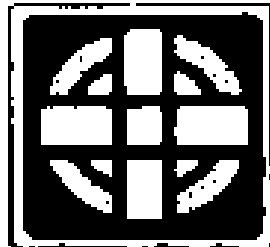


# All Saints Catholic School



**Pre-school Parent Handbook**

**2009 - 2010**

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August 24, 2009

Dear Students and Parents of All Saints,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2009-2010 academic year at All Saints Catholic School. During the months of spring and summer the teachers and staff have been busy planning for this new year. We welcome the new members of the faculty, as well as new students, who are joining our All Saints School family.

Many of our school expectations and procedures are outlined within this handbook. After reading and discussing the handbook with your child, be sure to place the book in a convenient location for easy reference throughout the year.

May God bless you and your families throughout this year!

Sincerely,

David E. Conroy, Jr.  
Principal

# **I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT**

## ***DIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION***

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

*Matthew 28:19-20*

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

<sup>1</sup>Declaration on Christian Education #3

## ***SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY***

### **All Saints Mission Statement**

**With Christ as the center of our lives and empowered by the Spirit, All Saints Catholic School, in partnership with families, promotes faith formation and academic excellence within a safe, nurturing, and welcoming community.**

### **Philosophy of Learning**

**In the Spirit of Christ, who is the perfect teacher, the administration, faculty, staff, and parents of All Saints Catholic School collaborate to provide a student-centered program within a structured and stimulating environment that nurtures student potential for spiritual and intellectual growth. With a commitment to ongoing professional advancement, teachers incorporate a variety of instructional strategies to develop within each student a sense of intellectual wonder and joy of learning. Teachers collaborate to plan lessons integrating advanced technology and a challenging curriculum to develop students' critical thinking skills. While respecting a student's individuality, teachers gently push, guide, and inspire students to successfully achieve higher levels of learning.**

**All Saints Catholic School offers a variety of extra curricular activities to develop the whole child while cultivating leadership skills. Within this integration, students achieve a better understanding of the world in which they live. With parents as the primary educators, All Saints Catholic School is committed to the**

**task of developing life-long learners, who are faithful members of the Body of Christ and productive members of society.**

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

Each school shall utilize the OCS template to develop and distribute a handbook for students and parents. All local policies and procedures must be in conformity with Diocesan policies, guidelines and regulations.

A committee, representative of the total school community, shall be involved in the development and periodic revision of this handbook.

All parents are required to sign a form stating they have read the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and they agree to abide by those rules (see Appendix AG-1 and AG-2). This signature form will be given to students when they receive a copy of the handbook and the form must be signed and returned as soon as possible. Failure to have a signed form on file will not prevent the School from enforcing its policies, but result in disciplinary action being taken and/or prevent a student from enrolling (or continuing enrollment) in the school.

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

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

## ***PARENTAL ROLE***

The Catholic Church recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. The Catholic school exists to assist parents in the Christian formation of their children.

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

Parents are expected to display an attitude of respect and support toward the school, the staff, and the educational process by:

- Supporting the school's mission and commitment to Christian principles;
- Supporting the school policies as outlined in the school handbook;
- Participating fully in school programs that are developed to support the education of their children;

- Remaining informed about and involved in the religious instruction of their children.

In the event a parent desires to discuss a problem with their child's teacher, the parent should make an appointment for a private meeting with the child's teacher. Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss a matter of concern with parents before it becomes an actual problem. Any parent who wishes to speak with the principal may do so, but after an initial meeting with the classroom teacher.

If a parent repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students, or displays disrespectful, disruptive or harassing behavior toward teachers or toward school, parish, or diocesan staff, the school may take corrective action. Such corrective action may include, at the discretion of the principal (and, for parish schools, the pastor of the parish), the following:

- imposition of particular rules or procedures the parent must follow in interacting with the school and its students and staff;
- restriction or termination of the parent's access to school or parish property;
- dismissal of the parent's child(ren).

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

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

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

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

## ***NON-CATHOLIC CHILDREN***

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

- Non-Catholic children are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the school.

- Non-Catholic children must participate in liturgies, retreats and other religious functions incorporated within the program.
- Non-Catholic children may not be exempted from the catechesis held during the school day.
- While Catholic teaching respects the various faith traditions of the children attending the Catholic school, parents must be aware that it is the Catholic position that will be taught.

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

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

All parents are required to sign a form stating they have read the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and they agree to abide by those rules. This signature form must be signed and returned as soon as possible. Failure to have a signed form on file will not prevent the School from enforcing its policies, but may prevent a child from enrolling (or continuing enrollment) in the school.

## II. CURRICULUM

The curriculum is not just the goals of the program and the planned activities but also the daily schedule, the availability and use of materials, transitions between activities and the way in which routine tasks of living are implemented. Young children are expected to learn through active and positive manipulation of the environment and concrete experiences that contribute to concept development.

Without limiting the rights of the school under section VIII of this handbook, modifications may be made in the environment and staffing patterns for children with special needs.

The daily schedule is intended to provide a balance of activities with attention to the following dimension of scheduling:

- Daily outdoor play, weather permitting
- Altering periods of quiet time and active play
- A balance of large muscle and small muscle activities is provided
- Various small group or large group activities through most of the day
- A balance of child-initiated and staff-initiated activity is provided. The amount of time spent in staff-initiated, large group activity is limited.

Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment that project heterogeneous, racial, gender, and age attributes are selected for use.

The school will use media, such as television, films, videotapes and computers, that have been previewed by adults prior to use. Another option for activity is always available. No child is required to view or interact with the program; and the staff discusses what is viewed with children to develop critical viewing skills. Technology is incorporated as an integral part of the day.

