

Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook



**Anthony Sahadi
Principal**

2025-2026



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

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Saint Ann Catholic School

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Saint Ann Catholic School is accredited by the Virginia Catholic Education Association (VCEA) whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education Committee on Accreditation as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education.

Design for Excellence is the accreditation process for Virginia Catholic elementary/middle schools. The Saint Ann Catholic School self-study document, visiting team report, and five-year plan for strategic improvement are available for review in the main office.

School Phone: 703.525.7599

School FAX: 703.525.2687

School email: stann@stann.org

Preschool email: adhondt@stann.org

Extended Day Program: extendedday@stann.org

School Office Hours: 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

School Colors: Blue and Gold

School Mascot: Falcon

Parish:

Parish Office Phone: 703-528-6276

Religious Education Phone: 703.528.6199

Youth Ministry Email: stanninvictus.org



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Saint Ann Catholic School and the 2025-2026 school year! We are happy to have you as part of our community. Since 1951, Saint Ann Catholic School has had a rich tradition of cultivating greatness and success among its students. Our students and faculty have the opportunity to fully live out our Catholic Faith and challenge our students not only to grow intellectually, but to grow in their love for God and for others. It is our goal to make sure our students stay close to God and learn to serve others as a way of loving Him.

As a community, we must all work together to support the mission of the school. Together we can continue to build the rich tradition of spiritual and academic excellence at Saint Ann Catholic School. Know that your contributions to our school community are invaluable. The time and energy you contribute to our school will enhance your child's learning experience. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for you to share in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child. The success of school events is highly dependent on your involvement. We thank you in advance for your support and contributions of time and talent.

It is important that both students and parents know what is expected to be a member of our community. The *Parent/Student Handbook* provides important information regarding Diocesan and school policies and procedures. Parents and students should carefully read the handbook in order to understand the Diocesan and school policies. Diocesan policy requires that each student and parent sign an acknowledgement form indicating they have read and understood the policies and procedures in the Parent/Student Handbook. Please feel free to contact me regarding the information in the handbook.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child(ren).

Respectfully,

Anthony G. Sahadi
Principal

I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT

DIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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

Matthew 28:19-20

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

¹ Declaration on Christian Education #3

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

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

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Saint Ann Catholic School family believes, achieves, and inspires. We believe in the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. We achieve personal excellence in an academic community that strengthens and nurtures mind, body, and soul. We inspire one another to glorify God by embracing His call to love and serve.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Saint Ann Catholic School embraces the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Master Teacher, and recognizes that everyone is created uniquely in the image and likeness of God. We believe that the development of our God-given talents and abilities is a lifelong journey of learning. We believe students achieve best in a loving and nurturing environment where everyone works together to encourage and inspire students to persevere. We realize that learning takes trial, error, reflection, and the opportunity to use their skills to do God's will in the world.

SCHOOL HISTORY

Saint Ann Catholic School is celebrating its 70th year of educating children. From its beginning in 1947, St. Ann Parish was determined to build a school to meet the educational and spiritual needs of its many families. The parish undertook a capital campaign and invited the Sisters of Loretto, a

teaching order from Kentucky, to staff the school. The school opened on September 23, 1951 to 289 students in first through fourth grades.

In 1964, the Sisters of Loretto returned to Kentucky and the Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio, arrived to teach alongside lay teachers. This order remained until 2002. Saint Ann was one of the first elementary schools to be accredited by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1971. Saint Ann was recognized by the United States Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2011.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

policies, guidelines, or regulations shall be of controlling force and effect.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN ROLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEXUAL IDENTITY POLICY

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment that allows students to develop and prosper academically, physically and spiritually, consistent with Catholic teachings and principles affirming that the body reveals each person as male or female and that the harmonious integration of a person’s sexual identity with his or her sex is an expression of the

inner unity and reality of the human person made body and soul by God and in the image and likeness of God. In fulfillment of these religious truths, our Catholic educational environment shall reflect a relation to persons (including name and pronoun usage, uniforms, access to facilities and overnight accommodations, and eligibility for single-sex curricular and extracurricular activities) that is respectful of and consistent with each person's God-given sexual identity.

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

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

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

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

NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS

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

- a. Non-Catholic students are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the school.
- b. Non-Catholic students must participate in liturgies (except for reception of the Eucharist), retreats, other religious functions, and religion classes for credit.
- c. Non-Catholic students may be exempt from formal co-curricular or extracurricular sacramental preparation programs but not from the catechesis held during the school day.

- d. All students are expected, for testing and discussion purposes, to be knowledgeable of the Catholic Church's positions on scripture, revelation, and moral practices. While Catholic teaching respects the various faith traditions of the students attending the Catholic school, parents/guardians must be aware that it is the Catholic position that will be taught.

II. ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

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

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

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

GRADES FIVE TO SIX

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the sixth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

GRADES SIX TO SEVEN

For placement in Algebra I in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT

For placement in Geometry in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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

GRADES SIX TO SEVEN

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT

For placement in Algebra I in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

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

- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

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

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

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

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

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

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

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

PRESCHOOL

Saint Ann Catholic School conducts up to three Preschool sessions for children who are 3 to 5 years old. The program focuses on spiritual, social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development. As in all other curriculum areas, VCEA guidelines for this level of instruction are followed. Those wishing to enroll in the three-year-old program must be three by September 30 and those wishing to enroll in the four-year-old program must be four by September 30.

The Saint Ann Pre-School and Extended Day programs are licensed programs in compliance with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Annual inspections of each program are required to maintain licensing status.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

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

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

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

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

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

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

TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Diocesan approved textbooks and materials are used in all areas of the curriculum. Please take care of the books. A bill for lost or damaged books will be sent home at the end of the school year. Report cards and transcripts will be withheld until payment is received.

RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

There is no expectation or right to privacy or right to freedom of speech when using the school's

computer resources, which are the school's property. Any use of the school's computers and internet access must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools.

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

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

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

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

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

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

educational site.

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

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

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

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

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

TESTING

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

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

HOMEWORK

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

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENTS

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

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

Homework should not be assigned on weekends or on the eve of holidays and other special occasions. Long-term assignments, however, may extend over weekends. Homework is an outgrowth of class work and is intended:

1. To enhance learning with the development of good study habits;
2. To review independently what was taught in class;
3. To provide an opportunity to use research skills;
4. To involve the parents in the child's academic work.

The cooperation of parents in helping to foster systematic home study habits for their children is of paramount importance to student success. Time allotment for the completion of homework varies from grade to grade and depends upon the individual student's needs. Parents should be encouraged to review homework assignment books daily and to set aside specific time allotments for homework. The time allotment may vary depending on the amount and nature of homework assignments.

Students in grades 2-8 will list their daily homework assignments in their assignment books. Teachers in grades kindergarten and 1 will provide individual homework instructions to parents. Children without specific homework assignments are encouraged to spend time doing independent reading or math. All teachers will post homework on their Schoology page. Parents should be able to access accurate information regarding assignments from your Schoology page.

LATE WORK AND INCOMPLETE HOMEWORK (GRADES 6, 7, 8)

All work must be turned in on the assigned due date for full credit. Work turned in by 8:00 a.m. the following morning will be accepted for partial credit.

