

Sacred Heart Academy
K-8 Parent/Student Handbook



2025-2026



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

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I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT

DIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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

Matthew 28:19-20

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

¹ Declaration on Christian Education #3

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington are an essential component in the educational ministry of the Church. Our schools are committed to providing an education rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ where Catholic doctrine and values and academic excellence prepare each student for a life of faith, service, and integrity.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY

Strengthened by the Father, led by Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart Academy nurtures the development of the whole child by providing a Catholic education, cultivating academic excellence, peace and justice, service and spiritual growth.

We pray. ♥ We study. ♥ We serve.

Sacred Heart Academy is a Christ-centered, family-oriented community of life-long learners. As educators faithful to the Catholic Tradition, we strive in cooperation with the parish and family to nurture and form the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, emotionally, and socially. We believe that we fulfill our role as an extension of the family and the Church by fostering the development of each student's unique skills and talents, by recognizing the diverse needs of the learner, and by integrating subject areas across the curriculum. We seek to foster wonder and love for all that is true, good, and beautiful. Our shared vision is to help students read well, speak well, and think well, helping students to grow in academic and moral virtues. Motivated by Gospel values, we model for our students the virtues that Christ shows us: Faith, Hope, and Charity. Our program of academic studies, co-curricular, and extra-curricular

activities thrives in an atmosphere of Christian concern, cooperation, mutual respect, dedication, and service among all members of the parish, family, and school community.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN ROLE

In this handbook, the term "parent" refers not only to a child's natural or adopted parent, but to a

student's non-parent legal guardian or to any person or agency authorized to act in place of parents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEXUAL IDENTITY POLICY

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

that is respectful of and consistent with each person's God-given sexual identity.

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

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

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

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

NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS

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

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

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

II. ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

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

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

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

GRADES FIVE TO SIX

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the sixth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

GRADES SIX TO SEVEN

For placement in Algebra I in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT

For placement in Geometry in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

GRADES SIX TO SEVEN

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT

For placement in Algebra I in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

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

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

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

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

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

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

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

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

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

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

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

TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

The care of all textbooks and supplemental materials are the responsibility of the student. Replacement of lost or damaged books and materials will be at the expense of the student/family. Textbooks must be covered for protection and removed (without damage to the book) before they are returned to school.

RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

There is no expectation or right to privacy or right to freedom of speech when using the school's computer resources, which are the school's property. Any use of the school's computers and internet access must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools.

Using school facilities for internet access and email is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use which includes but is not limited to: unauthorized transmittal or improper use of copyrighted materials or materials protected as trade secrets; transmission of threatening or obscene materials; vandalism of computer files; and violation of computer security as determined by the school administration can result in a cancellation, denial, suspension and/or revocation of those privileges by the school administration and also subject the student to other disciplinary action.

Electronic and/or digital communications with students should be conducted for educationally appropriate purposes and employ only school-sanctioned means of communication.

Users must adhere to local school policy that may further define uses of mobile devices. Access will be determined by the administration of the school. If a particular mobile device is to be used for an educational purpose, the school administration and/or teacher will provide parameters for this use.

Additional responsibilities for use of school facilities for the internet and email are:

- a. When using networks or computing resources of other organizations, students must observe the rules of that organization regarding such use.
- b. Users should not reveal their personal addresses or phone number(s) and shall not reveal the personal address or phone number(s) of others without their authorization/permission.
- c. Users are reminded that e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Operators of the network/system have access to all e-mail. Messages relating to, or in support of illegal activities, may be reported to the authorities.
- d. Students shall immediately notify the system administrator/school administration if they suspect that a security problem with the system and/or the internet exists.
- e. Any attempt to log onto the internet or the school's network/system as a systems administrator will result in a loss of user privileges at the school. Any user identified as a security risk by the school administration/systems administrator due to a history of actual or suspected unauthorized access to other computer(s), network(s), or system(s) may be denied access to the school's computers, networks, and/or systems.
- f. Users of artificial intelligence (AI) shall generally abide by:
 - i. Teachers and administrators are responsible for supervising students using AI technologies to ensure compliance with this Responsible Use Policy (RUP).
 - ii. Users are accountable for their actions when using AI technologies. Any misuse or violation of this RUP may result in disciplinary action.
 - iii. Students must use AI technologies in a respectful and responsible manner, treating others with courtesy and consideration in both virtual and physical interactions.

- iv. Students are expected to create and consume content that is appropriate for an educational setting. Content that is offensive, discriminatory, or violates school policies is strictly prohibited.
 - v. Users should create and access AI content appropriate for an educational environment. Permission and supervision by a teacher or school administrator are mandatory for students to use AI tools at school. Please note that many AI programs require users to be at least 13 years of age for use. Schools should be thorough in their research of the AI programs' Privacy Policy.
- g. Users shall abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette, which include but are not limited to:
- i. Messages to others shall be polite and shall not be abusive.
 - ii. Messages shall use appropriate language and shall not use obscenities, vulgarities, or other inappropriate language.
 - iii. Use of the network shall not disrupt use of the network by others.
- h. The diocese/school makes no warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, for internet service. The diocese/school will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence, user errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the internet is at the user's risk. The school specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through internet sources.
- i. Examples of Unacceptable Uses – Users are not permitted to:
- i. Use technology in sexting or cyber bullying: to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
 - ii. Post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane, or sexually oriented material. Users must not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, or threatening language. Users must not knowingly or recklessly post false information about persons, students, staff, or any other organization.
 - iii. Use a photograph, image, video, or likeness of any student or school employee without express permission of the individual, individual's parent/guardian, and the principal.
 - iv. Create any site, post any photo, image, or video of another except with express permission of the individual, the individual's parent/guardian, and the principal.
 - v. Attempt to circumvent system security.
 - vi. Deliberately visit a site known for unacceptable material or any material that is not in support of educational objectives.
 - vii. Violate license agreements or copy other protected media.
 - viii. Use technology for any illegal activity.
 - ix. Use of the internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an

educational site.

- x. Breach confidentiality obligations of school or school employees.
- xi. Harm the good will and reputation of the school or school employees.
- xii. Transmit any material in violation of any local, state, or federal law. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, licensed material, and threatening or obscene material.

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

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

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

The school retains the right to discipline students for their actions, regardless of when or where they occur, when those actions negatively impact the school's image, reputation, and/or the safety and well-being of the school community. This covers inappropriate behavior in cyberspace including but not limited to messages, chat room commentary, comments/pictures, videos, postings on social networking sites, blogs, wikis, gaming chats, digital transmissions, and other technology related activity.

Sacred Heart Academy encourages the safe and sensible use of the Internet. It is highly recommended that parents discuss with all students what unacceptable and acceptable use looks like so that students understand.

Sacred Heart Academy has adopted a one-to-one (1:1) Personal Device program for middle school students (a device is assigned to each middle school student for use in the classrooms). Students in elementary grades may have access to a Chromebook or laptop in the classroom. The policies, procedures, and information within this handbook apply to all technological devices issued to Sacred Heart Academy students, all users of Chromebook or laptops or laptops, users of the computer lab, and includes all devices the Administration determines to include under this policy. Teachers may set additional requirements for Chromebook or laptop use in their classroom.

Students and their parents in grades 6-8 must read, **discuss**, sign, and return the Acceptable Use Policy form before a Chromebook is issued.

Sacred Heart Academy reserves the right to update and modify the policy applying to use of technology at the discretion of the Administration of the school. Sacred Heart Academy will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to the Internet through this network. All users shall assume full liability (legal, financial, or otherwise) for their actions.

Student Fees

Sacred Heart Academy requires a Student Fee to contribute to the overall Technology budget, enabling us to:

- fund Chromebook or laptop Technical Support
- ensure adequate and sufficient network bandwidth, and appropriate Internet access
- provide training for students and faculty in the use of computing and networking resources, when needed
- facilitate all in-warranty and out-of-warranty support, maintenance, and repairs that occur through *normal* everyday use.

Damaged, Lost, or Stolen Chromebook or laptops

- The Student Fee does not cover, nor represent any type of coverage for the replacement of lost or stolen devices, including accessories.
- The Student Fee does not cover repairs due to cosmetic damage or damage caused by intentional misuse and abuse.
- Families will be charged an appropriate repair fee at the market rate provided by the Academy's Vendor for all physical repairs (e.g., screen replacement, keyboard replacement) not covered by the warranty.
- The student/parent will be charged a replacement cost per incident if the device is lost or stolen, damaged beyond repair, or damaged due to intentional misuse or abuse.
- The Sacred Heart Academy Technology Team will assess all Chromebook or laptop damage and repair or replace the device if the damage or repair is determined to be covered under normal use.
- Chromebook or laptop and accessories that are lost or intentionally damaged is the responsibility of the student / parent involved in the loss of property.

Students are to abide by the following rules:

1. All school devices, including computers, are to be used only for schoolwork as directed by the teacher or staff. Violating this policy will result in a remedy deemed appropriate by administration.

2. The student is only permitted to use the Internet under the supervision of a teacher or staff member when at school. It is the responsibility of the student's parents/guardians to monitor the proper/safe use of the internet when the student uses the device outside school hours. The school has the right to review (or monitor) all activities and materials created by students on school computers.
3. The student will access only the specific software programs authorized by the teacher or staff.

TESTING

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

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

HOMEWORK

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

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENTS

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

Grades 1-3:	10 to 30 minutes daily
Grades 4-6:	30 to 60 minutes daily
Grades 7-8:	60 minutes to 2 hours daily

Homework is an extension of learning begun in school. Homework can accomplish the following:

1. Reinforce and apply previously taught skills.
2. Provide enrichment and extension of topics presented in class.
3. Develop a sense of responsibility and independence in students.
4. Develop study habits and time management skills in students.

5. Encourage recreational and curricular reading by students.
6. Enable students to explore background material for new units of study.

Homework is ordinarily assigned daily. Long-term assignments may extend over weekends. One of the responsibilities of homework is to teach students responsibility and accountability. Homework must be done neatly and turned in on time. It is the responsibility of each student to turn in homework on time.

Parents are encouraged to support the student and assist when needed, but homework completed and turned in must reflect the work of the student alone.

Studying an assignment is considered of equal importance as written work. Parents may assist their children by encouraging them and quizzing them on the material prior to a test. Also, parents may help their children with organization of material, with researching material for reports, and with seeing that homework is done completely, neatly, and on schedule. Parents should notify their child's teacher if their child is spending an extraordinary amount of time completing homework assignments. The student, teacher, and parents work together to help determine beneficial strategies to help the student with homework concerns.

Sacred Heart Academy Middle School Homework Policy for 6th-8th grade students: half credit will be deducted for assignments turned in one day late. Homework that is two or more days late will not be accepted. Homework is expected to be turned in on the day a student returns from an absence unless discussed otherwise. The homework policies for K-5th grade students are communicated by their homeroom teachers in the Back-to-School packets.

Students will be assigned a number of projects and papers throughout the year. Long-term assignments (projects, research papers, etc.) must be turned in on the days they are due. Such projects will not receive credit past their due dates.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to check Power School regularly (or to sign up via PowerSchool to receive regular updates) to stay informed of their child's current grades and of any missing or incomplete assignments.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Teachers are expected to be reasonably available to parents/guardians throughout the school year to keep the lines of communication open in the best interest of the students. Parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled throughout the school year if necessary. Parents should first privately contact a teacher with any concerns about a student or class concerns before seeking intervention by the school administration.

In the event a parent desires to discuss a problem with his/her child's teacher, the parent should make an appointment for a private meeting with the child's teacher. Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss a matter of concern with parents before it becomes an actual problem. Any

parent who wishes to speak with the principal may do so after an initial meeting with the classroom teacher. Similarly, parents should discuss matters of concern with the school principal, and pastor when necessary, before bringing them to the Office of Catholic Schools.

SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

As noted above, in light of the Catholic principle of subsidiarity, a parent must first bring concerns to the teacher/staff before approaching administrators.

The Arlington Catholic Diocese requires formal conferences during the first trimester. If a conference with a teacher is desired at other times during the year, the parent or guardian may contact the teacher to set up a face-to-face or phone conference. Teachers cannot be disturbed during class hours, lunchtime, morning drop-off, on the playground, at dismissal, or at home. Parents may call the Academy office and leave a message requesting a call back from the teacher or send an email with the understanding that the teacher will respond when he or she is not supervising students.

GRADING/REPORT CARDS

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

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

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

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades 1-2

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

ACADEMIC PROGRESS SCALE

The letter M, P or NI is indicated in the appropriate box for each subject area.

*(asterisk) indicates modified curriculum.