The goal of the school is to emphasize concrete experiential learning and to achieve the following goals:

- a. foster positive self-concept
- b. foster spiritual development
- c. encourage children to think, reason, question, and experiment
- d. develop social skills
- e. encourage language development
- f. enhance physical development and skills
- g. encourage and demonstrate sound health, safety, and nutritional practices
- h. encourage creative expression and appreciation for the arts
- i. respect cultural diversity

Staff provides materials and time for activities, but children choose from among several activities

that the teacher has planned or the children initiate. Staff respects the child's right to choose not to participate at times.

Children are not always required to move from one activity to another as a group. Unregimented transitions are also used as a vehicle for learning.

Planned or routine activities may be changed according to the needs or interests of children, and/or to cope with changes in weather or other situations that affect routines without unduly alarming children.

Routine tasks such as toileting, eating, dressing, and sleeping are incorporated into the program as a means of furthering children's learning, self-help, and social skills. Through complimentary actions at home, parents are expected to assist and cooperate with staff to make feeding and the development of other independent skills a positive experience for children. Provision is made for children who are early risers and for children who do not nap.

## ***SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS***

A list of student supplies is provided to each family enrolling in the program. School supplies may be purchased in stores locally. The school also offers parents the opportunity to purchase necessary supplies in a packet if they choose. In this case, orders are received, a deposit is paid in June, and all supplies are available on Orientation Day in August prior to the opening of school.

## ***ASSESSMENT***

The school's program is intended to assist staff and administrators in a systematic evaluation of the program, to diagnose children's strengths and weaknesses, and to aid in revision of the curriculum and planning of instruction.

## ***PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION***

Teachers are available to parents throughout the school year to keep the lines of communication open in the best interest of the children. Parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled throughout the school year if necessary. Parents should first privately contact a teacher with any concerns about a child or class situation before seeking intervention of the director or school administration.

## **SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for the end of the first grading period. Since these conferences provide teachers the opportunity to communicate each child's progress, it is mandatory that one or both parents attend this important meeting.

Although the school only schedules one conference per year, regular communication between home and school is encouraged. Either the teacher or parents may request a conference at any point during the year, particularly following the close of each grading period. If at any time parents have a question or concern regarding the progress of their child, they are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher directly by calling the main office or writing a note. Teachers will make a reasonable effort to respond within one day to messages received. To expedite communication, parents of middle school students are encouraged to contact subject area teachers rather than the homeroom teacher when questions arise. All parents are respectfully asked to refrain from contacting teachers at home.

## ***PROGRESS REPORTS***

Evaluation of the child must be based on teacher judgment, observation, daily performance, class participation and effort.

Student progress reports are issued to parents in January and May.

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

A major goal of the school is to assist children to complete each year satisfactorily. Retention is recommended only when it is deemed necessary and advantageous to the particular needs of the child.

- The final decision to promote or retain a child is based on the child's developmental performance and best interests, as determined by the Principal/Director/director.
- Parents will be kept informed about the inability of their child to progress satisfactorily.
- Children who would not benefit from being retained may be "placed" in the next level; however, the school may prepare and implement an Intervention Plan for the child as a condition of placement.

### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

#### ***ADMISSIONS***

##### **DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

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

##### Eligibility

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

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

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

##### General Requirements for Preschool Admission

There is no testing for pre-school admission. However, readiness assessment may be utilized to determine the developmentally appropriate placement in the pre-school program. The following list of documents/information is required:

- 1) Presentation of an original Birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
- 2) Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
- 3) Proof of custody where applicable
- 4) Current report card and previous academic years' report card as applicable
- 5) Standardized test scores and previous years, if applicable
- 6) Completed Diocesan Application Form (Appendix J)
- 7) A non-refundable application fee
- 8) A fully executed MCH-213 Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
  1. Proof of exact dates of immunization as required by the Code of Virginia
  2. Current Certification of Immunization
  3. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH-213, within 12 months prior to entering school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A preschool physical does not take the place of the

required kindergarten entry physical unless it is completed within 12 months prior to kindergarten entry.)

- 9) Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former Diocesan school if previously enrolled in a Diocesan school.

### General Conditions of Admission

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

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

### Foreign Students

The Diocese of Arlington endeavors to remain certified by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to admit F-1 Non-Immigrant students. The school, therefore, adheres to the following policies for enrolling non-U.S. persons:

- A. Foreign students who apply for admission to a Diocese of Arlington School will be considered for admission, if all the following requirements are satisfactorily demonstrated:
  1. Students with F-1 Visas:
    - a. if a foreign student is a baptized Catholic, valid proof of baptism is required;
    - b. student guardian has guardianship of no more than two students at same local address;
    - c. documentation of legal guardianship
    - d. tuition payment is made in full upon admission;
    - e. if the student is represented by an educational consulting firm, an I-20 Sponsorship Survey is completed and returned to the Office of Catholic Schools.
  2. The F-1 (non-immigrant student) status applies to those aliens who are in the United States for the purpose of attending school. Once a student is determined to meet the school's requirements for admission, the family must contact the Office of Catholic Schools or other "designated official" to process the Immigration and Naturalization Service I-20 form for eventual admission and stay in the United States as an F-1 student. Foreign students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation they are free from communicable tuberculosis.
  - 3 In order to maintain a better accounting of F-1 (non-immigrant) status students, the Immigration and Naturalization Service requires ongoing accounting. In that regard, schools

are responsible for reporting the status of these students via the Report on Status of F-1 (non-immigrant) Students form. Specifically, the school shall:

- a. Report each semester to the Office of Catholic Schools regarding the status of any F-1 (non-immigrant) student as long as that child is enrolled in the school;
  - b. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools if an F-1 (non-immigrant) student who has been issued an I-20 and has been accepted by that school, fails to report to the school within 30 days of the designated start date;
  - c. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools within 15 days when an F-1 (non-immigrant) student transfers to another school or departs the United States;
  - d. Report any legal change in the name or address of an F-1 (nonimmigrant) student within 10 days.
4. Foreign students enrolling in a school in the Diocese must show a B-1 or a B-2 Visa. In addition to a B-1 or B-2 Visa, any foreign student seeking temporary enrollment, must provide the following documentation:
- a. Diocesan Emergency Care Form
  - b. State Immunization Form
  - c. Local Admissions Forms
  - d. Signed statement indicating no grades will be given (i.e. the student is maintaining audit status)
  - e. Tuition Agreement
- B. Foreign students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation they are free from communicable tuberculosis.
- C. Any student applicant whose passport, United Nations travel document, or other Immigration and Naturalization documents indicate that he or she is a refugee, asylee, parolee, lawful non-immigrant, or permanent resident, may be admitted to the schools of the Diocese of Arlington under normal requirements for admission. This policy would also include undocumented children.

## **CLASS PLACEMENT**

The Principal/Director/director and faculty reserve the right to place a child in a class to ensure the best interests of the child.

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

## ***ATTENDANCE***

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

Regular attendance in the program is strongly encouraged for setting the groundwork for a successful school experience. Neither the school, the Diocese, the Office of Catholic Schools, nor any of its employees/staff are responsible for ensuring actual attendance; this is the responsibility of the child's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Except in cases of emergency as determined by the Principal/Director/director and/or a staff member (as applicable or necessary), a child may only be released from school to another authorized adult with the prior written or verbal authorization of the child's parent. The adult will be required to produce identification before the child is released.

### **ATTENDANCE/REPORTING PROCEDURES**

#### Absence

Parents are asked to call the school office by 9:00 a.m. if their child will be absent. This information may be recorded on the attendance line of the voicemail system. (703-393-2140) Office personnel will contact the parents of each student who has been noted as absent and for whom no message has been received.

#### Tardiness

A student who is tardy should report to the Principal/Director's office or attendance office. A student who arrives late with an excused reason (i.e. director's note) is counted tardy.

Frequent cases of tardiness should be brought to the attention of the Principal/Director so that the parent may be contacted.

Students are expected to be in their homerooms and ready to begin class when the 8:10 a.m. bell rings for the morning session and at 11:55 a.m. for the afternoon session. Students arriving after these times are considered tardy. To ensure the safe arrival of all students, parents/guardians are required to sign in their children at the main office when arriving late. Students are also required to report to the school office to obtain a slip admitting them to class. The tardy slip will be issued only when the students have been signed in by a parent or carpool driver.

### Medical excuses

Although daily attendance is important, children who are ill cannot function properly in school and should remain at home. Students with a fever and/or vomiting may not be brought to school for 24 hours.

### Anticipated absence

The scheduling of vacations during the school year is strongly discouraged. Students who must be absent for a period of time are responsible for completing all assignments upon their return.

Parents should seek to schedule doctor and dental appointments around the school day. Although students can complete missed assignments independently, there is no substitute for the learning that occurs within the classroom under the guidance and direction of the teacher.

### Release of children

Parents must sign in/out their children when arriving late or being released outside of regular school hours.

If a child becomes sick or injured or otherwise needs to return home prior to the regular dismissal

time, the school will notify the parent/guardian first. The child will be released only to persons whose names appear on the emergency listing provided by the parent/guardian.

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

The school must be notified in writing by the parent(s) of a child regarding a decision to transfer a child to another school, including the last day the child will attend classes at school. All school-owned materials must be returned to school and all fees paid before leaving. Scholastic information will be sent to the new school upon a "Release of Student Records" from the new school. All Fees and Tuition MUST BE PAID prior to the release of the child's records.

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

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

Since the Pre-Kindergarten is a half-day program, the students do not eat lunch at school.

However, students are asked to bring a healthy snack each day. Juice is provided by the school.

## ***ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL***

All Saints Catholic School opens its doors at 7:50 a.m. The morning session begins at 8:10 a.m. and concludes at 11:15 a.m. The afternoon session begins at 11:55 a.m. and concludes at 2:55 p.m.

In the morning, parents are asked to drop off children between 7:50 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. Assistants from the Pre-Kindergarten program will greet students in the carpool line each morning and escort them to their classrooms. Those arriving for the afternoon session are dropped off at the front entrance of the school where they will be met by the Pre-Kindergarten assistants.

No student will be dismissed prior to the regular dismissal time without the signed permission of a parent/guardian, nor will a student be released to anyone other than a parent without parental authorization.

## **IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES**

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE***

#### **CHILD CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP**

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

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

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

#### **ACCESS TO RECORDS**

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

If the educational records of a child contain information on more than one child, the parents are limited to the specific information about their child only.

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

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

Confidential records are to be retained for ten years after the student leaves school or his/her class graduates, whichever occurs first, according to the Library of Virginia General Schedule #21, Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. However, there are certain student records that must be retained indefinitely. They are the most recent copies of the IEP/ISP, 504 Plan, Student Assistance Plan, Eligibility Minutes and/or Student Assistance Team minutes. Ten years after the student leaves school or his/her class graduates, only the most recent copy of the forms listed above must be retained.

## **SCHOOL VISITORS**

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

Anyone visiting the school, including a parent, is required to report to the office for a “Visitor Badge” to be worn in the building. At the office, visitors will be asked to sign in, noting the date, time and purpose of the visit. This practice helps to eliminate many unnecessary interruptions to the teachers and students during class hours and ensures that only authorized persons are in the building. Unscheduled visitors may not visit classrooms without the principal’s authorization.

