional light blue polo (with school logo) to be worn Mon.- Thurs. only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy, brown or black leather belt • Solid navy, black or white crew socks (no ankle socks) • Black New Balance or solid black dress shoe
Grades 6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen plaid skirt, plain white oxford blouse, and navy tie with red striping • Monogrammed navy vest or sweater vest • Black dress shoe or White New Balance shoe • Biker style modesty shorts • Monogrammed navy cardigan sweater, or fleece (optional) • Optional navy blue polo (with school logo) to be worn Mon.- Thurs. only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain white oxford blouse • Plain white, black or navy knee high or over the ankle socks or same color tights; no pantyhose (no ankle socks) • Black dress shoe or White New Balance shoe • Navy biker style modesty shorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain white oxford shirt, khaki pants, and navy tie with red striping • Black New Balance lace shoe or leather, solid black dress shoe • Monogrammed navy cardigan sweater, vest, or fleece jacket (optional) • Optional navy blue polo (with school logo) to be worn Mon.- Thurs. only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain white oxford shirt • Brown, navy or black leather belt • Solid navy, or white crew socks (no ankle socks) • Black New Balance or solid black dress shoe

Skirts and Jumpers

Junior High students Skirt (Jr. High) and Jumper (Elementary), with school logo, must cover the knee. Navy biker-style modesty shorts must be worn with the skirts or jumpers.

Vests for Junior High Girls

Vests are with full uniform. Ties in the back of the vest must not dangle loose; rather, they must be tied with a knot, crossed and held in place by a stitch, or removed entirely by taking out the stitching.

The school emblem must be monogrammed on upper left side of the vest, and on the school sweater/fleece.

Ties and Belts

Ties are to be pulled up to cover the shirt collar button. If boy's pants have belt loops, a leather belt must be worn. Leather belts are to be solid black, brown or navy.

Junior High boys and girls wear a tie daily unless permitted otherwise. Elementary boys must wear a tie on Mass days. Pre-K and Kindergarten do not need to wear ties.

Shirts

Elementary boys must wear the oxford, blue and white striped shirt daily. Navy blue shorts are permitted for Elementary boys only on non-Mass days. Long pants must be worn to Mass.

Junior High students must button the top button of their shirts/blouses for Mass. The top button may be left opened otherwise, provided that the tie covers it.

Shirts are to be tucked in at all times with sleeves not pushed or rolled up when students are on campus or at school-sponsored activities.

Hair

Boys and girls must keep their hair clean and well groomed, with bangs above the eyebrows and hair kept off the face. No extreme hair styles are permitted; including but not limited to, mohawks, spiked hair and highlights. The administration reserves the right to determine hairstyles inappropriate.

Boys' hair must be cut above their shirt collars and trimmed above the ears and off the face. It is preferred, but not mandatory, that Girls may wear plain, solid-color headbands, ribbons, and bows for the hair. **Hairstyles or ornaments that are distracting in the classroom are not permitted. Hair must be a natural hair color. No bleached or artificially colored hair or highlights permitted. Hair must not cover the face.**

Makeup, Fingernails, and Body Decoration

Junior High girls may wear light makeup, clear lipstick, and clear nail polish. Heavy makeup, tinted lipstick, and colored nail polish are not allowed. No French tip, gel or fake nails are allowed.

No writing, painting, stickers, or tattoos may be visible on the body or clothing.

Piercing and Earrings

Body piercing, other than ear piercing (as described here), is not permitted. A **single** piercing of the earlobe—not in the cartilage—is allowed. **Only one earring of a matched set** may be worn in each ear and must be a stud, a button, or a tiny hoop that stays close to the ear. **(Large hoops and dangling earrings pose a hazard and are prohibited at all times.)** If earring violations continue after a warning, the student will be asked to surrender the earrings to the office, where a parent may retrieve them.

Boys are never allowed to wear earrings of any sort.

Necklaces and Pins

A thin chain or cord, with a cross, crucifix, or a single medal may be worn outside the shirt/blouse. All other chains must be worn under the shirt; **“chokers” are prohibited.** Pins or buttons are allowed if they relate to a school-supported activity or cause.

Rings, Bracelets, and Watches

One ring and one bracelet per hand are permitted. Watches may be worn but must be kept silent.

Shoes and Socks

Socks must be high enough to cover the ankles, crew length socks for boys, and knee high or bobby socks for girls. Socks may be black, navy or white in color. Socks may not have any logos or writing. Tights of like colors, navy blue, white or black, may also be worn. Only white New Balance shoes for elementary girls, white New Balance or black leather dress shoes for junior high girls, and black New Balance or black leather dress shoes may be worn by boys.

No sandals, open-toes shoes, no boots or hi-top shoes, no ballet slippers or shoes with a heel over 1 inch

are permitted.