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

INDICATORS FOR EFFORT, SPECIALS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

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

PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT POLICY

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

- a. The final decision to promote or retain a student is based on the student's academic performance and best interest as determined by the principal.
- b. Teachers will notify parents/guardians if their child is not progressing satisfactorily toward a passing grade in the course.
- c. Elementary students failing one or two academic areas must successfully complete a remediation program approved by the principal in order to be promoted to the next grade. If a student fails three or more core academic subjects, the student will not be promoted to the next grade.
- d. Students who have not successfully completed summer school or another program approved by the principal but would not benefit from being retained in the grade may be "placed" in the next grade level; however, the school must prepare and implement an "Academic Intervention Plan" for the student as a condition of placement.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

ADMISSIONS

DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

AGE FOR ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION: PRESCHOOL – GRADE 5

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

months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening)

- i. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former diocesan school if previously enrolled in a diocesan school

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO GRADES 6 – 8

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

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

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

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

F-1 (NON-IMMIGRANT)

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

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

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

CLASS PLACEMENT

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

ATTENDANCE

DIOCESAN POLICY FOR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

In order to achieve the goals and objectives of the curriculum, regular attendance by the student is mandatory.

The school (K-8) is normally in session no fewer than 180 days per academic year or the length of time as required by the Virginia Catholic Education Association.

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

parent(s)/guardian(s).

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

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

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL

In order to ensure continuous progress in school, regular attendance and habits of punctuality are essential. The school defines proper procedures as:

- a. A written excuse, explaining the reason for absence and signed by the parent/guardian, must be presented upon a student's return to school.
- b. Persistent absences may cause serious academic problems (including but not limited to course failure) and could result in the dismissal of the student. The administration or the class teacher will normally review the matter with parents/guardians before a decision is made by the administration. Persistent absences may also result in the student being subject to appropriate administrative action.
- c. Except in cases of emergency as determined by the principal/administration and/or a faculty member (as applicable or necessary), a student may only (a) be released from school with the prior written authorization of the student's parent/guardian, or (b) leave the school grounds with the prior authorization from the principal/administration.

TARDINESS

The tardy student will normally be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the school administration or by the class teacher. A student who is tardy, as determined by local policy, should report to the principal's office or attendance office. A student who arrives late with an excused reason (i.e. doctor's note) is counted tardy. The student who is tardy due to unexcused reasons may be subject to appropriate administrative action. Frequent cases of tardiness should be brought to the attention of the principal so that the parent/guardian may be contacted.

Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must obtain a tardy slip from the office.

After no less than three (3) unexcused tardy slips are issued in a trimester, parents will be notified. The student will serve a detention from 6:45 a.m.– 7:45 a.m. as designated by the school. After no less than 6 unexcused tardy slips in a trimester, parents will be notified. Parents must speak with Administration/truancy officer to determine a plan for success. Continued and chronic tardiness may result in expulsion.

ABSENCES FOR OTHER REASONS

When parents wish to take their student out of school for several days for personal and/or medical reasons, the parents should discuss the student's progress with the teacher. However, the school is under no obligation to provide a tutor, make-up work, or special testing schedules for such a period of absence. The administration has the sole discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.

ATTENDANCE/REPORTING PROCEDURES

Regular attendance directly affects academic performance and is considered an important component of student life. Students may be excused for illness or a death in the family.

In order to keep accurate attendance documentation, parents/guardians are asked to notify the office by emailing attendance@shasaints.org (by 9 A.M.) each time a student is absent. Absences are designated excused or unexcused per Diocesan policy. When the office is not notified of an absence, the absence is marked as unexcused.

After an absence, it is the student's responsibility to request the missed work from the teacher and to work with the teacher to establish a timeline to make up missed assignments, tests, and quizzes.

If a student is absent, homework may be requested to be sent home if the school office is notified by 9:00 A.M. The homework may be picked up between 2:15 P.M. and 2:30 P.M. at the school office by a parent/guardian.

All attendance data, including late arrivals and early departures, are noted in the student's permanent attendance record.

MEDICAL EXCUSES

Students who are absent with a communicable disease must present a physicians' statement certifying their ability to return to school. Students found to have head lice will be sent home immediately for treatment and may return to school after the first treatment is completed and nits have been combed from the hair. The nurse or designated school employee will examine the student's head to determine if the initial treatment was successful and then the student may return to class.

Medical appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours, if at all possible. Students are to be picked up in the school office at the required time and signed out by the parent or designated adult. Students are responsible for making up missed work due to outside appointments. Children who do not feel well in the morning should not come to school until they feel better. Students with fevers of 100.4 degrees or higher are to be kept home until their temperature has been normal for 24 hours. Sending a sick child to school hampers learning and spreads illness. If students become ill or are injured at school to the extent they can no longer fully participate in school activities, parents will be asked to pick them up from school as soon as possible. Children will be released only to an authorized person who signs for their release at the school office. In extreme cases, students will be taken directly to the hospital by ambulance and parents will be contacted immediately.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCE

Family Vacations: Absences interrupt a child's learning and can seriously hamper progress during the school year. Sacred Heart Academy does not provide work before absences due to vacations. It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed work (classwork, homework assessments, etc.) upon return to school. Students also must turn in projects that are due during the days of absence before leaving for vacation.

If parents are going out of town and leaving another responsible adult in charge of the children, they must notify the school office and nurse in writing and provide in advance the name, address, phone numbers, and other necessary information regarding the care of the children while the parents are absent.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Students may not leave school grounds for any reason during the day without the express permission of the Principal and parents. If it is necessary to leave the building during the school day, the student must report to the office before leaving and be signed out by the adult taking the child. Students will be released to either parent unless the school has been provided with a legally binding document to the contrary. If students are to be released to anyone else, signed authorization stipulating to whom the child may be released must be given to the office prior to the time of release.

If the student returns to school on the same day, the student must be signed in again by a designated adult at the office. Students may not check themselves back into school but must be accompanied by an adult. If parents are going out of town and leaving another responsible adult in charge of the children, the school office must be notified in writing. The written notification should include the name, address, phone numbers, and other necessary information regarding the temporary guardian and contact information for the parents.

Excessive tardiness and/or leaving early do affect a student's school performance and is disruptive to the other students in the classroom. Therefore, parents should make every effort to ensure that their children arrive at school on time and remain in school to avoid missing instructional time.

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

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

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

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

Sacred Heart Academy has established procedures for student arrival for maximum safety and efficiency. Parent cooperation is requested to ensure that students arrive at school on time and that student supervision and safety may be maintained.

1. When entering campus from Keating Drive, continue to follow the road around the entire campus. Drop off and pick up take place adjacent to Krempa Gymnasium. The first car is to drive into the pull off lane. Additional cars will line up behind the first car in single file. Then, the next row of cars will line up next to the first carline (second lane next to the gymnasium). The car line will wrap through the lower parking lot of the church. (Do not drive through the upper parking lot which is reserved for those who are attending Mass and Adoration.) Please do not block any through streets or driveways.

For the safety of students and SHA employees, all drivers in the two drop off lanes must turn off their engines before students are given the signal to exit cars.

2. Students are not to exit cars until 7:45 am when SHA staff members open the carline.
3. A staff member will direct cars as they exit the drop-off line
4. When exiting the traffic circle in front of the school, turn left onto Keating Drive to exit the property safely.
5. Children are NOT to be dropped off at any other location other than the assigned carpool locations during carline hours. This is for the safety of all children.
6. Cars are not to be left unattended with the engine running while parents walk students to the building.
7. Close morning carline at 8:00 am. Late parents/guardians must drive around and walk their child(ren) **into the office after prayers/announcements and sign in the child(ren).**

For the safety of students and families, students may not be dropped off at the “drop off/loading area” located in front of the school building during arrival/dismissal periods.

K-8 DISMISSAL

All families will receive a name placard in their welcome packet before the start of school. This name placard must be clearly visible during dismissal. It is imperative that whoever is picking up a child has the name placard clearly displayed on their dashboard. This allows the staff to ensure the safety of the students by making sure students are placed in the correct cars.

Name cards must be placard in the front dashboard of each car. Please make sure it is clearly visible.

When returning to Keating Drive, drivers must around the back of the church/school.

If the driver is coming in from the side entrance by the apartments, she/he is not to pull in front of cars that are waiting in line for pick up. The driver must drive around the campus and line up behind the last car.

Drive through the far-right lane of the parking lot. Both lanes will be used next to the gym.

Eight cars – four in each lane – should line up next to the gymnasium, with engines turned off.

Subsequent cars should line up in a single line in the far-left lane.

A staff member will come to each car to call in the student's last name for dismissal.

Parents are asked to wait in place until cars in front drive forward. For the safety of the students, drivers do not pull around other cars. Staff and safety patrols will monitor and expedite the carpool line as quickly as possible.

Children are NOT to be picked up or dropped off at any other location other than the assigned carpool locations. This is for the safety of all children.

Parents are not to enter the school to retrieve their children directly from their child's classroom.

To allow staff members to prepare and engage in the dismissal procedures, students will not be called to the office between 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

REMINDER: In accordance with the Winchester City Fire Ordinance, the **Winchester City Police can ticket any car parked in the fire lane of either building.**

It is illegal to leave a car unattended with the engine running.

Dismissal of students begins at 3:15 pm on full days and at 11:30 am on half days. Parents who arrive in carline later than 3:30 pm (or after 11:45 am on early dismissal days) may have to come to the library entrance to retrieve their student from Bridges/Extended Day After-School Care. Any students not picked up will automatically be enrolled in Bridges After-School Care. Families will be charged accordingly. Once a child has formally been checked in to the Bridges

After-School Care program, he/she will not be released from Bridges without a parent signature. Students will only be released from Bridges to a parent or an adult on the authorized pickup list for the student. An ID must be presented to pick up a student from Bridges.

All students who participate in any extracurricular activity, including but not limited to sports and clubs, will be dismissed to Bridges After-School Care if they are not picked-up immediately after the end of the activity.

Parents must send in written notes or call the office and send an email when a student is riding home with someone other than an assigned carpool. Students will not be permitted to go with someone other than the designated carpool unless the school has been appropriately advised.

Once students have left the school property, they may not return unless accompanied by an adult. Students may not be left on the Academy or Parish grounds while the adult is conducting business in the school. The school assumes no responsibility for students once they have been picked up, as they are then under the authority of the designated adult.

Parents must **refrain from cell phone usage during drop off or dismissal and always observe the 12-mph speed limit throughout the entire school/church campus.**

Locations and procedures may be subject to change during inclement weather. You will receive an all call message with directions and changes to the ordinary dismissal procedures.

The rules and regulations have been formulated with the safety of the children and the school community foremost in mind. Due to serious consequences that could arise from an infringement of these rules, no exemptions will be made. Drivers who ignore the rules and establish a pattern of doing so may jeopardize the enrollment of their child. Safety is a serious matter.

LUNCH/MILK PROGRAM

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

Students may bring their lunches from home in lunch boxes or coolers clearly marked with their names and grades. Glass containers, knives, etc. are not acceptable items to be packaged for lunch time use. Soda drinks are not allowed for student consumption at lunch. K-8th grade students can purchase lunch at the Academy five days each week. Frozen treats may be purchased once a week during the lunch period, except during the season of Lent. Students are not permitted to leave the building for lunch.

IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

ADMINISTRATIVE

STUDENT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

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

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

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

ACCESS TO RECORDS

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

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

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

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

TRANSFER OF RECORDS

Schools may disclose a student's cumulative record (i.e. Permanent Record card, attendance card, test results) to another school with legitimate educational interest provided a written request for such records is received, or when those individuals to whom the custodial parent/guardian has given written permission, have requested the child's records to be released. Parent signature is required for release of a student's confidential file (i.e. special education records, psychological reports, disciplinary records, anecdotal information, or reports by the school counselor).

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

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL ACADEMIC RECORDS

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

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

RETENTION OF RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL VISITORS

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

School property includes the main elementary building and playground areas. Before leaving the grounds, visitors are to sign out at the school office and remove their visitor badge. Students have been instructed not to open doors to any visitors, so please do not expect them to respond to your request for access without following protocol. Violations compromise the safety of our children.

All visitors (who are not OPCYP compliant) will be escorted at all times while inside the school building during school hours. OPCYP compliant volunteers must sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

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

PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATION

To maintain regular communication between the home and school, the principal, or her designee, will send electronic updates to all families who have supplied email address in the PowerSchool parent portal. The updates, normally through our Academy Newsletter, contain relevant information regarding an up-to-date calendar, documentation of school events, and reminders. It is important that parents regularly check the parent portal of PowerSchool to be sure contact information is correct.