Parents who have made an appointment to observe are welcome in the classrooms. The teachers are happy to speak to parents about their children by phone, note or conference. However, appointments are necessary in order that the teacher’s full attention be given to the class throughout the course of the day.

Other than medication, the office will not accept or deliver items that a child has forgotten. Expecting students to accept consequences for their forgetfulness is an effective way for them to develop a sense of responsibility.

## **SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS**

### Principal/Director/Director’s Communication

A weekly newsletter from the principal and a monthly menu are published via e-mail. On occasion the principal may share special information with the school community via an additional letter or memo.

### Take-Home Communication

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

The weekly newsletter, PTO information and other school related flyers are sent home via e-mail each Wednesday.

## **TELEPHONE USE**

The phones located in classrooms and throughout the school are not for the use of All Saints students during the school day or during evening events/activities. Students may use the office telephone, with permission, in cases of emergency. (Forgetting lunches, PE uniforms, permission slips, etc. does not constitute an emergency.) Parents are asked to refrain from calling the school office with messages to be relayed to children except in cases of an emergency.

Unauthorized use of the telephone system by a student will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension from All Saints School.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

The All Saints School calendar includes three days at the close of the year to replace any days lost to inclement weather or other events that might necessitate the closing of school. In order that faculty and parents may anticipate the scheduling of additional make-up days when necessary, the following guidelines have been implemented.

If school has been closed for four or more days due to inclement weather by the second Friday in January, school will be open on the holiday scheduled for the celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

If school has been closed for five or more days due to inclement weather by the second Friday in February, school will be open on the holiday scheduled for the celebration of President's Day.

If school has been closed for eleven or more days by the third Friday in March, additional make-up days may be scheduled for the week of the Easter holiday, the Memorial Day holiday, or added to the end of the year, depending upon the number of days necessary.

Any changes in the daily schedule caused by inclement weather will follow the lead of the Prince William County School System. Parents are encouraged to make arrangements in advance for the care of their children should an early dismissal be necessary. Parents should instruct their children about procedures in inclement weather and inform the school of these arrangements.

In the event that the County schools are not in session or do not announce an early release due to inclement weather, All Saints will use the Emergency Phone Network to inform parents of an early release and/or contact radio stations in the area. (WMAL AM 630; WTOP AM 1500 or FM 107.7) Parents are requested to pick up their children without delay. Students who are not picked up will be cared for in Extended Day until parents can be contacted.

Every family is required to have an official Emergency Form on file in the school office, listing

persons authorized to pick up a child in case of emergency and authorizing the school to take appropriate action in the event that we cannot reach a parent/guardian. If information on this form changes during the course of the year, it is the parent's responsibility to provide an update. The name and phone number of the babysitter should be included. No sick or injured student will be released from school without notifying the family. Unless a student's life is in danger and/or immediate emergency treatment is necessary, the parent of the pupil will be consulted before any treatment is administered. If an emergency exists, the student will be taken to the hospital by ambulance.

In the event of a school emergency necessitating immediate closing of school and an inability to return to the facility following evacuation, notification will be provided to parents via the school website and/or the Emergency Phone Network as well as through announcements on radio stations, specifically WTOP and WMAL. In the event that dismissal from the school grounds is not feasible, students will be released from the fields adjoining Pennington School on the opposite side of Stonewall Road or at an alternative location determined by emergency personnel.

#### **PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA**

The School requires the use of the *Waiver/Right to Object* Form when children are participating in videotaping, audio recording, school pictures, other photography, or Internet (see Appendix). Schools must state in their Parent/Student Handbook the right for parents to forbid their children from participating in videotaping, audio recording, school pictures, other photography, or participation involving the Internet. When a parent decides to exercise this right, the school is required to use the *Waiver/Right to Object* form (see Appendix N). All student or parental publications are subject to review and approval by the school administration prior to publication.

#### **LIBRARY**

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

Parents or teachers who object to reading or audio-visual/computer materials must complete an Objection to Content Form (Appendix K) and submit it to the school principal. A review committee (to include an Office of Catholic Schools member) will subsequently discuss the objection and decide the disposition of the challenged material. The parent or teacher initiating the review should be personally notified of the results of the review.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

- Field trips are privileges planned by teachers and approved by the school administration with educational purposes as the primary objective and in light of financial considerations.
- Field trips are considered an extension of the school day and the code of conduct will apply.
- A child must give to the sponsoring teacher a permission form signed by a child's parent(s) prior to a child participating in each activity (see Appendix).
- In the event private automobiles/vehicles of children, parents, or other authorized adults are to be utilized to transport children on field trips, the drivers and/or the vehicle owners must have a valid driver's license and sufficient liability, medical and uninsured motorist insurance coverage as defined by the Diocesan Risk Manager. Evidence to this effect must be presented to the Principal/Director/director for review and approval prior to the use of such vehicles. The Principal/Director/director shall have the right to prohibit for any reason a proposed driver from transporting children on a field trip. Parents/guardians are to be furnished with detailed written information about the field trip, and must be given the opportunity to “opt out” their children from the field trip.
- It should also be understood, in light of world conditions and specifically threats of terrorism against Americans, it may be necessary to cancel school-sponsored trips due to world and national developments at any time.

Generally, All Saints Pre-Kindergarten does not participate in field trips.

In the event that a trip is planned, bus transportation is used. A parent who wishes to assist as a chaperone must have a background check. Parents are not permitted to drive separately without the express permission of the principal. If a parent chooses for their child not to participate in the trip, the student must remain at home since the activity planned for the day will be occurring off-site. The principal reserves the right to limit a student's participation on a trip due to academic or disciplinary concerns.

