

St. Mary's Catholic School
Middle School Policies and Procedures

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Middle School Policies and Procedures 2017-2018

The middle school policies and procedures guide was created to assist students in successfully completing a school year. It is required that students and parents read this guide together, both sign the last page, and return the bottom portion to school by Monday, August 21, 2017. The SMCS faculty team looks forward to partnering with parents so that we can ensure students receive a quality education at SMCS.

Expectations

The SMCS faculty are firm believers that parents play a crucial role in their child's academics. As Jane D. Hull, American politician and former Governor of Arizona, nicely explained "At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key of a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." As educators we are committed to creating a partnership with parents that will facilitate your child's learning throughout the year. Our vision is to guide students into becoming well rounded individuals who are able to succeed in the 21st century. It is a blessing to be able to teach within the Catholic Faith and we feel honored to be part of the Saint Mary's community.

Whether your child is just beginning their 6th grade year or going into their last 8th grade year, it is a calling to be part of the "upstairs" and middle schoolers are expected to be the role models to the elementary school students. A middle schooler's behavior, words, leadership, respect, and conduct must set a positive example whether in school or out of school. Through collaboration, the teachers promise to work diligently to ensure that all middle school students are positive ambassadors of St. Mary's Catholic School.

Communication

St. Mary's Catholic School utilizes two main online platforms to keep communication ongoing with parents. The first one is the school's website. Each teacher updates their web page every week. Teachers post class announcements, weekly lessons, and homework. Teacher email addresses can also be found on the teacher's personal webpages.

The second platform is the school's learning management system called RenWeb. RenWeb is the online platform where parents can view grades and teachers can send parents emails. These two platforms are the best methods to communicate with a teacher if your child is missing an assignment or has a low grade. They are also helpful when a parent wishes to schedule a conference with a teacher.

Behavior Expectations and Consequences

In order to help students make positive choices and to create a positive climate for learning, SMCS uses a merit and demerit system to address behavior. The system below will provide rewards for positive behaviors and consequences for negative behaviors. This system is intended to assist students in making good choices thus producing well-behaved students. Our ultimate goal is to develop students who are self-disciplined and good citizens. The merit/demerit system is a Middle School discipline plan that should be focused on behavior and is not connected to academics. Any faculty and staff member can issue merits and demerits.

Students who demonstrate the following POSITIVE BEHAVIORS can earn MERITS: Some of the following are examples, but are not limited to them.

Demonstrating Responsibility (returning important school wide documents, any documents that require a signature that is kept on file, reporting incidents)

Demonstrating Kindness (assisting a classmate)
Demonstrating Citizenship (pride in school)
Demonstrating Good Manners (school/classroom etiquette)
Demonstrating Integrity (honesty, returning lost items, etc.)
Random Merits (school spirit, fire drill and assembly behavior)

Every student has an opportunity to earn merits. Merits and Demerits EXPIRE EACH NINE WEEKS. Every nine weeks the students start back at zero. Every demerit will be documented. Parent and homeroom teacher will be contacted accordingly after each demerit.

Students will be able to “buy back” demerits based upon the following criteria: 6th grade students need 6 merits to buy back 1 demerit. 7th grade students need 7 merits to buy back 1 demerit. 8th grade students need 8 merits to buy back 1 demerit. Teachers will inform the students of their specific buy-back procedures.

Students who have ZERO demerits (or a zero balance) will attend earned events. Any student who has received a suspension (In School Suspension and Out of School Suspension) during the given 9-week period will not be allowed to attend a middle school wide event including AR party, school dances, etc. Suspensions cannot be bought back.

Students who demonstrate the following NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS CONSISTENTLY will earn DEMERITS:

Not Following Directions
Being Out Of The Assigned Area
Late To Class
Off-Task Behavior
Excessive talking
Gum
Eating in class
Uniform violation
Talking in line
Lack of materials
Class disruption
All other negative behaviors listed in the SMCS parent and student handbook.

Students who demonstrate the following NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS WILL RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE DEMERIT:

Disruptive Behavior
Disrespectful Behavior
Defiant Behavior
Horseplay in and out of class
All other negative behaviors listed in the SMCS parent and student handbook.