Sweaters and Jackets

Hoodies of any kind are not allowed at St. Mary's indoors. With the understanding that temperatures in the classroom may have extreme differences and be difficult to control, students are advised to dress accordingly and appropriately. Only SMCS navy blue sweaters or SMCS fleece jackets may be worn in the classroom or in the school building. There are not exceptions.

Consequences of Dress Code Violations

1st offense: Verbal warning - student counseled by teacher/adult

2nd offense: Written warning – parent signature required

3rd offense: Detention

Spirit Day: Only the following is permitted:

Spirit Day dress is as follows: St. Mary's Catholic School **grey spirit shirt only**, with properly fitted blue jeans with a leather black, brown or navy belt, and schools shoes are to be worn. Elementary students may wear properly fitted plain blue jean knee length shorts or below the knee Capri pants.

Properly fitted plain blue jeans or knee length skirts or shorts or below the knee Capri pants may be worn. All pants must be hemmed, without holes or ragged edges. **Clothing that is too tight, too short, too skimpy, or too baggy is never allowed.**

Solid colored black, brown, or navy belt must be worn.

Indoors, only school sweaters or fleece jackets may be worn.

As usual, only light makeup may be worn. Large hoops or dangling earrings are never permitted.

Hats/caps may not be worn in the school building.

School shoes are to be worn. **As a privilege, Middle School students may wear solid black or white tennis shoes on Spirt Days. Solid means there are no other colors including the laces.**

The school office sells spirit shirts. For club T-shirts, consult the appropriate sponsor.

Cold Weather Wear

Students may wear their school sweaters or school-emblem windbreakers or fleece jackets in the church on cold days, and also in the classroom if it is too cool. Girls may also wear white, black or navy cotton tights. Long sleeve white, navy or black shirts may be worn under uniforms on cold days.

Parker Uniforms is our official uniform supplier. See the Parker web site (www.parkersu.com).

A Parker representative attends the uniform sale held at St. Mary's Catholic School just before the beginning of the academic year; the school offers used uniforms at this sale, also.

Extended Day Programs

Before-School Supervision

St. Mary's Catholic School offers before-school supervision from 7:00 to 7:45 a.m. in the school cafeteria

for students in Grades K-8. *There is no charge for this service.*

A school representative will be stationed at the drop-off point beginning at 7:15 a.m. Parents are to drop off children with an adult stationed in the cul-de-sac near the cafeteria or drive into the church parking lot. Pre-K students are dropped off and supervised at the Pre-K building. No parking, dropping off, or picking up students on Avenue K is permitted for the safety of our children and to ensure that the bus lane is clear at all times.

After-School Extended Day

St. Mary's Catholic School will not accept responsibility for supervision after 3:45 P.M. except students that are enrolled in the Pre-K 3 & 4 Extended Day program or The Zone after school program. Any student in Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade left on campus after 3:45 P.M. will be sent to the school office for pick-up. A fee will be charged to the family. **All other students should remain with the after school-supervised activity for which permission has been received.**

The St. Mary's Catholic School Pre-K 3 & 4 Extended Day Program provides supervised after-school activities from 3:45 to 6:00 p.m. The Program is open each school day, with the exception of: the first day of school and the last day of school. Students must be signed up in the school office. The base of operations for the Pre-K 3 & 4 Extended Day Program is in the Pre-K building. The fee is due at the beginning of each month.

The City of Temple Parks and Leisure Services Department, in partnership with St. Mary's Catholic School, provides **The Zone** after school program for students in Kindergarten – 8th grade. The Zone program focuses on homework, tutoring, and structured activities from 3:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Weekly rates must be paid in full to Zone staff.

Each program cannot accept children on a “drop-in” basis, children that are not picked up by 3:45 p.m. will be brought to the school office. Parents will be called and expected to pick up their children immediately.

Extracurricular Activities

Students must maintain passing grades (70+) *in all subjects* and have a conduct grade *no lower than “C”* to participate in school extracurricular activities, including sports.

Field/Study Trips

Field/Study trips are planned by the teacher to be a valuable educational experience that fits into the curricular plan.

Field/Study trips are a privilege, not a right. Only students who act responsibly, wear the permitted uniform, and have returned a properly signed school permission form will be permitted to go.

Unless otherwise stated on the permission form, regular school attire will be worn on trips that primarily involve indoor activities, while spirit clothes may be permitted for outdoor field/study trips.

Field/Study trips are an integral part of the learning program; therefore, children who are not permitted to accompany the class on a field/study trip must spend the same period of time in school under the supervision of a teacher working on special assignments equal to the field trip experience.

Volunteers who go on a field/study trip must have an approved eAppsDB application and security clearance from the Diocese of Austin, and show proof of having attended the Diocesan “Ethics and

Integrity” workshop. Drivers for field/study trips must possess a valid driver's license and show current proof of liability insurance before each trip.

