



St. Francis of Assisi

— CATHOLIC SCHOOL —

Handbook for Parents and Students

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

Address: 2270 East Stadium Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Contacts: 821-2200 School Office
821-2202 School Fax
821-2208 Development Office
821-2206 Gymnasium Office
821-2290 ESP Office
821-2113 School Bookkeeper
769-2550 Parish Office
821-2130 Religious Education

E-Mail: school@stfrancisaa.org

Web Addresses: <http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school/>

Daily Schedule:

Preschool: 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten:

Full Day 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

½ Day 7:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Grades K through 8:

Opening 7:45 a.m. Report to School - Prepare for Day

7:55 a.m. Tardy Bell

Lunch/Recess

Elementary 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Middle School 11:10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Dismissal 3:00 p.m.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a
family-centered ministry of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community
where each student is
valued, respected, safe, protected
and nurtured
as a unique creation of God.

We challenge our students spiritually, academically and physically
to **learn**, **care** and **lead** as they work to discover
the plan that God intends for them.

As followers of Christ, we strive always to instill in our students
the message of St. Francis of Assisi...

***“Preach the Gospel always,
and when necessary use words.”***

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH VISION

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community committed to the mandate of Jesus in John’s Gospel: "Love one another as I have loved you." We strive to be a Christ-centered expression of the family of God, nourished by the Holy Spirit.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL PLEDGE

I am a child of God.
Today with His help,
I will strive in my thoughts, words, and actions
to love God and my neighbor

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SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Pastor - Fr. James Conlon	Parochial Vicar - Fr. Shaun Lowery
Principal - Mrs. Pritzel	Administrative Assistant - Mrs. Smith
Secretary - Mrs. Van Oirschot	Bookkeeper - Mrs. O'Neill
PS Mrs. Strassburg	PS Aides, Mrs. Barera
KA Mrs. Watriont (aide- Mrs. James)	KB Mrs. Garnaut
1A Mrs. Johnson	1B Ms. Richart
2A Mrs. Anderson	2B Mrs. Corruncker
3A Ms. Rivard	3B Ms. Malcolm
4A Mrs. Huges	4B Mrs. Dalian
5A Mrs. O' Sullivan	5B Mrs. Verhines
6A Mrs. Dhitirojana	6B Mrs. Schreiber
7A Ms. Collins	7B Mrs. Dunbar (physical classroom) Sr. Rebecca Mirendorf (homeroom)
8A Sra. Damiani	8B Mrs. Waldecker
Art	Mrs. Nowicki
Athletic Director/ Physical Education	Mr. Smith
Band Assistant	Mrs. Anderson
Band Director	Mrs. Sommerfeld
Development Director	TBD
ESP Director	Mrs. Busse
Math Specialist	Ms. Thomas
Media Center Specialist	Ms. Pfeiffer
Music/Drama	Mrs. Opaleski
7 th grade Religion and 7 th /8 th Grade Science	Sr. Rebecca Mierendorf
7 th /8 th Grade History	Mrs. DeVerna
8 th Grade Language Arts	Mrs. Dunbar
Spanish	Señorita Damiani
Teacher Consultant	Dr. Gordon
Technology	Mr. Baker

Staff e-mail addresses are on the school webpage at <http://www.stfrancisaa.org/school-community>.

- ptg@stfrancisaa.org- to email our PTG chairs
- school@stfrancisaa.org - any absences, tardies, illnesses, trips
- lunch@stfrancisaa.org- lunch parent volunteers - if you need a sub or coverage- will go to ALL lunch parent volunteers who do recess and lunch duty.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

<http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/08/2017-2018-School-Calendar.pdf>

ST. FRANCIS BOOSTER CLUB

The purpose of this organization, as adopted in February 1984, is to provide support for physical education and athletic programs for students of St. Francis of Assisi School.

All parents in St. Francis School are asked to support the Booster Club. The \$20.00 membership dues allow our families to gain free admission to all St. Francis home sporting events.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Christian stewardship and giving have always been an essential part of the Christian life as evidenced in the Acts of the Apostles. Stewardship has its roots in the Old Testament and the Jewish tradition that all we have is a sheer gift from God to be used for a Godly purpose and the betterment of all. As an active and vibrant community of faith with many ministries and apostolic activities, we rely on the generosity and goodness of our community to help fund ministry endeavors, including our parish school. This is an expression of who we are as a community of faith and a tangible witness that our time, talent, and treasure is a gift from God, and that we are committed to living the Gospel message in all its many parts.

To that end, our Development Office works to secure resources - both financial and in-kind services - to help keep our parish school a viable and competitive institution as well as an affordable option for a broad family of students. Funds raised by the Development Office help meet priority needs, which are identified by our school's administration and strategic plan. They also build our Educational Trust Fund - our endowment. Fundraising activities include things such as special events, direct mailings, planned giving, grant writing, and private sector solicitations. 'Friend raising' is also a priority of the Development Office. All school families are strongly encouraged to voluntarily support and participate in the Development Office initiatives.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL FINANCE COMMITTEE

The school Finance Committee serves as an advisory group to the principal and church business manager.

It consists of volunteer parents who generally serve on the committee for three-year rotating terms. We meet about two- three times each school year to review school financial statements and assist the staff in budgeting and consulting on any other school financial matters.

The committee is also available as a liaison for parents, the ETF board, and many other school committees.

ST. FRANCIS PARENT-TEACHER GUILD (PTG)

The purpose of this organization shall be as follows:

- a. To promote closer relationships between the home and St. Francis School and to provide opportunities for parents and teachers to cooperate in developing the best possible spiritual, intellectual and physical education for every child who attends the school.
- b. To promote an interest in educational affairs and a clear understanding of mutual responsibilities of parents and teachers in the education of the children of St. Francis School.
- c. To foster a sense of community among parents themselves by encouraging active membership involvement in Parent-Teacher Guild activities.

Membership is open to all St. Francis parents/guardians.

To Contact PTG:
ptg@stfrancisaa.org

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the School Improvement Committee (SIC) is to promote and support the mission and philosophy of St. Francis of Assisi School.

The St. Francis of Assisi School Improvement Committee shall:

1. Provide policy direction for select program needs of the school, by advising and communicating to school constituent groups.
2. Develop recommendations to achieve goals that are identified as areas for improvement following the guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools and the St. Francis Parish Pastoral Plan.
3. Provide perspective from parents and faculty regarding the needs of the school as they align with school's goals.
4. Review current policy thus advising administration on input for review.

Members are parent volunteers, parishioners and faculty members serving a term of three years. For more information, please contact the principal.

AUXILIARY SERVICES

Various auxiliary services are available to St. Francis students through the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The St. Francis Teacher Consultant, Dr. Gordon, works with parents and the Ann Arbor schools as a facilitator.

St. Francis of Assisi School follows Ann Arbor Public School's (AAPS) *Response to Intervention* model. Level 1 team achievement meetings include a teacher consultant, the classroom teacher and sometimes the principal and family members to determine intervention strategies at two to four week intervals. Level 2 team achievement meetings involve AAPS personnel in determining if a referral for special education services is needed. Referrals lead to evaluation by specialists on a case-by-case basis resulting in a Multi-disciplinary Evaluation Team report and possibly an Individualized Education Plan meeting resulting in a *Non-Public School Plan*. NPSPs are updated annually and re-evaluation takes place every three (3) years. Children who qualify for special education services may receive AAPS teacher consultant consultation, speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and social worker support through Washtenaw Intermediate School District. IEPs of students new to St. Francis are updated within thirty (30) days of enrollment for Change of Building and/or Public/Non-public status. Parents who choose to keep their children in a non-public school sign a non-public school addendum to the IEP.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

See Appendix A.

CURRICULUM

St. Francis of Assisi follows the set curriculum by the Diocese of Lansing. Many of the standards and benchmarks are aligned and paced similar to national and state-wide standards. Detailed curriculum brochures for each grade level are available in the school office and will be available on the school website. These brochures are also provided to parents on curriculum night in September of each new school year.

EXTENDED SCHOOL PROGRAM (ESP) and PRESCHOOL

The Extended School Program and Preschool (for 4-year-olds) is a parent-initiated program developed in response to the growing need for before, after, and no-school day care for working families. Families must be registered in the program in order to participate. The Extended School Program and Preschool is licensed by the State of Michigan and is evaluated by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools.

Hours are as follows:

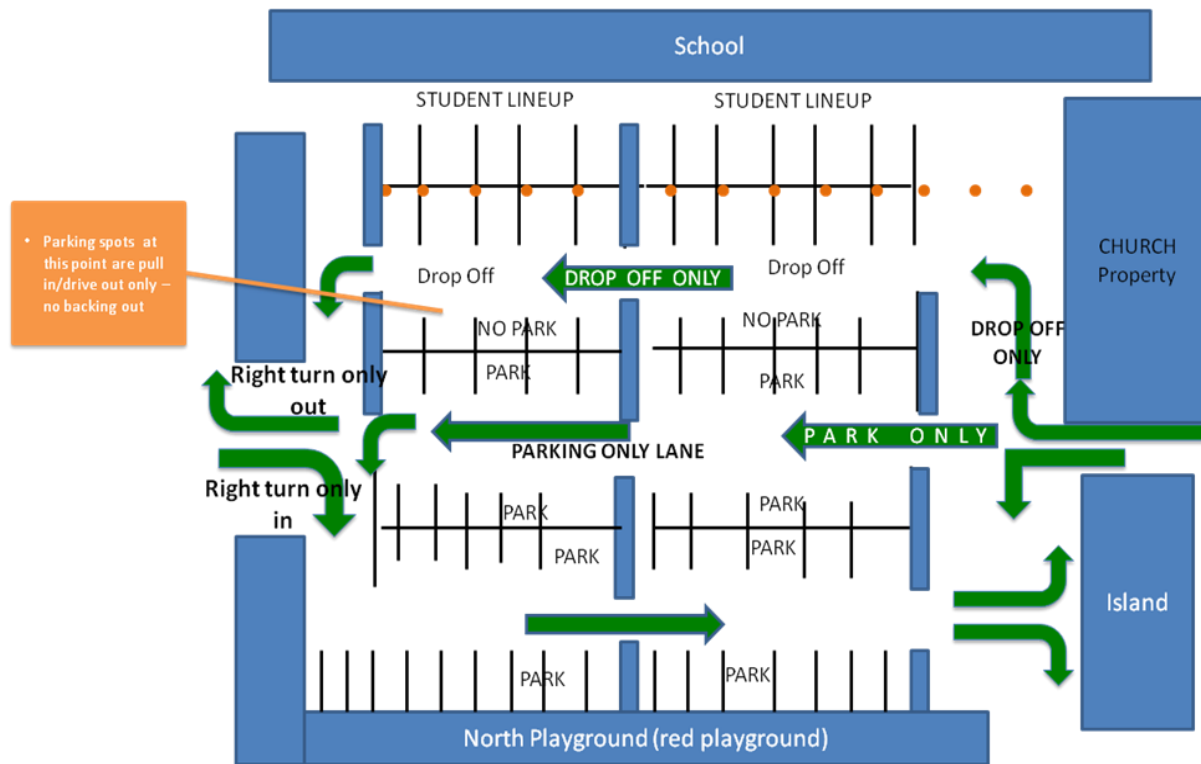
Before-School Care	6:45 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
Full-Day Preschool	7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Half-Day Preschool	7:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
After-School Care	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Care is offered on many non-school days and half days. There is no care offered on major holidays, Christmas break, and Washtenaw County’s common week break or during the summer.

Families must be registered in the Extended School Program or Preschool to participate in the non-school and half-day programs. Please note there are deadlines for turning in forms for these programs. This is to allow adequate time for the scheduling of staff and program planning.