Students who have done "due diligence" on their daily homework but are unable to complete all

assignments in a reasonable time, may have a parent write a note to the subject teacher explaining why the assignment is not complete. This note is to be presented to the subject teacher **before** the start of morning classes. The assignment is due the following day **before** the start of morning classes and will be graded without penalty for lateness. Notes provided after the fact will not be honored. Abuse of this policy will be grounds for its revocation. **This policy does not apply to long-term assignments.**

TEST MAKE-UP (GRADES 6, 7, 8)

All make-up tests will be administered and proctored by a middle school teacher. If a student is absent from school on the day of the test with no prior absences, the student will take the test the next day of attendance. The waiting period for test make-up for a prior absence other than the day of the test, is one day for each day's absence. A list of all students staying after school must be provided to the school office.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

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

In the event a parent desires to discuss a problem with his/her child's teacher, the parent should make an appointment for a private meeting with the child's teacher. Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss a matter of concern with parents before it becomes an actual problem. Any parent who wishes to speak with the principal may do so after an initial meeting with the classroom teacher. Similarly, parents should discuss matters of concern with the school principal, and pastor when necessary, before bringing them to the Office of Catholic Schools.

SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Mandatory parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled for each family in grades K through 8 in November. Other conferences may be scheduled at the request of the parent, teacher, or principal and/or assistant principal as needed.

CONTACTING FACULTY

A parent/guardian may consult a teacher any time a need or concern arises through voice mail, email, or by sending a note to the teacher requesting a conference. The teacher will respond within **24 hours** to arrange the specific date and time. Teachers are not expected to respond over the weekend. The carpool line, lunchroom and social events are not appropriate places for conferencing with your child's teacher. Please contact the teacher to schedule a conference day/time to discuss your concerns. Conferences are scheduled on school days from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The school office can be contacted at (703) 525-7599, Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM -3:30 PM. In addition, a voice mail message is on 24 hours per day.

Teachers are with students from 7:45 AM until 3:15 PM and they will not be called to the phone during these hours.

Before 7:45 AM, teachers are preparing for the students' arrival. Unscheduled visits are not made at this time. When a parent/guardian wishes to confer with a teacher, a time mutually agreed upon may be arranged either before or after school hours. Teachers are not to be called at their homes by parents/guardians.

GRADING/REPORT CARDS

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

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

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

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades 1-2

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

ACADEMIC PROGRESS SCALE

The letter M, P or NI is indicated in the appropriate box for each subject area.
*(asterisk) indicates modified curriculum.

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

INDICATORS FOR EFFORT, SPECIALS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

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

The Diocese of Arlington report cards are distributed each trimester for students in grades K-8.

Parents should take special note of the evaluation of social and work characteristics on the report card in addition to academic areas. Specific strategies for helping students improve their work should be formulated with teachers.

The report card envelope for students in grades K to 8 must be **signed and returned** to the homeroom teacher no later than **one week** after the distribution date. During the first and second trimester, report cards are only available via the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Within a week, parents should verify in PowerSchool that they viewed the report card grades. Final report cards will be sent via postal service after it has been verified that all school obligations have been met.

HONOR ROLL AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS

Saint Ann Catholic School is very proud of its high standards. Throughout the year students in grades K-5 are recognized by classroom teachers for their achievements. Students in grades 6-8 are eligible for the Honor Roll every trimester provided they meet the following requirements:

First Honors: All academic subjects (e.g., religion, reading, English, math, science, social studies) must be 93%-100%; all Specials subjects, Personal Development and effort grades no lower than a 2.

Second Honors: All academic subjects (e.g., religion, reading, English, math, science, social studies) must be 85%-92%; all Specials subjects, Personal Development and effort grades no lower than a 2.

Students who make Honor Roll will receive a ribbon to be placed in the report card by the homeroom teacher. Middle school teachers are to submit a list of Honor Roll students to the principal and/or assistant principal once grades have been determined.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Every student in grades 1-8 will receive an interim progress report midway through each trimester of school. For students in grades 3-8, reports will no longer be sent home since grades will be available through the Parent Portal. Paper copies will continue to be sent home for grades 1 and 2. Teachers may issue an interim progress report at any time to inform parents of improvements or concerns about a student's performance.

PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT POLICY

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

- a. The final decision to promote or retain a student is based on the student's academic performance and best interest as determined by the principal.

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

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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

Saint Ann Catholic School provides lessons on virtues and social emotional learning, which are provided by the religion and/or resource teachers.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

ADMISSIONS

DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

AGE FOR ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION: PRESCHOOL – GRADE 5

- a. Presentation of an original birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
- b. Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
- c. Proof of custody where applicable
- d. Current report card and previous academic years' report card as applicable
- e. Current standardized test scores and previous years, if applicable
- f. Completed Diocesan Application Form (*Appendix J*)
- g. A non-refundable application fee

- h. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or other U.S. state equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 - i. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia. Immunization records are required to be signed and verified by a licensed healthcare provider.
 - ii. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A pre-school physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even if it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening)
- i. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former diocesan school if previously enrolled in a diocesan school
- j. **If Catholic, family must provide a Parish Verification Form signed by the family's pastor.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO GRADES 6 – 8

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

- ii. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable.
- j. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former diocesan school if previously enrolled in a diocesan school.
- k. **If Catholic, family must provide a Parish Verification Form signed by the family's pastor**
- l. **Complete a student questionnaire answering questions about their experience as a student and how they would respond to certain scenario**

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

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

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

F-1 (NON-IMMIGRANT)

- 1. F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students who apply for admission to a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school will be considered for admission, upon meeting the following conditions:
 - a. Meets Diocesan admission requirements:
 - i. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 - 1. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia with signature of licensed healthcare provider.
 - 2. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A pre-school physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even though it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening.)
 - ii. F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first

time must provide documentation that they are free from communicable tuberculosis.

- b. Currently holds or is in the process of obtaining an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student visa;
 - c. Resides at the same U.S. address as the guardian, who is identified as such on the I-20 application and recorded in SEVIS;
 - i. Guardian Permission and Agreement Form must be completed and signed by parent and guardian. (*Appendix AJ-2*).
 - ii. Guardian cannot house more than two international students. Policy may be amended if requested in writing from a guardian in certain situations. For example, if international students are related to one another and/or related to the guardian.
 - d. Pays tuition in full upon school admission;
 - i. There is no refund given for registration, tuition or other related fees.
 - e. Carries applicable healthcare insurance, including for emergencies, that may be needed while in the United States;
 - i. The Diocese of Arlington does not provide healthcare insurance for international students.
 - f. Shows adequate English proficiency for the grade level to which they are applying. The level of English proficiency should allow students to pass all classes/subjects, including world language class. Schools cannot substitute normal curriculum classes with English support classes and must report an official grade for all subjects.
2. Students meeting the above criteria and accepted for admission must complete the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form and return the form to the school the student will be attending. The school must forward the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form to the Office of Catholic Schools with the original signature of principal or admissions director.
3. When a student is transferring *from* another school outside the Diocese, the originating school must transfer the existing I-20 in active status to the Diocese of Arlington. A Diocese of Arlington *International Student Transfer Report* must be completed by the originating school and returned to the Office of Catholic Schools along with the *I-20 Application Form*. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the originating school within 15 days of leaving that school to have the I-20 transferred;
- a. A student must maintain status by attending classes until the transfer release date. Lack of attendance before the transfer date would be a violation of status and the student's SEVIS record should be terminated;
 - b. The student must report to the school within 15 days of the program start date and enroll full time in the first required session/term at the school;
 - c. When a student is transferring *to* a school outside the Diocese of Arlington school system, the Diocese of Arlington must transfer the existing I-20 in active status to the

new school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the Office of Catholic Schools within 15 days of leaving the Diocesan school to have the I-20 transferred.