Payment for field trips should be made directly to the school. Returned checks will incur a fee of \$35.00 to the school as well as the bank fee

Homework

Teachers assign homework on a regular and moderate schedule. It is always based on what has been taught in the classroom, and is of two kinds: *study* and *written*.

- *Study* homework consists of a mastering of certain facts and events such as Scripture and prayers, Math facts, spelling words, and historical facts. Parents can check this type of homework by having the pupil *recite*.
- *Written* homework consists of such activities as solving problems in Math, outlining a chapter in history, drawing maps, charts, and diagrams, and writing compositions. Parents can check this type of homework by examining the finished product.

Homework of both kinds is very necessary and varies in amount for the average pupil. Most students in the primary grades can complete the assigned work in 30 to 45 minutes of focused endeavor, intermediate grades in 1.5 hours, and Junior High up to 2 hours.

Illness

A child with a fever should not go to school. A child who has been sick is not to return to school until fever-free for at least 24 hours **without fever reducing medication**. We will call parents to pick up a child who develops a fever during the school day.

Conditions for keeping a child at home	Conditions for returning a child to school
Oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher	Fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication
Vomiting, nausea or severe abdominal pain	Symptom-free
Marked drowsiness or malaise	Symptom-free
Sore throat, acute cold, or persistent cough	Symptom-free
Red, inflamed, or discharging eyes	Written physician release
Acute skin rashes or eruptions	Written physician release
Swollen glands around jaws, ears, and neck	Written physician release
Suspected scabies or impetigo	Written physician release
Any skin lesion in the weeping stage or ringworm of the body.....	Lesion covered, physician-diagnosed as noninfectious
Earache	Symptom-free
Other symptoms suggestive of acute illness.....	Written physician release
Bacterial Meningitis.....	Written physician or health dept. release
Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever.....	Keep home until strep test is negative, or 24 hours after antibiotic treatment
Head Lice.....	Student must be nit-free after treatment with Nix or permethrin product.
HIV/AIDS: Keep at home if open sores or lesions are present; if the student is incontinent; or, if there is an outbreak of measles, rubella, or chicken pox in the school.	

Inclement Weather

In case of ice or snow, St. Mary's Catholic School normally follows Temple ISD's determination for school closings and delays, *unless otherwise announced*. However, St. Mary's Catholic School may announce a school closing during adverse conditions before Temple ISD does. Closings are customarily announced on local TV stations including the cable Weather Channel. If icy conditions occur early the preceding evening, announcements may be made at the ten o'clock TV evening news broadcasts or on the Weather Channel. Notice of school closings may also appear on the school website, www.stmarys-temple.org, or through the School Reach parent notification system.

Insurance

The Austin Catholic Diocese will pay insurance for each St. Mary's Catholic School student for accidents occurring while the student is on campus or engaged in an off-campus school activity.

Library

Our students are encouraged to frequently use the school library and to have a book checked out at all times. It is the expectation that students will be responsible for taking good care of the books they borrow from the library.

Students are permitted to bring in outside reading materials if the librarian gives approval. Teachers may choose to give approval for the use of an outside book in a book report.

Library fines are to be promptly paid.

Liturgical Celebrations and Holy Mass

All students in St. Mary's Catholic School develop their understanding of religion through attending school liturgies.

All students will attend School Mass together on Fridays at 8:15 a.m. and on Holy Days. Also, special liturgical celebrations are scheduled throughout the year. We encourage parents to participate in all of these events.

Junior High students also attend Eucharistic Adoration in the afternoon of the first Friday of the month.

School Liturgies also include Stations of the Cross (Fridays during Lent), Living Rosary, school Penance services etc.

Standards for Mass Attendance

St. Mary's students are privileged to attend school Mass each week. This is an important school event where students must conform to all school standards of decorum for dress and behavior.

Lost and Found

Inquiries about lost, misplaced, or found articles are to be directed to the school office. Check with the office immediately and frequently if your child is missing an item. Items are not held over a long period of time and are usually donated to St. Vincent DePaul at least twice a year.

Please label your child's clothing, binders, and supplies to make it easier to return misplaced items to their rightful owner.

Medication

According to the Catholic School Office of the Diocese of Austin:

Only medication necessary for a child to remain in school will be given during school hours. No medication will be given to any child without a signed permission form from the parent or legal guardian.

Authorized school personnel will administer only medication prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist and dispensed by a registered pharmacist. "Over the counter" medication (acetaminophen, ointments, cold tablets, cough syrups, etc.) will not be given unless prescribed by a licensed physician and labeled by a licensed pharmacist with proper directions.

Students are not permitted to carry medication of any kind. Medicine must be brought to the school office by a parent or responsible adult. A student must not give any type of medication to another student nor accept such medication (not even aspirin).