## **OVERNIGHT TRIPS**

Overnight trips are not permitted for preschool children.

## ***PARENT ORGANIZATIONS***

Parent-teacher (and/or home-school) organizations are sponsored by the School to promote a cooperative effort at meeting certain needs of the child body. The parent organization is subject in

all respects to the control of the school, and all parent organization activities and all materials prepared by parents must be submitted to the Principal/Director/director for approval prior to implementation and/or distribution.

The parent organization should strive:

1. to serve in an advisory capacity to support the Principal/Director/director;
2. to provide a means by which parents can respectfully articulate their values and expectations regarding the school so that these can be examined and addressed by the Principal/Director/director;
3. to support and promote quality Catholic education at the school;
4. to encourage Catholic values of family life;
5. to share with teachers the values that parents are attempting to develop with their children at home;
6. to acquaint parents with up-to-date information concerning current developments in educational initiatives as they may affect the School so that they can be in a better position to promote the legitimate rights of their children;
7. to unify parents in an effort to raise funds each year for the school.

### ***All Saints Catholic School PTO Mission Statement***

*We, the Parent Teacher Organization of All Saints Catholic School, grounded by our faith in God, commit ourselves to build community amongst school families and within the parish.*

*As dedicated parents and teachers, we work through fellowship to raise and expend funds necessary to enhance the learning environment of our students.*

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we promote sound communications and social activities in order to cultivate a harmonious relationship between home and school and in our community.*

The PTO's main purpose is to promote home-school communication and to provide financial as well as moral support for the school program. The by-laws further state that the PTO shall not directly affect school policies. The general membership of the PTO meets every second month beginning in September. If additional meetings are called, notification will be sent home with the students. Many opportunities are available for parental involvement in PTO activities.

By registering their children for All Saints Catholic School, parents make a commitment to be actively involved in the school. Parents commit to 60 points of involvement throughout the year in the Points for Parents Program. A contract is signed by parents by which they indicate areas

in

which they desire to be involved. Active parental participation creates further awareness of the school's total educational program and support for its mission.

## ***FUND-RAISING***

Any program of fundraising at the school must have the approval of the pastor and the Principal/Director/director. Fundraising activities should be organized and executed so that the school program is not interrupted. Children may participate in and cooperate with worthy collections and fundraising projects conducted by the school or parish.

Students are not permitted to sell or solicit items while on school property unless part of a school authorized activity.

## ***TRANSPORTATION/PARKING***

Parents are urged to form carpools whenever possible to transport children to and from school. Each driver is assigned a number that is kept in the front windshield of the car for identification purposes. Students are expected to memorize this number for ease in recognizing their driver. In the case of several carpool drivers, all use the same number.

During morning arrival between 7:50 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. the following procedures are followed. All Pre-Kindergarten parents are asked to turn onto the property from Stonewall Road using the entrance adjacent to the Knights of Columbus facility. Upon entering the property, cars loop around the perimeter of the rear parking lot and students are dropped off within the existing area behind the school. Pre-Kindergarten assistants escort students to their classrooms. Drivers then exit the rear parking lot by way of the driveway adjacent to the Knights of Columbus. Drivers make only right turns onto and off of the property. No children may be dropped off prior to 7:50 a.m.

Students arriving for the afternoon session are dropped off in the parking area directly in front of the school beginning at 11:45 a.m. The students are met by Pre-kindergarten assistants who escort the children to their classrooms.

Dismissal for Pre-K is at 11:15 a.m. & 2:55 p.m. and takes place directly in front of the school. The teachers escort classes to the sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot. Parents are asked to pick up their children no later than 11:35 a.m. and 3:10 p.m. The fee for late child pick-up is \$5.00 for the first ten minutes and \$1.00 per minute thereafter.

Under no circumstances may parents or visitors park behind the school building between the

hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

## V. FINANCES

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

Tuition and other fees are determined by the principal and proposed to the Parish Finance Council for approval by the pastor. A request for a reduction in fees may be made through the Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Program.

The tuition program is managed by SMART Tuition. Payments are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> of the month beginning in August. Payments are prorated over ten months, August through May. The book fee and tuition are rolled into one and pro-rated over this period. For families applying to All Saints for the first time, the registration fee is due at the time of application. Registration fees are non-refundable.

### ***TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES***

#### **Tuition Delinquencies**

Tuition payments are the primary source of funds used by the School to pay expenses which are necessary to help the School achieve its mission of *“providing all students with the educational foundation to enable them to go forward in faith and knowledge into the world.”* When tuition payments are not submitted, the School’s ability to meet operating expenses is jeopardized. Therefore, it is imperative that families fulfill their financial obligations to the School in a timely manner.

Families seeking financial assistance may apply through the Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Program. Decisions regarding the level of financial assistance offered will be made by the All Saints Tuition Assistance Committee based upon the objective criteria established in the Diocesan program. Families requiring additional assistance or those who may have been denied assistance through the Diocesan program are encouraged to contact the Parish Director of Administration, Finance & Human Resources who can provide information on how to apply for education loans with outside organizations which provide eligible borrowers with funds to cover the cost of education including tuition, fees and related expenses. Families may also consider speaking with their local bank or credit union regarding education loans.

The School tuition program is administered by SMART Tuition (“SMART”). Families that miss a tuition payment or make a payment after the scheduled due date will be notified by SMART via email and/or telephone. Missed payments may result in late fees being assessed in accordance with the signed Tuition Agreement. Families are

strongly encouraged to contact SMART if they know beforehand that payments will be missed or made after the scheduled due date.