4. In order for international students to maintain F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student status, the Department of Homeland Security requires ongoing accounting. In that regard, schools are responsible for ensuring the enrollment status of all F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students is reported correctly. Reports for elementary school international students will be accessed through the Student Information System district database. Specifically, the school shall:
 - a. Create and update elementary F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student record in the Student Information System, ensuring all fields pertaining to international students are completed. All F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student records must be completed and/or updated within 15 days of the beginning of every semester;
 - b. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students Form if an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student has been accepted by that school and fails to report to the school within 30 days of their program start date;
 - c. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students Form within 15 days when an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student transfers to another school or departs the United States;
 - d. Report via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students form any legal change in the name, address, or guardianship of an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student within 10 days.
5. For students who hold a visa other than F-1, refer to Visa Types (*Appendix AJ*);
 - a. Students who are currently in B-1 or B-2 status cannot begin their studies prior to approval of their change to F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student. Obtaining a change of status is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
 - b. Students who are currently in B-1 or B-2 status may be enrolled to audit classes at the discretion of the principal for a limited time (generally not more than two months) but must still meet Diocesan admission requirements pertaining to the MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form and provide documentation that they are free from communicable tuberculosis.
 - c. Students with a J visa for short-term exchange students will not be accepted into diocesan schools.
6. Any student applicant whose passport, United Nations travel document or other United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents indicates that the student is a refugee, asylee, parolee, lawful nonimmigrant or legal permanent resident may be admitted to the schools of the Diocese of Arlington under normal requirements for admission. This policy would also include undocumented children.

CLASS PLACEMENT

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

ADMISSIONS ELIGIBILITY

Saint Ann Catholic School holds a formal registration period for new students. In addition to the diocesan criteria above, Saint Ann Catholic School gives placement preference to returning students and siblings of returning students.

In addition to the Diocesan admission requirements, Saint Ann Catholic School requires the following information at the time of registration:

1. Psychological Education Test results, if applicable;
2. Current individualized Education Plan (IEP), Student Assistance Plan (SAP) or 504 accommodation plan at the time of applying;
3. Recommendations from former teacher/principal.

Acceptance is provisional until all admission requirements have been met and the following items are completed:

1. Emergency Authorization Form;
2. Nurse's Information Card;
3. Saint Ann Catholic School Service-to-School (STS) Agreement;
4. Student grade level placement test (if applicable);
5. Payment of Instructional Fee and 25% of tuition to be reimbursed in September;
6. Interview with Principal if requested.

It is the responsibility of the applicant family to secure the necessary documentation and records. All new students, grades 2-8, are accepted with a probationary status for the first trimester of the school year.

As required by law, students not meeting the state health requirements WILL NOT be placed on the school roster for the opening date of school or in a specific class. A physical examination is required within the last 12 months of when a student enters school for the first time. Students transferring schools must have the Commonwealth of Virginia Health Form, including the child's immunization record and most recent TB test with written results.

All of the requirements listed above must be completed and returned to the school office before registration will be deemed complete and the student can be officially accepted into Saint Ann Catholic School.

Transfers from local Catholic schools are considered exceptional cases to be admitted at the discretion of the principal.

APPLICATION, REGISTRATION AND INSTRUCTIONAL FEES

There are application and registration fees for new students and a registration fee for returning students attending Saint Ann Catholic School. These fees are non-refundable.

RE-REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Parents and guardians of all newly registered students will receive a form for continuous enrollment in November. The form should be returned to the school office with the registration fee by the stated deadline. A late registration fee will apply to those who miss this deadline. Students will not be re-registered unless their school account is in good standing. Families already using continuous enrollment will be automatically registered unless written notice to opt out is provided by the school.

ATTENDANCE

DIOCESAN POLICY FOR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL

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

- a. A written excuse, explaining the reason for absence and signed by the parent/guardian, must be presented upon a student's return to school.

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

TARDINESS

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

ABSENCES FOR OTHER REASONS

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

ATTENDANCE/REPORTING PROCEDURES

ABSENCE

If a child is ill or cannot attend classes for some other legitimate reason, parents are asked to notify the school office by 9:00 a.m. to report the absence. Notification can be made via email to stann@stann.org or by calling 703-525-7599. **ALL** absences are considered unexcused **until** documentation is received in the school office. The following are considered excused absences from school once documentation is received:

1. Illness, quarantine, doctor or dentist appointment;
2. Family illness;
3. Family death or tragedy;
4. Court presence;
5. Severe family emergency;
6. Participation in March for Life;
7. 8th grade students shadowing at local high schools;

8. Others approved on an individual basis by the principal

When the student returns to school, a written excuse stating the reason for absence, the date of absence, and signature of parent/guardian must be submitted to the office. **Excuses are formal documents.** They should be type-written or written on note paper in ink, and then signed by the parent or guardian. If the child fails to bring a written excuse, the parent will be contacted by the school. All written excuses will be kept on file for one year.

After an excused absence, it is the responsibility of the **middle school student** to request all outstanding work. Teachers will assign a reasonable length of time in which assignments are to be completed. Work that is not made-up will be marked incomplete and graded accordingly. If the parent would like to request assignments or materials for their absent child, he/she should make arrangements with the school secretary to request homework no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence. Books and assignments may be picked up from the main office after dismissal.

TARDINESS

The Saint Ann Catholic School day begins at 7:55 a.m. Students arriving in their homerooms after the 7:55 a.m. bell will be marked as “tardy” by the homeroom teacher. Students arriving after the morning carpool lanes are closed are to enter the building via the Frederick Street entrance and must report to the office for a tardy slip. Students arriving late must be escorted to the office by a parent/guardian, who will sign the child in to school.

Every effort should be made to ensure that students are in class and ready for school-wide prayer. **Ten or more cases of tardiness will be brought to the attention of the administration and the parent will be contacted.**

MEDICAL EXCUSES

Medical appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours. When this is not possible, students are expected to present a written note to the main office the morning of the appointment. The note should include the date, time and reason for the absence. In case of absence due to illness, a note explaining the reason for the absence should accompany the student on the day he/she returns to class. In the event of a communicable disease the school may require a doctor’s note prior to returning to class. Please be mindful of the return to school policies listed in the Health, Safety and Welfare Section.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCE

When a student's absence is anticipated, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the administration and/or the main office in writing as soon as possible. The school does not prepare work in advance for students who will miss school due to an unexcused absence.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

If a child needs to be dismissed early, a written note to the main office or email to stann@stann.org is required. **Students must be signed out in the office by a parent or designated adult.** Students are not released directly from a field trip location. Students will only be released from the office. Students will be called via the intercom once the parent or designated adult arrives. If a student returns to school after an appointment, the parent or designated adult is required to escort the student back to the office to be signed in.

To not interfere with the end of day procedures, students will not be released after 3pm unless a doctor's note is provided (2pm on Wednesdays, 12pm on 12:15pm early dismissal days).

Parents may release students to a designated sponsor or supervisor of an activity (i.e. sports, scouts, variety show) for the duration of the activity. To do so, a signed note identifying the adult(s) to whom the child is to be released and the activity the child will be attending must be on file. Each activity requires a distinct note for each child.

Any changes to the usual dismissal routine are to be indicated by a written note or email to stann@stann.org.

If the need to change the dismissal routine arises during the day, please call the school office. As a courtesy, please try to make those arrangements before noon, so the office staff has time to provide the information to the teacher.

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

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

The school will provide one free set of records for each student. If additional copies are requested, there is a fee of \$10.00 for each additional request.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

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

Children are permitted on school property only during school hours unless they are in the Extended Day program or are attending a school sponsored club or event during which adult supervision will be provided. Faculty members who arrive early or leave late are not responsible for children during non-school hours.

Students assemble in the courtyard between 7:35 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. At 7:45 a.m. they enter their classrooms. On inclement weather days, students will go straight to their classrooms from carpool. ALL students should be in their classrooms by 7:55 a.m., ready for morning prayers which begin at 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after the 7:55 a.m. bell are considered tardy and asked to be escorted to the office by a parent/guardian via door #1, where they will then be issued a tardy slip and escorted to their classrooms.