Medications must be in a properly labeled container with the following information: student's name; physician/dentist's name; date; name of medication; dosage; directions for administration, including specific times (may not stipulate "as needed"); duration that medication is to be given. *Medications may not be kept by a student or in the classroom.*

Medications are kept under lock and key and may only be dispensed by previously instructed office personnel.

Messages

The staff regrets that the school cannot give messages to students during school hours except in emergency situations (e.g., pertaining to illness or accident).

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Communications

Teachers are available to confer with parents regarding their child's progress. Conferences may be scheduled with the teacher. Impromptu meetings or hallway conferences are to be discouraged in the interest of privacy.

Classes may not be interrupted in order to speak to the teacher except in case of extreme emergency. The easiest way to schedule a parent teacher conference is to send a written or email request to the teacher.

At the end of the first quarter, school-wide parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled. The homeroom teacher will present the report card and discuss the student's ongoing progress. Elementary and Middle School homeroom teachers conduct these conferences in their classrooms. Non-homeroom teachers conduct conferences at a designated area.

Teachers may communicate to parents through entries in the students' academic notebooks and assignment

journals, phone calls, or via email. More personal communications are sent home in a sealed envelope.

Parent Involvement

St. Mary's Catholic School not only encourages parents to participate in the lives of their children at school but also depends upon that participation, requiring 25 hours of volunteer work per family each year.* In May, each family will be asked to contribute \$10.00 for each unfulfilled volunteer hour.

***If a family is unable or chooses not to volunteer, a \$250.00 tax-deductible fee will be assessed. You may pay \$125.00 in August and \$125.00 in April. Each family must complete at least half (12.5 hours) of the hours by December 1.**

The volunteer logbook is kept in the hallway outside of the school office. You are responsible for recording your hours. At the end of April, the volunteer coordinator will total the hours entered. Any outstanding hours will be billed at the cost of \$10 per hour.

Parties

Class parties are at the teacher's discretion.

Invitations to parties outside of school may not be passed out in school unless all students are included.

Physical Education Classes

Medical Excuse

Students may be excused from physical education for health or medical reasons for a maximum of three consecutive days with a note from a parent. Excuses for more than three days require an official order from a physician. In cases of non-participation in the program or participation on a limited basis, a statement from the doctor must be on file, giving the reason and the length of time of the restriction.

P.E. Uniforms

Students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 wear their regular school uniforms to physical education. Tennis shoes will be permitted during the P.E. period.

Junior High students are required to have proper physical education clothing. Students are required to be dressed out fully each day during physical education class. Students must be in school uniform before leaving gym.

If a junior high student reports to P.E. with incomplete or improper clothing, the student will get points deducted from their grade that day. The will still be expected to participate in class

Specifications: St. Mary's t-shirt, of any kind, knee-length athletic shorts, and tennis shoes. An additional St. Mary's shirt must be brought if the P.E. class falls on a designated Spirit Day.

Physical education items must be carried in a small gym bag clearly labeled with the student's name. Items other than P.E. clothes may not be carried in the gym bag. Physical education clothing must be placed in the gym bag and returned to the student's locker at the end of each PE class. Clothing should be kept clean and fresh and must be taken home and washed regularly.

If hair is long enough for a ponytail, it must be held together or pinned up. Long hair could cause the student to have an accident.

For reasons of sanitation, students may not wear uniforms, shoes, or socks that are not their own.

Pictures

Parents will be given opportunities to purchase pictures made of their children during the school year. Individual and group pictures will be taken. Also, a yearbook will be available for purchase at the end of the school year.

Pre-Registration and Registration

By February, a letter of pre-registration is sent to parents of all students currently enrolled. For a specified time, these students will be given preference in registration including any applicable discounts and reserved placement for the upcoming year. Thereafter, placement for all registering students will be decided by date of receipt of the application form at the School Office.

Application fees for first-time enrollees and registration fees are required for all students at this time. If fees are not paid by the date specified in the letter, the application will be automatically placed on the bottom of our list—and a place will not be held for that student— unless the parent has initiated a special arrangement with the Principal or School Pastor.

On the first day of school the following forms go home to the parents – Emergency Notification form, Free-reduced Lunch Form, Diocesan Family Survey, Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgement, Technology Agreement, After School Athletics Form, Medication Form and Acknowledgement of School Policies. Except for the Parent-Student Handbook, these forms must be returned on the next school day.

Progress Reports

A report on each student's general academic standing and conduct is sent to parents at the midpoint of each nine-week quarter.

At the end of each quarter, a report card is sent home. Report cards must be signed and returned to the student's homeroom teacher within 3 days. End-of-year report cards—indicating the student's promotion or retention— remain in the parents' possession.

Records

Student records are maintained as necessary for local needs according to district, state, and federal requirements.

A student's parents or guardians are welcome to review these records during office hours in accordance with the Family Rights and Privacy Act. Requests should be made to the Principal one full working day in advance.