Families with delinquent tuition balances greater than 60 days, who have not established an approved alternative payment arrangement, jeopardize their child's continued enrollment in All Saints School. While it is the intent of the School to work with families facing financial hardships, justice and good stewardship require the School to ensure that families meet their tuition obligations. Therefore, the School reserves the right to take the following actions if delinquent tuition remains unpaid:

1. Withhold release of student records.
2. Prohibit students from participating in School activities.
3. Prohibit re-registration for the succeeding school year.
4. Cancel a student's current year enrollment with a minimum of 30 days written notice to the family.

If delinquent tuition balances remain unpaid after a student's enrollment has been cancelled, the account may be turned over to a professional collection agency for recovery.

### **Returned Checks**

Generally, school tuition payments may be made by any one of the following methods (personal check, certified check, money order, electronic funds transfer, and cash). Personal checks that are returned by the bank for non-sufficient funds or any other reason (e.g., closed account) will result in a \$20 returned check fee. Families will be notified of the returned check via letter from the Parish Finance Office or SMART. Families who have more than one check returned by the bank will be required to make all future payments via certified check or electronic payment.

## **VI. CHILD RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR**

### ***CODE OF CONDUCT***

In all areas of learning, discipline must be considered in the development of children. The Code of Conduct is based on the Gospel message of Jesus. Growth in self-discipline, a responsibility for Catholic moral values, and a loving respect for the rights of all persons is encouraged and nourished by the Code of Conduct. To achieve these ends, parents, staff and children work together to create a Catholic school environment. Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, children:

1. Will be truthful.
2. Will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers and adults.
3. Will refrain from harassment of any kind.
4. Will use appropriate language.
5. Will speak respectfully to and about others.
6. Will respect all school and personal property.
7. Will play only in assigned playground areas with good sportsmanship and cooperation.
8. Will bring to school only appropriate show & tell items from home.

The school observes this Code of Conduct because it is built on fundamental Catholic social teachings. The role of the Principal/Director/director and staff is to work with the children and parents to assist the children in developing a strong Christian attitude toward life.

In the Pre-Kindergarten program, disciplinary matters are addressed by the classroom teachers in a positive manner and are presented as opportunities for learning. Students are encouraged to grow in all areas; spiritual, moral, emotional, social and academic. When students act in a manner inconsistent with the mission and philosophy of the school, they are entrusted with the responsibility of showing improvement in their conduct. If a child does not respond to correction or discipline within the context of Christian understanding and charity, the school may request the involvement of parents in an effort to provide the child with the necessary support for their conforming to the school's standards. Discipline is most effective when there is clear communication and cooperation between parents and teachers.

### ***DISCIPLINE***

Classroom rules are designed to protect persons and property and to promote pro-social behaviors, such as sharing and taking turns. If problems arise, the children in question will be reminded of acceptable behaviors and redirected to more positive activities.

## **USE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

In cases where a child is continually disruptive of others or in the case of a single serious disciplinary infraction, the teacher will appraise the Principal/Director/director of the situation. They will assist in the development of a course of action to be taken to correct the situation.

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

## **SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY POLICIES**

The ultimate goal of discipline in a Catholic school is to teach students the self-discipline that strengthens within the school the Catholic faith community. As the school builds community, it develops in the students the awareness that sensible rules serve to safeguard the individual's freedom and provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. Disciplinary measures have as an end the development of the human person who respects one's self, other persons, and those in authority. Consistent with this approach and the philosophy of the school, at no time will corporal punishment be utilized as a disciplinary strategy.

When a disciplinary situation arises, the teacher or Director of the program will discuss the matter with the child and encourage him/her to improve. If the child continues to act inappropriately, the teacher will contact the parents in an effort to discuss strategies for encouraging student growth and improvement.

## **SUSPENSION**

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

The failure of the parents to execute the above referenced agreement shall preclude the child from returning to the regular program.

Suspension from school is imposed only for a very serious reason. The decision to suspend a student rests with the principal after consultation with the pastor. Prior to suspension, parents will be contacted to explore strategies for the improvement of their child's behavior. A letter stating the measures to be taken and the reasons for the suspension will follow. The nature of the suspension, in-house or off the property, varies with the severity of the infraction. In the event of a serious infraction, the student may be suspended immediately. In this case, the parents will be called and asked to pick up the child at once.

Behaviors for which a student may be suspended include but are not limited to the following:

- Verbal or non-verbal disrespect for authority
- Fighting, verbally or physically
- Leaving school or classroom without permission
- Threatening another individual

#### Aggressive Behavior:

We are all aware and concerned that violence is escalating in our society. Our children are surrounded by attitudes that condone settling disagreements with violence. Television, newspapers and movies are filled with behaviors that are abusive, disrespectful of others, and use pushing and fighting to subdue or just to irritate others.

Please discuss with your child ways to settle disagreements in a peaceful manner. Students need to treat their peers with civility, charity and forgiveness. They need to respect each other and root out any spirit of meanness. We expect them to be cooperative, polite and respectful in dealing with teachers and classmates. We all need to pray that God guide us to make the right decisions and give us the courage to act or not to act if that is the right course of action.

Violent activity will not be tolerated. This includes fighting, punching, or pushing that results in injury, knocking a student down, tearing or defacing another student's clothes – in summary, any activity that causes or could cause injury.

If a student behaves violently or threatens another individual, the parents will be notified to come and take the offending student home. The student will stay at home on the day of the occurrence. The student may return to school only after meeting with the principal and meeting any conditions for continued enrollment. The student and parents must sign a statement promising that the student will never again resort to such activity. Should there be further dangerous aggressive behavior, the student is liable for further consequences up to and including expulsion.

We realize these are strong measures. However, we cannot allow or encourage the violent, disruptive, or unbecoming behavior that we witness around us. Our children must understand that such activity is wrong and as followers of Christ should seek peaceful resolutions of legitimate differences.