A Dismissal Procedure Form is requested from each parent at the beginning of the school year. Any time a change to this procedure occurs, the school office must be notified, preferably in writing.

Specific arrival and dismissal procedures for walkers and carpool will be published at the beginning of the school year. These procedures are meant to ensure the safety of all students. All students and parents are expected to honor them. Students must follow the directions of the teachers and volunteers on duty during arrival and dismissal times.

Students who have not been picked up by the end of carpool (3:30 p.m.) will be sent to the office. Parents will be called, and they may pick their children up at Door #1.

LUNCH/MILK PROGRAM

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

Saint Ann School offers various options for hot lunches, as well as milk. Hot lunch options include: Chick-fil-A, Domino's Pizza and a third party hot lunch provider. Information for both programs will be provided to all families in the Back-to-school packet once the details are completed. ALL lunch options are optional and are available to all students who attend a full day program. If you choose to participate in this program you will be asked to pay for the year at the time you place your order. You will have the option to use your FACTS account, charge to your credit card or pay by cash/check. By choosing FACTS you will end up paying monthly as the entire balance will be charged to your FACTS account and prorated over your remaining monthly tuition payments.

Students carry lunch in either a bag or lunch box clearly marked with their name and grade. We ask your cooperation in not providing soda drinks. Glass bottles/containers are not permitted.

Students are not permitted to leave the building for lunch.

Teachers will supervise both lunch and recess. The room parents schedule parent volunteers to assist with lunch/recess supervision. We encourage all our families to consider volunteering in this much needed area.

IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

ADMINISTRATIVE

STUDENT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

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

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

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

ACCESS TO RECORDS

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

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

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

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

TRANSFER OF RECORDS

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

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

213 transfer with the student.

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL ACADEMIC RECORDS

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

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

RETENTION OF RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL VISITORS

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

Parents may not go to the classroom to deliver items to a student. Items are to be left in the office and should be labeled with the child's name and grade. Items will be delivered to the classrooms as quickly as feasible.

Parents wishing to speak with a teacher are asked to schedule an appointment.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

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

PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATION

The principal will communicate with parents via a weekly newsletter, e-mail messages, School Messenger, and phone calls. Parents are welcome to schedule an appointment with the principal and/or assistant principal anytime there is a concern. If it is a K-8 discipline or uniform matter, please contact the principal. If it is a K-8 curriculum matter, please contact the assistant principal. Preschool matters should be directed to the Preschool Director. If parents wish to discuss a classroom matter, they are asked to first discuss the issue directly with the teacher prior to making an appointment with the principal and/or assistant principal.

Phone calls to administration, teachers and staff should be made only through the school. The school office number (703-525-7599) is to be used for all school and student related matters.

Teachers are on duty between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please make appointments to speak with teachers before/after these designated times.

School Messenger will be utilized for inclement weather notifications and calendar and lunch schedule changes.

TAKE-HOME COMMUNICATION

In general, a weekly newsletter, including items of interest to students and parents, is distributed to each family via email at the end of each week.

TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

Typically, students will not be allowed to use the school phone to call home for items left at home (i.e. band instruments, homework, lunches). Should the need arise to get a message to your child, please call the school office allowing staff sufficient time to deliver your message.

Students may not use cell phones or any device with texting capabilities at any time during the school day (this includes Extended Day). Students may not keep cell phones or any device with texting capabilities on their person or in their backpacks during the school day. Student cell phones must be turned off and turned in to the classroom teacher, at the beginning of the day and may be retrieved at the end of the day. Students may not wear any device that has the ability to connect to the Internet or has texting capabilities.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

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

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

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

Saint Ann Catholic School follows the snow-related opening and closing decisions of **Arlington County Public Schools**. If Arlington County Public Schools announce different arrangements for elementary and intermediate students, the four Arlington parish schools (Saint Agnes, Saint Ann, Saint Charles and Saint Thomas More) will follow the schedule announced for Group C students. Should county schools not be in session, the parish schools will announce schedule changes via the Diocesan school alert system (School Messenger). If Arlington County Public Schools are not mentioned during the radio and/or TV broadcasts, parents may assume that normal scheduling is in effect.

When school must be canceled during the school day for an unusual circumstance, we will use the information provided by parents and notify parents via School Messenger (the diocesan emergency alert notification system).

When weather is questionable, parents are asked to listen closely to TV and radio weather reports so that they will be prepared to pick up their child(ren) if necessary. Parents are asked not to call the school for information about school closings for inclement weather. Radio stations WTOP and WASH generally convey school announcements, as do the local television stations.

Parents who consider driving conditions dangerous may pick up their children early.

Refer to page 72 for Extended Day inclement weather policy.

PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA

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

Parents and/or students are not allowed to post pictures or words of Saint Ann's students, teachers, staff or the school in general that are uncharitable and/or unkind. Final discretion rests with the school principal.

Individual and class pictures are taken in the fall, team/club pictures are taken some time after the New Year, and individual student pictures and 8th grade graduation pictures are taken in early April. Notices will be sent in advance to advise parents of the proper procedure for ordering pictures

MEDIA CENTER

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

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

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

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

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

Appendix R-1 must be used for this purpose. The principal/administration shall have the right to prohibit, for any reason, a proposed driver from transporting students on a field trip.

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

Cell calls and texting are not permitted while driving.

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

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

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

School-sponsored ski trips are not permitted.

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

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

Field trips are a privilege, not a right. The school reserves the right to prohibit a student from participation due to discipline issues that may negatively impact the overall educational experience of the field trip.

In order for a student to attend a field trip, the school must have the original, signed parental permission form prior to the field trip.

Each field trip must be adequately chaperoned. Chaperones will carry a sealed envelope containing a copy of the Parent Permission Form for School Sponsored Field Trips for each student they are supervising. The sealed envelope will not be broken unless there is an emergency that necessitates accessing these forms.

Names of chaperones for field trips are to be submitted to the school office one week in advance of the field trip to allow for adequate checks for child protection compliance. All chaperones

must be approved for volunteer work in accordance with the policy set forth by the Office of Child Protection and Safety.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Overnight trips are not permitted for elementary school children.

MARCH FOR LIFE POLICY

Students are offered varied opportunities to participate in activities that promote the sanctity of life.

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

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

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/CEREMONIES

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

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

Graduation ceremonies should be simple and dignified.

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

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

The PTO is subject in all respects to the control of the school. The PTO Constitution and Bylaws can be found in the School Information Appendices.

FUNDRAISING

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

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

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

Parents are responsible for providing transportation for their child(ren) to and from school. If a student is to leave by cab or Uber, a note must be sent to the school office. The student will be dismissed via the school office.

Parents are expected to follow all school directives regarding carpools and parking as stated in the August newsletter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The school office must be notified immediately of all changes in home or work address or phone number, as well as any changes in emergency or dismissal information.

The school must always have up-to-date information in case of emergency.

COURTESY

Children, parents, faculty and staff are expected to treat each other in a professional, respectful manner at all times. The titles of Mr., Mrs., Miss, etc., are to be used to ensure proper respect.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

With advance permission from the teacher, children may bring in healthy treats for their class to share.

Invitations to student birthday parties may be sent via the classroom only if the entire class is invited.

TRUANCY

Students who leave school grounds without permission or who are truant may be considered for suspension.

SERVICE-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Saint Ann Catholic School greatly appreciates its parent volunteers. They are vital to making Saint Ann's a warm, thriving community. Service to School (STS) is to provide much needed manpower for the many activities involved with running a successful school.