Sacramental Preparation (Catholic Students)

Rules governing Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion will be sent to parents of Second Grade students each fall.

Safety

St. Mary's Catholic School makes every effort to ensure the students' safety. City and County personnel conduct regular sanitary and safety inspections. Teachers, staff, and administration are vigilant in spotting and correcting safety hazards.

Traffic Flow

At all times parents must protect the safety of all of our children by driving slowly and carefully on the streets around our school and parish facilities. It is of *utmost importance* that everyone complies with posted signs and rules, so that the children's safety may be foremost. **Do not leave unattended vehicles blocking the traffic flow, including the school buses. All drivers must promptly follow instructions given by a school traffic guard.**

Our greatest concern is seeing students cross traffic. Parents should never drop off their children in areas where they have to cross in front of oncoming vehicles. St. Mary's Catholic School has established a drop-off point at the cul-de-sac near the cafeteria. **No parking, drop-off, or pick-up is permitted on Avenue K or in and around the bus lanes.**

Emergency Drills

Tornado drills are held periodically. Monthly fire drills are practiced where everyone leaves the buildings. For the students' safety, silence must be maintained during drills and other emergency situations.

Asbestos

School facilities are in compliance with asbestos abatement standards. The Asbestos Management Plan is available in the Principal's office for public review.

Crisis Plan

Fire Alarm

Priority #1: Remove people from imminent danger. When the fire alarm rings, the teacher will pick up the class grade book and Emergency Phone List Folder and lead students to the class's assigned exit *ina silent and orderly manner*. The route to the assigned exit will be posted prominently in the classroom. If the assigned exit is blocked by smoke, fire, or other danger, proceed to the nearest safe exit. The last person to leave a room: takes the room's Fire Symbol (to give to the Fire Marshal as proof that the room is accounted for) and closes the door (to prevent spread of fire and to indicate that the room has been evacuated). The **teacher takes roll immediately** upon arrival at a designated outside area to ensure that all students are present. For everyone's safety during fire alarms, maintain silence at all times so that any necessary instructions can be heard.

Tornado Watch: Office personnel will announce tornado instructions over the intercom of the main building, and via telephone to the Pre-Kindergarten building. The teacher leads students to the class's designated evacuation location. The list of evacuation locations will be posted prominently in the classroom.

Tornado Warning: Office personnel instruct teachers to implement evacuation procedures and move students to the designated first floor hallway location away from the windows, or else call for everyone to "duck and cover" in the classrooms if time doesn't allow.

Bomb Threat: Upon receiving a bomb threat, office personnel send runners to warn classes. **DO NOT USE THE INTERCOM, TELEPHONES, CELL PHONES, OR FIRE ALARMS**, as these may trigger a device. Follow the Crisis Plan for Fire Alarm to evacuate students from the school buildings. Office personnel notify police (9-1-1) via off-campus telephone or by cell phone (if at a safe distance from the school buildings).

Gas Leak or Chemical Disaster: Proceed according to instructions from emergency personnel. For a potential Gas Leak, **DO NOT USE THE INTERCOM, TELEPHONES, CELL PHONES, OR FIRE ALARMS but use runners.** The teacher should take a class grade book and the Emergency Phone List and move students from the danger area as quickly as possible. Take roll immediately upon arrival at a safe location. If evacuation to an off-campus location is indicated, all available vehicles will be used to transport students. Transportation priority is given to the youngest students, and teachers accompany their students. The facilities of StLuke's Parish in southern Temple and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish are the school's primary off-campus evacuation sites. A parent wishing to retrieve a student must receive permission from office personnel and must sign the student out. Evacuation destination is determined by circumstances, source of the leak, and recommendations of emergency personnel.

Anthrax and Bio-Terror: Suspicious parcels will be referred to the police before opening. Staff will follow the advice of emergency personnel, in accordance with community emergency plans regarding terrorist activities. Evacuation of students proceeds as described in Gas Leak or Chemical Disaster, above.

Lock-Down Procedure: All exterior doors remain locked. Announcement over the intercom: "**Code Red.**" Teachers are to keep all students in the classrooms and close the door to the hallway until an "All Clear" announcement is made. No students are to be taken out of the building to P.E., band, etc. If students are at P.E., band, etc., office staff will alert those teachers by cell phone to secure their students in the school gym.

School Board

The purpose of a Catholic education board is to assist the Pastor and Principal in an advisory capacity to ensure that the mission of the school is lived out and the needs of the students enrolled are met.

Employees of St. Mary's Catholic School, and relatives of employees, may not serve as voting members of the School Board.

The Board is subject to the regulations that proceed from the Ordinary of the Diocese, the Diocesan Board of Education, and any other person or agency delegated with the authority to act in matters affecting education within the Diocese of Austin.