The Following CONSEQUENCES Will Be Assigned When Demerits Are Earned For Negative Behavior:

1st Demerit – demerit email sent home.

2nd Demerit- demerit email sent home and parent phone call made by the teacher giving the 2nd demerit

3rd Demerit- student conference with teacher(s), parent phone call made by the teacher giving the 3rd demerit,

teacher can offer the parent a conference at this time.

4th Demerit- After School Detention (ASD) assigned, detention form sent home, student returns signed ASD form to the teacher who issued the 4th demerit (if the student does not return signed form, teacher will call parent to confirm detention and a second detention will be issued)

Teachers are able to bypass demerits and issue a detention when deemed necessary.

Detentions are held after school on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30.

Game days: If students are involved in extracurricular activities, students will not be allowed to participate in the game and must serve detention.

Lockers: Each student is assigned a locker. Students are not allowed to put locks on their lockers and/or open another student's locker.

5+ Demerit- Office Referral, Administrative Consequence, Administrative Phone Call home

Administrative Consequences **May** Result in the Following:

Saturday detention (Please refer to the parent student handbook for information on this.)

ASD-After School Detention

ISS-In School Suspension

OSS- Out of School Suspension

All other consequences listed in the SMCS parent and student handbook.

Students will be referred to the principal for the following negative behaviors:

Fighting

Inappropriate Language

Vulgar or Rude Actions (extreme disrespect)

Bullying

Harassment

Weapons

Threats

Drugs or Alcohol

Gang Activity

Theft

Vandalism/Destruction of Property Technology Violations

All other negative behaviors listed in the SMCS parent and student handbook.

These demerits will be recorded on Renweb, and parents will be able to view these on their Renweb parent connection. Please ask your child to explain any demerit to you first before contacting the teacher. This teaches the student responsibility and accountability.

Purposeful Homework

Homework is a necessary part of your child's education. Homework is important to give the student adequate practice and time to comprehend and learn the material outside of their class time. However, teachers do realize that many of these talented students have extracurricular activities that do not allow them much free time after school. The middle school team wants every child to have time for their activities, dinner, family time, and early bed before their next day begins. The middle school team is in communication to ensure that each child has a fair amount of homework, homework serves a purpose, and there is study time after school.

Grading

The grading scale as set forth in the SMCS Parent-Student Handbook:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-90%
C	75%-79%
D	70%-74%
F	69% or below

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.

Absent Work

The SMCS attendance policy is located on the school's website. The student is responsible for any missed assignments. Teachers are not responsible to compile absent work. Students must make up absent work within one day for every absent.

Late Work

The student is responsible for turning in each and every assignment he/she has been assigned on the following class day. There will be 10 points deducted for a late assignment after 1 day, after that it will be a zero. Late work will not be accepted after a one day grace period. Being absent follows under Absent work.

360 Meetings

Behavior and/or Academic Intervention

This is a student-led conference. The parent(s), student and all his/her teachers are present in the meeting. Each teacher shares their observations and recommendations on how the student can improve and successfully end the year in their classes. The goal of the meeting is create an academic and/or behavior plan. Students who receive Ds and Fs on their progress report and/or report card or having constant behavior issues in their classes will be subject to a 360 meeting.

Mass and Special Activities

School Mass is celebrated every Friday, Holy Days of Obligation, and other special days. Students who are an Altar server, lector or have any other formal participation must be at school on time.

Boys and Girls will be required to wear the Mass uniform as instructed in the St. Mary's Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook.

Middle School students have Mass buddies who are the PreK, Kinder classes and First Grade. Middle School students are expected to behavior appropriately with the youngest students on campus.

Middle school students are not allowed to use the restroom. MS student need to use restroom during homeroom.

If students attend field trips, they are to wear their grey spirit shirts with jeans unless their teacher instructs otherwise.

Field Trips such as: 7th Grade Sea World Trip, 8th Grade USS Lexington Trip, 6th Grade retreat, etc.