STS AGREEMENT

School policy requires each registered family to provide 30 hours of service to the school each academic year, five of which must be dedicated to the September Fall Festival. A single parent family is required to provide 15 hours of service, 3 of which must be dedicated to the September Parish Jubilee. This service can be given either by the parents/grandparents or by a responsible older high school or college-age family member. Families may wish to provide more than 30 hours of service throughout the school year, but the minimum requirement must be fulfilled. Parents are asked to return the STS Agreement to the office at the beginning of the school year stating whether they will complete the required hours or opt to pay the \$350 fee up front. The Agreement is sent to each family in the beginning of each school year and can be found in the School Forms Appendices.

If the 30 hours (or any balance thereof) are not fulfilled, a monetary contribution at the rate of \$10/hour, \$20/hour for unfulfilled Fall Festival, hours, is required. Hours of service will be recorded via a google spreadsheet. Monetary contribution will be recorded in the school office. Completion of hours or monetary reimbursement is required before final grades are sent home at the end of the school year.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers who work directly with Saint Ann Catholic School students must undergo a criminal and Virginia CPS background check and attend the “Protecting God’s Children” seminar. The Diocese of Arlington has put these measures in place to help protect our young people from the danger of abuse. The policy can be found in the Health and Welfare Section of this handbook. In addition, further details about background checks can be found in the School Information Appendices at the back of the Handbook.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A list of service opportunities is provided to all families at beginning of the year. This document can be found in the School Forms Appendices. Service opportunities are also listed from time to time in the weekly school newsletter. STS hours may be earned on activities that are specific to your child’s class; we encourage families to consider how they can earn hours that help service the broader school community (i.e. lunch/recess supervision, coaching CYO sports, facilitating afterschool clubs, and helping with fundraising events).

V. FINANCES

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLICATION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL TUITION POLICIES

A family's tuition obligation continues even if the school shifts to a virtual model. The education of each student continues with teachers planning and delivering lessons and assessing student progress. Report cards will be distributed at the end of each grading period. If a parent/guardian cannot make the regular tuition payment, the principal should be notified as soon as possible to create a payment plan.

Saint Ann Catholic School provides a quality Catholic education to students of parish families and others who desire a Catholic education for their children. As space permits, students from other parishes and non-Catholic students are welcome to enroll.

The operation of the school is funded mainly by tuition paid by families with students enrolled in the school. The parish contributes to the school via an annual subsidy. Other sources of income

include fundraising and donations.

The Parish Finance Committee and school administration reviews and sets tuition rates each year with final approval by the pastor.

Current tuition rates are posted on the school website and are included in the School Forms Appendices at the back of the Handbook.

TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

Every enrolled family must set up an account with the FACTS Tuition Management Program (FACTS), which collects and processes school tuition and miscellaneous fees. There are three options for paying tuition; in full, biannually or in 12 monthly payments. If paying in full your account must be set up by June 25 to receive the \$200.00 discount as the payment will be withdrawn on July 1. Families paying in full do not incur an enrollment fee. Biannual payments incur a one-time \$20.00 enrollment fee and are deducted from FACTS on July 1 and December 1. The account must be set-up by June 25 to receive the \$100.00 biannual discount. Finally, monthly payments are paid July through June and are due on either the 1st or 15th of each month. Families using the monthly payment plan incur a one-time, non-refundable enrollment fee of \$50.00.

In addition to tuition there is a \$200 application fee and a \$500 registration fee for new families. All fees are nonrefundable and due at the time of application/registration. The re-enrollment fees for returning students are listed in the Continuous Enrollment Agreement included in the School Forms Appendices. This fee will be charged to your FACTS account in March prior to the beginning of the new school year.

Any miscellaneous annual fees due for the year will be paid by families at the beginning of each year. A form will be included in the Back-to-School packet (see the School Forms Appendices). Fees may include PTO/Class Dues, Student Activity fee or Graduation fee. Other fees that may occur throughout the year are field trips (if costs exceed the Student Activity fee), optional lunch programs for milk, pizza, Chick-fil-A lunches, and additional transcript fees.

If, for some reason, a parent is not able to make a payment on time, the principal must be notified in order to determine the best course of action with regard to payment through FACTS.

The graduation diploma, re-registration, final report card, and requested transcripts are withheld at the end of the school year if our records indicate any outstanding tuition, instructional fees, STS fees, Extended Day fees, or outstanding library books, textbooks, and/or other instructional materials owned by the school.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Parents should give written notice of a student's withdrawal date as soon as it is known.

Regardless of day of withdrawal, tuition must be made through the end of the current

trimester. The dates of the school's trimesters are determined by the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools.

Student records will be forwarded to another school when all financial obligations are fulfilled and a formal request has been submitted to the school office.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Contributions to the Saint Ann Scholarship Fund can be made at any time. Checks should be made payable to Saint Ann Catholic School with a note on the memo section of the check indicating "Scholarship Fund."

VI. CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION

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

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

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

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

TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES

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

Although CYO athletic teams are separate and distinct from parish/school activities, the pastor/principal retains the right of possible intervention by the school in the event a significant incident would bring the reputation of the parish and/or school into question within the community.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

Saint Ann Catholic School maintains a media center of books, periodicals, computers, and audiovisual materials for use by the school community.

Check-out privileges are available to all students. It is the responsibility of the student to properly care for books checked out in his or her name and to return them by the specified time. The cost of damaged or lost items will be assessed and the cost will be added to the tuition bill at the end of the

year.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is open to students in grades 4 through 8. It provides students the opportunity to develop leadership skills by promoting school spirit through social and service activities.

SAFETY PATROL

Students in Grade 6, 7, and 8 may participate in the school safety patrol. This group works closely with the school moderator. Safety Patrols agree to diligently perform their responsibilities as outlined by the Safety Patrol moderators.

ALTAR SERVERS

Boys and girls in Saint Ann school and parish in grades 3 and up are eligible to become altar servers. Parish volunteers coordinate the recruitment, training and scheduling for weekend and school Masses. Parents who allow a child to become an altar server assume the responsibility for assuring punctuality and dependability at all Masses for which the server is scheduled.

BAND PROGRAM

Normally, for a separate fee, a band program may be available to students in grades 4 through 8. Students would participate during class time and will be responsible for all assignments and activities that are missed due to participation in this extracurricular activity.

Advanced band students may be selected by the band instructor to audition for the Diocesan Honor Band. The Diocesan Honor Band welcomes students from Saint Ann Catholic School by application and audition.

SCOUTING PROGRAM

Cub Scouts and Scouting America are active parish programs emphasizing service, citizenship, international friendship, and character development for boys and girls. All scouting programs depend on the availability of responsible adult volunteers. Volunteers must be fully compliant with all diocesan requirements for Child Protection & Safety.

SPORTS PROGRAM

All Saint Ann Catholic School athletic programs are organized by the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of the Diocese of Arlington. For sportsmanship to be rooted in Catholic values, it is

expected that coaches, athletes, and fans display respect, civility and responsibility in words and actions before, during and after all athletic contests and/or practices.

Track, tennis, basketball, and volleyball are organized by the CYO of the Diocese of Arlington. Parents and high school youth are encouraged to volunteer as coaches of the various sports teams. Sport team activities are interscholastic and inclusive of Saint Ann Catholic School and parish youth. Volunteers must be in full compliance with the diocesan requirements for Child Protection and Safety as outlined in the Health, Safety and Welfare section of the Handbook. Further details on background check requirements are provided in the School Information Appendices (Appendix #15).

Although CYO athletic teams are run by the parish, the principal and/or assistant principal retains the right of intervention by the school in the event of a significant incident that would bring the reputation of the school into question.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

All after school programs are scheduled by parents or other interested moderators (Baroody Camps) with the approval of the principal or assistant principal. These programs may vary from year to year based on the interests and needs of the students in various age groups. Volunteers must be in full compliance with the diocesan requirements for Child Protection & Safety.