Registration forms for no-school and half days can be found on the school website. Click on the ESP/Preschool link to access registration forms for these days. Forms for different dates will be listed individually. More detailed information about the Extended School Program and Preschool can be found on the school website or by calling the ESP and Preschool office at 734-821-2290.

St. Francis School Parking Lot Regulations and Maps



1. **NO PARKING IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH AT ANY TIME – IT IS A FIRELANE- WE MUST LEAVE IT OPEN!** Please do not park in the lane across from the fire lane, as that is a pass-through lane. Cones are placed in this area to restrict parking.
2. Cars enter the parking lot from East Stadium Boulevard or from St. Francis Drive. Those cars entering from St. Francis Drive **MUST** turn right and circle around to enter the drop-off lane.
3. The **drop-off lane** is restricted to an eastbound flow.
4. Please **pull over** as close as you can **next to the cones**.
5. Students should exit the car from the side **closest** to the school. Please do not allow your children to unload and step out into the pass-through lane. Students should have all belongings with them so they exit **quickly** and safely.
6. If you choose to park, please walk your child/ren to the crossing guard in the center isle of the parking lot. Do not allow your child to run across the **DROP-OFF Lane**.
7. Please do not stop to talk to the crossing guard about issues as this takes attention away from the safety of the students.
8. **PLEASE** -- no cell phone use or texting while driving through the parking lot.
9. Please do not use St. Francis Drive or parking lots of nearby businesses or apartments as pick-up or drop-off locations or for by-passing the traffic light at Stadium and St. Francis Drive.
10. Cars exiting St. Francis Drive are required to **turn right** during the busiest time.
11. Fire Lane -- Please do not park in the fire lane in front of the church. Please do not park in the lane across from the fire lane, as that is a pass-through lane. Cones are placed in this area to restrict parking.
12. **KEEP PETS AT HOME!** We have students with allergies and some children are fearful of animals, regardless of their temperament. It is for the safety of both the children and pets that this rule must be enforced.
13. Parents must **PARK** in the school or church parking lot and walk to pick up children from the teachers in the waiting area.
14. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK** or **STOP your vehicle** in the morning “drop-off lane” as this is a “pass-through lane” in the afternoon. It is for quick unloading only, NOT A PICK-UP LANE.
15. Students should not be running around the playground, playing football at this time due to the number of cars entering and exiting the lot. It is a safety hazard.
16. Any student not picked up by 3:15 will be brought to the office by school staff and a call home will be made. Students that are repeatedly not picked up on time, may need to make arrangements to attend ESP.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL POLICIES

ACTIVITIES POLICY

Activities, which are scheduled during class hours and involve students of St. Francis, must be sponsored by the school. Activities occurring during class time that are not a part of administratively supervised curricula (i.e., Take Your Child to Work Day, hockey tournaments, high-school visitations, etc.) are considered absences.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS: PROBLEM-SOLVING POLICY

Channels are available at St. Francis School through which problems can be addressed and mutually satisfactory solutions reached or an understanding of policy acknowledged.

Parents are encouraged to first discuss their concern directly with the teacher or staff member involved. Teachers at St. Francis School welcome open and frank discussions of problems that students experience in their academic work, as well as other areas of school life. Teachers make themselves available by appointment for such discussions at a mutually convenient time and place. Most problems can be solved at this level. Teachers at St. Francis are certified professionals, experienced and knowledgeable in working with students at each grade level.

If either the parent or the teacher is not satisfied, the matter can be discussed with the school principal. The principal will make a determination after speaking with all parties involved.

****Addressing concerns on/through social media can be damaging to the children. Parents and faculty are expected to communicate through a professional platform.**

Unresolved issues, at this point, must be documented and copies sent to either the pastor or the Diocesan School Office in Lansing. A copy of the Parent/Student Grievance Procedure (file # 2450 (b)) is available in the school office.

ADMISSION POLICY

The Diocesan Board of Education says that Catholic children whose parents desire to enroll him/her in any Catholic school shall not be denied admission on the basis of sex, race, color, or national origin. It also states that no child, regardless of religion, shall be denied admission if the school possesses the capacity for additional enrollees. Non-Catholic children do take part in our Religion curriculum and they attend Mass.

It is the intention of St. Francis School to serve members of St. Francis Parish and the wider community. Since the total school enrollment is limited by facility size and policy on class size, the following admission policy is formulated:

The principal meets with parents and students as part of the admissions procedures. Student needs must be shared openly with the administration so St. Francis faculty can best adapt their instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Children will be admitted to St. Francis School in the following order:

1. Child/ren currently enrolled in St. Francis School
2. Siblings of child/ren currently enrolled in St. Francis School
3. Child/ren of registered St. Francis Parish members not currently in St. Francis School
4. Child/ren from other Catholic parishes who do not have a child/ren in St. Francis School during the current school year
5. All other children

While we will follow these procedures and Admission Policy to the best of our ability, situations may create inconsistencies that require administrative discretion.

NOTE: St. Francis requires that a child must be 5 years old by October 1, of the current school year, to be eligible for kindergarten.

New students entering St. Francis School are placed in a probationary period for one semester. If the student does not meet the standards (academically and/or behaviorally) of St. Francis, the parents will then be notified by the administration on the cause and the action to be taken. Appropriate behavior is expected of all students if they are to continue at St. Francis School and return the next year.

Diocese of Lansing Educational Policy 1001: The schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing are fully committed to a policy of equal opportunity. Educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school programs and activities, employment policies and contractual agreements will be administered without illegal discrimination on the basis of age, sex, religion, familial or marital status, race, disability unrelated to the ability to perform, national origin, color, height, weight, or status in any group protected by state or federal law.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

DIOCESAN POLICY: BULLYING

"Bullying" means any *repeated* actions made by a student or a group of students and directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate. Bullying of students is not tolerated and violations of this policy render the student/s liable for detention, suspension or expulsion.

St. Francis of Assisi school seeks to be a place where students, parents, teachers, non-instructional staff, administrators and others live ever more fully in the presence of Jesus, whom they encounter in the Sacraments, in the Word and in each other. Bullying is thus fundamentally and wholly incompatible with the Gospel values that are the foundation of this school.

We therefore will not accept bullying in our school, on our property or in our programs and activities. We will guide our students through our faith.

It is not possible to comprehensively define the concept of “bullying.” Normally bullying involves one or more students intentionally subjecting another student to repeated degrading actions, words or social interactions. Individual incidents of unkindness, such as a fight or an insult, are improper, but might not constitute bullying. Bullying goes further, with actions or speech that are deliberate and sustained, and are intended to isolate, hurt or humiliate. Ordinarily, bullying would not involve silence or inaction, or mere physical presence, but it is possible that those non-actions could intentionally exacerbate a bullying situation. Bullying speech could occur in the victim’s hearing or elsewhere, and could be oral, written or electronic.

Any student, parent, teacher or other person who is aware of a bullying situation should immediately notify the principal. Upon such a report, the principal will determine the facts and take appropriate action.

Just as bullying cannot be comprehensively defined, it is not possible to catalogue in advance all the appropriate responses that the school might choose to take. However, by enrolling a child in the school, parents and guardians give consent to the school’s exercise of complete discretion to take any action it deems appropriate including, without limitation, oral caution, written warning, probation, conditions, suspension, expulsion or even referral to civil authorities.

Every member of our community shares, in the manner appropriate to age and role, responsibility for the well-being of this Catholic Christian educational community. As appropriate to age and role, each of us should model good behavior, shelter the vulnerable and treat with respect and kindness other members of this community.

Bullying and other unhealthy and immoral behaviors are sometimes portrayed in popular media as normal. This school exists for the purpose of introducing children to a fundamentally different way of living - a life in Jesus. Each of us should be vigilant about bullying and unceasing in our prayer for all the members of this community.

"Cyber Bullying" means using electronic communications to harass, threaten, antagonize or intimidate another person.

Examples of bullying include the following:

- Hurting someone physically by hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing and so on.
- Stealing or damaging another person’s things.
- Ganging up on someone.
- Teasing someone in a hurtful way.
- Using put-downs or name-calling, such as insulting someone’s race or making fun of someone for being a boy or a girl.
- Touching or showing private body parts.
- Spreading rumors about someone.
- Leaving someone out on purpose or trying to get other kids not to play with someone.

- E-mails, instant messages, chat room and/or web log postings, text messages, etc.
- Posing as someone else to harass others or using a person's picture digitally without their permission.

Staff at our school will do the following to prevent bullying and help children feel safe at school:

- Teachers will teach a curriculum aligned with the Religion curriculum to teach students how to report, respond, and react in a kind way to bullies.
- Closely supervise students in all areas of the school and playground.
- Watch for signs of bullying and stop it when it happens.
- Take seriously parents' concerns about bullying.
- Look into all reported bullying incidents.
- Assign appropriate consequences for bullying such as parent/student conference with the principal or detention.
- Provide immediate consequences for retaliation against students who report bullying.

Students at our school will do the following things to prevent bullying:

- Treat each other respectfully.
- Refuse to bully others.
- Refuse to let others be bullied.
- Refuse to watch, laugh or join in when someone is being bullied.
- Try to include everyone in play, especially those who are often left out.
- Report bullying to an adult.

****Sexting or any form of abuse through technology will be considered bullying.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students should arrive by **7:45 a.m.** to allow time to get organized for the beginning of the day. Kindergarten – 3rd grade teachers bring students from the blacktop area to their classrooms at 7:45 a.m. to begin their day. The tardy bell rings at 7:55 a.m.

--> Continued tardies or absences will be subject for administrative review and consequences for the family.

Tardy slips will be issued by school office staff.

Absences: The school office checks student absences each day as required by the Washtenaw County Public Health Department. When your child is absent from school, please call the school office (821-2200) before 9:00 a.m. and state the reason for his/her absence. We must report any symptoms relating to respiratory (i.e., fever, sore throat,

cough and the like) and gastrointestinal (i.e., vomiting and/or diarrhea) illnesses to the Health Department. We appreciate your help in this matter.

In order to fully partner with you and to remain compliant with the Michigan Compulsory Attendance Laws, we use these guidelines:

1. At eight unexcused absences, we notify the parent/guardian.
2. At ten unexcused absences, we notify the parent/guardian and request a meeting.
3. At twelve unexcused absences, we notify the parent/guardian to schedule a meeting to discuss if your student will be able to remain at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School.
4. At fifteen unexcused absences, we notify the truancy officer for Washtenaw County.

Tardiness: Students will be marked tardy at 7:55 a.m. Those who come to school later than that **must** report to the office and obtain a tardy slip before going to class.

Doctor Appointments: During school hours, including lunch hour, students are not permitted to leave school grounds without first notifying the office. Students planning to leave for doctor appointments should first present a written note from parents to their homeroom teacher and then wait to be called by office staff.

UPON RETURN FROM THEIR APPOINTMENT, STUDENTS MUST CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR CLASSROOM.

Vacations: Parents are encouraged to arrange family vacations according to the school calendar. When this is impossible, the child's homeroom teacher should be contacted in writing several days prior to the absence. According to Michigan state school law, permission for absence from school for any reason other than illness or physical disability cannot be granted by school officials; therefore, responsibility for such absences must be assumed by the parent. Please refer to the **Homework Policy** section for guidelines on missed assignments.

Funerals (Necessary Absences): These will be handled on an individual basis.

Emergency School Closings: In case of severe weather conditions, the principal will contact local radio and TV stations. These stations will broadcast information regularly. Additional options to check closings include the school website (stfrancisa2.com/school) and the school phone (voice mail will have a message). The mass notification system through **School Messenger** will also be utilized. Each family will be called at home with a notice of school closure due to weather or other conditions.

School's Student Responsibility: The school's responsibility for students is from 7:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and during extra-curricular events. Students staying for after-school activities are to remain with the adult supervising them. St. Francis School is not liable or responsible for siblings/students attending, but not participating in after-school events.