#### **DISMISSAL**

Conduct which is disruptive to the learning atmosphere and/or contrary to the school's Code of Conduct is justification for a Principal/Director/director to dismiss a child at the close of the school

year.

If a parent repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students, or displays disrespectful, disruptive or harassing behavior toward teachers or toward school, parish, or diocesan staff, the school may take corrective action. Such corrective action may include dismissal of the parent's child(ren).

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

## **EXPULSION**

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

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

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

A parent whose child is expelled may appeal this decision by writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 5 working days from the time of written notification. If an appeal is made, the superintendent will appoint a hearing panel to evaluate the decision to expel. The hearing panel will be composed of two principals, one pastor and one member of the Office of Catholic Schools. The parent(s) making the appeal is/are permitted to bring legal counsel. Counsel's participation during the appeal hearing, however, is restricted to providing advice/communication to their client only. The OCS member shall be an advisory non-voting member of the panel. The decision of the appellate panel is final.

During the pendency of any appeal, the expelled child shall be removed from the school community in compliance with the expulsion notice unless otherwise directed in the discretion of the Principal/Director/director.

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

## ***REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES***

Privacy of individual children must be balanced against the need to protect the health, welfare and safety of other members of the school community. The Principal/Director or his/her designee has the right to protect the health, welfare, and safety of school patrons by searching a child's person and/or personal property on school grounds or at school activities. Lockers and desks are school property and are subject to searches by school personnel.

## ***CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY***

Children are to care for school property in a respectful manner. Children who deface or damage school property or the property of others will make financial restitution.

## ***DRESS CODE***

The dress code provides a standard for our children that fosters an environment conducive to learning and respectful behavior.

Final decisions regarding the school uniform rest with the Principal/Director/director.

### **DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION**

The dress code provides a standard for our children that foster an environment conducive to learning and respectful behavior.

Students in the Pre-Kindergarten Program do not wear uniforms. Rather, they are asked to wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing that is appropriate for the variety of activities in which they participate. Since the children use the playground and are engaged in large motor skill activities, parents are asked not to send their children in dress-up clothes or sandals.

All students enrolled in the program are expected to have already acquired independent toileting skills.

## ***PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS***

Students are reminded to follow the directions of the teachers and assistants at all times while on

the playground.

Rules for Playground Structure:

- No pushing or pulling on any piece of equipment.
- No climbing up the slides in the wrong direction.
- No sliding headfirst down the slides.
- No children are to be pulled off the equipment.
- Only four children permitted on the Megarock climber at one time.
- No standing on any railings of the equipment.
- No more than one person at a time going down the slides.
- No playground equipment allowed on the apparatus.

## ***LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS***

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

The Pre-Kindergarten Program does not use the cafeteria facility or participate in the lunch program. Daily snacks are enjoyed in the classrooms and/or on the playground. Teachers will coordinate monthly birthday celebrations for the students.

## ***SHOW & TELL***

Children are allowed to bring toys from home for the purpose of Show and Tell only. Weapons (whether real or toys) of any kind are not appropriate Show and Tell items, and shall not be brought to school for any reasons. If weapons of any kind are brought to school, the child shall be subject to immediate disciplinary action which may include but not be limited to expulsion.

## VII. HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

### ***STUDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE***

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

#### **PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR CHILD ABUSE**

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

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

Any clergy, employee or volunteer with the Diocese who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an incident of child abuse or illegal sexual misconduct has been perpetrated by any individual, including clergy, employee, or volunteer with the Diocese,

- must comply with applicable reporting and other requirements of state and local law;
- must report the incident to the Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of Arlington.

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

School personnel who suspect the abuse or neglect of a student must report the matter directly to the school principal who in turn will call the Moderator of the Curia, and then contact the Child Protective Services Agency. At that point, confidentiality must be respected.

According to the *Code of Virginia*, (Section 63.2 – 1518) *Authority to Talk to a Child or Sibling*, “Any person required to make a report or conduct an investigation or family assessment, pursuant to this chapter may talk to any child suspected of being abused or neglected or to any of his siblings without consent of and outside the presence of his parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loc parentis, or school personnel.

#### **ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID**

The school nurse or principal’s designee will record the circumstances of all accidents, (e.g., date, time, injured party, immediate cause, involved parties, supervisory facility/staff member, treatment/action taken, etc.) in the individual student health record. A separate Diocesan Accident Report Form (see Appendix F-7) is completed for all significant accidents or injuries that may

require treatment outside of school. A copy of the accident report is retained as a separate, internal school record, with the original forwarded to the Diocesan Insurance Risk manager at the Chancery within 72 hours of the accident or as soon as possible in the case of major accidents and/or injuries.

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

If an incident results in a medical condition or injury which can be reasonably known to the appropriate supervisory faculty/staff member and/or the principal, the school and/or its staff are authorized to render reasonable basic first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion of the school, serve to minimize the severity of the injured person's condition.. In addition, staff may secure professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion of the school, appears to be reasonably warranted. The school and school officials shall be expressly held harmless from any liability costs or expenses associated with the professional diagnosis and/or any treatment or first aid provided (including but not limited to the cost of transportation), such costs or expenses being the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

## **ILLNESS**

Each school will provide a health office or comfortable space, apart from the student population, where children who become ill or injured can be cared for following *Virginia School Health Guidelines, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*.

Children with fevers, contagious, or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and excluded from school while in that condition, per Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a healthcare provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school, afterschool, and extracurricular activities.

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

All Saints Catholic School employs a full-time professional nurse who oversees the physical well-being of students during the course of the school day. In addition to tending to sick and injured children, the nurse dispenses medicine to those requiring a dosage between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

## **MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW**

Detailed Diocesan medication policies and procedures can be accessed on the Office of Catholic Schools website, in the school clinic and in the appendix of this document.