Fees may apply to this program and classes are subject to availability. A permission slip for dismissal (included in appendices) must be completed and returned to the school office at least one week in advance of the first class.

SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Each year a school yearbook is published under the guidance of a faculty member. The yearbook is available for purchase near the end of the school year.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS.

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

VII. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR

CODE OF CONDUCT

In all areas of learning, discipline must be considered in the development of the whole person. The Code of Conduct is based on the Gospel message of Jesus. Growth in self-discipline, a responsibility for Catholic moral values and a loving respect for the rights of all persons is encouraged and nourished by the Code of Conduct. To achieve these ends, parents/guardians, faculty, and students work together to create a Catholic school environment. These basic components include:

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

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

- a. will be honest and committed to integrity.
- b. will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers and adults.
- c. will refrain from harassment of any kind.
- d. will use appropriate language.
- e. will speak respectfully to and about others.
- f. will complete all assignments and participate fully in class.
- g. will respect all school and personal property (see *Care of School Property*).
- h. will refrain from any deliberate disruption in the school.
- i. will adhere to the school's cell phone policy.
- j. will comply with the Responsible Use Policy for Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
- k. will demonstrate good sportsmanship when engaged in all school-sponsored co- and extracurricular activities.
- l. will be present for all required activities unless officially excused by the administration.
- m. will adhere to the dress code (see *Dress Code*).
- n. will not give or receive unauthorized assistance on tests, quizzes, or assignments.
- o. will not leave school grounds during the school day for any reason without permission from the principal/administration.
- p. will not bring to school, nor possess at school, any real or toy knives, guns (or any

facsimile thereof), sharp objects that may be used as a weapon, matches, lighters, sparklers, laser devices, or any facsimile thereof. It is understood if this term is violated, suspension, or expulsion may result (see *Substance Abuse/Weapons* and *Inappropriate Materials*).

- q. will maintain, and support others who maintain, a safe and drug-free environment at, or near, school and at all school-sponsored functions/activities with the understanding that possession or distribution of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other substance that may be harmful or dangerous and forbidden, to include drug paraphernalia, will result in suspension or expulsion from school (see also *Substance Abuse/Weapons*).
- r. will not engage in any physical or verbal contact with another student which could be interpreted to be an inappropriate display of affection. Such conduct is prohibited on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities.
- s. will, at all times, whether at school or in the community, conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the Catholic values and principles of the school.

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

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

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/WEAPONS

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

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

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

testing within 24 hours and that the results of the testing be shared with the appropriate school officials. If a violation of the law has occurred, the proper law enforcement agency will be contacted.

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

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

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

DISCIPLINE

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

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

USE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In cases where a student is continually disruptive of others or in the case of a single serious disciplinary infraction, the teacher will apprise the principal/administration of the situation. They will

assist in the development of a course of action to be taken to correct the situation.

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

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The following are some approved disciplinary measures:

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

SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

The principal and assistant principal, in consultation with parents and teachers, may recommend that a student receive specific testing or professional help. If the issue is not resolved, the administration will consult with the pastor and superintendent and may recommend transferring to another school, where the student's academic and social/behavioral needs are better accommodated. Discipline records are separate from the student's permanent record file and are not transferred to another school.

HOMEWORK CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT (GRADES 6, 7, 8)

Incomplete homework and/or outstanding assignments will be closely monitored. Work that is turned in late may receive a reduced grade. Parents will be notified by the teacher if a student is neglecting homework and/or has outstanding assignments. Students who consistently neglect homework and fail to complete outstanding assignments will lose the day late privilege.

DETENTION FOR SERIOUS MISCONDUCT

For students in grades 6-8, serious misconduct will result in a detention. Detentions are generally scheduled after school but may be scheduled at other times as well.

The method of detention will vary depending on the level of misconduct. Parents will receive written documentation of the student's inappropriate behavior and date of detention. This

disciplinary notice must be signed and returned to the school within 24 hours. The teacher and/or principal will notify parents of students in grades K-5 of inappropriate behavior and specific consequences.

SUSPENSION

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

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

DISMISSAL

Conduct which is disruptive to the learning atmosphere and/or contrary to the school's Code of Conduct is justification for a principal/administration to dismiss a student.

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

EXPULSION

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

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

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

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

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

principal/administration.

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

STUDENT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

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

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY SEARCHES

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

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY

Students are solely responsible for their own personal property. The school accepts no responsibility for items left unattended in the common areas of the school. It is the responsibility of the student to

turn in wallets, watches, and other valuables to the physical education teacher/coach when participating in athletic events away from school. Items of personal property or clothing not directly related to academic or athletic events sponsored by the school should not be brought to school.

SCHOOL LOCKERS AND DESKS

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

Students must follow the policy of the classroom teacher with regard to personal items (i.e. toys) brought to school.

CELL PHONES

If a parent deems it necessary for a student to bring a cell phone to school (i.e. the child will be taking public transportation or walking home), the student must turn the cell phone in to their homeroom teacher before classes begin. Students may pick the phone up from their homeroom teacher at the end of the day. Cell phones may not be stored in backpacks, pockets, etc.

Commented [1]: No comma needed

If a student is found to have a cell phone at school and has not followed the proper procedure, it will be confiscated and turned in to the office where it will remain with administration until a parent or guardian retrieves it. A parent or guardian will need to schedule an appointment with the principal to come and pick up the cell phone. If a cell phone is taken away for a second time, a parent or guardian will have to pay a \$25 retrieval fee, if there are subsequent offenses the amount will increase each time by \$25.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

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

DRESS CODE

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

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

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

All students in grades K-8 are required to wear the approved school uniform and shoes. Uniforms for Saint Ann Catholic School are purchased through Flynn & O'Hara only. They are located in Fairfax, Virginia and can be contacted at <https://flynnohara.com/>. Uniforms must be kept clean

and should be marked with the student's name. Students are expected to have a complete uniform when school begins.

PE uniforms are mandatory for students in grades K-8.

Summer uniforms are optional and may be worn from the beginning of the school year to mid-October and after the Easter vacation until the end of the school year.

The complete uniform requirements for students in grades K-8 may be found in the appendix. Students may wear the scout uniform on meeting days. Saint Ann CYO players may wear their jersey over their collared uniform shirt on Fridays during regular season for that sport.

The following additional dress and grooming guidelines must be followed:

1. ONLY items listed in Uniform Requirements may be worn while at school.
2. Students may not wear hoodies of any kind while in class but may wear at recess.
3. Caps or hats may not be worn indoors.
4. Girls may NOT wear any make-up, including any eye makeup or lipstick. Only clear nail polish may be worn.
5. Perfume and cologne are not permitted in school.
6. Jewelry is limited to a watch, a simple ring, and a simple crucifix or holy medal on a narrow silver or gold chain around the neck. Choker-type necklaces are not permitted. Bracelets are not permitted (with the exception of 8th grade girls and medical ID bracelets).
7. Girls may wear one pair of small, post-type earrings or tiny (smaller than the size of a dime) hoop earrings. Boys may not wear earrings.
8. All students' hair should be clean, neatly groomed, and natural in color. Boys' hair should not extend beyond the shirt collar in the back or cover the ears. Girls' and boys' hair is not to be worn in such a way that it covers the eyes.
9. Extreme hairstyles, including shaved or partly shaved styles and tails, are not permitted. Hair coloring is not permitted. Girls may wear modest hair accessories that match the uniform.
10. The principal reserves the right to judge the appropriateness and acceptability of student dress and grooming. This also applies to Out of Uniform and Spirit Wear Days.