Students should not arrive at St. Francis before 7:30 a.m., as there is no supervision provided except for ESP. Students must wait for the 7:45 a.m. bell on the parking lot in front of the school, not in front of the church or on the side playground.

At the end of the day, children should be picked up immediately after the 3:00 p.m. dismissal. **Supervision of students ends at 3:15 p.m.**

CHILD PROTECTION LAW POLICY

All teachers/staff shall follow the Child Protection Law (Act 238, P.A. 1975 - - - MCLA 722.621) that requires the reporting of “child abuse” and “neglect” by “certain persons.” A copy of the Diocesan Policy 5141.1 is on file in the school office.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

St. Francis School has a Crisis Response Plan set in place. The plan was written to ensure the safety of all students and staff members in the event of an emergency or disaster. This plan identifies possible emergency or disaster situations and identifies and assigns personnel to various emergency tasks and responsibilities. A copy of this plan is on file in the school office as well as in each classroom.

We utilize a messaging system, a mass notification system, to alert parents should an actual emergency arise at the school.

In the event that students need to be evacuated from St. Francis, arrangements have been made with the following locations: Tappan Middle School (2251 East Stadium), Pattengill Elementary School (2100 Crestland) and Allen Elementary School (2560 Towner). In the event these sites are not available (due to the nature of the emergency), alternate evacuation sites will be identified through the **school messenger** system.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

DIOCESAN POLICY: STUDENT CONDUCT (Policy #5131)

Students in the various educational programs of the Diocese of Lansing are expected to act in a manner that reflects the values and principles of the Christian Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic church. They will show consideration for all persons who are members of the educational community and contribute to learning. To accomplish this, all students must recognize their individual responsibilities and obligations and fulfill them in accordance with the regulations established by the local governing body.

Philosophy

St. Francis provides a Christian community that is conducive to learning and promotes responsible behavior to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Narcotics (controlled substances) as defined by law, shall not be carried, purchased, sold or consumed by students on any property under the jurisdiction of this board or at events or activities carried out under its auspices, nor shall any student who is under the influence of narcotics be present on such property or at such events or activities. Violations of this policy render the student liable to immediate suspension or expulsion.

Discipline can be defined as the ongoing process of helping children develop self-control and learn responsibility for their own acts. Discipline is also an aspect of moral guidance. It is the responsibility of the school to foster self-discipline, responsibility for one's actions, problem-solving skills and respect for the rights and property of others. One of the school's goals is to create a secure environment for children to practice making decisions about these issues.

It is the students' responsibility as citizens of this community to make our school a place where people can learn and grow with dignity and respect. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will permit teachers to teach and students to learn without interference or disruption.

Parents' affirmation of the teachers and administrators of the school is especially important when a child has a discipline issue. Please do not try to "save" your child from the consequences of his/her actions. Students learn from mistakes. It helps them to learn accountability for their actions and to make better decisions in the future. Families are expected to honor and support the privacy and confidentiality of all individuals in regard to matters relating to student disciplinary issues and actions.

Standards of Conduct

As a child of God, St. Francis students will follow the examples of Jesus Christ.

- I respect myself by making good choices.
- I respect members of my community by treating them kindly.
- I take responsibility for my actions at all times.

Discipline Guidelines

Gum Chewing

Students are not permitted to have gum on school grounds at any time.

Hallway Rules

1. Students should be in a line and quiet.
2. The stairs need quiet feet and voices.
3. Students should stay to the right-hand side of the hall and the stairway.
4. Students should be especially quiet near the front hallway because of the echo and napping children in Preschool.

Illegal Substances

No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances shall be carried, purchased, sold or consumed by students on any property under the jurisdiction of this board or at events or activities carried out under its auspices, nor shall any student who is under the influence of alcoholic beverages/illegal substances be present on such property or at such events or activities. Violations of this policy render the student liable to immediate suspension or expulsion.

Physical Restraint

Corporal punishment is not used as a means of student discipline. However, there are times when physical restraint may be necessary to ensure the safety of all students in the school, classroom or at a school activity or event. This applies whether or not it is held on school property to prevent a student from harming him/herself, other students and/or school/staff property.

Possession of Dangerous Items

Possession of objects that are not weapons but could endanger/injure others (firecrackers, stink bombs, matches, lighters, etc.) is strictly forbidden and is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Search and Seizure

Lockers, desks and personal belongings are subject to search at any time by school administration or teachers. This is for the protection of students and school employees. Lockers, desks and any other storage areas at the school remain in the possession and control of the school even though they are made available or assigned for student use.

Texting

All cell phones must be turned off and kept in backpacks during the hours of 7:45 - 3:00 p.m. Middle-school students must keep their cell phones locked in their locker. Any cell phone found out of the locker will be confiscated, taken to the principal and kept until the end of the day. A parent or guardian must come to the school to pick up the cell phone. Cell phone texting during school hours of supervision is prohibited.

Valuables

We strongly encourage students to leave valuables at home. In special cases, a student may make arrangements to keep an item in the office during the school day, if that item is being used for an educational purpose (e.g., a family album for a report, a model for a presentation in class, etc.).

All portable electronics must be kept turned off in a backpack or locker during the entire school day including ESP and during athletics. Any electronics, such as cell phones, tablets, i-touches and internet supporting devices including e-readers, Kindles and Nooks **cannot** be present in the classroom unless directed by the teacher for instructional purposes.

PLEASE NOTE: St. Francis School will NOT be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property, which includes portable electronic devices.

Vandalism/Property Damage

Students and their parents shall be financially liable for any damage to property under the jurisdiction of this board as may be intentionally inflicted by such students. This liability applies to items such as, but not limited to, books, supplies, equipment, buildings and grounds.

Violent Behavior

Students have a right to attend school in a safe environment free of any threat to personal safety, harassment and/or intimidation. St. Francis School has a zero tolerance policy for violent actions. Violence in any form (physical or verbal) is not acceptable in our community. Threatening behavior and harassment are considered verbal violence.

Weapons

Play guns, water guns, swords and the like are not allowed on school premises.

DIOCESAN POLICY: WEAPONS

Students participating in school, religious education or youth ministry programs are prohibited from bringing weapons in school or parish buildings, on school or parish premises or in the immediate vicinity of the school or parish; at school-, religious education- or youth ministry-sponsored activities; or on a school bus or en route to or from school, religious education or youth ministry programs. Violations of this policy render the student liable to immediate expulsion.

State law requires the expulsion of students who possess a dangerous weapon on school property (including a bus) or at school activities, or who commit arson or rape in a school building or on school grounds. A “dangerous weapon” refers to a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade more than three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by mechanical device (switchblade), iron bar or brass knuckles. This law (PA. 328) provides for the permanent expulsion of students who violate its provision. Also, the expulsion is mandatory, meaning the school must expel the student. Michigan law does provide for possible reinstatement by the Board of Education after a certain time period. If the student is in grade six, or above, the student may be re-admitted after 180 school days. If the student is in Kindergarten through grade five, reinstatement is possible by board action, only after a ninety (90) school-day suspension. It is important for parents and students to know that the expulsion applies to all Michigan schools. A student cannot be admitted to any public school in Michigan during the expulsion period.

Consequences for Behaviors

Students who choose to violate school rules and regulations will face consequences appropriate to their actions. Discipline ranges from a) a conference with the principal, b) a behavior contract, c) loss of privileges, d) loss of credit, e) detention, f) class exclusion, g) referral to an intervening agency or official and/or h) suspension and expulsion. In all cases, parents will be notified.

DIOCESAN POLICY: DISCIPLINE/PUNISHMENT

The essence of Christian discipline is self-discipline, wherein a student is brought to awareness that true freedom and the ability to direct one’s actions responsibly are synonymous.

In order to assist the student or program participant to achieve such discipline, clearly stated expectations and responsibilities as well as consistent and patient direction by educational, catechetical and youth ministry administrators, teachers, catechists and youth workers are necessary.

Respect for the dignity of the student precludes the use of corporal punishment and verbal abuse as a means of seeking adherence to the rules and regulations of the school or parish program.

Behavior Contracts

Students who repeatedly violate the rules will meet with the principal, their teachers and their parents to establish a behavior contract. Violation of the contract will lead to more severe consequences, which may include suspension or expulsion.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Students who have been found copying another's work or claiming another's work as one's own will receive a consequence as deemed by the administration. Repeat occurrences will result in a meeting with students, parents, teachers and principal to determine a plan of action moving forward.

Class Exclusion

Class exclusion is a method of disciplinary action that denies a disruptive student the ability to attend a particular class, ordinarily for a period of two days or less. During this exclusion, the student is expected to work on classroom assignments while under the supervision of other teachers or staff members. The purpose of class exclusion is to place disruptive students in a supervised, in-school environment where student learning can continue.

Detention

Detention after school hours is an acceptable disciplinary measure. Parents will be notified if a student has detention. Detention will be held after school from 3:00 – 3:50, depending upon the age of the student. A school staff member will supervise the student(s) in service-related work. Our goal is to have students learn responsibility for their actions by giving back to our school community. Students should be picked up at the office at the time indicated on the detention slip.

Detention referrals must be signed and returned to the issuing teacher the day after it is given. The date of the detention will be indicated on the referral slip.

Loss of Privileges

Students may be removed from activities like recess, school functions and social events as a consequence of a behavioral issue.

Referral to an Intervening Agency

In some cases, it may be appropriate to refer a student and his/her parents to an outside agency to get the child additional assistance with a specific behavioral problem.

DIOCESAN POLICY: STUDENT SUSPENSION

Each school, realizing its obligation to the students, must extend every reasonable effort to assist students to adjust to the social and academic requirements of the school environment. Decisions to suspend should follow only after other means of motivation have failed and/or attendant circumstances of crime, scandal, morality or disruption necessitate this extreme disciplinary action.

In reaching such decisions, consideration must always be given to the welfare and Christian development of the individual student and the practical, common good of the entire student body.

No such action will be taken without prior notice sent to the diocesan superintendent of schools, outlining all steps followed.

Suspension

Suspension, the temporary prohibition of a student's attendance at school and school-related activities, is within the jurisdiction of the principal. Suspension may be invoked for a sufficient reason, and ordinarily, will be limited to a maximum of 5 school days.

Causes for Expulsion

Expulsion

Expulsion is the permanent exclusion of a student from school. Full credit will be given for all work accomplished by the student up to the date of expulsion. Any of the reasons listed for expulsion, with mitigating circumstances, is adequate cause for suspension of a student.

Various situations may lead to expulsion of a student from school. These include, but are not limited to, the following offenses:

- Acts that, in the judgment of the school, endanger the moral, academic or physical well-being of the student body;
- Prolonged and open disregard for school authority;
- Illegal acts as defined by law. The school may take disciplinary action regardless of whether or not criminal charges are brought.

A copy of the Diocesan Student Expulsion procedure (file # 5114.1) is available in the school office.

Student Behavior Away from School

St. Francis School is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment at the school. It is not the custom or intent of St. Francis School to monitor a student's behavior away from school. However, a student's behavior away from school can affect the safety and well-being of the student or of other students, can be a sign of significant issue in the student's life, or can affect the overall well being of the school community. St. Francis School is a Catholic learning community in which parents, students, faculty and administration mutually pledge to assist young people to grow toward healthy, safe, moral, Catholic maturity. For this reason, the parents agree that St. Francis School has full and complete discretion to impose any discipline, take any other action or decline to take action as it deems appropriate for behavior occurring anywhere, including at the school and away from the school.

DIOCESAN POLICY: SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

In the Spirit of Jesus and His Gospel, we are called to honor and protect the dignity and integrity of every human being. Sexual misconduct of any kind is an assault on the dignity of the human person. Such conduct is not condoned, nor will the Diocese of Lansing tolerate it. Diocesan policies are in place to provide a systematic way of addressing

allegations and to assure everyone that matters are approached with honesty, fairness and pastoral concern.