Policy may originate from the School Pastor, the Principal, or the members of the School Board. It may be formed in response to a need for action on a particular issue, when a solution to a problem is required, or when changes are needed in order to bring the school into conformity with a diocesan policy or a state regulation.

When the board or committee appointed to the task has completed research and deliberation, the policy is presented to the full school board for a vote. A policy approved by the School Board is then sent to the Principal for her consideration and/or revision.

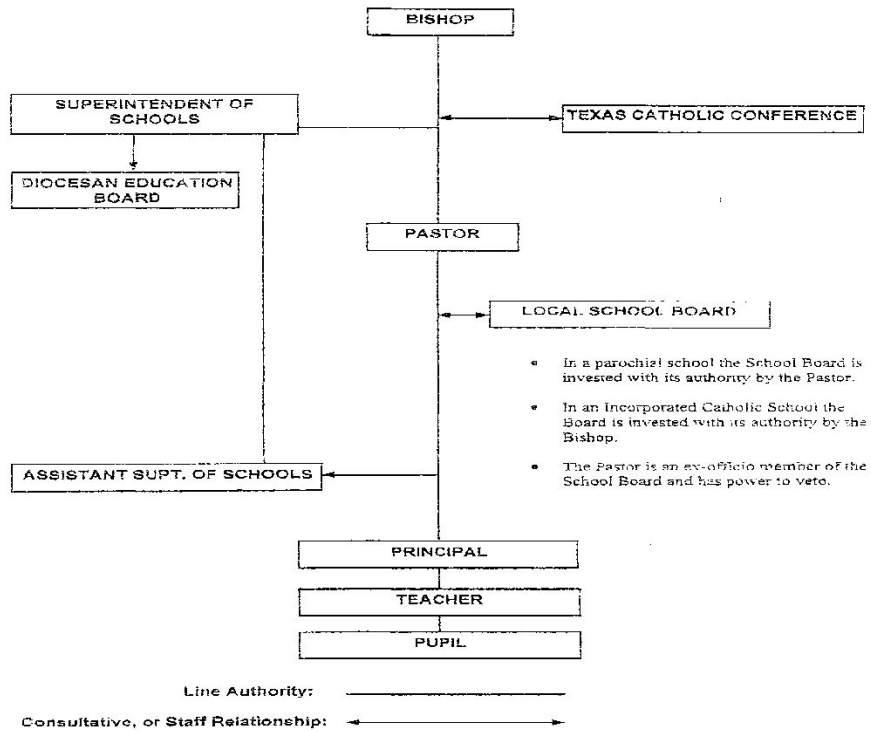
When the Principal approves a policy, the policy is presented for promulgation to the School Pastor.

The school administration translates the policy into practice through forming regulations that are carried out

on a daily basis in the school.

Note that the following areas do not fall under the auspices of the School Board: *disciplinary matters, curriculum development, approval of instructional materials, hiring and firing of staff, regulations, and grievances.*

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



School Bus

The school bus routes are run by Holy Trinity Catholic High School (of Temple), and fees are collected through their office. Consult HTCHS at 254-771-0787 for information on schedules, routes, and rates.

Students who ride the bus must abide by all rules set by both schools, and disciplinary action for our students who violate these rules may be brought about either by Holy Trinity or St. Mary's Catholic School.

Bus transportation is a privilege for those students who display safe appropriate behavior. A student who violates these rules may lose bus privileges.

Students shall conduct themselves with the same courtesy as if they were in school. They shall not fight,

tease other students, use inappropriate language, or commit vandalism. Bus students must behave in an orderly manner and not cause undue noise or other disruption that could distract the driver. It could take only one instance of misconduct to cause an accident.

Basic rules:

- At all times, be courteous to the bus driver and promptly follow all instructions.
- Remain seated in assigned seats while the bus is in motion.
- No food, drinks, candy, etc. are allowed on the bus.
- Be careful not to leave any trash.
- Do not mark or otherwise deface the bus.

Important safety reminders:

- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Never stick your head or hand outside the bus windows.
- Never throw anything inside or from the bus.

School Clubs and Organizations

All organizations, programs, and clubs that represent the school must operate according to school policies. The Principal approves all by-laws and operational policies. All organizations function under the auspices of the Principal. Examples are parent organizations, athletic programs, and booster clubs.

Projects undertaken by any one representing a school-affiliated organization must have the prior approval of the Principal. All solicitations, purchases, and expenditures must have prior approval of the Principal. Those responsible for collection of money will file a detailed balance sheet with the office. The Financial Secretary deposits all monies into the St. Mary's Catholic School accounts.

Parent-Teacher Club

All families are asked to become members of the Parent-Teacher Club and are encouraged to participate in its activities. Information concerning meetings will be promulgated through the school newsletter. New officers assume their responsibilities at the beginning of the new school year.

The school is not responsible for students on the grounds during all school sponsored activities. During PTC events, students are not allowed to play outdoors or in any other part of the building **unless directly supervised by an adult**. Students participating in programs during PTC meetings are asked to wear their uniform.