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

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

1. When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration) ;
2. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;
3. When the parent / guardian provides and transports the medication to and from school and the medication is given directly to the school nurse/health assistant, or a senior member of the school administration;
4. When there is a health care provider's written order signed by the parent / guardian requesting the school to administer medication or to permit the student to self-administer the medication;
5. When the medication is brought to the school in its original container stating the name of the student, the dosage and method of administration prescribed by a physician. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription. The new prescription must also be brought to the school in the original container as stated above;
6. When the appropriate medication authorization form (see Appendix) has been completed, signed and accompanies the medication;
7. For any medication, parents must document the number of tablets or dosages to be secured for administration by authorized school personnel. If tablets are to be divided, the parent or guardian is responsible for dividing the tablets that are to be divided in order to achieve their child's proper dosage.

All OTC and prescription medications are to be kept locked in the clinic/school office and be administered by the school nurse, clinic aide, principal or trained designee. No student is to

carry/possess medications, without appropriate medical authorization. No medication will be administered unless the school has received a signed copy of the Medication Authorization Form (see Appendix). OTC medications do not require a health care provider's signature unless the medication is required for four (4) or more consecutive days.

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

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

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

### **SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS**

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

### **PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND MODIFICATION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

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

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

## ***INFECTIOUS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES***

### **DISEASE**

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

No daycare/preschool, elementary, middle or secondary school student may attend class without

documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health's school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213 ).

- a. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption CRE-1 form, which will be retained in the student health record.
- b. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for five months or more during the last three years are required to provide documentation of a recent tuberculosis skin test result prior to school entry.

Children with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a health care provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school.

School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart, found in the Virginia School Health Guidelines, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.

## **LICE**

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

## ***BLOODBORNE DISEASE***

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

Since it is known that bloodborne Hepatitis and HIV are not transmitted through casual contact,

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any student who is infected will continue education in a regular classroom assignment unless his or her health status requires otherwise. It is the intent of the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools to follow the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health which state that, most bloodborne Hepatitis and HIV-infected children be allowed to attend school in an unrestricted setting, and that decisions regarding school attendance be based on the medical condition of each child and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting.

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

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

Fire drills are held weekly during September and monthly thereafter. Each year the fire drill procedure is explained to the students by the classroom teachers. Thus each student knows and is expected to follow correct procedures for evacuating the building in the event of a fire or similar emergency. All visitors, staff and faculty must evacuate the building during a fire drill or emergency and remain one hundred feet from the school building until the all-clear signal is given. Tornado drills are held periodically throughout the year.

## ***SEXUAL HARASSMENT--STUDENTS***

Sexuality affects all aspects of the person, including in a general way the aptitude for forming bonds of communion with others. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Arlington endeavor to provide for their students an atmosphere free from sexual harassment.

1. No student is to sexually harass another member of the school community. Any student who engages in sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
2. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. "Unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature" includes, but is not limited to, "the deliberate, repeated making of unsolicited gestures or comments, or the deliberate, repeated display of offensive, sexually graphic materials which is not necessary for school purposes."

## ***BULLYING***

Bullying is prohibited and is defined as one or more actions of abusive treatment of another. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a) Physical intimidation or assault
- b) Extortion
- c) Oral or written threats
- d) Teasing
- e) Putdowns
- f) Name calling
- g) Threatening looks
- h) Gestures or acts of aggression (Overt and Covert)
- i) Cruel rumors & false accusations
- j) Social Isolation
- k) Cyber-bullying

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

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

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

- Counseling
- Parent conference
- Detention
- Suspension and/or Expulsion

b) Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the Principal/Director may also report incidents of bullying to law enforcement if appropriate.

## VIII. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Catholic school recognizes the beauty and potential inherent within each child. In an effort to foster continued growth, the school embraces the challenge to provide assistance and programs to serve children with special needs according to the resources available within/to the school. Parents are considered an integral part of the process.

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

If a child has a documented disability, a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Services Plan (ISP), 504 plan, and/or Student Assistance Plan (SAP) should be maintained in the child's confidential file. Children who have a documented disability but do not qualify for services through the local public school may be eligible for accommodations through a Student Assistance Plan written at the Catholic school. The refusal to provide such information is a condition for negating enrollment in the school.

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

## **IX. PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### ***LICENSING INFORMATION***

The Commonwealth of Virginia helps assure parents that child day programs that assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child for any part of a 24-hour day are safe. Title 63.1, Chapter 10 of the Code of Virginia gives the Department of Social Services authority to license these programs. While there are some legislative exemptions to licensure, licensed programs include child day centers, family day homes, child day center systems, and family day systems. The state may also voluntarily register family day homes which are not required to be licensed.

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

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

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

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

**Fairfax Licensing Office**  
**11320 Random Hill Road, Ste. 200**  
**Fairfax, VA 22030**  
**(703) 934-1505**

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

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

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

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

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

**Abingdon Licensing Office**  
190 Patton Street  
Abingdon, VA 24210  
(540) 676-5490

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

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

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

All non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall not be kept or used beyond the expiration date of the product.

For all over-the-counter skin products,

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

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

## ***INSURANCE***

The program is covered by public liability insurance through the Diocese of Arlington and the

Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America. Student insurance must be provided by the family through their own policy, or purchased through an independent school insurance provider. The school will send home optional policies each fall for the families to consider.

### ***TAX INFORMATION***

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

### ***PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT***

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

***APPENDICES***

[Insert Diocesan Forms here--mandatory]

School Forms

[Insert School Forms here as needed--optional]

Additional School Information

[Insert Additional School Information here as needed--optional