Emergency Weather/Building Condition Cancellations

This closing procedure for St. Francis of Assisi School has been developed by administrators, teachers and parents. Michigan can provide challenging weather conditions that often impact travel. Although some families may be from areas in which extremely severe weather is commonplace, the fact remains that we must consider the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Families and staff at St. Francis of Assisi live in a wide range of areas throughout the region—some traveling quite a distance to attend the school. The following policies will aid the decision-making process of the principal, who has discretion to close the school:

Snow Days: Whether school remains open or closed depends on the following criteria:

- 1. Area school closings will be considered.*
- 2. Conditions will be monitored on Channel 4 News or through www.weather.com.*
- 3. School most likely will close if there is an Active Weather Warning through the National Weather Service, that impacts transportation, through 6:00 a.m. of the specific school day.*
- 4. Serious consideration will be made if there are 6 inches or more of snow projected. Much of this depends on the timing of the snowfall.*

A decision to delay the start of the school day will be considered when weather conditions are rapidly changing and are expected to improve through the course of the day based on weather information available.

- 1. The principal will make a decision the night before or by 6:00 a.m. of the specific day.*
- 2. Delay of school- bell schedules will reflect a 2-hour delay: 9:45 a.m. (1st bell), 9:55 a.m. (tardy bell).*

Early Dismissal from School

On rare occasions, there may be a need to dismiss students from school early. These occasions may include — but are not limited to — severe weather (tornados or snowstorms) and building problems such as electricity or safety issues. It is critical that parents have an emergency plan in place for child care should children be dismissed early.

Cold Days: Cancellation of school will be **considered if temperatures fall within a wind-chill below –20 degrees.**

Cold days may be called when road safety and building environment, related to severe cold temperatures, is an issue. This could potentially lead to a delayed start or a school

closing. St. Francis will follow a 4/6 rule, considering other school area closings including: Ann Arbor, Saline, Dexter, Ypsilanti, Daycroft Montessori, and Father Gabriel Richard, when making a determination to close for cold weather. 4 out of the 6 schools listed above need to be closed for SFA administration to consider closing for cold weather. This could be modified depending on which schools are in session at the time.

- When school is closed, extracurricular activities also will be cancelled. When weather is questionable during the weekend, school-sponsored events may continue as planned. It is up to the parent(s) discretion whether to transport the students. St. Francis faculty will attempt to notify all families involved if there are any changes.

Parents always have the final say on whether to transport their child(ren) to school/events during inclement weather.

Please contact the office via email (school@stfrancisaa.org) if road conditions impact your family's transportation to school.

Administration will do its best to make a decision early and promptly. Administration must make a call in questionable weather and has the ability to override policies stated above for any reason.

FIELD TRIP POLICY

A field trip is an activity sponsored by the school that involves leaving school grounds. Field trips include curricular as well as extra-curricular activities. Field trips are encouraged for academic and social benefits. The purpose of a field trip should be to enhance the classroom curriculum and should be an extension of the school program. All field trips must be approved by the administrator. All administrative regulations must be followed.

Administrative Regulations

1. Usually, field trips take place during the normal school hours of the day 7:55 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Special time arrangements may be made for special occasions and athletic events, according to official schedules.
2. All field trips must be appropriately chaperoned by teachers and parents.
3. Field trip expenses should be kept within reasonable limits. No child should be deprived of a trip because of cost. Parents acting as chaperones and driving for a field trip will not be required to pay admission costs (as applicable).
4. Administrative approval must be obtained for a field trip prior to making further arrangements.
5. The teacher requesting field trip permission is responsible for all arrangements, which include the following:
 - a. completing and turning in activity forms and student permission slips to the school office;
 - b. arranging drivers and chaperones/verifying that appropriate number of booster seats will be provided as required by Michigan State Law;

- c. verifying with the office that the parent/chaperone has completed a Criminal Background Check form, has had Virtus training, checked off a Volunteer's Code of Conduct, provided St. Francis School a copy of their driver's license and has had electronic fingerprinting (if applicable), as required by the Diocese of Lansing;
- d. providing a map and special instructions for chaperones;
- e. distributing copies of administrative guidelines for chaperones/drivers;
- f. making sure all persons arrive at the destination and return to school safely;
- g. providing advance notice of the field trip to administration and to all staff members affected by the change in schedule; and
- h. ensure that students with severe allergies ride with a parent/guardian that has agreed to abide by the conditions set forth in the permission slip and has the appropriate medication with them.

Chaperones/Drivers for St. Francis School Field Trips

In order to assure the safety of the children of St. Francis School, we request that the following precautions be taken by all chaperone/drivers for school-sponsored field trips:

1. Chaperone/drivers must be at least 21 years of age and also a parent, grandparent, or older brother or sister of the St. Francis student(s).
2. Each driver should make sure that his/her automobile is in good, safe driving condition with the necessary quantity of gasoline before arriving at school for the students.
3. Each driver must have the school insurance liability form filled out and on file in the school office. The minimal, acceptable liability limit for privately owned vehicles is \$250,000/\$500,000.
4. Each student must be provided with a seat belt and is required to have it fastened at all times while riding in the car. All students must sit in the back seat of the car, away from air bags.
5. Michigan State law now requires children to be secured in a booster seat until they are eight years old, or 4 feet 9 inches tall, whichever comes first. To clarify: If your child is 8 but under 4 feet 9 inches tall, the law does not apply; if your child is under 8 but over 4 feet 9 inches, the law does not apply.
6. For students to which the law does apply, a booster seat must be provided on the days the student is attending a field trip. The booster seat must be brought to the classroom and clearly marked with the child's name.
7. Certain vehicles have built-in booster seats; teachers will be responsible for determining if the drivers have these seats in their vehicles and will notify parents if they do not need to send the booster seat to school.
8. The chaperone/driver has the authority and responsibility to enforce good automobile behavior, including reasonably quiet Christian attitude toward others, respect toward the property of the car itself, the wearing of seat belts, the use of

- booster seats, the prohibiting of leaning out or shouting out the windows and general courtesy towards all.
9. Under normal circumstances the chaperone/driver is expected to chaperone the students during the entire excursion, as well as driving to and from the destination. The chaperone/driver will carry the emergency card of each child they are responsible for during the field trip and return the emergency cards, as well as the medication (as applicable) to the teacher upon arriving back at school.
 10. The chaperone/driver is responsible for returning directly to school with the same students with whom he/she departed. Notice of their return must be sent to the teacher and school office.
 11. The driver may not make unauthorized stops to restaurants or coffee shops while chaperoning a field trip.
 12. The chaperone/driver should feel free to contact the teacher in charge if he/she has any questions prior to the trip.
 13. The driver must complete the form indicating whether they are willing to transport a child with a severe allergy.

HEALTH POLICY

First Aid, Head Lice, Illness, Immunizations, Medications, Severe Allergies

St. Francis School recognizes that the primary responsibility for the health of its students rests with the parent/guardian. Family emergency forms must be updated and returned to each school year. Anytime a change occurs during the school year, the office staff must be notified. This responsibility must be conscientiously assumed by each parent/guardian for the safety and well being of our students.

First Aid

School personnel will administer all minor first aid in the school office or classroom as needed. Most first aid procedures will be limited to application of ice, Band-Aids, rest and immediate notification of parent/guardian, if deemed necessary. In severe emergencies, a 911 call to EMS will be made in addition to parent notification.

Head Lice

St. Francis School follows the policy recommendations of the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Department of Education in regards to head lice.

Any student with live lice may remain in school until the end of the school day. Immediate treatment at home is advised. The student will be readmitted to school after treatment and examination. If, upon examination, the school-designated personnel finds no live lice on the child, the child may re-enter the school.

Any student with nits (farther than 1/4" from scalp) should be allowed in school.

Parents should remove nits daily and treat if live lice are observed.

Illness

Because St. Francis School is concerned with the health and well being of all students, parents will be asked to remove from class any child exhibiting the following conditions:

1. Rash or skin lesions of unknown origin
2. Fever
3. Diarrhea
4. Persistent nausea and vomiting

Students need to be symptom-free for at least 24-48 hours before they can return to school- DEPENDING ON WASHTENAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES.

PLEASE NOTE: Students may not text you during the day to tell you they are sick and need to go home. The procedure is for the student to let their teacher know about their illness, and the teacher will send them to the office. The child notifies office staff and a phone call is made from the office. It is important that this procedure is followed so that the office and teachers are aware of where students are at all times. In the event that school staff is unable to reach the parent/guardian by phone, the person listed as the emergency contact will be called to take the child home.

Immunizations

Michigan law requires that all students be immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases to attend St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. Michigan House Bill 3363 states that all children enrolling in any public, private or parochial school for the first time shall submit an immunization form signed by a physician that they have been immunized or protected against small pox, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, rubella, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, chicken pox (varicella) and hepatitis B with corresponding dates of immunizations given. If, for religious or philosophical reasons, parents do not wish their child to be vaccinated, a signed waiver must be on file in the school office.

NOTE: Meningococcal disease (meningitis) is a serious illness that infects blood and tissues around the brain and spinal cord. Sixth-grade students are required to receive one dose of the meningococcal vaccine (MCV4).

For further information regarding dosage requirements contact your pediatrician, the Washtenaw County Public Health Department, 555 Towner, Ypsilanti (484-7200), the St. Francis School office or the posting on our website.

All **Preschool, Kindergarten, seventh-grade students** (as of 2014) and **new students** must show evidence of the above before they can attend classes at St. Francis School. Seventh-graders must provide an updated, hard copy of their immunizations to the school office.

Physician proof of basic vision screening is required for **all** Kindergarten students.

Medications

In the interest of health and safety, **ALL** medications a child may require during school hours must be sent to the school office. A member of the St. Francis School staff will administer these medications according to the following guidelines:

- Prescription drugs are to be sent directly to the school office in their **ORIGINAL PHARMACY CONTAINER**, with the label clearly visible. A medication waiver signed by the parent/guardian, along with a signed and dated set of instructions from the child's physician must accompany the prescription. These forms will be kept on file for the school year and must be updated whenever necessary.
- St. Francis School does not routinely administer over-the-counter medications. Should your child require even temporary use of these medications, the medication must be sent to the office in its **ORIGINAL CONTAINER**, marked with the child's name. Students are not allowed to carry over-the-counter medications with them at school. A signed and completed Medication Record form must accompany the medication. For 6th – 8th grade, please see Mrs. Van Oirschot for the possibility of self carrying.
- Students will be called to the office to receive his/her over-the-counter medication as indicated on the Medication Record form. Parents will be notified by phone if any problems arise concerning the administration of their child's medication.

PLEASE NOTE: MEDICATIONS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ABOVE GUIDELINES CANNOT BE ADMINISTERED.

Severe Allergies

Parents need to communicate with the office and homeroom teacher if their child has a severe allergy. They need to provide an Epi-Pen and/or Benadryl to the classroom teacher as well as to the school office. Teachers follow a set protocol when handling severe allergies in their classrooms, as do volunteers at lunchtime. A list of students with medical conditions is kept in the school office and shared with Specials teachers and other staff that may work with the students. A backpack for medications, such as Epi-Pens, is provided to each homeroom teacher that has a student with medical conditions such as severe allergies. This backpack must be transported to each Specials class and recess. The classroom backpack is placed in a highly visible place so lunch volunteers can take it outside for recess.

HOMEWORK POLICY

The purpose of homework is to reinforce material already taught and to foster habits of independent study. It also serves as a tool for a school/home connection to keep parents involved in the learning we are doing at school. We do encourage parents to take an active interest in the homework of their student.