Sports

At all times, St. Mary's students will conduct themselves as Christian athletes. Athletes are expected to show an "A" in conduct during all games. Conduct inside or outside of school that is unbecoming of a Christian athlete will result in removal from the team. Parents are also expected to behave in a Christian manner.

The St. Mary's Catholic School After-School Athletics Program is open to all students in Grades 6-8. (Only in circumstances that there are not enough players to form a team will 5th grade students be invited to participate) Note that academic standing affects eligibility, as described below.

Before the first practice of the year, each student must supply the following:

- The "Athletics Participation Form" signed by parent(s) or guardian(s) who give permission to participate in practices and games.
- The "Medical History & Physical Examination for Student Athlete" form completed and signed by a physician

- The “Consent to Treat a Minor and Release of Liability” form signed by parent or guardian
- An up-to-date “Emergency Information and Notification” form
- Payment for any associated fees

At the first meeting, the coach will provide a schedule of practices and games. Updates to the schedule (especially games) are to be expected. Consult the St. Mary’s Catholic School website for current information.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

The St. Mary’s Catholic School guidelines for participation in extra-curricular activities, in particular the Athletics Program, require that a student must not have received, in the preceding quarter, a failing grade (below 69) in any subject. A student with a failing grade for a given quarter is restricted from participation in the activity – including attendance at practices – until the mid-quarter progress reports are issued, at which time the student may be reinstated in the sports program.

If a failed subject is an elective and dropped, a student must miss 3 weeks of practice/games before being reinstated in the sports program.

Policies

Our Athletic Program follows guidelines set forth by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) of Texas.

Teams participate in both “home” and “away” games. Whenever possible, hosts hire professionals to officiate, although sometimes non-professional adults serve; in no case may a minor officiate at a game. We encourage parents and friends to attend our games; attendance boosts team morale, and the small entry fee and concession sales helps defray compensation of any officials.

Rules for Student Conduct

Attendance at practice and games is mandatory. Only personal illness or family emergency will be acceptable as an excuse. Unexcused absences from practice or games will result in removal from the team.

1. **Students must maintain passing grades (70+) in all subjects and have a conduct/citizenship grade no lower than “C” to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities. Junior High students must be up-to-date with their community service hours.**
2. Students who are absent from school on game days are not permitted to work out with the team or play that day.
3. Students are expected to report for practice and games on time. Repeat violations may result in a suspension from the team.
4. Students who are not able to attend practice must present a written excuse from the parent to the coach prior to that day's practice. Students may miss practice only for personal illness or family emergency. Absenteeism may result in dismissal from the team.
5. There must not be any loitering in or around the school. Students must arrange to be picked up promptly after practice or games.
6. The Gym will remain open during practice sessions so that students may use water fountains and restroom facilities. All other buildings are secured by this time.
7. Students are issued uniforms that are designated by the school. The coach assigns uniform numbers. Students will not be allowed to play without proper uniform.
8. Athletic attire may not be worn to class.

Student Council

Student Council will meet at least once a month. Elections for Middle School student council representatives are held in September. Election rules are stipulated in the constitution.

National Junior Honor Society, St Mary's Catholic School Chapter

The National Junior Honor Society chapter of St. Mary's Catholic School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. Standards for selection are established by the national office of the NJHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a five-member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school in the month of April each year.

Students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 90% (A-) or better. Those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. A history of leadership experiences and participation in school or community service is required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the Faculty Council uses two forms of input: first, school disciplinary records are reviewed; second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional comments on a candidate's service activities, character, and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the Council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined method and schedule.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all newly-selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance (or better) in all criteria that led to their selection. This obligation includes regular attendance at chapter meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month during the school year, and participation in the chapter service project(s).

Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations may contact the chapter advisor or call the principal.

--Quoted from the NJHS Handbook, 1998.

Telephone Calls

Students may not carry or use cell phones or other electronic equipment during school hours. Cell phones and other electronic equipment brought for after-school use must be secured in the school office during the day, not kept in lockers, book bags, or given to the homeroom teacher, etc.

Students may make emergency phone calls in the School Office.

Testing

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). St. Mary's Catholic School does not teach to the test nor modify diocesan curriculum to influence our standardized test grades.

Students in Grades 5 and 8 take the Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (ACRE) in April.

Students in grades 4-8 take semester exams at the end of each semester.

Transfers and Withdrawals

A parent who wishes to arrange for transfer or withdrawal of a student must inform the secretary/registrar *at least one week in advance* either by telephone or written note. The parent may then report to the Registrar's office during business hours for completion of the necessary forms. **No withdrawal or transfer will be completed if money is owed for tuition, fees, fines, books, or other items.** The school will withhold the student's academic record until all debts are paid. Parents must request transcript copies *in writing*.