Service Hours

SMCS has always had a high standard for teaching the importance of service for our Church and community. There will be a "Service Record Log" that will be sent home to record your child's service hours. There is also a template you can print at home from the SMCS web site. Half of the required service hours will be due at Christmas break, the other half will be due in May before the end of school.

Technology Policy

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, Chromebook 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, as deemed by the principal. Alternative assignments will be provided if regular technology use is part of class work

Daily Procedures

1. Before students enter the classroom, they are expected to line up at the front of each classroom door in silence.
2. Late students must go to the office and receive a late slip in order to enter the classroom.
3. As they enter the class, students are to respect the learning environment and have all materials for the class. They will not be allowed to go to their lockers during class.
4. The school begins each day with morning prayer, pledge of allegiance and announcements. Students are to stand during this time and may sit only when the teacher instructs them to do so.
5. As the students begin their day of courses, they will be expected to speak in a low voice in the halls, line up at the door in silence, enter the classroom quietly, sit down at their desk, and wait until the teacher gives them instructions.
6. Teachers take attendance and say prayer at the beginning of each class.
7. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom without teacher permission.
8. Rest Room policy: all work must be completed in order to go to the bathroom. Emergencies will be at the teacher's discretion.
9. Mass Rest Room policy: students are not allowed to go to the restroom during mass. Emergencies will be at the teacher's discretion.
10. When students are transitioning from class to class, the halls are to remain quiet and horseplay is not allowed.
11. When it is time for recess, students will line up in silence in their designated area in the hallway, wait for the teachers who have recess duty, and walk them downstairs to the playground area.
12. When recess is over, students are to line up in silence and wait for their homeroom teacher to walk them upstairs to their class.
13. LUNCH – Middle School lunchtime is from 12:30-1:10 each day. This may be later than he/she is used to eating, and teachers know that students get hungry! If your child would like to, they may bring a healthy snack to eat during morning recess, so they will be able to focus in each class before lunch.
14. When students are in the cafeteria, students are to speak quietly and eat their lunch. They are to remain seated at all times. The merit and demerit system will be enforced during lunch and recess..
15. Dismissal: students are expected to read their AR books and/or work on homework while they wait to be picked up. Parents will NOT be allowed to pick up their students, without office permission, before

afternoon announcements are completed.

16. **Planners** – students are **required** to purchase a planner through the school to carry with them each day. This will help them keep track of assignments and homework. Students who struggle with organization are strongly encouraged to be diligent in using a planner - this will not only help them, but will help parents and teachers as well. Please check students planners at home to see if their daily classwork/homework has been written down. Teachers will be checking planners to ensure that they are being used.

STUDENT PLEDGE

1. **I will conduct myself like a Christian at all times.** I will treat myself and others with respect, and will expect to be treated fairly. The words I say are real, they are powerful, and I am responsible for them.
2. **I am a free thinker.** I understand that I will be challenged to think. I will be honest if I do not know an answer. I will not be afraid to ask questions, take risks, express my respectful opinions or offer an educated guess.
3. **I will take ownership of my workspace.** I will hold myself, my classmates and my teacher accountable for keeping the classroom clean, neat and orderly. I will do my part to clean up and organize after each class period.
4. **I will take ownership of my work.** I will make every effort to turn in my assignments completed and on time.
 - a. If I cannot complete an assignment on time, I will inform my teacher as soon as I realize I will miss the deadline.
 - b. If I must miss a deadline, I understand that my teacher will consider my explanation but does not have to grant me extra time, even if I feel I have a good reason.
5. **I will take ownership of myself.** I will accept the consequences for my actions, both good and bad.
6. **I will have integrity.** I am responsible for my own work. I may help my classmates when it is appropriate, but I will not do their work for them, nor will I ask a classmate to do my work for me. I will not cheat.
7. **I will be proactive.** If I have a disagreement with a classmate, we will try to resolve it peacefully before bringing it to the teacher's desk.
8. **I will be courageous.** I will stand for what is right, even if I am standing alone.

Thank you for your continued support of SMCS teachers and students. We look forward to a great 2017-2018 with your middle schooler!

Sincerely,

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After you have read and discussed the handbook with your student, please sign below, cut along the line, and return the signed portion back to your child's homeroom teacher. Thank you!

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date