The principal and teachers monitor the dress code. Frequent and deliberate violation of the dress code shall result in disciplinary action.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

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

Laser pointers, skateboards, cellular phones, Apple watches or any watch or device that allows for texting, mini TV's, hand-held jamming devices, or other items that distract from the learning environment. The principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of other items.

Students may not chew gum on school grounds.

PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS

Playground areas and equipment are provided for student exercise and enjoyment. Students must follow the rules and restrictions regarding playground behavior provided by their classroom teacher and/or the playground monitor.

LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS

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

The school administration can determine if middle school students may use a microwave oven.

VIII. HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

STUDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

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

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR CHILD ABUSE

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

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

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

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

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

WELLNESS POLICY

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

STUDENTS WITH SUICIDAL IDEATION

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment that allows students to develop and prosper academically, physically, and spiritually, consistent with Catholic teachings and principles. When a student has expressed to any adult, that he/she wants to harm or kill him/herself, it is the responsibility of that adult, school counselor, school nurse or administrator to

investigate this further. The school may require documentation and information regarding the threat to self and request accommodations that may impact their academics or social interactions while at school.

ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

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

If an incident results in a medical condition or injury which can be reasonably known to the appropriate supervisory faculty/staff member and/or the principal, the school and/or its staff are authorized to render reasonable basic first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion of the school, serve to minimize the severity of the injured person's condition. As an example, staff should initially resort to using only ice, band aids, soap and water when treating cuts and/or scrapes to avoid any possible known or unknown allergic reactions to salves or creams. In addition, staff may secure a professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion of the school, appears to be reasonably warranted. The school and school officials shall be expressly held harmless from any liability costs or expenses associated with the professional diagnosis and/or any treatment or first aid provided (including but not limited to the cost of transportation), such costs or expenses being the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

AIR QUALITY AND PREVENTION OF HEAT/COLD RELATED ILLNESS

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

GENERAL ILLNESS PROCEDURES

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

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

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

A child who does not feel well should remain at home. A child who has been ill should be fever free/symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school to prevent spreading illness to others

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

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

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

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

Schedule II narcotic analgesic, they shall remain home until they are able to control pain with OTC medications.

- j. Benzodiazepines (e.g. klonopin, Ativan, diazepam) prescribed as needed (prn), should not be administered in any school setting. This does not apply to students diagnosed with a seizure disorder.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY

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

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

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

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

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a student, who does not have a prescription for an Epi Pen, epinephrine will be administered by the school nurse or trained school personnel. A standing order, signed by a physician, for the use of the Epi Pen in such emergency situations is on file in the clinic. An Epi Pen for this purpose is maintained in the clinic, as well as in the parish hall.

TELEHEALTH

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

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

SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS

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

TOILETING/INCONTINENCE

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

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

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

USE OF CRUTCHES

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

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DISEASE

Parents/guardians must notify the school within 24 hours if their child or any member of the immediate household has developed a communicable disease. Parents must notify the school

immediately if the disease is life threatening. Parents must pick up their sick or injured child in a timely manner when contacted. If the parent cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called to pick up the child.

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

- a. No daycare/preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary school student may attend class without documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health's school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form MCH-213G (*Appendix F-2*).
 - i. A certificate of immunization is not required for any student for whom the school has written certification from a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or the local health department, that one of more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health. The certification must indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization. The Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213G) provides a space for such a certification to be made
 - ii. On a basic level, for the good of society, the Catholic church generally encourages the use of immunizations. The Church teaches that questions of immunization are "left to a matter of conscience" and parents have the right to decide about the health of their children in this matter. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption form (*Appendix F-18*), which will be retained in the student health record. Schools may request a statement from their parish priest or affiliate, describing such objection to specific immunizing agents. If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness occurs, the student who is not immunized against that disease, will be excluded from school for an undetermined period of time, as per the instructions of the State Health Commissioner and the public health department.
- b. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for three months or more where tuberculosis is common are required to provide documentation, prior to school entry, of a negative tuberculosis skin test or chest x-ray result. All diocesan schools are responsible for compliance with local health department regulations pertaining to tuberculosis screening and treatment.
- c. Students with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to the Virginia Department of Health regulations. (See General Illness Procedures.)
- d. School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable

Disease Chart, found in the *Virginia School Health Guidelines*, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.

- e. The Diocese of Arlington has comprehensive guidelines for school/parish-based influenza vaccination clinics. The liability associated with the vaccination of children is great. The Diocese of Arlington does not promote school-based vaccination clinics for children during school hours, and in the absence of the parent, with the exception of a state or federal emergency. Any school wishing to offer an onsite school immunization program must comply with all aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement Vendors wishing to serve as vaccinators must be fully vetted by the Office of Risk Management prior to the signing of any contract for services.

LICE

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

If head lice are discovered on a student, the parent will be notified immediately. If parents discover head lice on their child, they must inform the school nurse or school office immediately. A student with an active case of lice will not be permitted to return to class the following day without treatment and re-examination by the school nurse. Grade level parents will be notified that head lice were detected in the classroom, and they will receive an information sheet with treatment options and precautions.

BLOODBORNE DISEASE

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

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

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

FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted weekly during the first month of school and monthly for the remainder of the year. During fire drills, students follow these regulations:

- Rise in silence when the alarm sounds;
- Walk to the classroom door and exit the room in a single file line;
- Exit the building following teacher and signage directions;
- Walk to the assigned place silently and briskly in single file;
- Return to building when signal is given.

Tornado drills are practiced periodically. The procedures are:

- Rise in silence when the alarm sounds;
- Walk briskly in single file to the assigned place;
- Kneel, face wall, and put hands over head;
- Return to classroom when signal is given.

The school has contingency plans in the event of other threats to student well-being and safety. These plans are discussed and practiced with students as best befits the students' particular grade level.

HARASSMENT

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

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

Furthermore, since student behavior, whether inside or outside of school, reflects on our schools and can have a significant impact on life at school, there are times when it is appropriate and important for school administration to respond to incidents that occur outside of school and beyond school hours. Therefore, the schools reserve the right to discipline those in the community who engage in harassment of other school community members at any location and at any time if such

harassment takes the form of obscene, libelous, slanderous language or incites violence, invades the rights of others, or contributes to a substantial disruption of the school community. Therefore, if such harassment originates outside of school and it comes to the attention of school staff, appropriate action will be taken to maintain a safe and respectful work and academic environment. As the primary educators of their children, parents have the responsibility to handle harassment issues not involving the school and that are occurring outside of school.

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

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE – STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

In addition, any sexual or romantic conduct between a school employee or an employee of a contracted service provider and a present student of any age, even if 17 years of age or older, and even if consented to or welcomed by the student, is strictly prohibited by this policy while the student is attending a diocesan school and for one year post-date of graduation, and will result in dismissal of the adult involved. As such, this policy prohibits sexting between students and employees or employees of contracted service providers and the showing of pornography to any student by any such adult. Such activity will result in the dismissal of the adult involved and the reporting of such conduct to the appropriate authorities.

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

BULLYING

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

Examples include, but are not limited to:

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

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

In cases of reported bullying, the principal or designee shall interview all students involved (i.e. the alleged aggressor(s) and the alleged target(s)) and investigate, as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents/guardians, and school staff; review of

school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying will be subject to appropriate consequences.

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

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

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

HAZING

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

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

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

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

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

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

RACISM

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

Examples include but are not limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

- d. Suspension and/or expulsion

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

RESPECT FOR LIFE

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

SCHOOL SECURITY

The external doors of the school are kept locked during the day. Visitors may enter the school at the Frederick Street entrance, which is monitored by office staff. Visitors must always sign in and out in the school office and wear a visitor's badge. Students have been instructed **NOT** to open doors for visitors or parents. Doors should remain locked and shut; doors should not be propped open.