A St. Francis student can expect homework most nights. As a guideline, nightly work should take about 10 minutes (give or take) per grade level to complete. (Please note that silent reading and math fact practice is not included in total homework time.) For instance, 10 to 20 minutes per night in first grade; 20 to 30 minutes per night in second grade; 30 to 40 minutes in third grade; 40 to 50 minutes in fourth grade; 50 to 60 minutes in fifth grade; and 60 to 90 minutes in sixth through eighth grade.

It is possible that a student may have more than the usual amount of homework if he/she has not completed class work for the day. It is also possible that your child may have work to be done over a weekend or holiday for long-term projects, which may require

additional time. **Concerns regarding homework should be addressed to the classroom teacher before administration. It may be an indication of something else that is going on that the teacher can work with the parents on.** Homework requirements for students with 504 Plans or IEPs may be modified as needed.

Homework missed due to an excused absence may be made up. A student is expected to see his/her teacher regarding missed work. Students are sometimes taken out of school for vacations and other unexcused absences during regular, planned school days. Often, this is both unavoidable and necessary; yet students do miss the presentation of new material, discussions, group work and the many activities that occur throughout the school day. We wish to instill in children the attitude that school is too important to miss. Paperwork is secondary to a child's attendance in the classroom.

PLEASE NOTE: Teachers are not expected to prepare packets of papers/homework assignments in advance for students on family vacations. Often times lessons and work is modified based on the mastery in the classroom.

Paperwork will be held for students on family vacations and given to them upon their return to school. Tests will be made up upon return, at the teacher's discretion.

In the event of illness, work will be saved and can be picked up at the end of the **second** day that a student is out of school. Arrangements may be made to send the homework home with a sibling or a friend.

Assignment Notebooks

Students in grades 3 through 8 are expected to use the assignment notebook that the school has provided or in 7th/8th grade an application on their tablet. One of our goals is to teach students to be accountable for their own work. Part of that responsibility includes tracking and recording their homework. Each teacher posts the homework assignments in his/her classroom.

Test Retake Policy

St. Francis teachers strive to develop responsible, independent and successful learners. Test retakes and project corrections are dependent upon student needs and content-area requirements. Students are encouraged to be active participants in their education through communication and collaboration with teachers.

Suggestions for Helping with Homework

Regardless of the grade level of the student, please consider these recommendations for creating a successful homework environment:

- Help set up a consistent and organized workspace for homework to be completed.
- Help your child establish a consistent schedule for completing homework and/or help him/her create a schedule each Sunday night that reflects that particular week's activities.
- Encourage, motivate and prompt your child, but do not sit with him/her and do the work. The purpose of homework is for your child to practice and use what has been learned in class. If your child is consistently not able to do the work independently, please contact the teacher.

- If your child is practicing a skill, ask him/her to tell you which steps are easy, which are difficult and how he/she may be able to improve. If your child is doing a project, ask what knowledge is being applied in the project. If your child is consistently unable to talk about the knowledge that he/she is practicing or using, please contact the teacher.
- When bedtime comes, please stop your child, even if the work is not done.

(Taken from *What Works in Schools*, Robert Marzano)

Report Cards, Progress Reports, Parent/Teacher Conferences

Reports cards are generated four (4) times a year at the end of each 9-week quarter. Grades are given to keep students and parents aware of performance. Report cards also evaluate effort and conduct.

Students in grades K through 3 grades receive grades of:

Beginning (1), Developing (2), Mastery (3), Applying (4), and Not Yet Introduced (NY).

Students in grades 4 through 8 receive letter grades. The grading scale, set by the Diocese of Lansing, is as follows:

A 100-92% **B** 91-82% **C** 81-72% **D** 71-62% **E** 61% and lower

Progress reports are sent home on an as needed basis. Students in grades 4th through 8th have a live grade-book for parents to monitor on PowerSchool. Of course, parents and teachers may also communicate as needed by note, telephone or e-mail.

A quarterly **Honor Roll** is composed of those students in grades 6 to 8 with all As and Bs on their report card.

Each June, a variety of awards are presented to all eligible students in grades 5 through 8 at their last mass of the year.

Parent/Teacher conferences are organized by the school formally in November. In November all parents, grades K to 6, choose a time via sign-up genius. 7th and 8th grade conferences are an open forum in the P.A.C. or gymnasium. January conferences are scheduled as teachers or parents deem necessary.

Each of the seventh- and eighth-grade teachers is available in a predetermined location to meet with parents in November. The MS teachers request that the students accompany their parents to these conferences. Generally, there is no "assigned" time for middle-school conferences; parents simply sign up for a particular teacher/s as they arrive, however, in some cases, the middle-school staff schedules a group conference and parents will be notified, should the need arise. Attendance at these conferences is strongly recommended.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS (GUIDELINES) POLICY

1. St. Francis School shall maintain membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and follow its guidelines and regulations in addition to any school- imposed regulations and policies implemented by the Diocese of Lansing.

2. All athletes must have an updated physical on file with the Athletic Director before participation is allowed in any sport. The physical must be conducted after April 15 of the year to be valid for the following school year. (For example, a physical completed on April 16, 2017, is valid for the entire 2017-2018 school year.)
3. The student/athlete must represent St. Francis School with honorable conduct at all times, both on and off the court/field/classroom. Each student/athlete is expected to adhere to the policies set forth in these guidelines. Failure to do so could result in suspension from the game/team.
4. All seventh- and eighth-grade students are eligible to participate in all St. Francis Interscholastic athletic programs. All sixth-grade students are eligible to participate in select St. Francis interscholastic programs, as determined by the athletic director. Each student athlete begins the school year with an academic clean slate. Academic and behavior checks will be conducted every week during the school year, on Fridays, while sports are in session. At any performance check, if a student/athlete receives an unsatisfactory grade (below a C) in any academic subject/elective, or a 3 in behavior, the student will be considered ineligible. The student will be responsible for raising that grade to at least a satisfactory C or a 2 in behavior. After one week, if the student's performance is at a satisfactory level he/she will once again be considered eligible to participate. Failure to raise an unsatisfactory academic or behavior grade at the second performance check after a two-week period will result in dismissal from the team.
5. The athletic director and principal will review any exceptions or unusual situations, with input from the coach or classroom teacher.
6. The philosophy of our athletic program is to be child-centered and participation based. All students have the opportunity to earn a meaningful amount of playing time through-out the season. A student has expectations he/she must meet to earn playing time. Students are expected to adhere to the practice schedule, give a satisfactory effort and follow team rules set by the coach.
7. In general, St. Francis School adheres to a "no cut" policy; an exception being dismissal for disciplinary reasons.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISION POLICY

The goal of the lunchtime supervisors is to provide a safe and orderly recess for the students. General guidelines are as follows:

1. Email the coordinator, Mrs. Van Oirschot at (kvanoirschot@stfrancisaa.org), to sign up for lunch supervision. You may contact the coordinator throughout the school year to check on openings.
2. We will strive to have twelve (12) people working every day.
3. When you report for lunch supervision, you will be assigned a specific area to supervise. Report no later than 10:50 a.m. and sign in at the office so we can ensure that the mandatory Diocesan requirements have been met.
4. You are responsible to find a substitute before 10:00 a.m. For a substitute,

email lunch@stfrancisaa.org.

5. Finding a substitute is a **very important** responsibility, as we want to ensure adequate supervision for all students.
6. Please park your car on the west side of the parking lot.
7. Please keep moving around your playground. It is important that the students see that adult authority is always present and that they are able to spot you when they need you.
8. As a lunchtime supervisor, you have full authority to enforce the rules and receive respect from the students. We cannot have a safe and relaxing lunch period for the students if some are consistently allowed to break the rules.
9. St. Francis School follows the OSHA guidelines regarding blood-borne pathogens. All lunchtime supervisors should carry a kit supplied by the school.
10. If a child is seriously injured, do **not** move him. Stay with the child and send someone for help. Keep the other children calm and move them away from the area. All injuries, no matter how slight, must be reported to the school office and classroom teacher.

Classroom Lunch Supervision

- Check with the homeroom teacher as to specific classroom rules. Become familiar with peanut-free classrooms and rules.
- **All food** should be eaten by students **inside the classroom**, not in the halls, lavatories or on the playground. All students are to **remain seated** while eating.
- Make sure all trash is emptied into the proper receptacles in the corridor for easy clean up after lunch.
- Students who use the lavatories should return to their classroom quickly and in an orderly fashion.
- Children with food containing peanut products must wash their hands and get a drink of water immediately following their lunch – before recess.
- Please report any special problems you have to the on-site lunchtime coordinator and/or the teacher before you leave.
- In all classrooms, desks/tables are to be cleared and washed, either before recess or before the teacher returns to the classroom.
- Fifth-grade students participating in elementary choir may have lunch during recess.
- If an injury should occur, the school office can assist the lunchtime supervisor to fill out an incident report.

General Playground Rules

To ensure the safety of students during lunchtime, please review these rules with your child/(ren) on a regular basis.

- Students are to leave the building for their assigned areas and stay there unless

1. They have a note from their parent and/or doctor requesting that they remain indoors; **OR**
 2. They have permission from a supervisor to use the lavatory across from the preschool classroom.
- Playground supervisors are responsible for each child's safety and have full authority to enforce the rules. Rudeness or disrespect to a supervisor will not be tolerated – no warnings will be issued – any behavior of this kind will result in an immediate office visit.
 - There will be no fighting or dangerous play of any kind, including “play fighting,” wrestling or karate. This also includes pushing, shoving, hitting, tripping and kicking. Any fighting will result in an immediate office visit. **IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A STUDENT, MAKE SURE TO GET HELP FROM A SUPERVISOR AND/OR THE PRINCIPAL.**
 - There is to be no abusive or foul language or gestures of any kind.
 - Students may not climb or sit in the bushes or trees.
 - Ask a supervisor to get any balls that are outside the fence. **NEVER GO INTO THE STREET.**
 - Students are responsible for proper use and the prompt return of any recess equipment that belongs to the school.

Winchell Park

- The lead parent for any grade must stay in front of the students all the way to the park.
- Students must **WALK** the entire way to and from Winchell Park.
- Students should **carry** balls to and from the park, not bounce them.
- Do not play in the woods or bushes surrounding the park.
- Parents should make sure organized sports games don't interfere with other activities.
- Use a part of Winchell's field far enough away from the street for playing with balls and Frisbees, so they won't be lost in the street.
- Be respectful of small children from the neighborhood who are in the play/structure area. A game of chase on the structure should not be played when toddlers are present.

Blacktop (Used only during times when conditions at Winchell Park have excessive mud, ice or snow.)

- Football, tag or pom-pom cannot be played on the blacktop.

First-Grade Playground

- Stay where the supervisor can see you. Do not go past the end of the gym by the swings.
- Children should not overcrowd the play equipment. They should play without pushing or shoving.

- Students need to go down the slide, feet first, **SITTING ONLY**. Do not walk up the slide, climb up the sides or jump off from the top of the slide.
- There is one person to a swing and there is **no STANDING ON** or **JUMPING OFF** swings.
- Students needing to use the rest room will use the rest room by the gym.

POWERSCHOOL POLICY

- St. Francis School uses PowerSchool, an online program for records, grading, and information for families. It is a secure site that allows parents to access their students' grades, progress reports and other timely school information.
- Teachers can use PowerSchool to post grades, progress reports, homework assignments and classroom calendars, among other things.
- Each school family is required to register with PowerSchool and provide an active e-mail address. Questions about PowerSchool should be directed to Ms. Pfeiffer (734-821-2200).

SCHOOL FORMS POLICY

Emergency Forms

Two (2) sets of emergency forms are kept on file at school for **each** student. One set, a paper copy for each family, is kept in the school office and the second set, the Field Trip Emergency Card, is kept with the homeroom teacher. These forms need to be completed at the beginning of each school year. Students will not be able to participate in field trips without their completed, emergency forms on file. Please notify the school office should information regarding address, telephone number and the like need to be updated.