When a child is withdrawn from school the parent/guardian is responsible to pay for the entire semester in which the child is enrolled. Under certain circumstances the balance of the tuition owed may be waived if the family is moving a distance greater than 50 miles from the school. **No refund can be given on tuition paid in advance or on any fees** (registration, resource, etc.).

Valuables

Students are asked not to wear expensive jewelry or bring excess money to school. Cell phones, electronic equipment, cameras, CDs and other articles not necessary in classroom work are not to be brought to school.

If a bus student chooses to bring personal entertainment equipment to the school, the item is to be left at the school office for security and retrieved at the end of the school day.

Students, *not the school*, are responsible for their personal property.

Visitors

For our children's safety, ***all visitors must report to the school office*** and log in and out each time they visit the St. Mary's Catholic School campus, this includes lunch time. Visitors may only enter the school through the front door. This applies to those dropping off an item and those staying to volunteer.

The word "campus" as used here refers to any part of the campus including buildings, parking lots, and fields. A visitor is one who is on campus for any length of time during the school day. Requesting permission to come onto the campus is not of itself an automatic "permission granted" for the time requested, nor for future visits. Permission must be requested each time a person wishes to visit the school campus during the school day.

Parents may observe their children in the classrooms. However, the school asks that the parent make an appointment for observation through the school office before the date of the observation. The length of a visit should not exceed one class period.

Parents are not permitted to enter the classroom or library without approval from the school office.

School officials provide school tours.

For security and safety reasons, students are not allowed to open any doors for anyone.

Volunteers

Volunteers and parent instructional aides must have the approval of the Principal. Sufficient orientation

training will be given for the activity in which they will be engaged.

Volunteers must gain clearance through completion of the on-line application (“eAppsDB”), which includes a criminal background check and EIM training.

Ethics and Integrity Ministry (EIM)

In an effort to protect our children, the Diocese of Austin mandates that all individuals who have contact with our children must be in compliance with the Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Policy, which equips each of us with the tools and knowledge to protect our children from possible abuse and perpetrators. All parents MUST complete this process to be able to chaperone field trips, volunteer in your child’s class and volunteer at the school.

In order to register for an EIM Workshop you must first complete the volunteer application, “eAppsDB”, located at <http://www.austindiocese.org/offices-ministries/offices/ethics-and-integrity-ministry-office>

The Austin Diocese website has a list of workshop dates and additional information regarding the Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Policy.

Once you have attended the workshop please submit a copy of the certificate to the school office.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

****If it has been 3 years since you last completed the Ethics and Integrity in Ministry workshop, you need to register for the "EIM Refresher" Workshop.****

St. Mary' Catholic School | 2016-2017 CALENDAR

1st Quarter Aug 17 – Oct 14
 2nd Quarter Oct 17 – Dec 16
 3rd Quarter Jan 4 – Mar 10
 4th Quarter Mar 20 – May 26

JULY 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	★	▲	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	▲	11	12	13
15	■	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 School Holiday
 3 Staff Development
 11 Report Cards Issued
 16 Inclement weather day
 29 – Feb. 4 Catholic Schools Week

8 Diocesan Mass for Faculty/Staff
 9 – 12 Staff Development
 17 First Day of School

AUGUST 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28				

3 Mid-Qtr Progress Reports
 20 Inclement weather day

5 Labor Day
 16 Mid-Qtr. Progress Reports
 16 Fall School Pictures
 19 – 23 IOWA ITBS Testing

SEPTEMBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	★	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MARCH 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	★	★	★	★	★	18
19	20	21	▲	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3 Group & Spring Pictures
 13 – 17 Spring Break
 22 Report Cards Issued

10 Staff Development – No school for students
 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School for students. Report Cards issued at Conference.

OCTOBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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30	31					

APRIL 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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9	10	11	12	★	★	15
16	★	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

8 Diocesan Science Fair
 13 – 17 Easter Holidays
 21 Mid-Qtr. Progress Reports

11 Mid-Qtr. Progress Reports
 21 – 25 Thanksgiving Holidays

NOVEMBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	★	★	★	★	★	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	■	27
28	29	30	▲	31		

15 – 17 Gr. 8 Final Exams
 19 Gr. 8 Last Day of School
 20 Gr. 8 Graduation
 22 – 23 Gr. 4 – 7 Final Exams
 26 Last Day of School
 31 Report Cards Issued

3/29/16 emv

16 Noon Dismissal
 13 – 15 Semester Exams
 19 – 30 Christmas Holidays

DECEMBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	■	17
18	★	★	★	★	★	24
25	★	★	★	★	★	31

JUNE 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

▲ Staff Development/Inservice
★ School Holiday – No School
■ Early Dismissal
▲ Inclement Weather Day
● Report Cards Issued
1 Grading Periods
■ Oct. 19 – Parent-Teacher Conferences No School