AHERA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Saint Ann Catholic School has an AHERA Management Plan on file in the school office.

ASBESTOS MANDATORY YEARLY NOTIFICATION

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

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

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

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

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

- a. Video surveillance cameras may be placed in public locations deemed appropriate. Such locations may include, without limitation, school entrances/exits, lobby areas, hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, athletic areas, gathering spaces, and outdoor grounds, as well as school buses.

- b. Restrooms, changing rooms, private offices, nurse's offices, and locker rooms are excluded from security camera use.
- c. It is recognized that it will not be possible to monitor all building areas, rooms, and grounds, or to monitor any location at all times.

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

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

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

Saint Ann Catholic Church and School have operational surveillance cameras on the campus.

X. EXTENDED DAY

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

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

CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

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

OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS

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

For all over-the-counter skin products:

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

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

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Medication that needs to be administered at Extended Day must be accompanied by the correct form,

signed by the parent and doctor, and clearly labeled with the student's name. A log of any/all medications distributed while attending Extended Day will be maintained by the director with copies submitted to the school office. These records will be maintained for a period of 10 years.

LICENSING INFORMATION

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

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

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

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

INSURANCE

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

TAX INFORMATION

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

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

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

SAINT ANN EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

The Extended Day program offers after care services for students enrolled in Saint Ann Catholic School. The purpose of the program is to provide a safe and nurturing Catholic environment for children. The program is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

HOURS

The Extended Day program operates each scheduled school day unless otherwise indicated on the school calendar. The afternoon session begins when school dismisses and closes at 6:00 p.m.

In consideration of the Extended Day staff, the Extended Day program will close at 4:00 p.m. on days the school is scheduled for a noon dismissal before holiday breaks.

REGISTRATION

All students of Saint Ann Catholic School using the Extended Day services are required to be registered for the Extended Day program.

Registration for the Extended Day program requires the following:

- A. Registration and Contract forms are completed;
- B. Emergency forms are on file in the school office;
- C. Current medical/immunization information is on file in the school office;
- D. Payment of Extended Day Registration Fee is received.

All the above apply to all students who use the program on a regular basis.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Saint Ann Catholic School follows the closing and delayed openings of the Arlington County Public Schools. If the school is closed because of inclement weather, the Extended Day program will be closed. In the case of an early dismissal due to inclement weather, parents are asked to pick their children up as soon as possible, but no later than two hours after the school's early dismissal.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students in the Extended Day program follow the Saint Ann Catholic School Code of Conduct. Discipline will be positive, timely, and appropriate to the infraction. Discipline may include: discussion, mediation, time out, redirection, letters of apology, or short essays about the incident. Improper behavior may require detention, suspension, or withdrawal from the program. The Director is responsible for informing parents and the principal and/or assistant principal about a child's behavior/action that violates the Saint Ann Catholic School Code of Conduct.

HOMEWORK POLICY

The Extended Day program includes a supervised homework period. Although help with assignments may be available, homework is not checked for completion. Parents are required to assume that responsibility.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, the parent or the emergency contact will be notified immediately of any serious accident or injury. Medical assistance will be rendered as needed. Written documentation of the type of injury, date, and first aid rendered will be kept on file at the school for two years after the injury or accident.

At least one staff person who has received a basic certificate in standard first aid and CPR from an approved program by the American Red Cross, as well as instruction by a health care professional on the observation of the health needs of children, will be on the premises during all hours of operation.

Emergency phone numbers, evacuation plan, fire drill information, child needs, and playground safety plans are posted on the Extended Day bulletin board. Practice fire drills are held monthly.

SIGNING IN/OUT FOR ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE, LATE PICK-UPS

Students must be signed in and out by a parent or designated adult indicating the time of arrival or departure. The designated adult who is appointed to pick up a child from Extended Day may need to show ID before a student will be released. Students are not permitted to sign themselves in or out. Students leaving the school grounds without permission during the Extended Day program may be suspended.

Students, who are attending Extended Day and wish to work with a teacher after school, shall report for roll call with a pass from the classroom teacher. A staff member from Extended Day will accompany the student to the teacher's classroom. The classroom teacher will accompany the student's return to the Extended Day program when the work is completed.

A written notice from the parent/guardian is required for a change in the dismissal procedure for any student who regularly attends the Extended Day program. In an emergency, the director will accept telephone authorization from the parent/guardian for a change in dismissal.

When a child who is regularly scheduled for Extended Day attends a school-sponsored after school activity, the child will be escorted back to the Extended Day program by an adult and will be signed in. The administration, classroom teacher, or moderator of the after school activity will submit a list to the director of those students participating in a given activity.

Parents and legal guardians of registered Extended Day children are welcome to visit the Extended Day program at any time, but for the safety of all children in the program, it is requested that they not interact with children other than their own.

Cell phones are not permitted in Extended Day. If a student has a cell phone at school, it must be turned in to the office or classroom teacher on arrival. The cell phone will be given to the Extended Day director at the end of the day and be returned when the student is signed-out.

The director and another staff member will remain with children after 6:00 p.m. until the parent or a designated adult arrives. Every effort will be made to locate the parents and/or emergency contact.

PAYMENT OF EXTENDED DAY FEES

A monthly invoice is sent home at the close of each month. An additional fee may be assessed for late pick up. Prompt payment of fees is expected. Parents using the program are expected to pay upon receipt of the monthly invoice. When a month's payment is outstanding, parents may lose the privilege of using the Extended Day program for their children. A child's report card and other educational records will not be released if Extended Day payments are outstanding.

APPENDICES

School Forms

Annual Fees Form
Continuous Enrollment Agreement
Dismissal Form
Enrichment Class Participation Slip
Extended day Contract and Fees - Extended Day Registration Form
Middle School Gift of Human Sexuality - A Christian Perspective Permission Form
Service to School Agreement
Volunteer Form – Service to School Opportunities

Additional School Information

2025-2026 K-8 Tuition and Fees
Carpool Procedures and Diagram
Diocesan Covid – 19 Risk Waiver
Lease of School Technology
Office for the Protection of Children and Young People Background Check Application
Instructions
PTO Constitution and Bylaws
Saint Ann Community Health Pledge
Uniform Requirement

Diocesan Forms:

Permission for Emergency Care Form (*Appendix F-1*)
Confidential Student Health History Update (*Appendix F-1A*)
Confidential Student Health History Update (Spanish) (*Appendix F-1B*)
Confidential Student Health History Update (Vietnamese) (*Appendix F-1C*)
Virginia School Entrance Health Form (*Appendix F-2*)
Asthma Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-3*)
Anaphylaxis Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-4*)
Diabetes Quick Reference and Indemnification (*Appendix F-5*)
Virginia Diabetes Medical Management Plan (*Appendix F-5A*)
Diocese Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*)
Wind Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (*Appendix F-15*)
Certificate of Religious Exemption (*Appendix F-18*)
Seizure Action Plan (*Appendix F-20*)
Code of Conduct for Personnel and Volunteers in the Diocese of Arlington.English (*Appendix G-1*)
Codigo de Conducta para el Personal y Voluntarios en la Diócesis de Arlington.Spanish (*Appendix G-2*)
Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (*Appendix N*)
Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation.English (*Appendix R*)
Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Esquela.Spanish (*Appendix R-A*)

Use of Personal Vehicle (*Appendix R-1*)
Elementary/Middle School Handbook Agreement Form (*Appendix AG-1*)

Signature Page Follows

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

PARENT/GUARDIAN

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

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

(Parent's Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

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

(Student's Signature)

(Second Student's Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Date)