SERVICE POLICY

St. Francis is a Catholic school with a philosophy of fostering a true Christian atmosphere for the education of children. To help enhance this philosophy and extend it into the entire parish community, **it is expected that every family participate fully in school service functions**. By working together, the whole community is striving toward the common goal of a better school. Students participate in school-wide projects and individual class projects. Each year the Religion committee meets to determine a theme and plan to approach service for the current school year. Classroom teachers then work with their teaching partner to develop a service plan for the school year. Information of the wonderful service projects is shared monthly in the forum, principal's letter and in classroom newsletters. Service parents (see a few of the opportunities listed below) are recruited through PTG and teachers.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Playground supervisor | • Classroom aides |
| • Field trip driver/chaperone | • Library/Computer aides |
| • PTG activities | • Room parent |

- Booster club supporter and assistant
- Development activities
- Playground supervisor
- School Improvement Committee member
- Finance Committee member

SOCIAL MEDIA CLAUSE

Parents, students, and faculty are expected to act in a Christ-like manner when interacting with the school community. The negative use of social media can impact the relationships of the families and school. All parents, staff, and students will refrain from the use of social media that could be considered damaging to the school community: the relationships between families, faculty, and the school as a whole.

STUDENT PLACEMENT POLICY

Students are re-grouped before placement in the next grade level. Teachers and administration work to establish a balance between boys and girls, academic abilities, social skills and work habits. Students are placed after careful and thoughtful consideration. Parent requests are strongly **discouraged** and are **NOT** guaranteed.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Computer/Internet and related technologies access is available to all students, teachers and staff of St. Francis School. The goal of using these technologies must promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, collaboration and communication and nurturing the ministry of Catholic education.

Internet Use at School:

While on the premises, students at St. Francis School may not search the Internet without teacher authorization. Students in grades K to 6 may only search pre-approved, curriculum-related sites while under direct teacher supervision. Seventh and eighth graders may perform more extensive searches; however, their teachers must be present at all times to monitor student searches. Our goal is to ensure that all students know how to use search engines safely, responsibly and successfully, so that students can maximize the limitless resources available on the Internet.

Terms, Conditions and Regulations:

1. Acceptable Use

The use of computers/Internet and related technologies must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Diocese of Lansing.

2. Unacceptable Use

- a. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material;

threatening, violent or obscene material; or material protected by trade secret.

- b. Use for personal, commercial activities is not acceptable.
- c. Acts of vandalism are prohibited. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or to damage hardware or software. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- d. Unauthorized use of another's computer, access accounts and/or files is prohibited.

The use of Internet and related technologies is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges. Depending upon the situation, additional consequences may be given by the administration.

Annually, each student will sign an "Acceptable Use" contract, guaranteeing his/her appropriate use of computer technologies while here at St. Francis School. This contract will be kept on file in the school office.

→Photographs are often taken during school and parish events. Pictures are included in parish and school publications and placed on our websites. Specific names of adults and children are not listed. If you do not want to have your child's photographs used, please notify us in writing. Otherwise it is assumed permission is granted to the Diocese of Lansing to use the image of child(ren), in its promotional materials. By NOT writing to the school, it is understood that these materials may be presented in any format, including paper, electronic, and all other media. No parent/family will receive monetary award in exchange for this permission. The Diocese of Lansing will own the copyright to these materials, and parents/families waive on behalf of their child(ren) the right to sue for any use of my child(ren)'s image that is done in good faith by the Diocese of Lansing or St. Francis.

A complete and comprehensive copy of the Diocese of Lansing Technology Policy is on file in the school office and is available to anyone who wishes to read it.

A copy of the "Acceptable Use Contract for Student Technology" form can be found on our website under Current Families.

Middle School Student Tablet Contract &
Acceptable Use Policy
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

The student must:

- Bring the tablet to school every day.
- Charge the tablet at home so that is ready to be used at the beginning of the school day.
- Have the tablet charged and ready to use for each class.
- Use the tablet in class only as the teacher directs.
- Use the tablet in school for school assignments only.

The student must **NOT**:

- Password-protect the tablet. Teachers need access to school work.
- Use anyone else's tablet without permission.
- Engage in illegal activities which include but are not limited to sexually oriented material, obscenity, threats, harassment, fraud, theft, vandalism, copyright violations (including improper copying of licensed software), and unauthorized access.
- Access, produce, transmit and/or retransmit material advocating or promoting violence or hatred against individuals or groups, promoting destruction of property or containing sexually explicit material.
- Use chat rooms or social networking sites (including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr) in school.
- Misrepresent oneself as another person in electronic communications.
- Attempt to breach system security or disrupt the normal operation of the St. Francis network.
- Distribute anyone's personal information (date of birth, address, phone numbers, etc).

St. Francis of Assisi School will not be held responsible for the actions of a student who is in violation of any of the terms of this policy. This responsibility is extended to, but not limited to: loss of data or interruptions of service, the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the school's system, or any financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the school's computer resources.

The administration and teachers reserve the right to deny a student the use of a tablet at school, both temporarily and permanently, if there is a violation of this contract.

The tablets will be treated in a way similar to school lockers in that St. Francis of Assisi School reserves the right to review, monitor, and restrict information stored on or transmitted via SFA wireless network and to investigate inappropriate use of the tablet at school (see list above). Absolute privacy and security of files and electronic communication should not be assumed.

STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Grades 7-8 Diocese of Lansing

The Diocese of Lansing, Department of Education and Catechesis encourages and strongly promotes the use of technology in the Catholic schools of the Diocese. The primary purpose of St. Francis of Assisi School's (SFA) network is to support students and teachers in the process of teaching and learning in a manner that is consistent with the teachings and mission of the Catholic Church and the school's academic programs. The network provides a wide range of computing resources, including software, hardware, email and Internet access, some of which are accessible on and off campus and are the property of the SFA School.

Use of these technologies is a privilege that carries responsibility and behavioral expectations consistent with all school rules and policies. These policies and measures are designed to protect both students and employees and to ensure the integrity of the electronic information systems used for educational and administrative purposes in this

School. In order to maintain the integrity and security of the school's infrastructure, it is crucial that students adhere to certain policies in the use of the network.

In exchange for the privilege of using the SFA network, members of the SFA community agree to accept the responsibilities outlined in this document and are expected to behave in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the St. Francis of Assisi School Handbook. Any violation of the following rules will be resolved using the School's regular disciplinary procedures. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

School Responsibilities and Ownership

1. Provide Internet access to its students.
2. Provide email access to students in 7th and 8th grade.
3. Provide data storage areas through Google Docs for students in 7th and 8th grade.
4. Email and Google Docs will be treated similar to school lockers. SFA School reserves the right to review, monitor, and restrict information stored on or transmitted via SFA School owned equipment and to investigate inappropriate use of resources. Absolute privacy and security of files and electronic communication should not be assumed.
5. Provide faculty and staff guidance to aid students in doing research and help assure student compliance of the acceptable use policy.
6. Email and Google Docs are full property of St. Francis School. Any violation is subject to administrative review and consequences.

Student Responsibilities

Students must:

1. Make backup copies of important files onto removable storage.
2. Choose a password for their account that will be private and kept private.
3. Not share their password with other people. ***Students will be held responsible for all activity that occurs under their account names.***
4. Use SFA email for school related communication only. All users should keep in mind that s/he is a representative of the school and all email correspondence that occurs while logged into a SFA email account automatically contains the School's domain name.

Therefore it is imperative that **users** be courteous, respectful, and discreet in the use of language.

5. Email and Google Docs are full property of St. Francis School. Any violation is subject to administrative review and consequences.
6. Report violations of this policy to a school employee.

Students **must not**:

1. Engage in illegal activities which include but are not limited to sexually oriented material, obscenity, threats, harassment, fraud, theft, vandalism, copyright violations (including improper copying of licensed software), and unauthorized access.
2. Access, produce, transmit and/or retransmit material advocating or promoting violence or hatred against individuals or groups, promoting destruction of property or containing sexually explicit material.
3. Participate in chat rooms, instant messaging or access personal email.
4. Use file sharing programs to process, copy, and/or download files (i.e. music, video, etc.) that are copyrighted or are proprietary information.
5. Attempt to access another person's account (including e-mail) or private files.
6. Misrepresent oneself as another person in electronic communications.
7. Attempt to breach system security or disrupt the normal operation of the network.
8. Install software or alter hardware or software configurations.
9. Engage in plagiarism or other forms of cheating.
10. Play computer games or access websites that are non-school related (including social networking sites).
11. Send unsolicited mass email messages or spam.
12. Distribute personal information (date of birth, address, phone numbers, etc).

SFA School will not be held responsible for the actions of a student who is in violation of any of the terms of this policy. This responsibility is extended to, but not limited to: loss of data or interruptions of service, the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the school's system, or any financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the school's computer resources.

Administration holds full rights for consequences of all violations.

TUITION POLICY

The main source of funding educational programs at St. Francis School is through tuition. Tuition payments must be made regularly according to the payment agreement schedule signed by each family so that payroll and instructional obligations can be met on time.

GUIDELINES:

- A. All families will pay either the in-parish or out-of-parish tuition rate.
- B. Active members of St. Francis Parish qualify for the in-parish rate. Active parish members are those who meet the following criteria established by our Finance Council:
- One or both members of a couple are practicing Catholic(s).
 - The family is registered in St. Francis Parish.
 - Active members of St. Mary's Student Parish, may be eligible for "in-parish tuition." Please contact the pastor of St. Mary's Student Parish for more information.
 - The family contributes to the financial support of the parish with a minimum contribution of \$25.00 per week (\$109/month) in the Sunday envelope.
- C. Should the above criteria not be met, the family will be charged the out-of-parish tuition rate.
- D. **NOTE: MARCH 1:** Registration forms, along with the registration and technology fees, must be signed by both parents (as applicable) and turned in to guarantee your student's place for the following school year. This also allows time for processing students' schedules (elective classes and classroom placement). **MAY 15:** The final tuition payment is due for the current school year. **AUGUST 15:** First tuition payment is due for the next school year. **Students will not be guaranteed placement in school if these payments have not been received by August 15.**
- E. Subsequent tuition payments are made as per contract agreement. A credit card payment may also be made for the FULL AMOUNT of annual tuition plus fees on August 15. There is a \$30 late fee per month. Again, the final tuition payment is due on **May 15.**
- F. A **\$200.00** non-refundable, yearly registration fee is required from each family. This registration fee will not be applied to tuition payments.

The bookkeeper will evaluate the status of tuition accounts monthly. Unpaid tuition accounts will be vigorously pursued and if necessary, referred to a collection agency. Student placement will not be guaranteed if tuition payments are not current when registration application is submitted, and then paid in full by May 15.

****Tuition costs can be offset by working lunchtime supervision for tuition credits and by participating in the SCRIP program. Profits from the SCRIP program can be designated to go toward tuition. Financial Aid is available through our Hopes and Dreams Fund and tuition assistance. Families must qualify under the PSAS policies.***

St. Francis of Assisi

UNIFORM DRESS CODE POLICY

Vendor: Educational Outfitters

Parents are responsible for ensuring that students are PROPERLY attired. Since it is impossible to identify in advance all possible deviations from acceptable dress and grooming, the administration reserves the right to determine what is acceptable. In all cases, the decision of the principal will be final. All uniform items must be purchased from Educational Outfitters with the exceptions noted below.

As one important aspect of the goal of uniforms is to de-emphasize material-based (clothing and accessories) competition among students, we ask that parents be mindful in choosing the accessories their children wear to school. When possible, please avoid predominantly placed brand name labels or logos on the accessories your child wears to school. This includes, but is not limited to, headbands and jewelry.