TAKE-HOME COMMUNICATION

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

All written communications from the Academy must be approved by the principal before they are distributed. Communications include, but may not be limited to, yearbooks, newsletters, and miscellaneous items. All items to be reviewed must be submitted before 3:15 pm on Tuesday to be considered for release on Thursday. (When there is no school on Thursday, the deadline is moved to Monday at 3:15pm).

WEBSITE

The Academy maintains a website. The website includes information about the school, upcoming activities, current fees, Diocesan forms, and email addresses for the teachers and staff. There are also links to the Diocese of Arlington and the school uniform company.

TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

The office and faculty room telephones are not for public use. Students are required to obtain permission from the school office to use the telephone. Telephone calls are limited to illness, forgetting medication or glasses, and/or injury and **not** be used for forgotten items such as lunch, athletic equipment, or homework assignments. If it is necessary to relay a message to a staff member, contact the school office at 540-662-7177. Although teachers have access to email while at school, they must focus on instruction and supervision of students and thus may not respond during instructional hours. To email, go to the Academy's website at www.sacredheartva.org, select faculty, then the teacher whom you wish to contact, and send an email message.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices, such as iPods or Smart watches/devices on school property. Students may not have cell phones or other electronic devices on their person during the school day. Cell phones and other electronic devices such as Smart watches that are kept by the student and not properly placed in secured lockers or in the office will be confiscated and only returned to the parent/guardian upon meeting with the principal or her designee.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

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

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

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

Sacred Heart Academy makes its own decisions regarding delayed openings, early dismissals, and school closures. Announcements for closings, etc., are made through the School Messenger Communications System. In the event of an early dismissal due to inclement weather, all parents are to arrange to pick up their children as soon as possible. Children not picked up by the end of the dismissal period will go to Bridges After-School Care, which will remain open for up to one hour after the unscheduled school closing. When a child is not picked up in emergency situations including inclement weather or natural or man-made disasters, local authorities will be called. Exceptions must be approved by the administration.

The following is our schedule for **delayed opening days**. Our morning Bridges/Extended Day Program will not be available.

1 HOUR DELAY

Supervised Drop Off 8:45 A.M.

School Starts 9:00 A.M.

2 HOUR DELAY

Supervised Drop Off 9:45 A.M.

School Starts 10:00 A.M.

PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA

Parents/guardians may opt their children out of participating in videotaping, audio recording, school pictures, other photography, or participation involving the Internet. When a parent decides to exercise this right, the school is required to use the Waiver/Right to Object Form (*Appendix N*). All student or parental publications are subject to review and approval by the school administration prior to publication.

MEDIA CENTER

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

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

Students may check out books from the Sacred Heart Academy Library for the period of one week. If a student needs a book for more than one week, one renewal is permitted. This enables all students to access the new arrivals and popular items in a timely manner. If a book is not returned in a timely manner, an email will be sent to the student's family reminding parents that the book needs to be returned as soon as possible to make it available to other students. Students may not check out another book until the late book is returned.

Replacement of books not returned within the requested time frame will be the parent's responsibility. Charges may be posted to the family's FACTS account for the replacement cost of lost books. **Students who lost or damaged books will not receive trimester report cards until their account is cleared.**

FIELD TRIPS

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

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

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

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

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

Cell calls and texting are not permitted while driving.

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

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

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

School-sponsored ski trips are not permitted.

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

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

Proper etiquette is expected of all students involved in enrichment programs, including field trips. The school reserves the right to refuse a student permission to participate in a field trip if the

student does not meet behavioral guidelines or participating in a field trip can jeopardize his/her personal safety or that of another member of the group.

Participation in field trips is limited to registered students in the designated grade(s) and the chaperones. Younger siblings or brothers and/or sisters in another grade in the school may not participate in the field trip. Chaperones are expected to comply with school and Diocese policy regarding volunteers. All chaperones must be OPCYP compliant.

In cases where either the parent or the school denies a child's participation in a field trip, the student must complete academic work, often related to the field trip, in school or at home.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Overnight trips are not permitted for elementary school children.

MARCH FOR LIFE POLICY

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

Students who accompany parents on the March for Life should not be marked as absent for that day. From time-to-time it has been the case that world or local events raise concern about the advisability of school-sponsored student participation in the March for Life and related events. When this happens, principals should use prudent judgment when deciding on attending the March and should consider appropriate alternatives that can be conducted at the school level.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/CEREMONIES

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

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

Graduation ceremonies should be simple and dignified.

The Liturgy is highly recommended. Certificates signifying completion of studies may be given upon completion of 8th grade.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Parent-Teacher Organizations (and like-named entities) support the critical relationship between schools and parents, the primary educators of their children. These organizations support the principal to advance the school's mission.

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

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

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

PTOs shall have by-laws which establish, among other things, term limits for officers as well as the organization of committees. Persons nominated to serve as a PTO board member must receive the approval of the pastor and principal.

FUNDRAISING

Any program of generating additional revenue should have the approval of school leadership (pastor, principal, head of school). These activities should be organized and executed so that the school program is not interrupted.

Students may participate in, and cooperate with, worthy collections and fundraising projects conducted by a school or parish, provided such activities have been approved by the school leadership (pastor, principal, head of school).

LIBRARY DONATION PROGRAM

Sacred Heart Academy has a book donation program in place. This is a wonderful way to celebrate a birthday, First Communion, or other special occasions while providing new library books for all students. To donate a book in the name of a student, simply send a check to the office made out to the school. Please indicate on the memo line "book donation AND student's name." The librarian, with the approval of the principal, will select an age-appropriate book, inscribe the student's name in front and share the book with the student's class during a library visit. Parents and friends of the Academy are given the opportunity each year to participate in the Book Donation Program. The book program allows a family or person to donate funds to purchase a book in honor of a student, friend, or family member, and gives the school a way to increase its library materials. If you wish to participate in this program, please see our school librarian.

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

The primary mode of transportation at Sacred Heart Academy is carpooling. All students must wear seat belts and follow state laws. All are expected to follow drop-off and pick-up traffic patterns. Failure to follow traffic patterns, parking policy, and pick-up and drop-off regulations could affect student enrollment status.

If it is necessary for a parent to enter the school building with a student, the car should be parked in designated parking spots. Never leave an idling car unattended.

V. FINANCES

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLICATION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

The deadline for submitting applications to the contracted vendor is determined annually. Applications received after the stated due date will be considered for tuition assistance if funds are still available.

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

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

SCHOOL TUITION POLICIES

A family's tuition obligation continues even if the school shifts to a virtual model. The education

of each student continues with teachers planning and delivering lessons and assessing student progress. Report cards will be distributed at the end of each grading period. If a parent/guardian cannot make the regular tuition payment, the principal should be notified as soon as possible to create an alternative payment plan.

TUITION DISCOUNT FOR REGISTERED PARISHIONERS

Sacred Heart Academy is a ministry of Sacred Heart Parish. Families, who are active, registered parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish, receive a lower rate than families who are inactive or non-parishioners. The in-parish tuition rate will be assigned only after the student's Catholic baptism, parish registration, and weekly participation in Mass have been verified. Families are asked to scan a QR code prior to entering the church for Sunday Mass to verify participation. The code will only be accepted during Mass times on the weekend. Scans made outside of Mass times will not be accepted. Electronic debit will no longer be accepted as a method to verify Mass attendance. Active participation in the parish will be verified each month. Catholic families who are registered in the parish but do not attend weekly Mass will receive out-of-parish Catholic tuition rates.

TUITION DISCOUNT FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES OUTSIDE OF PARISH BOUNDARIES

Catholic families registered in a parish other than Sacred Heart of Jesus may receive the reduced out-of-parish rate with a letter from their pastor confirming their active participation in their parish. Catholic families living outside Winchester, Frederick or Clarke counties (parish boundaries) may register in the parish with permission from their pastor. Families must show support for Sacred Heart of Jesus parish through the use of the envelope system each week during the collection at Mass, or their tuition will revert to Out of Parish or Non-Catholic status.

FULL TUITION

Families who are non-Catholic or who have children who are not baptized Catholic will be assessed the full tuition. Catholic families who are not registered in their parish and/or do not show active membership in their parish will be assessed full tuition.

TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

All families shall be expected to make tuition payments according to one of the following payment plans. (Each family's preferred manner of payment must be submitted each year at the time of student registration.) Options for payment shall include:

A. Full Payment: This payment is to be made through FACTS Tuition Management Company. A one-time automatic payment will be made through your checking, savings, or credit card account. Those choosing this plan will establish an account with FACTS, and complete a FACTS agreement form to authorize the automatic payments on a desired date in August. The full amount of the non-refundable fees will be withdrawn in July.

B. Tri-Annual Payments: Under this plan, the full amount of the non-refundable fees is withdrawn in July. One third of the tuition is paid in August, one third is paid in January, and the balance is paid in March. Payment plans are through FACTS Tuition Management. This plan is an automatic payment made through your checking, savings or credit card account. Those choosing this plan will establish an account with FACTS, and complete a FACTS agreement form to authorize the automatic payments on either the 5th or the 15th of the indicated months.

C. Monthly Payments: Under this plan, the full fees amount is withdrawn in July and is nonrefundable. Tuition is then spread over 10 months, if beginning in August. The first payment is August and the last payment is in May. Payment plans are through FACTS Tuition Management. This plan is an automatic payment made through your checking, savings or credit card account. Those choosing this plan will establish an account with FACTS, and complete a FACTS agreement form to authorize the automatic payments on either the 5th or the 15th of each month.

Tuition for preschool is charged per child. There is not a price break for multiple students as there are for grades K-8. Preschool students do not qualify for tuition assistance.

Tuition and Fees Schedule 2025-2026

Kindergarten thru 8th Grade

Application Fee	\$150/student
Registration Fee—New Student	\$350/student
Registration Fee Returning Student/Siblings	\$150/student
Student Fee (grades K-8)	\$150/student
Families-In-Service Fee:	25 hours (billed at \$20/hour for unserved hours)

- The **Application Fee** is due with the application for all new enrollment. This fee is not refundable.
- The **Registration Fee** is due at the time of acceptance for enrollment or re-enrollment. This fee is not refundable.
- The **Student Fee** is due in full by July 1 and is not refundable.

Tuition

	Registered Catholic In-Parish*	Registered Catholic Out-of-Parish	Non-Catholic
1 Child	\$ 7,711	\$ 9,130	\$10,549
2 Children	\$13,581	\$16,206	\$18,831
3 Children	\$18,887	\$22,569	\$26,250
4 Children	\$22,653	\$27,085	\$31,516
5 Children	\$26,282		

Tuition and Fees Payment Options:

1. Tuition paid in full by August 1, 2025. Payments are made through FACTS Tuition Management Company by automatic debit or credit card only. Payments will not be accepted at the school.
2. Tri-Annual tuition Payment: 1/3 due in August 2025, 1/3 due in November 2025, and 1/3 due in February 2026. Payments are made through FACTS Tuition Management Company by automatic debit or credit card only.
3. Monthly Payments: The first of 10 payments is made in August with final payment in May 2026. Payments are made through FACTS Tuition Management Company by automatic debit or credit card only.

All payments must be made through FACTS Tuition Management Company by debit or credit card only.

**The in-parish tuition rate is given to families who are registered and attend Sacred Heart of Jesus parish three out of four weeks each month. Verification is made by scanning the QR code in the Narthex or by submitting envelopes through the collection during weekend Masses .*

All financial accounts must be reconciled by May 22, 2026.

Bridges Extended Day Fees

Bridges AM, 6:45am to 7:45am

Bridges AM will operate Monday through Friday, when school is in session. **The fee is \$13 per student for any portion of time that the student is dropped off.** Families using the program

will be billed through their FACTS Tuition Management account and payment is due 10 days after the invoice is posted.

BRIDGES/EXTENDED DAY CARE

Bridges/Extended Day Care normally operates Monday through Friday when school is in session (exceptions are noted on the school calendar). Families using the program will be billed through their FACTS Tuition Management account and payment is due 10 days after the invoice is posted.

Families who reserve spots in **Bridges PM using Sign Up Genius** will be billed \$13 for AM Bridges and \$10 per hourly period for PM Bridges (please see more details below). The drop-in rate for PM Bridges is \$30 for any portion of the time that the student is dropped off. On early dismissal days, the drop-in rate is \$60 for any portion of the time the student is dropped off.

Please exercise care when you reserve a spot in AM or PM Bridges. The purpose of signing up is to help us provide adequate staffing. Families who reserve spots will be charged.

Rates:

AM Bridges: \$13.00 flat rate*

PM Bridges, reserved: \$10.00/hour, billed per hourly period as noted below*

(Regular Days Hourly Periods: 3:15pm-4:00pm; 4:00pm-5:00pm; 5:00pm-5:30pm)

(Half Days Hourly Periods: 11:45am-1:00pm; 1:00pm-2:00pm; 2:00pm-3:00pm; 3:00pm-4:00pm; 4:00pm-5:00pm; 5:00pm-5:30pm)

PM Bridges flat drop-in rate: \$30 flat rate for regular school days, \$60 for early dismissal days

Note: All students are to be picked up from Bridges by 5:30 pm. There is a \$2 per minute surcharge for each child who remains after 5:30 pm. If children are picked up after 5:30 pm more than three times, parents will be asked to make other after-school arrangements for their children.

See Extended Day Program section for more information.

ALL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS MUST BE RECONCILED BY MAY 22, 2026.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

A limited amount of tuition assistance is available from the Diocese and the Academy's Tuition Angel Program for school families experiencing economic difficulties. Tuition assistance applications are made through FACTS Tuition Management between late January and mid-March. If there are

extenuating circumstances during the school year, the family should call the Academy principal to discuss special arrangements.

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance are required to submit a financial aid assessment application and all supporting tax documentation by the due date (generally, the middle of March). This includes a 1040 or 1040A. The application will not be considered without this documentation.

- Applications will be completed electronically online at online.factsmgt.com/Signin
- Only one application is required per family.
- Families will be asked to remit processing fee.
- Families seeking aid for students in BOTH ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL should follow the high school submission date.

LATE REGISTRATIONS

Families registering before August 1 shall be expected to fulfill their tuition obligation according to the tuition policy stated above. Those registering with FACTS after August 1 will have their tuition divided by decreasing number of months.

EARLY WITHDRAWAL & ENROLLMENT CHANGES

Sacred Heart Academy is tuition dependent. We set our budget for the school year based on our projected student enrollment. It is critical that parents carefully consider before making a commitment to one full year of tuition prior to signing the tuition payment agreement. However, if a parent chooses to withdraw a student at any time after July 1, the Academy requires 30-days notice prior to withdrawal or unenrollment, made by completing and submitting to the principal, an Official Notice of Student Withdrawal form. If the family is paying tuition through the FACTS and is making ten equal installments, the first installment is non-refundable as it covers the costs of supplies incurred per student. Please refer to the Preschool Parent Handbook for financial policies related to making enrollment changes for preschool students.

Payments two through ten correspond with attendance during the calendar months of August through May, with installment two covering August's tuition, installment three covering September's tuition, etc. Tuition is due for any month or part of a month in which the student is enrolled.

Therefore, if a child attends through October 2nd, four monthly installments are due, the first to cover costs of supplies incurred, the second to cover the August tuition, the third to cover September tuition, and the fourth to cover October tuition. If a fifth installment has been made, that will be refunded.

NON-ADMISSION OF STUDENTS DUE TO TUITION DELINQUENCY

School families failing to pay tuition according to the Academy's Tuition and Fees Policy will be informed that their child(ren) will not be re-admitted. Students whose accounts are not kept current throughout the year might be prohibited from participating in extra-curricular activities such as field trips, athletics, band etc. until the fees are paid.

LATE PAYMENTS

It shall be the responsibility of each school family to keep the business manager informed of their need to make any changes in their preferred tuition payment plan or adjustments in the amount of tuition expected to be paid. Without such information, the following policy will apply when tuition payments are received late.

- I. Full Payment: If payment is not received on or before August 15th, a new agreement will be made, and all tuition payments will be made through FACTS.
- II. Payment Plan: School families who choose the payment plan and miss a monthly payment due to insufficient funds will be assessed a \$30.00 missed payment fee by FACTS and may incur a fee from their own financial institution. If a payment is not received by the 20th of the month, a \$50 late fee will apply.

Please note: If the payments for any Academy family have been returned for insufficient funds more than twice in a school year, the family will be asked to prepay tuition for the remainder of the school year to allow students to remain enrolled. In addition, Academy families whose payments are 60 days late and have not made suitable arrangements within seven (7) calendar days of the second missed payment will be informed that their child(ren) may not be re-admitted to school on the next school day according to the specifications of this policy.

- If tuition is delinquent as of August 20: Students will not be admitted on the first day of school.
- If tuition is delinquent as of December 20: Students will not be readmitted on the first day of class in January.
- If tuition is delinquent as of March 20: Students will not be readmitted on the first day of class after Easter break.
- If any financial obligations are delinquent as of May 25: The Academy will withhold report cards, will withhold transcripts of the student's academic record and will not issue a Certificate of Diploma to a student, or third party if there has been a breach of material condition of the contract, such as failure to meet financial obligations (i.e.: Tuition, Fees, Bridges, Library Books, Service Hours, Missing Sports Uniforms, etc.) In addition, registration for the following school year may be voided and registration fees forfeited.

If, at any point in the year, tuition is delinquent for 60 days, students will not be readmitted on the next school day. If, at any point in the year, Bridges payments are delinquent for more than 30 days, students will not be admitted to Bridges until the balance has been satisfied.

Families whose tuition are consistently late (received after the 20th of the month in which it is due) or refused by their financial institution more than twice in a school year will be required to prepay the tuition balance for the rest of the year. Families whose Bridges payments are consistently late (more than 30 days past due) or refused by their financial institute more than twice in a school year may be denied the use of Bridges care or may be asked to prepay Bridges fees on the first of each month.

TUITION REFUNDS

Should a family choose to withdraw a child before the start of the school year, the first month's tuition

and all fees are non-refundable. This is to cover the cost of supplies incurred per student. Written notification of intent to withdraw (Official Notice of Student Withdrawal) must be received by the principal no less than 30 days prior to the withdrawal of the student and another month's tuition is non-refundable. An entire month's tuition is due for any month or partial month in which a child is enrolled in school.

The remaining tuition amount will be prorated according to the family's payment agreement.

SAINTS IN SERVICE – FAMILIES IN SERVICE PROGRAM

It is expected that each full-day Academy family will give a minimum of 25 hours* of service time to the school over the course of the school year. Should a family choose not to participate in this program a fee of \$500.00 will be assessed. A prorated amount, based on the number of hours still owed, will be billed to families who fail to accumulate the 25 hours by the school year's end. The balance must be paid by May 22 to keep a place for the following school year.

*Service hours are to be used in the following manner: 15 hours may be completed up to February 1. 15 hours must be given after February 1 in order to have enough help during the spring fundraisers and activities.

VI. CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION

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

Participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who successfully meet the school's academic requirements and adhere to the code of conduct may participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES

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

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

The school is not responsible for providing supervision for students who remain on school property after the conclusion of the instructional day, unless the student is enrolled in an extended day/after care program, or participating in a school-sponsored activity (such as athletics or theater).

SACRED HEART ACADEMY ATHLETICS PROGRAM

THE PURPOSE OF SPORTS

“[I] consider sports as an instrument of education when it fosters high human and spiritual ideals; when it forms youth in an integral way in values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, solidarity, and peace. Surmounting differences of cultures and ideologies, sports offers an ideal occasion for dialogue and understanding among peoples, for building the desired civilization of love.” – *Pope John Paul II (Sept. 16, 2002)*.

MISSION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAM

We are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in athletics within the framework of a Catholic community and in accordance with our school’s educational ministry. The athletics program is committed to providing opportunities for each individual student to reach his/her highest athletic potential while developing the qualities and spirit of a disciple of Christ.

Additional information is found in the Sacred Heart Academy Athletics Handbook.

VII. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR

CODE OF CONDUCT

In all areas of learning, discipline must be considered in the development of the whole person. The Code of Conduct is based on the Gospel message of Jesus. Growth in self-discipline, a responsibility for Catholic moral values and a loving respect for the rights of all persons is encouraged and nourished by the Code of Conduct. To achieve these ends, parents/guardians,

faculty, and students work together to create a Catholic school environment. These basic components include:

- a. Teachers have a right to teach. No student will stop the teacher from teaching.
- b. Students have a right to learn. No student will stop another student from learning.

Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, students:

- a. will be honest and committed to integrity.
- b. will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers and adults.
- c. will refrain from harassment of any kind.
- d. will use appropriate language.
- e. will speak respectfully to and about others.
- f. will complete all assignments and participate fully in class.
- g. will respect all school and personal property (see *Care of School Property*).
- h. will refrain from any deliberate disruption in the school.
- i. will adhere to the school's cell phone policy.
- j. will comply with the Responsible Use Policy for Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
- k. will demonstrate good sportsmanship when engaged in all school-sponsored co- and extracurricular activities.
- l. will be present for all required activities unless officially excused by the administration.
- m. will adhere to the dress code (see *Dress Code*).
- n. will not give or receive unauthorized assistance on tests, quizzes, or assignments.
- o. will not leave school grounds during the school day for any reason without permission from the principal/administration.
- p. will not bring to school, nor possess at school, any real or toy knives, guns (or any facsimile thereof), sharp objects that may be used as a weapon, matches, lighters, sparklers, laser devices, or any facsimile thereof. It is understood if this term is violated, suspension, or expulsion may result (see *Substance Abuse/Weapons* and *Inappropriate Materials*).
- q. will maintain, and support others who maintain, a safe and drug-free environment at, or near, school and at all school-sponsored functions/activities with the understanding that possession or distribution of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other substance that may be harmful or dangerous and forbidden, to include drug paraphernalia, will result in suspension or expulsion from school (see also *Substance Abuse/Weapons*).
- r. will not engage in any physical or verbal contact with another student which could be interpreted to be an inappropriate display of affection. Such conduct is prohibited on

school grounds or at school-sponsored activities.

- s. will, at all times, whether at school or in the community, conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the Catholic values and principles of the school.

All of the conduct expectations include student use of the internet.

The school observes this Code of Conduct because it is built on fundamental Catholic social teachings. The role of the principal/administration, staff, and faculty is to work with the students and parents/guardians to assist the students in developing a strong Christian attitude toward life.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/WEAPONS

The school makes every effort to make students aware of the dangers and consequences of the unlawful use of substances.

It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, distribute, or possess with intent to sell, give, or distribute any controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or marijuana while upon the property of the school; on any school bus; upon any public property or any property open to the public use within 1,000 feet of the school (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from school or a school-sponsored activity). If a student knows or suspects that any of the foregoing activities are occurring, he/she must immediately report the matter to the school administration/faculty so the appropriate law enforcement agency may be contacted.

If a student is suspected or is discovered to have (a) violated the foregoing policy with respect to any controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana or (b) used, possessed or distributed alcohol, tobacco, or e-liquids while upon the property of the school; on any school bus; upon public property or any property open to the public use within 1,000 feet of the school (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from school or a school-sponsored activity), the student will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. In the event school officials believe that a student is under the influence of an illegal substance, the parents/guardians will be notified, and the student will be removed from class. School officials reserve the right to require that the student be taken for drug testing within 24 hours and that the results of the testing be shared with the appropriate school officials. If a violation of the law has occurred, the proper law enforcement agency will be contacted.

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

A student shall not possess, use, or threaten to use on the property of the school, on any school bus; and/or at any school sponsored activity, any weapons (including but not limited to any pistols, revolvers, rifles or other firearms, stun weapons, tasers, knives, flailing instruments [which may sometimes be known as nunchucks or fighting chains], sling shot, metal knuckles, any type of pointed metal throwing disk or dart, mace, pepper spray, or other similar propellant or any type of explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade or rocket) or any facsimiles thereof, or any object that can be used with the intent of threatening or harming an individual, except when expressly authorized by a member of the school administration/faculty for authorized school purposes (such as knives for use only in food preparation activities in family life/home economics class; chemicals solely for use in instructional lessons as part of the school's academic curriculum; etc.). Any student who violates this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. If there is reason to believe a violation of law has occurred, parents as well as the proper law enforcement agency, will be immediately contacted.

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

DISCIPLINE

Because it is impossible to foresee all problems which arise, this handbook empowers the faculty and administration to take disciplinary action for any behavior (within or outside of the school community) which violates the spirit, philosophy, and code of conduct of the school, even though not specified.

In justice to the other students, circumstances may dictate that a student be removed temporarily or permanently from the particular school setting.

USE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In cases where a student is continually disruptive of others or in the case of a single serious disciplinary infraction, the teacher will apprise the principal/administration of the situation. They will assist in the development of a course of action to be taken to correct the situation.

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

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The following are some approved disciplinary measures:

- a. Counseling and/or conference with the student and family
- b. Assignment of special tasks
- c. Denial of privileges
- d. Detention
- e. Probation
- f. Suspension
- g. Expulsion

SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

Each individual makes his/her own choices regarding behavior. Students of Sacred Heart Academy are expected to make choices that will promote Christian charity and academic growth in our school. We, at Sacred Heart, strive to assist students in accepting responsibility for their choices and, ultimately, guide the students in making better choices and growing in Christian virtue.

Each PK-5th grade teacher maintains his/her own discipline plan, one that harmonizes with or builds upon the Academy's discipline policy.

Due to varying circumstances and behavior, the school reserves the right to determine the level of misbehavior by a student and the appropriate consequences. The following is a **general guide** for faculty, parents, and students.

Middle School Discipline Policy:

The Discipline Code is outlined in three levels. Levels I, II, and III represent a continuum of misbehaviors based on the severity and frequency of the occurrence. Our goal is to provide a code that will ensure fairness and consistency. Student expectations are at the core of this code. The examples provided should not be considered as all inclusive.

Level I: Minor Offenses

The following step will be taken by faculty when a student has committed a Minor Offense:
Step 1 Teacher Signature on Discipline Documentation Form. Parent/Guardian must sign the form each time an infraction is noted.

Five signatures result in detention and written notification to parent

1st detention: Recess and lunch detention

2nd detention: After-school detention

Minor Offenses Include, But Are Not Limited To:

1. Late to class
2. Talking out of turn
3. Disrupting the learning/teaching atmosphere including getting up without permission
4. Unprepared for class
5. Minor rudeness towards others
6. Using or misusing another's possessions; misuse of own possessions
7. Littering
8. Failure to take proper care of school materials including lockers
9. Running or jumping in building
10. Eating or drinking outside of lunchroom
11. Chewing gum
12. Minor misbehavior in lunchroom or field
13. Minor misbehavior during arrival/dismissal
14. Minor misbehavior going to, during, and coming from an activity or class, including assemblies
15. Violation of dress code
16. Use of lockers without permission
17. Misbehavior in the bathroom

Students will receive a signature on their signature sheets for Level I actions. Students must bring the signature sheet to each class. Students who lose their signature sheets will automatically serve detention. At the end of each trimester, all signature sheets for the trimester will be collected and new sheets will be given.

Level II: Serious Offenses

The following steps will be taken by faculty when a student has committed a Serious Offense:

Step 1 Documentation for after-school detention or possible suspension (in school or out of school)

Step 2 Written notification to parent and/or meeting with parents/guardians

Serious Offenses Include, But Are Not Limited To:

1. Improper language (including the improper use of the Lord's name)
2. Disrespectful to teachers or staff
3. Using or misusing another's possessions (including lockers) with harmful intent
4. Playing/being in undesignated areas
5. Cheating/copying work/plagiarism (with additional consequences)
6. Inappropriate behavior at a religious service
7. Misbehavior/talking during an emergency drill
8. Throwing snow, ice, or other objects
9. Lying
10. Leaving the classroom without permission
11. Violation of internet/technology use policy
12. Disregard for field trip rules
13. Major violation of dress code policy
14. Use or possession on person of a cell phone or other electronic devices, such as iPods or Smart watches/devices while under school supervision including during after school activities

Level III: Grievous Offense

The following steps will be taken when a student has committed a Grievous Offense:

Step 1 Immediate referral to the principal or her designee; documentation

Step 2 Meeting with parents/guardians; possible suspension or expulsion

Grievous Offenses Include, But Are Not Limited To:

1. Abuse of student, administrator, teacher, or staff rights
2. Destruction; damaging school property
3. Bullying as determined per school/diocesan guidelines
4. Leaving the school building or school grounds without permission
5. Use, possession, distribution, or sale of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, pornographic materials, weapons, or explosives
6. Use of materials with harmful intent
7. Stealing
8. Forgery
9. Calumny/Slander
10. Harassment or sexual harassment per diocesan guidelines
11. Engaging in immoral conduct or lewd gestures
12. Extortion
13. Threats of violence
14. Fighting

*Detentions will be served as soon as possible after the misbehavior.

After-school detention starts at 3:15 pm.

Detention supersedes student after school activities including sports practices and/or games.

*All Discipline Documentation Forms and detention records are kept on file. A new student Discipline Documentation Form begins at the start of each trimester. The student's discipline record may be reflected on the "Social and Work Characteristics" section of the student's report card and may impact the awarding of Honors.

Harassment and bullying of any type is not tolerated. The staff and principal will investigate as quickly as possible all complaints of harassment or bullying per the school and diocesan policies.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR REPORT FORMS

For documentation purposes, Student Behavior Report forms are completed. For middle school students, the form is completed for each Level II and III disciplinary issue. Level I offenses for middle school students are documented on the Discipline Documentation Form.

The Student Behavior Report is a carbon form containing a three-part set (white, pink, and yellow). The white copy is sent home with the student to be signed by the parent and returned to school.

SUSPENSION

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

The failure of the parents to execute the above referenced agreement shall preclude the student from returning to the regular instructional program. This policy applies to in-house and out-of-school suspensions.

EXPULSION

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

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

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

A parent/guardian whose child is expelled may appeal this decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 5 working days from the time of written notification.

During the pendency of any appeal, the expelled student shall be removed from the school community in compliance with the expulsion notice unless otherwise directed at the discretion of the principal/administration.

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

STUDENT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Privacy of individual students must be balanced against the need to protect the health, welfare, and safety of other members of the school community.

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY SEARCHES

The principal/administration or his/her designee has the right to protect the health, welfare, and safety of school patrons against drugs, weapons, unauthorized publications, and other contraband materials. Search of a student's person and/or personal property on school property (e.g. automobiles, etc.) or at school activities may be conducted by the school principal/administration or other designated officials. It is only necessary that a search be reasonable and related to the school rights in these regards. The failure of a student to voluntarily submit to a search shall be presumptive evidence of the existence of contraband and grounds for appropriate disciplinary action.

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY

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

SCHOOL LOCKERS AND DESKS

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

Tuition does not include the cost of supplies. Parents are expected to equip their child with the required supplies.

Device Policy

Sacred Heart Academy has adopted a one-to-one (1:1) Personal Device program for middle school students (a device is assigned to each middle school student primarily for use in the classrooms). Students in elementary grades may have access to a Chromebook or laptop in the classroom. The policies, procedures, and information within this handbook apply to all technological devices issued to Sacred Heart Academy students, all users of Chromebook or laptops or laptops, users of the computer lab, and includes all devices the Administration determines to include under this policy. Teachers may set additional requirements for Chromebook or laptop use in their classroom.

Sacred Heart Academy maintains this policy to provide the most up-to-date information on the policies of the device program and reserves the right to update and modify it at the discretion of the Administration of the school.

Sacred Heart Academy provides Internet access to students, teachers, and staff members. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources.

The Internet is a vast, global network that provides users with the ability to search, communicate, share, and learn. Accessing the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information around the world. While the use of Internet resources is intended for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. However, the benefits to students from having access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

In order for a student to be issued an account, he or she must agree to take full responsibility for his or her own actions. Agreement is documented through the signed Parent/Student Handbook Agreement Form and the Financial Agreement. Sacred Heart Academy will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to the Internet through this network. All users shall assume full liability (legal, financial, or otherwise) for their actions.

Damaged, Lost, or Stolen personal devices

- The student fee does not cover, nor represent any type of coverage for the replacement of lost or stolen devices, including accessories.
- The student fee does not cover repairs due to cosmetic damage or damage caused by intentional misuse and abuse.

- The parent will be charged an appropriate repair fee at the market rate for all physical repairs (e.g., screen replacement, keyboard replacement) not covered by the warranty.
- The student/parent will be charged a replacement cost per incident if the device is lost or stolen, damaged beyond repair or damaged due to intentional misuse or abuse.
- The Sacred Heart Academy Technology Team will assess all Chromebook or laptop damage and repair and replace the device if the damage or repair is determined to be covered under normal use.
- Chromebook or laptop and accessories that are lost or intentionally damaged is the responsibility of the student / parent involved in the loss of property.

A Chromebook or laptop and accessories (battery, and case) will be provided by Sacred Heart Academy. Students may not provide their own Chromebook or laptop, and accessories (power adapter, battery, and case). Students may not “recycle” Chromebook or laptops from graduated students as the stock of Chromebook or laptop will be regularly replenished with updated Chromebook or laptops.

Returning Your Chromebook or laptop

Summer Return

Student Chromebook or laptop and accessories (power adapter, battery and case) will be collected at the end of each school year for maintenance and loss prevention over summer vacation. Students will retain their original Chromebook or laptop each year while enrolled at Sacred Heart Academy. If it becomes necessary for a Chromebook or laptop to be replaced, Sacred Heart Academy will issue a replacement, designated for that student. Families may be charged for the replacement if the Chromebook or laptop has been damaged as a result of neglect or abuse.

Transfer Return

Any student who transfers out of Sacred Heart Academy will be required to return his/her Chromebook or laptop and accessories at the time of the notice of transfer. If a Chromebook or laptop and its accessories are not returned, the parent / guardian will be responsible for payment in full for the total replacement fee.

Caring for your Chromebook or laptop

Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook or laptop which they have been issued by Sacred Heart Academy. Chromebook or laptops that are broken or fail to work properly must be taken to the front office. If a loaner Chromebook or laptop is needed, one will be issued to the student until his/her Chromebook or laptop can be repaired or replaced.

General Precautions

- Food and/or drinks are not allowed next to a Chromebook or laptop while it is in use.
- Cords, cables and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook

or laptop.

- Chromebook or laptop screens must always be shut while transporting Chromebook or laptop.
- Chromebook or laptops must be shut down when not in use to conserve battery life.
- Chromebook or laptops must be handled with care (i.e., never shove into a locker or wedge into a backpack, as this may break the screen).
- Keep the Chromebook or laptop shielded from extreme temperature or direct sunlight (e.g., do not leave on car seat on a hot day, etc.). Extreme heat or cold may cause damage to the laptop. Remember to bring it to room temperature before turning it on.
- Chromebook or laptops will not be left unattended or in the care of others.

Carrying the Chromebook or laptop

The protective shell of the Chromebook or laptop will only provide basic protection from everyday use. It is not designed to prevent damage from excessive weight placed on the device, drops or abusive handling. Carrying the Chromebook or laptop in a padded backpack or padded book bag is acceptable provided the backpack or book bag is handled with care. For example, students shouldn't toss or drop the bag if a Chromebook or laptop is inside.

Screen Care

The Chromebook or laptop screen can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure on the screen.

- Do not lean on top of the Chromebook or laptop.
- Do not place anything near the Chromebook or laptop that could put pressure on the screen.
- Do not place anything in the carrying case that will press against the cover.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g., pens, pencils, notebooks).
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry anti-static or micro-fiber cloth. Do not use window cleaner or any type of liquid or water on the Chromebook or laptop. You can also purchase individually packaged pre-moistened eyeglass lens cleaning tissues to clean the screen. These are very convenient and relatively inexpensive.
- Chromebook or laptops should always rest on a flat surface. Slanted surfaces cause accidents.

Using your Chromebook or laptop

At School

The Chromebook or laptop is intended for use at school. Students are responsible for ensuring that Chromebook or laptops are returned in the proper place and connected in the charging cart. Failure to do this will result in student loss of Chromebook or laptop for the day.

Sound

Sound must be muted unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. Earbuds should be brought in at the beginning of the year and kept at school in a safe place, i.e. in pencil case.

At Home

On days middle school students are asked to take their devices home, students will only use the school's devices for direct educational purposes and under the supervision of parents.

The Chromebook or laptop will not support a physical printer connection. Instead, users may print to their home printers using the Google Cloud Print service (<http://google.com/cloudprint>), in which case a wireless home network is required.

Managing your Files and Saving your Work

Students may save documents to their Google Drive. Saving to Google Drive will make the file accessible from any computer with Internet access. Students using Google Drive to work on their documents will not need to save their work as Drive will save each keystroke as the work is being completed as long as the device is connected to the Internet. It will be the responsibility of the students to maintain the integrity of their files and keep proper backups. Students will be trained in proper file management procedures.

Personalizing your Chromebook or laptop

Chromebook or laptops must **remain free of any decorative writing, drawing, stickers, paint, tape or labels**. Random spot checks for compliance will be done by teachers.

Software on Chromebook or laptops

Originally Installed Software

Students will not be able to download their own apps. Enabled software will be web-based applications that do not require installation space on a hard drive. The software originally installed on the Chromebook or laptop must remain on the Chromebook or laptop in usable condition and easily accessible at all times.

All Chromebook or laptops are supplied with the latest build of Google Chrome Operating System (OS), and many other applications useful in an educational environment. The Chrome OS will automatically install updates when the computer is shut down and restarted.

From time to time, the school may add software applications for use in a particular course. This process will be automatic with virtually no impact on students. Applications that are no longer needed will automatically be removed by the school.

Virus Protection

Additional virus protection is unnecessary on the Chromebook or laptop due to the nature of its design.

Additional Software

Students are unable to install additional software on their Chromebook or laptop other than what has been approved by Sacred Heart Academy. Any attempt to modify the software or hardware on the Chromebook or laptop will lead to disciplinary action, including the possibility of losing the Chromebook or laptop.

Filtering and Governing Software

Sacred Heart Academy will provide web-filtering and governing software for each Chromebook or laptop. This protects students from inappropriate web content at school and at home. Additionally, teachers will be able to monitor student use of the Chromebook or laptops to ensure policy compliance and as part of the instructional process.

Inspection

All Chromebook or laptops are subject to random check-ups or inspection, to check for proper care, use, and maintenance. Student files may be accessed by the Network Administrator at any time.

Troubleshooting the Chrome OS

If technical difficulties occur, the technical support staff will use the “5-minute” rule. If the problem cannot be fixed in 5 minutes, the Chromebook or laptop will be restored to factory defaults. In a one-to-one environment, it is impossible for support staff to maintain a working environment for all if too much time is spent fixing every glitch that may arise. Restoring the Chrome OS will restore the device to the state in which the user originally received it.

All student created files on the Google drive will not be affected. All files saved on the Chromebook or laptop that have been synced to Google Drive will be intact. However, all other data (music, photos, documents) stored on internal memory that has **NOT** been synced will not be restored.

Protecting and Storing Your Chromebook or laptop

Identifying Your Chromebook or laptop

Chromebook or laptops will be labeled in the manner specified by the school. Each Chromebook or laptop can be identified in the following ways:

1. Sacred Heart Academy student number on label and inventory sheet
2. Chromebook or laptop model and serial number on label and inventory sheet
3. Student name on label and inventory sheet

Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove or destroy identification labels.

Storing Your Chromebook or laptop

When students are not monitoring their Chromebook or laptop, they should be stored in the charging cart. Nothing should be placed on top of the Chromebook or laptop. Chromebook or laptops should **never** be stored outside or in a vehicle.

Chromebook or laptops Left in Unsupervised / Unsecured Areas

Chromebook or laptop may not be stored in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include the school grounds and campus, the cafeteria, unlocked classrooms, library, hallways, bathrooms, in a car or any other entity that is not securely locked, or in which there is no adult supervision.

Unsupervised Chromebook or laptops will be confiscated by staff and taken to the school office where parents will be notified that the device was found in an unsupervised location.

Repairing or Replacing your Chromebook

Chromebook or laptops Undergoing Repair

- Loaner Chromebook or laptops may be issued to students when they leave their Chromebook or laptop for repair at the office.
- If repair is needed due to malicious damage, the school may refuse to provide a loaner Chromebook or laptop.
- Repaired Chromebook or laptops will be restored with the original factory image as first

received. It is important that students keep their school data synced to cloud drives so documents and class projects will not be lost.

- Students and parents will be charged for Chromebook or laptop damage that is a result of misuse or abusive handling.

Manufacturer Warranty

The manufacturer warrants the Chromebook or laptop from defects in materials and workmanship through Archangel Tablets. This limited warranty covers normal use, mechanical breakdown or faulty construction and will provide replacement parts necessary to repair or if necessary, replace the Chromebook or laptop. The warranty **DOES NOT** warrant against damage caused by misuse, abuse or **accidents**. Please report all Chromebook or laptop problems to the Tech Office.

Chromebook or laptop Technical Support

The Tech Office located in the Computer Lab will be the first point of contact for repair of the Chromebook or laptops.

Digital Citizenship

Students should know how to use technology appropriately. When working in a digital and collaborative environment, students must do the following:

1. **Respect and Protect Yourself** by carefully considering what personal information is used in the digital world.
2. **Respect and Protect Others** by not bullying or harassing others online.
3. **Respect and Protect Intellectual property** or copyright material by acknowledging all sources of information and requesting to use software, pictures, music, and other media someone else produces.

Sacred Heart Academy Technology Acceptable Use Policy

As found in the Parent/Student Handbook, there is no expectation or right to privacy or right to freedom of speech when using the school's computer resources, which are the school's property. Any use of the school's computers and Internet access must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Office of Catholic Schools.

Using school facilities for Internet access and e-mail is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use which includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized transmittal or improper use of copyrighted materials or materials protected as trade secrets; transmission of threatening or obscene materials; vandalism of computer files; and violation of computer security as determined by the school administration can result in a cancellation, denial, suspension and/or revocation of those privileges by the school administration and also subject the user to other disciplinary action.

Electronic and/or Digital communications with students will be conducted for educationally appropriate purposes and employ only school sanctioned means of communication.

Users must adhere to local school policy that may further define the uses of mobile devices. Access

will be determined by the administration of the school. If a particular mobile device is to be used for an educational purpose, the school administration and/or teacher will provide parameters for this use.

Additional responsibilities for use of school facilities for the Internet and e-mail are:

- a. When using networks or computing resources of other organizations, students must observe the rules of that organization regarding such use.
- b. Users should not reveal their personal addresses or phone number(s) and shall not reveal the personal address or phone number(s) of others without their authorization/permission.
- c. Users are reminded that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Operators of the network/system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- d. Students shall immediately notify the system administrator/school administration if they suspect that a security problem with the system and/or the Internet exists.
- e. Any attempt to log onto the Internet or the school's network/system as a systems administrator will result in a loss of user privileges at the school. Any user identified as a security risk by the school administration/systems administrator due to a history of actual or suspected unauthorized access to other computer(s), network(s) or system(s) may be denied access to the school's computers, networks and/or systems.
- f. Users shall abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette, which include but are not limited to:
 - a. Messages to others shall be polite and shall not be abusive. Messages shall use appropriate language and shall not use obscenities, vulgarities or other inappropriate language. Use of the network shall not disrupt use of the network by others.
- g. The Diocese/schools make no warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, for Internet service. The Diocese/school will not be responsible for any damage suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or user errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's risk. The school specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
- h. Examples of Unacceptable Uses – Users are not permitted to:
 - i. Use technology in sexting or cyber bullying: to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
 - ii. Post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive profane, or sexually oriented material. Users must not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, or threatening language. Users must not knowingly or recklessly post false information about persons, students, staff, or any other organization.
 - iii. Use a photograph, image, video, or likeness of any student or employee without express permission of the individual, individual's parent, and the principal.
 - iv. Create any site, post any photo, image, or video of another except with express permission of that individual, individual's parent, and the

- principal.
- v. Attempt to circumvent system security.
- vi. Deliberately visit a site known for unacceptable material or any material that is not in support of educational objectives.
- vii. Violate license agreements, copy disks, CD-ROMs or other protected media.
- viii. Use technology for any illegal activity. Use of the Internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an educational site.
- ix. Breach confidentiality obligations of school or school employees.
- x. Harm the goodwill and reputation of the school or school employees.
- xi. Transmit any material in violation of any local, state, or federal law. This included, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, licensed material, and threatening or obscene material.
- i. Users must immediately report damage or change to the school's hardware and/or software.
- j. The school has the right to monitor student use of school computers, computer accessed content, and social media. Social media refers to activities that integrate technology, telecommunications, and social interaction through the use of words, images video, or audio tools. Examples include, but are not limited to, social websites, blogs, message boards, wikis, podcasts, image – video-sharing sites, live webcasting, and real-time communities. Because this is a constantly evolving area, this policy applies to all new social media platforms even if they are not specifically mentioned in this policy.
- k. Students must immediately report inappropriate content to an adult, regardless of whether or not it was accidental.
- l. Any attempt or perceived attempt to access a tor network in any manner is a serious violation and will result in disciplinary action, including immediate loss of privilege.
- m. Violation of the above policy will be dealt with by the administration of the school. Violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following consequences:
 - i. Loss of use of the school network, computers, and software including Internet access.
 - ii. Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal and/or legal action by the school, civil authorities, or other involved parties.

The school retains the right to discipline students for their actions, regardless of when or where they occur, when those actions negatively impact the school's image, reputation, and/or the safety and well-being of the school community. This covers inappropriate behavior in cyberspace including but not limited to messages, chat room commentary, comments/pictures, postings on social networking sites, blogs, wikis, gaming chats, digital transmissions, and other technology related activity.

In addition, Sacred Heart Academy has the following policy: Internet sites, such as, "Twitter," "Snapchat," "Pinterest," "Twitch," "Reddit," "Facebook," "Instagram," "TikTok," etc. are in the public domain, available to the general public. Any postings, pictures, messages or other activities by students that are to or about Sacred Heart Academy, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, the Roman Catholic Church or those affiliated with these organizations is subject to the provisions of this Handbook.

Specifically, postings which are contrary to the philosophy, teachings, policies or procedures of these institutions are subject to disciplinary action as may be appropriate by the School. Students and families affiliated with Sacred Heart Academy are subject to these provisions at all times, to include materials which demean or embarrass others in the school community, suggest illegal activities or promote hurtful, threatening, dangerous, or illegal behavior or messages. Students are prohibited from using any school resources, including email addresses, to access or utilize websites that host these sites. Any references between a student and the school community and its employees must be consistent with the policies of this School. As with other activities that may bring embarrassment or scandal to our school community, inappropriate Internet activities of any sort at any time on the Internet may be grounds for disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal or expulsion from the school.

General Guidelines

- Students will have access to forms of media and communication which are in support of education and research associated with the educational goals and objectives at Sacred Heart Academy. Access to media and communication beyond these specific uses will not be supported or allowed.
- Students are responsible for the ethical and educational use of the technology resources of Sacred Heart Academy.
- Access to Sacred Heart Academy technology resources is a privilege and not a right. Each employee, student and/or parent will be required to follow the rules of the Acceptable Use Policy. Violations of these rules may result in the loss of privileges as well as other disciplinary action as defined by the Acceptable Use Policy or other school and/or diocesan policies.
- Recognizing that it is impossible to define every instance of acceptable and unacceptable use, it will be at the discretion of the network administrator and/or school administration to use judgment as to what is acceptable in any undefined instances that may arise.
- Transmission of any material that is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - confidential information
 - copyrighted material
 - threatening or obscene material
 - computer viruses
- Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer or the files of another user, without the consent of the individual, school administrator or technology administrator, will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school disciplinary policy.
- All users of the school's technology resources and/or school network must sign the Acceptable Use Policy and abide by the rules defined in the Acceptable Use Policy. This is in addition to the rules and policies that this document (Sacred Heart Academy Chromebook or laptop Policy) contains.

Privacy and Safety

- Do not open, use, or change computer files that do not belong to you.
- Do not reveal your full name, telephone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers, passwords or passwords of other people.

- Remember that network storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential. The administration reserves the right to inspect your files at any time and will take the necessary steps if files are in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy.
- If you inadvertently access a website that contains obscene, pornographic, or otherwise offensive material, notify a teacher or the principal immediately so that such sites can be locked from further access. This is not merely a request. It is a responsibility.
- If you share or display content that is disruptive, your parents may be contacted and/or the administration may implement other consequences depending upon the nature of the infraction.

Legal Propriety

- All students and staff must comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements. Ignorance of the law is not immunity. If you are unsure, ask the network administrator if you are in compliance with the law.
- Plagiarism is a violation of the Sacred Heart Academy discipline policy. Give credit to all sources used whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies and text.
- Students may not present the work of others as your own regardless of whether or not you claim ownership, also known as, “Freeboot” content.

Consequences

- The student who is issued the Chromebook or laptop will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use. Non-compliance with the policies of the Chromebook or laptop Policy Handbook and Acceptable Use Policy will result in disciplinary action as outlined by the discipline policy and/or other school policies for the user unless there is proof that another is responsible.

Network usage and all stored files shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by the network administrator or other school administrators to ensure appropriate use. The school cooperates fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to violations of computer crime laws

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are to care for school property in a respectful manner. Students who deface or damage school property or the property of others will make financial restitution. If library books are not returned, students will be assessed an amount equal to the value of the book or its replacement, whichever is greater, as determined by the principal/administration.

Library Books

Students may check out books from the Sacred Heart Academy Library for the period of one week. If the student needs the book for a longer period, one renewal is permitted. This enables all students to access the new arrivals and popular items in a timely manner. If books not returned in a timely manner, an email is sent to the student’s family reminding them that the book needs to be returned as soon as possible to make it available to other students. Students may not check out another book until the book borrowed is returned.

If library books are not returned, students will be assessed an amount equal to the value of the book

or its replacement, whichever is greater, as determined by the principal/administration.

DRESS CODE

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

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

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

Students in Grades PreK through 8 wear their uniforms beginning on the first day of school. Unless otherwise announced, students wear uniforms every day. Summer uniforms are worn from the beginning of the school year through October 10, 2025. Winter uniforms are worn from October 14, 2025 (day we return from Columbus Day weekend) through April 2, 2026. Summer uniforms are worn from April 13, 2026 (day we return from Easter break) through the last day of school. Students who fail to wear the complete uniform and violate our uniform policy/dress code will receive Disciplinary Referrals. Consequences will be issued with the Disciplinary Referrals and violations will be noted on report cards. Students who incur three uniform/dress code infractions must wear their uniform on the next school-wide out of uniform day. Consequences will be issued in accordance with the Discipline Code.

Sacred Heart Academy's uniform company is Flynn & O'Hara Uniform Company. Using one company assures uniformity in shades of color and style.

UNIFORM POLICY

Sacred Heart Academy uses Flynn O'Hara Uniforms as our official uniform supplier. Check our website SacredHeartVA.org for a link to Flynn O'Hara.

****All PE uniforms and school polo shirts must be purchased through the Academy.***

KINDERGARTEN

Students in Kindergarten wear the summer and winter Physical Education Uniforms all year long according to season.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION* - BOYS AND GIRLS

- Fall/Spring - Red t-shirt w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- Fall/Spring - Navy blue shorts w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- Winter - Navy blue crew neck sweatshirt w/Sacred Heart Academy logo and red PE shirt underneath

- Winter - Navy blue sweatpants w/Sacred Heart Academy logo and optional blue PE shorts underneath
- Fall/Winter/Spring - White crew or half-crew socks
- Fall/Winter/Spring - Sneakers, any style/color (no lights/wheelies)

GRADE 1 THROUGH GRADE 5

FALL/SPRING - BOYS

- Khaki flat front walking shorts
- Brown leather belt
- *Royal blue polo shirt w/embroidered Sacred Heart Academy logo
- White crew or half-crew socks
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Optional - Navy V-neck cardigan w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

FALL/SPRING - GIRLS

- Khaki skort w/inner short lining
- *Royal blue polo shirt w/embroidered Sacred Heart Academy logo
- White crew or half-crew socks
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Optional - Navy V-neck cardigan with ”Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

WINTER - BOYS

- Khaki flat front twill dress pants
- Brown leather belt
- Blue oxford button-down collar shirt, wrinkle free/resistant, long or short sleeve
- Plaid navy/red/white tie
- Navy crew socks
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Optional - Navy V-neck cardigan w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

WINTER - GIRLS

- Plaid navy/red/white drop waist jumper

- White Peter Pan collar blouse, wrinkle free/resistant, long or short sleeve
- Tights or knee socks in white or navy
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Optional - Navy V-neck cardigan w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

PHYSICAL EDUCATION* - BOYS AND GIRLS

- Fall/Spring - Red t-shirt w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- Fall/Spring - Navy blue shorts w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- Winter - Navy blue crew neck sweatshirt w/Sacred Heart Academy logo and red PE shirt underneath
- Winter - Navy blue sweatpants w/Sacred Heart Academy logo and optional blue PE shorts underneath
- Fall/Winter/Spring - White crew or half-crew socks
- Fall/Winter/Spring - Sneakers, any style/color (no lights/wheelies)

****All PE uniforms and school polo shirts must be purchased through the Academy.***

*****Sacred Heart Academy emblems must be purchased through the Academy.***

GRADES 6 THROUGH 8

FALL/SPRING - BOYS

- Khaki flat front walking shorts
- Brown leather belt
- *Navy blue polo shirt embroidered w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- White crew or half-crew socks
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Optional - Red V-neck pullover sweater w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

FALL/SPRING - GIRLS

- Khaki **two** panel skort
- *Navy blue polo shirt embroidered w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- White crew or half-crew socks

- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Optional - Red V-neck pullover sweater w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

WINTER - BOYS

- Khaki flat front twill dress pants
- Brown leather belt
- White oxford button-down collar shirt, wrinkle free/resistant, long or short sleeve
- Red/Navy broad stripe tie
- Navy crew socks
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Navy polyester blazer (gold buttons) w/Sacred Heart Academy emblem**
- Optional - Red V-neck pullover sweater w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

WINTER - GIRLS

- Plaid navy/white wrap around kilt
- White oxford button-down collar shirt, wrinkle free/resistant, long or short sleeve
- Red crisscross tie
- Tights or knee socks in white or navy
- Brown leather style shoes. The toe and heel must be closed. Boots of any kind are not permitted.
- Navy polyester blazer (gold buttons) w/Sacred Heart Academy emblem**
- Optional - Red V-neck pullover sweater w/ “Sacred Heart Academy” embroidered in white on left

PHYSICAL EDUCATION* - BOYS AND GIRLS

- Fall/Spring - Red t-shirt w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- Fall/Spring - Navy blue shorts w/Sacred Heart Academy logo
- Winter - Navy blue crew neck sweatshirt w/Sacred Heart Academy logo and red PE shirt underneath
- Winter - Navy blue sweatpants w/Sacred Heart Academy logo and optional blue PE shorts underneath

- Fall/Winter/Spring - White crew or half-crew socks
- Fall/Winter/Spring - Sneakers, any style/color (no lights/wheelies)

Additional Uniform Policy/Dress Code Information

- Skirts/skorts and shorts may not be more than three inches above the knee. It is advisable that hems be set at or below the knee length since growth spurts may occur during the year. Uniform sales are offered for parents to update student uniforms throughout the school year.
- Shirts and blouses must be tucked in, and only plain white tee shirts are worn underneath shirts and blouses.
- No makeup (including mascara, eye shadow, lip-glass) may be worn.
- Temporary (as well as permanent) tattoos are not permitted.
- Cologne or perfume is not permitted.
- No nail polish may be worn. Artificial fingernails are not permitted.
- Girls may wear one pair of small-post earrings; however, dangling or hoop earrings of any size are not allowed. Boys are not to wear earrings of any type.
- A religious cross, a sacramental, or a simple watch (no Smart watches permitted) may be worn. No bracelets, necklaces, or fad jewelry are permitted.
- Hair should be well-groomed and appropriate for academic purposes. Boys' hair must be trimmed above the collar, over the ears, and off the eyebrows. Girls' hair must be away from the eyes. Simple headbands and hair scrunchies may be worn by girls but they must be solid blue, red, white, or yellow or be purchased through Flynn & O'Hara (matching our school uniform pattern). All hats are to be removed when inside the building except on a crazy hat day, and no hats are permitted on field trips, unless designated by Administration as part of the uniform.
- Dyed hair, spiked hair, bleached hair, hair extensions, or unusual haircuts or hairstyles as determined by the Principal will not be permitted. The Principal may request a haircut if the length or style is determined to be distracting or inappropriate.
- Outerwear, back packs, lunch boxes, loose leaf binders, notebooks, and other appropriate items brought to school may not have slogans or logos which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church or the mission of the school.
- **Students may wear a watch. Students may not wear Smart watches.**
- Students may never have cell phones or other electronic devices brought from home on their persons while on campus.

Final determination rests with the Principal.

Non-Uniform Dress Code On special occasions when out-of-uniform days are announced, students are to comply with the dress code guidelines provided for the day. If it is a designated "non-uniform" day, the students may wear casual clothes. If it is designated as a "dress up" day, the students wear dressy outfits (Sunday best). The following guidelines are in place:

- Jeans must be clean, non-frayed, and non-ripped. Skinny jeans, leggings, or tights by themselves are not allowed.
- Shorts, dresses, and skirts must not be more than three inches above the knee.

- Shorts and slacks must fit well. No baggy or oversized pants or shorts will be permitted.
- Shirts, t-shirts, and sweatshirts must be plain, neat, and clean. Only logos with sports teams, school names, or containing a religious message will be allowed. No cartoon logos, no music groups, nothing violent or sexual in nature, no political messages or inappropriate slogans or pictures will be allowed.
- Blouses, sweaters, and shirts must be modest. All shirts, blouses, tops, and sweaters may not have necklines that are immodest. Spaghetti straps, crop tops, or halters are not permitted.
- Jewelry may be of a religious nature and consist of a cross or a sacramental. A watch may be worn, but it may not be a Smart watch.
- Earrings may consist of small, matching, stud-style earrings in the ear lobe (cartilage pierces and multiple pairs are not allowed). Boys may not wear earrings.
- Make-up is inappropriate for any grade level. No makeup or colored nail polish may be worn. Clear nail polish is permitted. Cologne or perfume is not permitted.
- High heels, tap shoes, and flip flops are unacceptable.

In addition to receiving a Disciplinary Referral, violation of the non-uniform dress code may result in a student losing his/her non-uniform privilege or other consequences as determined by the Principal or her designee. Parents may be called to bring appropriate clothing and/or the student may be denied the privilege to participate in the activity. A school gym uniform may be loaned to a student who does not comply with the dress code. The loaned uniform must be washed and returned to school the following day.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

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

- Cigarettes/Tobacco Products
- Vapers
- Matches
- Lighters
- Incendiaries
- Alcohol
- Sharp Objects
- Pen Knives
- Non-Academy laptop computers
- Knives/Guns/Weapons of any kind
- Drugs
- Laser Pointers
- iPods/iPads and other personal devices
- Material that is non-educational (including magazines or comics)
- Pornographic material or material inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching
- Video Games
- Video Recorders/Cameras
- Smart Watches

- Toy guns and knives

The administration reserves the right to update this list as needed.

*Exceptions may be made for field trips and special learning activities by the Principal.

PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS

As part of the daily break, all students take part in outdoor recreation. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds. During inclement weather, students remain indoors and play quiet games under adult supervision. Recess play equipment is provided by the Academy. No games or sports equipment may be brought from home, without express permission from teachers or administration. Students and teachers receive in-service instruction on appropriate playground play and safe use of playground equipment.

Playground Rules for Recess

- **Students are expected to follow playground rules.**
- **All students are expected to go outside for recess if the weather permits. A physician's note must be submitted to the office requesting permission to remain indoors during recess.**
- **Led by a teacher/staff member, children will leave and return to the building in an orderly fashion. A head count must be taken before re-entering the school building to account for each student.**
- **Each child should wear suitable clothing for weather conditions.**
- **Rough, physical contact will not be allowed.**
- **Assigned play areas must be observed.**
- **Students are responsible for all equipment and must return it to the designated places.**
- **A whistle will be blown once - students must line up to return to the building.**
- **A whistle will be blown three times if there is an emergency – students must immediately return to the person in charge.**

Guidelines for Recess

1. All students must follow the direction of the recess monitor(s) at all times.
 - a. Students and the recess equipment must stay within the designated area(s) for recess.
 - b. Students must immediately stop playing when the whistle is blown one time. A whistle will be blown three times if there is an emergency and the students must drop everything and return to the person in charge.
 - c. Students must treat the recess monitor(s) with respect.
 - d. Students must report any incidents to the recess monitor(s).
2. All students must be treated with respect.
 - a. All students are allowed to play together and with all the available equipment.

- b. Students must follow established rules.
 - c. Students must use the equipment and their bodies safely.
 - d. Students must use good citizenship while playing at recess.
3. All equipment must be treated with respect.
- a. All equipment should be used in the manner for which it is made (i.e. basketballs for bouncing/shooting, soccer balls for kicking).
 - b. All equipment must be cleaned up by the students at the end of each recess period.

LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS

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

Sacred Heart Academy does not permit middle school students to use microwave ovens.

Students pray as a class prior to eating lunch or snacks.

Parents are asked to consider providing young children with containers that can be opened easily by their child. This prevents frustrations for your child, builds independence, and ensures that he/she is not delayed in eating lunch.

VIII. HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

STUDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

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

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR CHILD ABUSE

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

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

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

School personnel who suspect the abuse or neglect of a student must report the matter directly to Child Protective Services and to the school principal (who in turn will call the Vicar General). The school principal should complete Attachment B found in Appendix G, which must be sent to the Vicar General. The school principal must inform the superintendent as well.

In accordance with the *Code of Virginia*, (Section 63.2–118, “Any person required to make a report or conduct an investigation or family assessment, pursuant to this chapter may talk to any child suspected of being abused or neglected or to any of his siblings without consent of and outside the presence of his parent/guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in *loco parentis* or school personnel.”

WELLNESS POLICY

The Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools Wellness Policy meets minimum federal standards and establishes goals for physical education, nutrition, and healthy environments in schools. All schools must develop, and continue to evaluate, local school wellness policies. The local policies create a framework for increased student activity, staff wellness, safe and healthy environments, and the elimination of foods of minimal nutritional value during the school day. All schools have wellness committees to implement, sustain, and evaluate the local wellness program.

STUDENTS WITH SUICIDAL IDEATION

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment that allows students to develop and prosper academically, physically, and spiritually, consistent with Catholic teachings and principles. When a student has expressed to any adult, that he/she wants to harm or kill him/herself, it is the responsibility of that adult, school counselor, school nurse or administrator to investigate this further. The school may require documentation and information regarding the threat to self and request accommodations that may impact their academics or social interactions while at school.

ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

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

If an incident results in a medical condition or injury which can be reasonably known to the appropriate supervisory faculty/staff member and/or the principal, the school and/or its staff are authorized to render reasonable basic first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion of the school, serve to minimize the severity of the injured person’s condition. As an example, staff should initially resort to using only ice, band aids, soap and water when treating cuts and/or scrapes to avoid any possible known or unknown allergic reactions to salves or creams. In addition, staff may secure a professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion of the school, appears to be reasonably warranted. The school and school officials shall be expressly held harmless from any liability costs or expenses associated with the professional diagnosis and/or

any treatment or first aid provided (including but not limited to the cost of transportation), such costs or expenses being the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

AIR QUALITY AND PREVENTION OF HEAT/COLD RELATED ILLNESS

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

GENERAL ILLNESS PROCEDURES

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

Students with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to the Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once a child is determined to need to go home, a parent or guardian must pick up their child from school within a reasonable amount of time to control the spread of illness. If parent or guardian is not available, the emergency contact will be called. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a health care provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school. This policy also applies to resuming after-school and extracurricular activities.

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

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

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

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

- a. When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration);
- b. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;

- c. When the parent/guardian provides and transports the medication to and from school and the medication is given directly to the school nurse/health assistant or a senior member of the school administration;
- d. When there is a licensed health care provider's written order signed by the parent/guardian requesting the school administer the medication or to permit the student to self-administer the medication;
- e. When the medication is brought to the school in its original container stating the name of the student, the dosage and method of administration prescribed by a licensed health-care provider. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription. The new prescription must also be brought to the school in the original container as stated above;
- f. When the appropriate medication authorization form (*Appendix F-6*) has been completed, signed by the parent/guardian and accompanies the medication;
- g. For any medication, parents must document the number of tablets or dosages to be secured for administration by authorized school personnel. If tablets are to be divided, the parent or guardian is responsible for dividing the tablets in order to achieve their child's proper dosage.
- h. Herbal and homeopathic medications will not be given in Diocesan schools without written authorization by a LHCP that shall include desired and adverse effects. Protein supplements will not be administered unless directly requested by a physician with a health treatment plan.
- i. Students should not attend school while taking prescribed Schedule II narcotics (e.g. Percocet, oxycodone, hydromorphone) for any legitimate reason. If a student needs a Schedule II narcotic analgesic, they shall remain home until they are able to control pain with OTC medications.
- j. Benzodiazepines (e.g. klonopin, Ativan, diazepam) prescribed as needed (prn), should not be administered in any school setting. This does not apply to students diagnosed with a seizure disorder.

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

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

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

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

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

injections when:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY

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

student handbooks, classrooms, and parental publications.

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

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

Parents/guardians of students with a life-threatening allergy must inform the principal and school health personnel of any allergies and provide schools with fully executed diocesan documents. Parents/guardians are expected to supply schools with any emergency medications as prescribed and may additionally provide the student with “safe” foods for classroom celebrations involving food. Schools will utilize diocesan documents to formulate an emergency care plan for the student and will share this care plan with those involved with the student including, but not limited to: teacher(s), food service, bus drivers, and janitorial staff.

TELEHEALTH

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

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

SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS

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

TOILETING/INCONTINENCE

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

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

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

USE OF CRUTCHES

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

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DISEASE

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

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

- a. No daycare/preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary school student may attend class without documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health's school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form MCH-213G (*Appendix F-2*).
 - i. A certificate of immunization is not required for any student for whom the school has written certification from a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or the local health department, that one of more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health. The certification must indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization. The Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213G) provides a space for such a certification to be made
 - ii. On a basic level, for the good of society, the Catholic church generally encourages the use of immunizations. The Church teaches that questions of immunization are "left to a matter of conscience" and parents have the right to decide about the health of their children in this matter. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices

must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption form (Appendix F-18), which will be retained in the student health record. Schools may request a statement from their parish priest or affiliate, describing such objection to specific immunizing agents. If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness occurs, the student who is not immunized against that disease, will be excluded from school for an undetermined period of time, as per the instructions of the State Health Commissioner and the public health department.

- b. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for three months or more where tuberculosis is common are required to provide documentation, prior to school entry, of a negative tuberculosis skin test or chest x-ray result. All diocesan schools are responsible for compliance with local health department regulations pertaining to tuberculosis screening and treatment.
- c. Students with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to the Virginia Department of Health regulations. (See General Illness Procedures.)
- d. School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart, found in the *Virginia School Health Guidelines*, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.
- e. The Diocese of Arlington has comprehensive guidelines for school/parish-based influenza vaccination clinics. The liability associated with the vaccination of children is great. The Diocese of Arlington does not promote school-based vaccination clinics for children during school hours, and in the absence of the parent, with the exception of a state or federal emergency. Any school wishing to offer an onsite school immunization program must comply with all aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement Vendors wishing to serve as vaccinators must be fully vetted by the Office of Risk Management prior to the signing of any contract for services.

LICE

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

When a case of lice is reported, the infected child will be checked by the school nurse or a designated member of administration. If lice are found, the student will remain in the clinic and parents will be called for immediate pickup. After the student is treated, he/she must be checked again by the school nurse to ensure that there is no further sign of lice.

Parents in the class will be notified that a child in the class was reported to have lice. The

informational link to the Center for Disease Control will be provided to parents for further information.

BLOODBORNE DISEASE

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

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

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

FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire Drills, lockdown drills, and other safety/emergency drills are conducted throughout the school year, following state and Diocesan guidelines.

HARASSMENT

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

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

Furthermore, since student behavior, whether inside or outside of school, reflects on our schools and can have a significant impact on life at school, there are times when it is appropriate and important for school administration to respond to incidents that occur outside of school and beyond school hours. Therefore, the schools reserve the right to discipline those in the community who engage in harassment of other school community members at any location and at any time if such harassment takes the form of obscene, libelous, slanderous language or incites violence, invades the rights of others, or contributes to a substantial disruption of the school community. Therefore, if such harassment originates outside of school and it comes to the attention of school staff, appropriate action will be taken to maintain a safe and respectful work and academic environment. As the primary educators of their children, parents have the responsibility to handle harassment issues not involving the school and that are occurring outside of school.

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

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE – STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

In addition, any sexual or romantic conduct between a school employee or an employee of a contracted service provider and a present student of any age, even if 17 years of age or older, and even if consented to or welcomed by the student, is strictly prohibited by this policy while the

student is attending a diocesan school and for one year post-date of graduation, and will result in dismissal of the adult involved. As such, this policy prohibits sexting between students and employees or employees of contracted service providers and the showing of pornography to any student by any such adult. Such activity will result in the dismissal of the adult involved and the reporting of such conduct to the appropriate authorities.

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

BULLYING

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

Examples include, but are not limited to:

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

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

or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report the bullying to the school principal for further investigation.

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

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

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

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

HAZING

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

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

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

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

- a. Counseling
- b. A parent conference
- c. Detention

- d. Suspension and/or expulsion

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

RACISM

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

Examples include but are not limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESPECT FOR LIFE

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

ASBESTOS MANDATORY YEARLY NOTIFICATION

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

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

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

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

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

- a. Video surveillance cameras may be placed in public locations deemed appropriate. Such locations may include, without limitation, school entrances/exits, lobby areas, hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, athletic areas, gathering spaces, and outdoor grounds, as well as school buses.
- b. Restrooms, changing rooms, private offices, nurse's offices, and locker rooms are excluded from security camera use.
- c. It is recognized that it will not be possible to monitor all building areas, rooms, and grounds, or to monitor any location at all times.

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

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

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

X. EXTENDED DAY

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

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

Sacred Heart Academy offers Bridges for PK3-8th Academy students on days when the Academy is in session (unless noted on the school calendar). The program offers Before School Care and After School Care. The goal of the Bridges program is to assist parents in need of childcare by providing a safe Catholic environment.

Bridges AM is offered Monday to Friday from 6:45am to 7:45 am, and parents/guardians must sign up in advance. All monies due to the Bridges program are to be paid through FACTS Management Company monthly. Bridges PM is offered Monday to Friday from 3:15pm to 5:30pm (11:30am to 5:30pm for early dismissal.)

A child not picked up at school by 3:30pm, is automatically enrolled in Bridges PM and charged the drop-in rate. A snack is served daily and help with homework is provided in addition to supervised activities.

All monies due to the Bridges program are to be paid through FACTS Management Company monthly.

In compliance with the Code of Virginia, § 22.1-289.031, Sacred Heart Academy's Bridges PM program is religiously exempt from licensure and is classified as a "religiously exempt child day center." All employees receive continuing education and training, and the program is inspected regularly by the Diocese of Arlington. Employees have undergone background checks and are also certified in First Aid and CPR.

All students enrolled in the Academy are required to have a completed Bridges program registration form and health form on file by the end of the first week of school whether you plan to use the program or not. There is no charge to enroll in the program for elementary students.

Note: All students are to be picked up from Bridges by 5:30 pm. There is a \$2 per minute surcharge for children who remain after 5:30 pm. If children are picked up after 5:30 pm more than three times, parents will be asked to make other after-school arrangements for their children.

Payment is due monthly. Any account overdue more than 30 days will incur a late payment fee of \$50 per month. Any account that exceeds \$100, or is not paid in full within 30 days, will result in the student(s) not being permitted to participate in the Extended Day program until all fees are paid or arrangements have been made with the office to secure repayment.

All provisions in this handbook (except Section II, Academics, but including the section on Technology), apply to the Extended Day Program.

POLICIES

Registration and health information must be kept up to date. For changes such as work phone numbers, allergies, or other important data, notify us as soon as possible.

- Upon arrival, staff will check each student into the program.
- Staff will sign students out when they are released to a parent or an adult on the authorized pickup list for the student. An ID must be presented to pick up a student from Bridges.
- Respect for Sacred Heart Academy rules must be demonstrated at all times. Repeated and severe violations of the discipline policy will be discussed with parents.

The Extended Day Director, in consultation with the principal of the Academy, reserves the right to deal with individual discipline problems as they arise. Students who choose not to follow rules may not be allowed to participate in the program. Parents will be notified prior to removal from the program.

A parent must pick up a child unless written authorization has been received regarding other dismissal procedures. Students will not be released without such authorization.

No one under the age of 18 may pick up a student or sign a student out of the program. Students will only be released from Bridges to a parent or an adult on the authorized pickup list for the student. An ID must be presented to pick up a student from Bridges.

The Academy uses an electronic communication system to disseminate messages that have a degree of immediacy, such as the need to close Bridges/Extended Day due to inclement weather

or natural or man-made disasters. Messages are sent through text, voice, and email systems. For this reason, it is imperative that parents maintain current emergency information in PowerSchool.

In the event of an early closure due to inclement weather, all parents are to arrange to pick up their children as soon as possible. When a child is not picked up in emergency situations including inclement weather or natural or man-made disasters, local authorities will be called.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

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

OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS

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

For all over-the-counter skin products:

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

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

LICENSING INFORMATION

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

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

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

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

INSURANCE

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

TAX INFORMATION

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

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

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

<h2>APPENDICES</h2>

Diocesan Forms:

- Permission for Emergency Care Form (*Appendix F-1*)
- Confidential Student Health History Update (*Appendix F-1A*)
- Confidential Student Health History Update (Spanish) (*Appendix F-1B*)
- Confidential Student Health History Update (Vietnamese) (*Appendix F-1C*)
- Virginia School Entrance Health Form (*Appendix F-2*)
- Asthma Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-3*)
- Anaphylaxis Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-4*)
- Diabetes Quick Reference and Indemnification (*Appendix F-5*)
- Virginia Diabetes Medical Management Plan (*Appendix F-5A*)
- Diocese Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*)
- Wind Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (*Appendix F-15*)

Certificate of Religious Exemption (*Appendix F-18*)
Seizure Action Plan (*Appendix F-20*)
Code of Conduct for Personnel and Volunteers in the Diocese of Arlington.English (*Appendix G-1*)
Codigo de Conducta para el Personal y Voluntarios en la Diócesis de Arlington.Spanish (*Appendix G-2*)
Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (*Appendix N*)
Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation.English (*Appendix R*)
Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Esquela.Spanish (*Appendix R-A*)
Use of Personal Vehicle (*Appendix R-1*)
Elementary/Middle School Handbook Agreement Form (*Appendix AG-1*)



ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

PARENT/GUARDIAN

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

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

(Parent's Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

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

(Student's Signature)

(Second Student's Signature, if applicable)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Date)