Transition Years

2017-2018 School Year

Students K-6 will be required to use Educational Outfitters exclusively.

7th-8th may wear the old uniform in it's entirety- just not the old plaid

2018-2019 School Year

- Students K-7 will be required to wear the uniform outlined below from Educational Outfitters.
- 8th grade may wear the old uniform in it's entirety - just not the old plaid.
- Any Lands' End or other uniform pieces may be brought to SFA to be donated to an impoverished Catholic school in Detroit.
- St. Francis will continue to accept donations of uniforms from Educational Outfitters and maintain a uniform closet for all families.

2019-2020 School Year

- **ALL students will be required to wear the uniform outlined below from Educational Outfitters.**
- Any Lands' End or other uniform pieces may be donated back to SFA to be donated to an impoverished Catholic school in Detroit.

- St. Francis will continue to accept donations of uniforms from Educational Outfitters and maintain a uniform closet for all families.

Students who do not comply with the uniform dress code policy will be sent to the office for an administrative review. If a student receives three dress code related referrals, the student will be issued a service requirement/detention. Continued non-compliance may result in other disciplinary actions that may include having Dress-Down Day or SpiritWear Day privileges revoked.

All new items must/will be monogrammed with the school logo, which is the dove logo with the school name below it.

Girls Only: Jumpers

- Drop-waist only
- Plaid or navy
- Length must be no more than 2 inches above the ground when the student is kneeling.
- Tight-fitting sport shorts or undershorts should be worn underneath jumpers, or navy leggings may be worn underneath jumpers. No lace or embellishments.

Girls Only: Knit Dresses

- Navy dresses only with monogram.

Girls Only: Skirts

- Plaid or navy
- Length must be no more than 2 inches above the ground when the student is kneeling.
- Tight-fitting sport shorts or undershorts should be worn underneath jumpers, or navy leggings may be worn underneath skirts. No lace or embellishments.

Boys and Girls: Pants and Dress Shorts

- Available in pull-on style with faux fly (only available in smaller sizes) or standard flat-front style for all sizes.
- Khaki or navy
- Shorts may be worn until October 31 and then from April 1 through the end of the year.

- Length of shorts must be no more than 2 inches above the ground when the student is kneeling.

Boys and Girls: Shirts

- Must be monogrammed (included at no additional charge from Educational Outfitters)
- Boys and Girls: Pique polos: maroon, navy, or white
- *Boys and Girls: Knit polos: maroon, navy, or white*
- Boys and Girls: Long sleeved, light blue oxford shirts
- Girls: Banded maroon, navy, or white polo- these do not need to be tucked in.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times in grades K-5.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all Masses in grades 6-8.

Field Trip Shirts

- These shirts will be provided by the school at no cost to families. Students should wear these shirts on field trips with their class. These shirts can also be worn as SpiritWear on SpiritWear Days.

Boys and Girls: Sweaters/Fleece/ Crewneck Sweatshirt

- Must be monogrammed (included at no additional charge from Educational Outfitters)
- Navy, Lands' End sweatshirts that are monogrammed with the dove logo are acceptable.
- Navy or maroon sweaters provided by Educational Outfitters
- Navy fleece and navy crewneck sweatshirt with school logo provided by Educational Outfitters
- Students MAY wear SPIRITWEAR FLEECE or SPIRITWEAR SWEATSHIRTS on uniform days.

Boys and Girls: Socks

- White, navy, or maroon
- Solid color only
- Socks/footies must be worn with leggings.

Girls: Tights/Leggings

- Navy tights
- Navy leggings

Shoes

Please keep in mind that shoes will be worn outside during recess. We ask that your students choose shoes that are comfortable, safe, and functional with NON-marking soles. Neutral-colored shoes that blend with the uniform are strongly encouraged.

- Tennis shoes are allowed.
- Wheelies, light-up shoes, or other accessories on shoes are NOT permitted.
- Shoes must be in good condition, neat, and clean.
- Shoes may not be higher than 2" above the ankle.
- High heels or platforms are NOT permitted.
- Heels may not be higher than 1 1/2".
- Clogs, Crocs or open-backed, open-toed shoes, and flip flops are NOT permitted.
- Socks, tights or footies must be worn with all types of shoes.
- Snow boots must be removed indoors.
- Tennis shoes must have laces, Velcro or be firmly fitting on the foot.
- Laces must be tied.
- Dress boots and Uggs are not permitted, unless being worn as snow boots, which need to be removed indoors.

Hair Style/Hair Accessories/Hats/Jewelry

- Hair must be tidy and of reasonable style.
- No distracting haircuts or styles.
- Unnatural-colored hair and unnatural extensions are NOT permitted.
- Hats are not allowed in school.
- Hair bows, barrettes and hair ties need to be solid white, navy, or maroon. There can also be hair accessories that match the plaid from Educational Outfitters. The size of hair accessories should not be bigger than an average adult's fist.
- Jewelry should be small and modest.

Appearance and Grooming

- All students are expected to be well-groomed, neat, and presentable at all times. Clothing should be clean, properly fitting, and modest. Torn or excessively worn clothing is not permitted on any school day.
- Make-up and accessories should be modest and minimal.
- Outdoor Wear: All students need to come to school with the appropriate outdoor wear. On the first infraction, the student will sit outside of the office. On the second infraction, a parent will be called.

Physical Education

- Students are required to wear gym shoes during their physical education class. All students must have a separate pair of shoes that they only wear for indoor use in the gymnasium. These shoes will be stored in the students' homerooms.
- Students may participate in their school clothes if they are in preschool through fifth grade.

- Students in **sixth through eighth grade** should come with appropriate athletic attire; **navy blue, athletic shorts or sweatpants are required for boys and girls.**
- Tee-shirts that comply with other dress code regulations on Dress Down Days are permitted.

Dress-Down Days

- There will be minimal dress down days at the administration's discretion. They will be communicated throughout the year.
- On Dress-Down Days, appropriate school attire is still required. Spandex, midriff tops, short shorts, t-shirts with inappropriate language or graphics, tank tops or sleeveless tops will NOT be permitted. Administration has final approval on approved DDD apparel.
- Leggings and jeggings are permitted ONLY under dresses.
- Shoe rules are the same as the uniform policy. No fashion boots or Ugg-type boots.
- At all times, students should wear clothes that model our Catholic faith of modesty and integrity.
- Name-brand labels should be minimal and small.

SpiritWear Days

- There will be SpiritWear Wednesdays most weeks. These are tentatively scheduled for Pizza Lunch Days. Please check school calendar in the fall.
- Mustang Rec & Ed shirts, vacation bible school, local CYO athletics, and local Catholic organization t-shirts (example the BE LOVED camp shirts) are acceptable.
- Any non-St. Francis School SpiritWear tops, such as Wolverines, Spartans, etc. are NOT acceptable.
- Students not wearing SpiritWear must wear their regular school uniform on these days.
- Students may wear jeans or loose fitting athletic pants on Spiritwear Days.
- Leggings, jeggings, and yoga pants are NOT permitted, unless under a uniform dress or skirt and they should be navy.
- Educational Outfitters will have a few SpiritWear options. The majority of our SpiritWear is available in a variety of colors/styles through Underground Printing throughout the year. You can also find items in the school uniform closet with various styles of screen prints to choose from.

Other Uniform Guidelines:

- Belts are optional. However, if worn, only black and brown leather belts with no visible label are acceptable.
- Masses: Only uniform sweaters, fleeces, or crewneck sweatshirts may worn over uniform shirts. No coats may be worn during Mass or in classrooms.

VOLUNTEERS (DIOCESAN) POLICY

All volunteers working with minors must comply with Diocesan and Michigan State Police requirements. Any person without the following documentation will not be allowed to volunteer with children in any school-related activities, such as lunch duty, field trips, 7th grade leadership trip, and many others. For a complete explanation of requirements, the compliance grid is posted on the school website.

Requirements:

A. Virtus Session -- All volunteers are required to attend a Virtus (Protecting God's Children) session or complete the online Virtus course.

- Virtus Session Schedule -- For locations, dates and times of sessions in the Diocese of Lansing, go to www.virtus.org. Proceed to the "Registration" link. Session length is up to three (3) hours. You must sign up for a session online at www.virtus.org. Go to "Registration." From there you can start the registration process or view a list of current sessions (Go to Lansing, MI Diocese).
- Directions for registering and taking the Virtus class online are available in the school office

B. Volunteer's Code of Conduct -- You can self sign the Pastoral Code of Conduct online when you register for Virtus.

C. Criminal Background Check/Request for Central Registry Clearance -- This form needs to be filled out and returned to Mrs. Smith in the school office. Copies are available in the school office and on the school website.

D. Fingerprinting -- Some activities require fingerprinting. For example, chaperoning an overnight field trip or coaching a school sponsored team. For this you need to:

- a. Pick up a WISD Livescan Fingerprint Request form and a Michigan State Police Livescan Fingerprint Request form from the school office. Directions for obtaining fingerprinting services will be attached to the WISD request form. Please note the hours and days of operation at WISD. No personal checks are allowed, only cash, credit card or money orders payable to WISD are accepted for payment. If you have any questions regarding the service, office staff will be happy to help you.

- b. Bring the Michigan State Police Livescan Fingerprint Request form and a copy of your receipt of fingerprinting back to the school office to be kept on file. If you wish to be reimbursed by the St. Francis School for the cost of the fingerprinting, a receipt turned in to Mrs. Smith is required.

E. Bring your driver's license to the school office for copying.

If you have questions, contact the school office or go to the Diocese of Lansing website at www.dioceseoflansing.org -- "Safe Environment Website."

PLEASE NOTE: All forms need to be turned in to the school office. Please do not send any documents directly to the Diocese.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Appointments with Faculty Members: Individual conferences may be arranged at the request of either parents or teachers at any time. Please make appointments in advance by calling the school office and leaving a message on voice mail or by e-mail. Please refrain from discussing confidential issues regarding your child with teachers before or after school on the parking lot. Please schedule an appointment instead.

Bicycles: Students are permitted to ride bicycles to and from school. Bicycles should be parked and locked to the bike racks. For safety, students are to *walk* their bicycles on the school grounds as well as crossing the street at St. Francis Drive.

Book Covers: All books used in school are loaned to students and **must** be covered with book covers at all times. Parents can assist in preserving the life of these books by having their children carry books in book bags or backpacks. Should books be lost or damaged, replacement costs are the responsibility of the parents. Report cards will be withheld in June until all fines are paid or books are returned in good condition.

Cell Phones: Cell phones cannot be used, or be a source of distraction, during class time. They must remain in lockers or backpacks until the student leaves the building at the end of the school day. Teachers will take away cell phones and send them to the office where they will remain until the parent comes to retrieve it.

Parents: Text messaging and/or the retrieval of messages are not permitted during the school day; the consequence for this behavior is having the cell phone taken away from the student. Please understand that if you text message your child during the school day, your student will not be able to retrieve the message until the end of the day.

Cell phones are not allowed at middle-school dances. If a student brings a cell phone to a dance, the chaperones will keep the cell until the dance is over.

Courtesy Requests for Visitors: In an effort to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, **anyone entering the school building during the regular school hours is required to report to the school office at the main entrance.** If you are going to be in the building, please sign in and obtain a visitor or volunteer badge. Our staff has been instructed to approach and question all visitors in the hallways without a volunteer or

visitor tag. All messages delivered via telephone or in person for students or teachers should be channeled through the school office.

Electric Readers: Electric readers are only permitted for reading. However, we prefer that students leave these at home to minimize differences between students.

Students in grades seven and eight operate with their own tablet policy.

Fire, Tornado and Lockdown Drills: Fire and tornado procedures are practiced on a regular basis. Information for each type of drill is posted in each classroom. In case of an actual tornado warning, staff and students follow the appropriate procedure. Staff and students also practice a lockdown drill several times a year. Any parent in the school building during one of these drills should follow the procedure for the area he/she is working in. Parents may not enter the school building during a lockdown. All of the records for the drills will be posted on our school webpage.

Handouts: All handouts students bring home for parents must be approved in advance by the administration. If you are a Scout leader, homeroom parent or club organizer and want to send a handout home, please bring it to the school office for the principal's approval and initials. **PLEASE NOTE: Party invitations or other announcements about social events that do not include the entire class cannot be distributed at school.**

Indoor Recess: As a general rule, students in grades 1 through 6 go outside for recess daily. Students well enough to attend school should be able to go outside for recess. However, should a health condition arise such as asthma during very cold weather, please send a note with your child. A lunch/recess supervisor will provide supervision in the library on an as-needed basis. Please make sure your child has a book to read.

Lost and Found: PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING WITH A PERMANENT MARKER. Articles of clothing found in or around the school are placed in the lost-and-found area located under the stairway **across from the office.** Parents are asked to check this area often. Proper identification of clothing and other items should be taken care of before school opens and then checked periodically. Unclaimed clothing is donated to charitable organizations.

Media Center: The Media Center is comprised of a library and Windows-based elementary computer lab. It is run by the Media Center staff with the help of parent volunteers. Kindergarten through eighth grade is scheduled for one library visit per week. Students have formal instruction on library skills and literature appreciation by our Media Center staff. The library is open for use at all times. Present inventory includes nearly 10,000 titles including reference books, picture books (grades K-1), Early Readers (grades 2-3), fiction, non-fiction, biographies, paperbacks, magazines, a Young Adult (middle-school) section and a parent corner. The library is computerized for easy circulation of materials.

Students in grades 1 through 6 may take Accelerated Reader tests during the school day.

Grades K through 6 visit the elementary computer lab once a week. Students in grades 7 and 8 use the middle-school, Windows-based laptops, which is throughout the middle school classrooms.

Milk: Specific information pertaining to the partially subsidized government milk program is available in the school office.

Allergy and Peanut (Nut)-Free Designations: Rooms or areas that are free of food that contain allergens and peanuts (nuts) are clearly marked with a red, octagon-shaped sign designating the area as one that prohibits foods containing nut allergens.

School Parking: To ensure safety for students, parents are asked to observe the parking regulations as shown in the diagram at the beginning of this document. The parking lot will be sectioned off during noontime (when the blacktop is needed for recess on icy/winter days and when the ground at Winchell is too muddy for safe play) and before/after school to prevent cars from entering this area where children play and walk. The safety of the children is our top priority.

School Pictures: Detailed information will arrive before the pictures are to be taken. Students may wear dress down attire, dress-up clothing or uniforms for school pictures.

School Supplies: Basic school supplies such as pencils, pens, paper, folders and the like will be purchased for students in all grades through the school supply fee. A list of needed supplies for the new school year will be posted on the school website in June for the following school year.

School Testing Program: The NWEA assessment is administered to students in grades 2 through 8, three times during the year.

Security System for Visitors, Volunteers and Others: In an effort to maintain a safe environment, you will find the front doors locked. If that is the case, please press the call button located on the right side of the building (as you face the front doors of the school). When staff responds to your call, please identify yourself and the nature of your visit. Entry to the school will be through the door on the left; **please wait** until you hear that the lock has been disengaged and **then** open the door.

Snowballs: To ensure the safety of all students, snowballs are **NOT ALLOWED** on school property at any time.

Student Accident Medical Insurance: All St. Francis School students are covered by Student Assurance Services, Inc., through the Michigan Catholic Conference. This covers each student while in school and participating in school-sponsored, supervised extra-curricular activities. This is an excess policy, which provides medical assistance with deductibles and co-pays within the parents' health system. If the student is uninsured, the policy will drop down and pay medical expenses, subject to plan restrictions.

Student Assurance Services also provides parents an option to purchase 24-hour coverage. A summary of the plan and frequently asked questions, claim forms and enrollment is web-based. Please go to www.sas-man.com; K-12 students/parents; look up your school and choose Michigan where Michigan Catholic Conference will appear. The menus now allow you to choose the information you desire.

Telephone: The telephone in the school office may be used to call for forgotten lunches, projects and other urgent matters. It is not for making after-school plans.

Vision and Hearing Tests: Vision and Hearing screening is provided by the Washtenaw County Department of Health. Students in grades K, 1, 3, 5 and 7 receive vision screening. Students in grades K, 2 and 4 receive hearing screening. Parents may elect not to have their child screened by writing a note to the school office in advance of the screening. If the technician perceives some type of discrepancy, parents are contacted.

Wellness Policy: A copy of the St. Francis of Assisi Severe Allergy Management Plan is posted on the school website and available in the office for all families.

Appendix A:

Communications Plan

Executive Summary

St. Francis School is a Catholic, private school for students in preschool through eighth grade. The school strives for open and on-going two-way communication between administration, parents, and students. A strong communication system helps create the best learning environment for all students and creates a community that meets the mission of the school.

This Communication Plan is intended to do the following:

- Present a clear and concise framework for communicating a unified message to the school community.
- Foster strong relationships with all community stakeholders and allow them to provide input into the educational process.
- Share the message of God and Jesus Christ.
- Combat negative perceptions of the school and of Catholic schools in the Diocese.

Goal #1: Demonstrate a welcoming spirit to all who seek a Catholic education for their children.

- Incorporate active faith formation opportunities within the school community.
- Provide opportunities for students and parents to grow in their faith.
- Strengthen the Catholic identity of the school within the wider community.

Goal #2: Provide an academically excellent curriculum that will prepare students for high school and beyond.

- Collaborate with faculty in all aspects of curriculum development.
- Follow 5-year technology plan for continual improvement.

- Provide optimal class-size.
- Use standardized test results for school improvement and student success.

Goal #3: Partner with staff, parents, and parish ministries to fulfill the mission of the school.

- Provide support for the academic, emotional, and spiritual needs of each student.
- Provide resources for parents to assist with individual student needs.
- Use community resources to establish feeling of belonging in a community where children, family, and faith matter.

Goal #4: Strive to make and maintain facility improvements for the betterment of school functions and operations.

- Maintain visual appeal, cleanliness, and organization to communicate a clean, efficient, education system.
- Design and create a plan to disseminate communication across the PK-8th grade community.
- Educate parents about the communication style at each grade level.
- Encourage parents to communicate with teachers and administration.

Objectives

1. To improve internal and external communication with the specific goal of creating open, two-way communication.
2. To develop school and community understanding of our commitment to the educational process through the mission, vision, goals, and beliefs of the diocese.
3. To design positive school climate that welcomes and encourages family and community involvement.
4. To seek partnerships with parents and teachers to facilitate learning outside of the school day.
5. To create a learning organization that is open to new ideas.
6. To promote an environment that encourages cooperation, teamwork, and creativity among all constituencies.
7. To reach out to community and church members who do not have direct contact with the school.
8. To instill pride in our school and our students.

Target audiences who receive communications from school office.

- **Internal**

- School Improvement Committee
- Administrators
- Educators
- Support Personnel
- PTG
- **External**
 - Students
 - Parents
 - Business/community leaders
 - Media
 - Elected officials
 - Alumni
- Other stakeholders within the school community
- Development
- ESP: Extended School Program
- Parish
- Neighboring school districts
- Local universities
- Prospective families
- Parishioners
- Donors

Channels to release communications

- Print and TV
 - Local publications- newspapers, AA Observer
 - Faithful Learning pamphlets
 - Prospective family folders
- Electronic
 - School and parish website
 - Monthly principal letters
 - Online surveys
 - Social media
 - Student Management System
 - Emails
 - Google Documents

Key messages that will come from the communications

- Budget/fundraising
 - Role of Development in funding initiatives
 - Development Fundraiser: Annual Appeal, Car Raffle, Hopes and Dreams, Golf Outing for Tuition Assistance.
 - PTG Fundraisers: Miles for Mustangs, Pizza Lunch, Jimmy Johns' Lunch
 - Enrichment fundraisers: Mandarin, Pasta, and Taco Lunches
- School/student achievement
- Events
- Faculty information
- Classroom information
- Day-to-day operations
- Available Financial Aid
- Welcoming to all students

Social Media Protocol for school's facebook page

- Items will be submitted to the principal.
- Principal will proof ahead of time.

- Items may include but are not limited to announcements, photographs, information from emails.

Student/Staff Relations

- **Goals**
 - Distribution of information to staff, students, and families.
 - Increase opportunities for staff and parents to give feedback on decision-making processes that affect them.
 - Communicate for collaboration, trust, and connections with parents, development, and PTG.
 - Recognize students and staff for their achievements.
- **Strategies**
 - Maintain school web pages that give up-to-date information for staff and students.
 - Include staff and parents in committee meetings.
 - Recognize staff achievements through School Improvement Committee meetings.

Internal/Community Relations

- **Goals**
 - Develop and maintain strong, positive relationships with all stakeholders to strengthen support for the school.
 - Allow for honest and frequent input from all constituents.
 - Make school information available and easily accessible for the community while maintaining security for the safety of students.
 - Build and maintain partnerships with business and industry leaders.
- **Strategies**
 - Establish one main communicator from the front office.
 - Continue principal's monthly letter.
 - Through new website model, when possible, create a login component for school families so we can post a running list of events and announcements.

Media Relations

- **Goals**
 - Maintain a reciprocal relationship with the media to enhance the public's perception of the school.
 - Increase the number of positive stories provided to the media.
 - Showcase student and staff achievement.
 - Maximize awareness and support the school's goals, objectives, and programs.

- Increase the use of social media tools to augment traditional media efforts.
- **Strategies**
 - Develop relationships with media outlets and reporters.
 - Highlight positive media coverage throughout the school and online.
 - Implement and maintain appropriate social media tools.

Web Communications

- **Goals**
 - Reach all audiences, even those without direct ties to the school (i.e., parishioners- through electronic communication.
 - Emphasize the importance of two-way communication through the internet.
 - Design school and class/grade-level websites that are visually appealing and user-friendly.
 - Develop a branded look for all online designations.
 - Promote the school's website as the primary source for information for all stakeholders.
- **Strategies**
 - Create and distribute electronic surveys to obtain feedback from all stakeholders.
 - Increase parents' usage of student communication platform and interaction with teachers through email.
 - Publish monthly electronic newsletters and distribute through email.
 - Redesign school homepage and highlight all communication efforts.

Marketing

- **Goals**
 - Create key messages and talking points about the school to establish one, clear voice throughout all communication channels.
 - Increase the distribution of printed/electronic/downloadable materials that highlight the school's mission, vision, beliefs, and goals, as well as recent achievements and accomplishments.
 - Create a branded image that helps build a strong reputation.
- **Strategies**
 - Use "Faithful Learning" templates across marketing efforts.
 - Increase the distribution of printed materials by making them available at all building sites. (School, church, Parish office)
 - Create newcomer packets to provide to kindergarten parents, relocated families, potential transfer students and realtors in the area.
 - Host special events that include students, parents, educators, School Improvement Committee members, and the larger community.

References

Family Name _____ (Please Print)

Signature Page

Parent Agreement

I/We _____

(Parent(s) or Guardian(s))

have read the material in the St. Francis Parent/Student Handbook and agree to follow and uphold the school policies while my son/daughter is enrolled as a student.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Agreement

I/We (Student Name(s)) _____

have read the material in the St. Francis Parent/Student Handbook and agree to follow and uphold the school policies while enrolled at St. Francis School.

Signature: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Date:** _____

(First student in the family attending the school)

Signature: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Date:** _____

(Second student in the family attending the school - if applicable)

Signature: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Date:** _____

(Third student in the family attending the school - if applicable)

Signature: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Date:** _____

(Fourth student in the family attending the school - if applicable)

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE