



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027

“The mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is to educate, ignite, and empower each other to become the best version of ourselves while actively living our Catholic faith. Through the power of exceptional teaching and learning, we excel academically. Our relationships inspire the powers of teamwork, service, and creativity. As part of our parish faith family, our mission makes the world a better place”

July 2026

Dear Our Lady of Lourdes School Families,

This Parent-Student Handbook is designed to be a helpful resource for understanding the policies, procedures, and expectations that support a safe, positive, and faith-filled learning environment for all of our students. I encourage you to take some time to review the appropriate sections with your child(ren), especially those related to student behavior, uniforms and personal appearance, technology use, and other important school expectations. When students and families have a shared understanding of these guidelines, we strengthen the partnership that helps every child succeed.

Throughout the school year, the Parent-Student Handbook will be available on our school website under the Parents menu for easy reference. Should any updates be made, we will communicate those changes with our school families promptly.

Thank you for entrusting Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School with the privilege of educating your child. We are grateful to partner with you in nurturing each student's academic growth, faith, and character. Together, as families, faculty, and staff, we are building a community rooted in Christ where every child is known, supported, and encouraged to thrive. It is my prayer that God continues to bless our school community as we work together to make Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School a place of excellence, faith, and love.

Christ's peace and blessings,

Mrs. Gerda Letizia
Principal

Families are responsible for reviewing the Parent-Student Handbook annually to remain informed of school policies, procedures, and expectations. Any updates or revisions made since the previous edition will be highlighted in red for easy identification. Any changes made to the handbook during the school year will be at the discretion of the Principal and will be communicated to families in a timely manner.

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Section 1: Introduction

“The Catholic school participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. In this way ‘Catholic schools are at once places of evangelization, of complete formation, of inculturation, of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds.’ The ecclesial nature of the Catholic school, therefore, is written in the very heart of its identity as a teaching institution. It is a true and proper ecclesial entity by reason of its educational activity, ‘in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony.’” (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, 1997, para.11)

Policies and Procedures

The fact that a child has been registered at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL) Catholic School indicates that its policies, rules, regulations, and consequences have been examined and accepted by parents and guardians. It is expected that the judgment of school authorities concerning decisions, policies, rules, regulations, and/or the discipline of the students will be respected and supported by the parents and guardians. If conflict arises, parents and guardians are expected to discuss the problem privately with those concerned and not in front of the student(s), other parents, or guardians, or with others in general. Education is a partnership. The parent/guardian is the primary and principal educator: the school supports the parent/guardian in this endeavor. However, in the view of the pastor and administration, if there is a breakdown in this partnership, parents/guardians may be asked to remove their child/ren from the school.

Preface

This Student-Parent Handbook is a guide for the families of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School (OLL). It outlines the operation of our school while defining the expectations for all community members. Included within are OLL policies and procedures. OLL’s policies and procedures have been developed by the School Administration and Pastor with the support of the School Advisory Council and with recommendations by the Diocese of St. Petersburg (DOSP). These policies and procedures are illustrative of “Fundamental Fairness.”

The interpretation, definition, and enforcement of these policies, procedures, rules, and guidelines are at the discretion of the School Administration and Pastor.

Our Lady of Lourdes reserves the right to make changes to this Handbook at any time and to make timely notification thereof. The policies contained in this Handbook supersede any other previous policies and will not be negated by any other OLL policy or procedure previously issued.

Mission Statement

The mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is to educate, ignite, and empower each other to become the best version of ourselves while actively living our Catholic faith. Through the power of exceptional teaching and learning, we excel academically. Our relationships inspire the powers of teamwork, service, and creativity. As part of our parish faith family, our mission makes the world a better place.

Core Values

LOVE – SERVICE – LEARNING – INTEGRITY - COURAGE

School Accreditation

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, which acts as a liaison between the Catholic schools and the Florida Department of Education. OLL participates in annual school improvement reviews to ensure standards of excellence are maintained in our school.

Affiliations

- National Catholic Educational Association
- The Florida Catholic Conference
- The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- National Junior Honor Society
- Pinellas Youth Athletic Conference

School Logo - The Story Behind it

The school logo depicts Mary, our Mother, with the child Jesus. Founded in 1962, our school is named after a Marian apparition that occurred almost a hundred years earlier in France. The story of Our Lady of Lourdes is one of humility, courage, and transcendence. It is the story of a little girl, known for her disabilities, her lack of language skills, and virtually non-existent academic abilities, who because of her child-like faith, was honored to be the messenger of Christ for the world. This Marian apparition is most significant for its dogmatic revelation that the Virgin Mary is the Immaculate Conception. Just as Our Lady, with the Holy Spirit, brought Christ into our world, we too are called to collaborate with the Holy Spirit to bring Christ into our community.

School Colors

- Blue and White: In honor of Our Lady of Lourdes who was robed in blue and white.
- Red: In honor of the Romans, the first defenders of our faith.

The Marian colors of blue and white are fundamental to our identity. Likewise, our Roman red will continue to distinguish our community as it has since the founding of our school.

Home and School Association

The Home and School Association (HSA) is made up of parents/guardians of Our Lady of Lourdes students. All school families are automatically members of the HSA. The HSA promotes volunteerism and provides community building activities to benefit the students, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff of our school. The HSA is committed to providing service to the school, parish, and community.

School Advisory Council

The purpose and mission of the School Advisory Council (SAC) is to act as advisory to the Pastor and Principal. The SAC serves the three-fold purpose of advising the Pastor and Principal regarding school policy, long term planning, and fostering good public relations. Members are appointed by the Pastor and Principal and serve at their discretion.

Annual Fund Committee

Encourage, Enrich, Empower completes the vision of diversifying the school funding opportunities by allowing any and every person within the school and parish community, who value faith based and academically challenging education, the opportunity to further participate in our school mission through financial support.

Responsibilities and Expectations

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School promotes responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a safe, faith-based, learning and teaching environment. Operating on the premise that school, parish, and home create a team that works together for the benefit of all students, we - students, parents/guardians, teachers, staff, clergy, and volunteers - have come together with a shared mind and purpose.

Each member of this community is expected to:

- Create a positive faith-based learning environment where all are accepted and encouraged to develop self-esteem and respect.
- Treat others with courtesy, respect, consistency, and fairness.
- Teach and model by positive example.

Organizational Structure

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is owned and operated by the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. As a parochial school, we are a ministry of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish.

Students

Students are expected to demonstrate respect for the rights and safety of others by:

Following all Expectations for Student Behavior, Academics, technology use, extra curriculars, and dress code included in this handbook.

Expectations for Parents/Guardians

- Treat all staff with dignity and respect. All interactions with staff must be respectful.
- Be respectful of the teacher's time. Schedule meetings ahead of time, be mindful of the time allocated for meetings, and keep emails to teachers to a minimum.

- Ensure their child attends school regularly and on time.
- Support all the school policies and practices outlined in this handbook.
- Support teacher's decisions.
- Inform the school of health issues and learning diagnosis.

E-mails: Respecting Teachers' Planning Time

Parent emails to teachers should be brief and limited to necessary questions. This guideline is put into place to protect teacher planning and instructional time. Teachers are expected to teach during instructional time and use planning time to develop quality instructional activities for students, grade papers, set up activities, etc. Because of this expectation, teachers cannot always respond to emails during the school day, when they are either teaching or planning. Parents are asked to keep in mind that teachers in grades 4-8 are responding to not only emails, but also student planner and SeeSaw communications, for 3 different classes each day. The expectation is to keep limited written communication respectful and brief. For serious issues request a phone call or conference by email. Emails can be expected to receive a response within 24 hours of receipt.

Faculty/Staff

By choosing to teach in a Catholic school, every member of the faculty and staff embraces the responsibility of teaching in the example of Jesus Christ. As a reflection of Christ the Teacher, each educator is called to model His words, actions and compassion in daily interactions, striving to create a faith-filled environment rooted in love, service, and truth.

As one who models the words of Christ the Teacher, the teacher must:

- Carry out all responsibilities and conduct oneself in a manner consistent with the religious, moral, and ethical principles of the Catholic Church both on and off school premises.
- Conduct oneself at all times according to the Diocesan "Code of Conduct for Employees and Volunteers Working with Children and Young People."
- Grow in one's own relationship with God and sharing the richness of it with others in the school community.
- Speak respectfully to all in the school community, i.e., administrators, teachers, parents/guardians, and students.
- Engage in appropriate conversations with all staff members in both formal and informal settings.
- Share words of comfort, compassion, and hope to all those in our school community in need of our support.
- Be present and punctual to meet the daily needs of our students.
- Collaborate professionally with colleagues to build and maintain high academic and spiritual standards for the school community.
- Meet all professional responsibilities completely, in a timely manner, and in a spirit of service and sacrifice.
- Be present to supervise/instruct students at all times indicated in the daily schedule and during emergencies.

The conduct of those working for Diocesan parishes and affiliate agencies and volunteering in our programs must reflect the mission of the Church to teach Christ's truth and extend His love and care to all. In addition, there is a heightened concern that those working with children and young people recognize the importance of legal, professional, and responsible conduct.

Finally, the Catholic school teacher is a privileged witness of Christ's love for his children, seeking to hand on the content and practices of the Catholic faith while fulfilling his/her Christian vocation and thus sharing directly in the mission of the Church which receives its call from Jesus who said, "Go therefore, and teach all nations."

Teachers have the right to teach in a safe environment, where students are respectful, kind, and ready to learn, and parents/guardians are collaborative.

Administration

The school administration are experienced teachers with additional training in school management and leadership. Under the direction of the pastor, school administration functions as the school's spiritual and academic leader fostering Catholic Identity in accordance with the school's mission statement and philosophy; and is also responsible for supporting the Diocese of St. Petersburg in its mission to evangelize and catechize youth in a Catholic School environment. School administration shall serve as a minister of the Gospel and Catholic Teaching both academically and behaviorally while at work and in personal life. It is the administration's responsibility to:

- Provide a school environment that is safe and welcoming to all.

- Promote the school mission and create an environment where the values of the school are aligned with those of the Parish and Diocese.
- Facilitate compliance of policy and regulation.
- Facilitate a quality learning environment where curriculum is implemented with rigor, assessment is conducted consistently, regularly and with honesty, and the learning environment is supportive of both students and teachers.
- Hire, supervise, and develop teachers and staff.
- Facilitate efficient and effective communication among all stakeholders.
- Facilitate the acquisition and effective and efficient use of resources.
- Manage record keeping as per Florida State and Diocesan requirements.
- Collaborate with the Pastor and all community groups in building a community of faith and excellence.

Pastor

“The pastor is the spiritual leader who takes special care of the Catholic education of children and young adults (Canon 528).” With this overarching and comprehensive responsibility, he oversees the management and leadership of the school.

Parent/Guardian School Covenant

As parents/guardians of children in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, we promise to read carefully and support the philosophy of the school, as stated in this Handbook. As a family, we promise to attend weekend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, when possible. We promise to provide prayer experiences in our daily living and set a Christian example for our children. We promise to help our children with their lessons and take an active part in their education. We promise to support with regular attendance at Home and School meetings, to fulfill our required volunteer hours, and to assist with fundraising. We promise to follow the designated stewardship plan for the parish and use the online or envelope system for our offering to help the parish acknowledge our accountability. We understand that our reception of the Diocesan subsidy for tuition throughout the year is dependent upon our fulfillment of the covenant.

Section 2: Registration Information

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Catholic schools of the Diocese of St. Petersburg admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available at all schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, athletic programs, or any other school administered programs.

Admission

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School (OLL) is a parochial school sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish. Priority for admission into the school (and for re-registration for subsequent years) is given to Catholic children who are attending Sunday Mass weekly and whose parents or guardians are registered in the Parish and supporting the Parish through the use of the parish envelope system or automated parish withdrawal.

Enrollment in the school in a particular year does not guarantee the child a place in the school in the following year.

Age Requirements

- A child entering our early childhood Three-Year-Old Program (EC3) must be three years old upon entering the program.
- A child entering our early childhood Four-Year-Old Program (VPK) must be four years old on or before September 1st of the current school year.
- A child entering Kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1st of the current school year.
- A child entering First Grade must be six years old on or before September 1st of the current school year or have completed a full year of kindergarten.

Admission Priorities

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School (OLL) would like to accommodate all siblings who follow the established criteria in the Early Childhood classes and Kindergarten. The following priorities will be followed for Early Childhood and Kindergarten applicants. The applications will be ranked in each category according to the date of application.

Enrollment Priorities for Grades EC3-Grade 8:

1. Current students will automatically receive a place in the next grade level.
2. Siblings of OLL students who are OLL parishioners.
3. Applicants from OLL parish.
4. Siblings of current OLL students from other parishes.
5. Siblings of OLL students who are non-Catholic.
6. Catholic applicants that are children or siblings of alumni.
7. Applicants from other parishes.
8. Non-Catholic applicants.

****New students entering Grade 8 will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis. Generally speaking, students may be admitted into Grade 8 if they are moving from another state or have been attending another Catholic School within the Diocese of St. Petersburg.**

Registration

Registration begins in January and is announced in the weekly electronic newsletter (Flocknote), as well as in the Parish Bulletin.

Current families will be notified in early January when online registration has opened. Current families will have priority in registering prior to Open Enrollment. Registration fees and paperwork must be completed in full to ensure your child's placement.

****Note:** All currently enrolled school families will be automatically enrolled in OLL's FACTS Continuous Enrollment. OLL's re-registration will now be an "opt-out" process. Families will be given an "opt- out" date prior to the student(s) being re-enrolled for the following school year.

For re-registration each year, a family's account, service hours and parish support must be current for that year and will be used to determine active parishioner status.

Your child will be considered for acceptance only after all the information has been received.

Immunizations

Florida State Law requires that school-aged children be immunized against communicable diseases. Catholic Schools within the Diocese of St. Petersburg require enrolling students to submit a Florida Department of Health Certificate of Immunization as provided for in Florida Statute 1003.22 as a condition precedent to acceptance. Catholic Schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg do not recognize a religious objection to this immunization. This policy is effective as of the 2011-2012 school year. The immunizations are not optional and must be fulfilled in order for your child to be enrolled in school. Records of immunization must be submitted to the school on the DH 680 state form on or before the first day of school.

The State of Florida requires that a current record of immunization be on file in the school office. A health exam by a physician, within one year prior to admission, is also required. Please see the schedule below. A STUDENT WILL BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL IF HE/SHE HAS NOT RECEIVED THE VACCINES INDICATED AND PRESENTED PROPER DOCUMENTATION TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE NO LATER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Pinellas County requires the following schedule of immunizations for school aged children. All families must complete/submit the following before school begins:

- A physical examination (completed within the last year) is required for Early Childhood and Kindergarten students and all new students, documented on Form DH 3040 (ORIGINAL physical form).
- All students entering Early Childhood and Kindergarten, and all new students, must submit Form DH 680 (ORIGINAL Certification of Immunization form).
- All children entering Kindergarten must have had all three Hepatitis B shots and a second Varicella vaccine.
- **Note: If the fourth dose of polio vaccine is administered prior to the fourth birthday, a fifth dose of the vaccine is required for kindergarten entry. This requirement applies to kindergarten only, no other grade.**
- **Note: Students entering grades 7 and 8 are required to have 1 Tdap.**

Please note the following immunization requirements:

Early Childhood

4 DTaP
3 Polio
1 HIB
1 MMR
Hepatitis B Series (3 shots)
Varicella

Kindergarten

5 DTaP
4-5 Polio
2 MMR
Hepatitis B Series (3 shots)
Varicella (2)

Seventh Grade

1 Tdap

****Note:** The Diocese of St. Petersburg does not accept any religious exemptions. Please ask your family physician if there are any concerns or questions regarding these immunization requirements.

Admit Slip

When a student arrives for their first day of class, they must present their teacher with an Admit Slip. The Admit Slip informs the teacher that the student has submitted all required paperwork to be in compliance to start the school year. The procedure to obtain the admit slip is simple. Parents are provided with a checklist of the required paperwork. The paperwork is submitted to the school office on a designated date before the start of the school year. Families pick up their child(ren's) Admit Slip after completing all paperwork and attending the parent information session the week before school starts. The Admits Slips will be distributed at the end of the parent meetings.

Below are the documents that need to be completed and submitted to the school office to obtain an Admit Slip:

All Families

- Parent/Student Handbook Acknowledgment Form
- Dismissal Choice Form
- Technology Agreement (Grades 3-8)

Returning Families

- Updated Immunization Records (EC4, K, 7th)

New Families

- Florida Health Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record and Florida Health Certificate
- Previous School Records
- OLL Parishioner Form (If requestion In Parish Tuition Rate)

Preschool Families

Early childhood packet

*In the event that any of the required paperwork is missing or incomplete, we will provide families with a checklist of the items that still need to be submitted. Students will not be admitted to class on the first day of school without an admit slip.

Consent to Exchange Information

No information regarding a current or former student may be exchanged with any non-school based party without a signed, written Consent to Exchange Confidential Information, except in situations of suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, endangerment, or medical emergency. This form is available in the school office and must be signed by the parent/guardian.

Title IX

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School adheres to the tenets of Title IX: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Non-Custodial Parents

This school abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the right of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and to other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order. If there is a court order specifying non-release of a child to the non-custodial parent, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with a copy of the custody section of the divorce decree.

Accommodations for Students with Exceptionalities

Parents/Guardians of students with suspected or diagnosed special needs should contact the School Administration and/or Academic Support Teacher for assistance. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School may accept students with exceptional needs, though the school is not required to do so, if following discussion with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and other advisory faculty, school pastor/administration believes the child's needs may be met. An academic, medical, and/or psychological evaluation from a licensed practitioner may be required to make the determination for enrolling a child. If possible, accommodation for a child diagnosed with learning disabilities or other exceptional needs will be made within the regular classroom. Additional services that may be offered include the school resource program, speech/language therapy (provided through the School District of Pinellas County), and Title I tutoring. Concerns about a currently enrolled child's academic progress should be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher. If a learning disability or other exceptional need is suspected, a meeting will be scheduled with the Resource Teacher and involved teacher(s), as well as school administration, when necessary.

Probationary Reports

All new students or students promoted conditionally will be placed on probation for a nine (9) week period; if warranted, probation will be extended for an additional six (6) weeks. The probationary period is for both academics and behavior. Administration and/or teachers may recommend that a student presently in the school be placed on probation at any time if academics or behavior becomes consistently unsatisfactory.

Withdrawal

When a student withdraws, parents/guardians are given a copy of their latest report card to present to the receiving school. All fees must be current before the transfer. A copy of the permanent record card and health records will be sent directly to the receiving school upon request. A Student Withdrawal form must be completed. Parents/Guardians who are withdrawing their child/ren must give a 30-day written notice to be eligible for reimbursement of tuition.

Section 3: Finances

Tuition Rates and Fees

Tuition and Registration/Instructional Fees are determined each year by the Our Lady of Lourdes Finance Council based on the yearly budget and are published at the time of registration. All fees and payments are generally non-refundable.

EC3 Half Day (7:50am-11:15am)

Tuition: \$5,150

Program Fee: \$500

EC3 Full Day (7:50am-3pm)

Tuition: \$9,270

Program Fee: \$500

EC4 Half Day (7:50am-11:15am)

Tuition: \$0 with VPK voucher

Program Fee: \$0

EC4 Full Day (7:50am-3pm)

Tuition: \$9,000 with VPK voucher

Program Fee: \$500

Tuition K-8: Parishioner Rate

Tuition: \$10,780

Program Fee: \$1,000

Families who attend Sunday Mass weekly and who are registered in the Parish and supporting the Parish through the use of the parish envelope system or automated parish withdrawal.

A non-refundable registration fee of \$375.00 per family is due annually in January.

Tuition K-8: Non-Parishioner Rate

Tuition: \$12,847

Program Fee: \$1,000

Families who are not registered or supporting the Parish.

A non-refundable registration fee of \$375.00 per family is due annually in January.

Tuition Payment Policy

ALL tuition and program fees MUST be paid through the FACTS system.

Tuition payments are paid in one of three ways, depending on the family's preference:

- Annual: Due on or before July 31 (3% discount given for payment in full)
- Semi-Annual: Due July 16 and December 16
- 10-Month or 12-Month Plan via FACTS - an automatic withdrawal plan. Tuition payments and schedules are set up on www.factsmgt.com. All families choosing an extended payment plan are required to initiate an online Tuition Payment Agreement via FACTS.

Tuition Assistance

Families in need of tuition assistance may pursue grants, scholarships, and financial aid from various sources.

1. All families seeking parish financial assistance must complete an online application, including:
 - a. Completing an online application through FACTS Management during the appropriate timeframe
 - b. Complete a Step-Up application within the required application dates.
2. All families are encouraged to apply for Step Up Scholarships. Step Up for Students is a state-funded tax-based scholarship available to families. Please refer to their website at www.stepupforstudents.org for income guidelines and how to apply.

All families of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School are expected to pay tuition. Financial assistance may be available for currently enrolled families experiencing a temporary or emergency financial difficulty. Should a family have a problem or need for some assistance during the year, the parent/guardian should contact the bookkeeper.

Any financial information and requests will be held in the strictest confidence. A family who does not remain current with their tuition payments risks the loss of their tuition assistance.

Delinquent Accounts

Delinquent accounts, whether for tuition or Extended Day, can result in a child being removed from the school. However, every opportunity is afforded a family to help them bring their delinquent account current. The process is as follows:

1. First Month Delinquent - Communication will be made with the family (via email, phone call, or letter) requesting payment.
2. Second Month Delinquent - If no attempt has been made to bring the account or accounts current, the family will be required to meet with the Parish Accountant to work out a payment plan.
3. Third Month Delinquent - If no attempt has been made to bring the account or accounts current and there is no payment plan in place, the student/s will be:
 - a. Suspended from attending Extended Day (if it is the Extended Day account that is delinquent).
 - b. Asked to leave the school for non-payment.

Extended Day Program

The Extended Day Program at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School will begin the first full day of school. In order to prioritize the safety and well-being of every student, all families are now required to be set up for After-Care. This ensures that we are fully prepared for any unexpected drop-ins and that every child is covered from the first day of school.

- **Automatic Enrollment:** All students will be considered enrolled in After-Care. Families will only be charged the \$25 one-time registration fee if and when their child utilizes After-Care services. If After-Care is never used, no fee will be assessed.
- **No Advance Registration Required:** If a student stays for After-Care, the \$25 registration fee will be automatically billed through the family's FACTS account.
- **Emergency Contact Information:** Families who have already completed After-Care registration should ensure that all emergency contact information in FACTS is accurate and up to date. These contacts will also serve as the student's designated After-Care contacts.
- **Late Pick-Up:** Any student not picked up by 3:15 p.m. will be checked into After-Care and billed for that day's session.

This policy allows us to better support our families while maintaining a secure and structured environment for all students.

Section 4: School Hours & Attendance

Office Hours

7:20 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Instructional Hours

7:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Attendance

Students who are habitually absent are at risk of falling behind academically as they miss out on important instruction, class discussions, and collaborative learning opportunities. Consistent attendance is crucial for students to fully participate in classroom activities, grasp essential concepts, and maintain a strong academic foundation. Regular absenteeism can hinder their ability to keep up with the coursework and may result in gaps in their understanding, making it challenging to catch up and succeed academically.

- Once a student reaches a total of 15 absences, a conference with administration is required.
- Our Lady of Lourdes reserves the right to decline re-registration for students with absences of 10% or more of the academic school year. This is 18 school days.

Late Arrivals

Habitually tardy students disrupt the teaching and learning environment as their late arrivals interrupt the flow of instruction and can cause distractions for both the teacher and their fellow classmates. Punctuality plays a vital role in maintaining a conducive and respectful atmosphere where every student can fully engage in the learning process.

- All students will be given a “grace” of 10 tardies per semester. Ten from August-December. Ten from January-May.
- On the 11th tardy in each semester, the student will be placed on a probationary status for re-enrollment. Parents will receive written notice of probationary status, outlining the conditions of probation.
- Our Lady of Lourdes reserves the right to decline re-registration for students who are tardy more than 10 times per semester.

Early Dismissals

Students who are habitually dismissed early from the school day have a disruptive impact on both teachers and students. When students leave early, it interrupts the flow of instruction and creates distractions for the front office and the entire classroom. Furthermore, consistent early departures can hinder students' ability to fully participate in important class activities, collaborative projects, and discussions, potentially impeding their overall academic progress. It is crucial for students to remain present for the entirety of the school day to ensure an optimal learning environment for everyone.

- Students will be given 5 “grace” early dismissals per semester. Five from August-December. Five from January-May.
- On the 5th early dismissal in each semester, the student will be placed on probationary status for re-enrollment. Parents will receive written notice of the probationary status, outlining the conditions of the probation.
- Our Lady of Lourdes reserves the right to decline re-registration for students who leave school early more than 5 times per semester.
- No student will be released for early dismissal between 2:30 PM-3:00 PM unless there is an emergency.

Bike Safety

All bikes must be parked and secured in the bike area. Students riding their bikes home must go immediately to the bike area at dismissal, walk their bikes across the crosswalk, and then ride their bike from the property home. Written permission from home is required for a student to ride a bike. All students must wear a helmet in accordance with State of Florida law.

Walkers

Students should cross at the crosswalk and use the sidewalk on San Helen Drive to leave the school grounds. Written permission from home is required for a student to walk.

Attending After-School Events on Days of Absence from School

- Students absent from school for any reason are not permitted to attend or participate in school-sponsored after-school events on the same day as the absence. This means playing in or attending school sports games, dances, or any other extracurricular activities. This does not include students who are not in school due to shadowing at a high school or attending off-campus school sponsored events, such as a STEM Fair.
- Students arriving late or leaving early must be present for at least four hours of the school day to be eligible to attend same day after-school events.

Section 5: Student Life

School Instructional Philosophy

We believe that children are made in God's image and that each child is unique. Using a combination of tradition and innovation based on sound research, our aim is to create a balance between skills, creativity, and responsibility.

Curriculum

Our academic program is developed according to the standards and benchmarks provided by the State of Florida Department of Education and/or Office of Catholic Schools and Centers of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Our core programming meets or exceeds the standards and benchmarks.

Religion

While academic achievement is very important, religious formation is of equal importance at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School (OLL). Students are expected to participate in religious education classes and all additional Eucharistic and Religious Celebrations, including Sunday Masses. The Religious Education Program for Kindergarten to Grade 8 follows a curriculum approved by the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

The main focus of the religion program is to impart Catholic truths and values. We establish our Catholic identity by living Christ's Gospel message of worship, prayer, and service. Religion standards are provided through the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation. Students intending to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, Penance and Confirmation are required to attend classes through the Church in addition to the preparation they received during regular religion classes.

Core Subjects

The goal of our academic programming is to develop a lifelong love for learning, a diverse skillset, and a passion for excellence. Our innovative curriculum is well-planned and balanced at each grade level. It encourages critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration skills and independent learning. Our core academic subjects are Religion, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

The Florida Standards are used for the subjects of English Language Arts and Mathematics. For all other subjects, the Florida Next Generation State Standards are used. To find out more information about the standards and benchmarks visit www.cpalms.org.

To meet our students' individual learning needs, remedial and advanced programming may be available. Students are placed in these programs based on school evaluation facilitated by the school Resource Teacher.

The religious beliefs of the Catholic faith permeate the curriculum.

Co-Curricular Subjects (Encores)

Our academic curriculum is enhanced by an offering of co-curricular learning opportunities from EC3 - 8 including: Physical Education, Art, Music, Performing Arts, and Spanish. All students are required to participate in all of the co-curricular courses.

Enhanced Learning opportunities are offered to students in first through fifth grades who have been identified as "gifted" under the specifications of the State of Florida and who meet the gifted qualifications of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Physical Education is a required subject for all students. A note from a physician must be presented before a student is excused from participating.

Performing Arts is part of the curriculum for students in Grades 3-4. Performing Arts becomes optional in Grades 5-8.

Electives are offered to students in Grades 6-8 once per week and provide students with enrichment opportunities.

Safe Environment

As directed by the Diocese of St. Petersburg, we have a school wide Safe Environment Curriculum for students. This multimedia curriculum integrates a broad variety of resources into a comprehensive student safety and awareness program. It is presented to the students through a cooperative effort of the classroom teacher and School Counseling Office.

Textbooks

Students are responsible for the textbooks and workbooks issued to them. They are expected to protect their books by covering them and keeping them clean. Students will label textbooks and workbooks with their name. Books that are lost or damaged must be paid for at full replacement cost.

Sports Program

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School proudly offers a well-established athletics program. The purpose of the league is to provide an organized framework where students of member schools may participate in an interscholastic sports program that is primarily instructional in nature.

Per our athletic conference rules, students in Grades 5 through 8 are eligible to participate in school athletics. Grade 4 students may only be considered if additional players are needed to complete a team roster. Grade 4 participation is not guaranteed and will depend on team needs, space, coach recommendation, and athletic conference guidelines.

Student athletes are representatives of our school and are expected to act with the utmost integrity and character, both on the field and in the classroom. As such, student athletes must maintain at least an overall 2.0 average and have no failures. Should a student athlete drop below these academic or behavioral requirements, he or she will not be able to practice or play in any games for the remainder of that sport season.

Practice and Game Attendance

Student athletes are expected to attend scheduled practices and games and follow the expectations set by their coach. Specific attendance requirements, missed practice procedures, playing time considerations, and other team rules will be communicated by the coach and outlined through the Athletic Director's yearly rules and agreement.

Failure to follow these expectations may impact a student athlete's ability to participate in practices or games.

Athletic Event Etiquette

Positive cheering is encouraged. Spectators (youth and adult) are asked to refrain from "coaching from the sidelines" toward a particular child or the team in general.

School Masses

All students and staff attend the 9:00 a.m. Mass each Thursday. Masses for Holy Days of Obligation are also held at 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise posted) with the entire school community in attendance.

Students rotate by class in the planning and leadership of school Masses through prayers, responses, hymns, altar serving, and other components. Everyone is expected to participate with enthusiasm, reverence, and respect. Parents/Guardians and community members are welcomed and encouraged to attend these school Liturgies.

Students who are Catholic and have received the Sacrament of Penance will have semi-annual opportunities to participate in the sacrament during school hours.

Additionally, students and their families are expected to attend the monthly Sunday morning School-Led Liturgy, designated as a School-led Mass. Please refer to the academic calendar for dates.

Altar-Serving Students who are in Grades 5 to 8 have the option to train to become an altar server to serve at School Mass, as well as weekend and special Liturgies. For more information, contact our Sacristan, Kay Cantrell, at (727) 733-3606 or kay@ourladydunedin.org.

Lunch

The lunch program director will provide families with menus and payment options prior to the start of the school year.

Playground

Students are provided with sports equipment and playground games for their recess time. All playground activities are supervised by staff members.

Field Trips

Field trips are a privilege and only students who meet the expectations for student behavior may attend. They are educational in nature and an extension of the curriculum and regular classroom experience. All school rules apply when students are on field trips. Parent/Guardian signature(s) are required on a field trip permission form in order for students to participate. The field trip form indicates an acknowledgement by parents/guardians of the nature of the trip and the time supervision of the students will end. A parent/guardian-signed permission slip must be on file at the school prior to the field trip, otherwise the student will not be permitted to go.

Field Trip Chaperones

Chaperones must be completely qualified. Each chaperone must have completed and passed a Level II Background Fingerprint Screening through the Diocese of St. Petersburg, as well as a Safe Environment Training Class. The school reserves the right to carefully select chaperones to drive and supervise our students. Meeting the requirements for background screening and Safe Environment training does not automatically give parents/guardians the privilege of chaperoning. Chaperones are expected to arrive on time, dress modestly, buckle all riders, drive carefully, and model good behavior with appropriate conversation throughout the trip. Smoking or using inappropriate language is not permitted at any time. Alcohol consumption and drug use is not permitted prior to or during the field trip.

Chaperones must begin and end the field trip at school with the class. Chaperones may not meet up with the class at the destination. They are never permitted to make side trips, such as stopping at the grocery store or a drive-thru. Only Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School students are permitted on field trips. Siblings are not permitted to attend.

Anyone providing transportation must have a valid Florida Driver's License and automobile liability insurance. Copies are to be left with the front office prior to leaving on the field trip.

The vehicle used must be in safe operating condition and the number of passengers must not exceed the maximum occupancy for that vehicle. The Diocese of St. Petersburg provides insurance coverage, but only as secondary source after drivers' insurance. In order to be covered under the Diocesan Plan, proof of insurance must be furnished.

Exemplary conduct is expected on all field trips. This is an opportunity for students to give witness to the values of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School Community.

Student Council

Students have a voice in their school through their representative to the Student Council. Grades 4 through 8 elect its own representative and the officers are elected by the student body from Grades 1 through 8. The Student Council is in charge of school spirit, as well as service projects and fundraising.

Yearbook

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School publishes an annual yearbook that features all enrolled students. The yearbook is distributed exclusively to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School students and their families.

Lockers

Lockers are property of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Locks are not permitted.

Lost and Found

Any items found on school property must be turned into the school office. Students who lose items should check with the office and/or Lost and Found. It is important to label your child's name on everything brought to school. Labeling belongings greatly helps to identify items misplaced at school.

Birthdays/Special Occasions

Students are invited to dress out on their birthday. This is a special day, and we want our students to be recognized. Guidelines for dress out days apply. Parents are reminded that no short shorts, crop tops, or inappropriate clothing will be permitted.

Parents/Guardians wishing to send in a treat for their child's birthday are asked to send in something simple such as cookies or cupcakes. These treats must be store bought. Parents/Guardians are asked to refrain from bringing items that contain nut products to ensure the safety of students with nut allergies. The treat will be shared with the whole class during lunchtime only. Please keep in mind that gifts such as balloons and flowers are very distracting and will not be delivered to classrooms or Extended Day. These items are best saved for after the school day.

Parents/Guardians are invited to come to school to eat lunch with their child in the cafeteria on his or her birthday. If a parent/guardian is joining their student for lunch, you are invited to stay for the designated lunch period but may not attend recess. Parents/Guardians are welcome to bring lunch on this day.

Invitations to Out-of-School Parties

Birthday/party invitations (i.e., parties held in a private location) should be mailed from home and not distributed at school, unless every student in the class is invited.

Supplies, Textbooks, iPads, Chromebooks, and Classroom Library Books

A list of school supplies needed for the start of the school year will be made available to parents/guardians online at www.myoll.com. Textbooks and classroom library books are lent to the students for the duration of the school year. Fees will be assessed for damage to books. If a book is lost, the student will be asked to pay the replacement cost. Chromebooks are utilized in Grades 6-8. Fees will be assessed for students who leave their Chromebook unattended. Students will be required to pay all repair/replacement costs if they have damaged a device more than once in three years, or the damage was incurred due to carelessness or improper treatment.

Section 6: Dress Code

Uniform Requirements: All school uniforms are provided through Risse Brothers.

Parents of students out of compliance with the Uniform Requirements will receive a formal notice via email. The school administration does not accept parent requests to discuss the Uniform Requirements. Exceptions will not be granted to students whose parents do not agree with the written policy. It is the parent's responsibility to partner with the school in teaching their child respect for school rules. The school staff has the authority to decide if a student is out of compliance with any part of the Uniform Requirements and their decision is final.

Questions regarding the quality and care of the uniform pieces are best directed to our distributor Risse Brothers' Uniforms - Site: <https://www.rissebrothers.com/>.

Shoes and Socks

- Shoes must be close toed sneakers/tennis shoes that are black, white, or a combination of black and white.
- Girls may also wear Mary Janes, Saddle/Oxford Shoes that are black and/or white and have a rubber sole.
- Absolutely no colors other than black and white will be permitted on the shoe or shoelace, even if the additional color is a very small amount, it will not be allowed. The only two colors permitted on the shoe are black and white.
- High tops, boots, Crocs, light ups, shoes with wheels, and any style the school staff or administration deem inappropriate are not permitted.
- Socks must be all black or all white and must be visible.

Athletic Uniform: Worn for all after school sports practices and special school events such as field day

- Gray uniform shirt
- Red uniform shorts
- P.E. Sneakers

Personal Appearance Policies

Uniform Shirts:

Students have a choice between a standard cotton polo, which must be worn tucked in, and a dry fit polo that is meant to be worn untucked. The dry fit polo is the only uniform shirt that may be worn untucked because it is made with the proper cut to provide our students with a neat and put together look.

***NOTE: All shirts must be tucked in when attending Mass or other events as appropriate.**

Skorts and Shorts:

Girls: Girls may wear khaki or navy shorts or skorts purchased from Risse Brothers' Uniforms. Skirts and shorts may not be too tight or too short.

Boys: Boys may wear khaki or navy shorts purchased from Risse Brothers' Uniforms.

Boys' Hair

- May not touch the eyebrows, may not extend below the bottom of the earlobe, may not extend below the base of the neckline.
- Parents are expected to foresee when their child is due for a haircut and schedule appointments in time for their child to continuously be in conformance with the haircut policy.
- Parents who do not do so will not be given extra time beyond the 3 calendar days to get their child's haircut.
- It should be a very rare circumstance that a parent receives written notice that a haircut is needed. If a parent does receive written notice that a haircut is needed, students must receive the proper haircut within 3 calendar days that the haircut notice was emailed by the teacher. If the haircut has not been corrected by the morning of day 4, the student will not be permitted to return to class. Since the expectations are explained very clearly in this handbook, this should never happen.

Facial Hair

- Boys need to be clean shaven with no facial hair.

Girls' Hair

- Hair should be a conservative style.
- Hair coloring needs to be a natural color. (Black, Brown, Blonde, Red)
- Hair should be neatly styled.

Staff and administration have the right to ask a student to remove a hair piece that is too large, distracting, or deemed inappropriate for the school setting.

Jewelry

- Girls may wear one set of post or small earrings on earlobes.
- Boys may not wear earrings.
- Students may wear one watch or bracelet. One (1) wristwatch (Please note: NO smartwatches of any kind (i.e. Apple Watch, Android Watch, etc.) may be worn at any time; Smartwatches may not be worn, even if their “smart” functions can be ‘turned off.’) Bracelets must be appropriate for school.
- Necklaces of a religious nature are permitted.

Make Up

- Make up is not permitted at any grade level.
- False fingernails, nail tips, coffin or almond-shaped nails may not be worn.
- Girls may wear clear or light pink/neutral nail polish. Colored polish, such as red, blue, white, black, etc. is not permitted.

Early Childhood

EC3 and EC4 students wear a comfortable OLL Early Childhood uniform: red OLL polo shirt, elastic-waist navy shorts/pants or skorts, and closed-toe Velcro shoes of any color. Uniforms are available through Risse Brothers.

Please label all clothing items and remember that extra set (including underwear and socks) for your child’s backpack! All personal items must be labeled.

Uniform Closet

There is a uniform closet in the cafeteria that contains uniform clothing that have been turned in for reuse. Parents/Guardians may go through the closet and take items of clothing that can be worn by their children. These items of uniform apparel are free. Parents are encouraged to add to the closet as their children outgrow their uniforms.

Out-of-Uniform Days

On occasion throughout the school year, Dress Down Days (non-uniform) will be held. For non-theme Dress Down Days, students are to dress in appropriate apparel that would be considered acceptable for school wear. Please think of “business casual” when determining the suitability of your child’s clothing. With matters of dress code, Administration’s decisions are binding.

Dress Down Day Clothing must adhere to the following standards:

- Shorts and skirts must not be too short - no miniskirts or short shorts will be allowed.
- Jeans are permitted provided they have no rips and fit properly.
- Jean shorts may be worn, providing they have no rips, fit properly, and are not too short.
- Shirts must cover the shoulders and midriff (no spaghetti straps, halter tops, muscle shirts or belly shirts).
- No pajama pants.
- Sandals, high-heels, and open-toed shoes present a safety hazard on the playground surface and will not be permitted.
- Any cresting/logos/messages on t-shirts must be appropriate for school

*The staff and administration have the final say on all uniform and personal appearance decisions and can at any time deem a uniform or personal appearance as inappropriate, even when the infraction is not clearly stated in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Section 7: Student Performance

Standardized Testing

TERRANOVA 3: The TerraNova 3 is a standardized achievement and abilities testing program. Our Lady of Lourdes students are required take the TerraNova 3 in grades 2-8 each Spring. Individual student test results are available to parents/guardians.

ARK: The Assessment of Religious Education (ARK) is administered in the spring to the second through eighth grade classes.

Assessments

Purpose of Assessments

An assessment is defined as any instrument that is able to indicate or provide feedback on student achievement or performance. The purpose of an assessment may be summarized as follows:

- To provide information to students in regard to their progress towards mastery of a learning standard(s). In addition, it provides information for self-evaluation and incentives to learn.
- To provide information to teachers on the individual student's level of mastery of the content/skill.
- To allow teachers to use assessment data to plan instruction that will meet the needs of students.
- To communicate information to parents about student achievement and performance in school.

Types of Assessments: While assessments will take many forms and types, they are grouped into two broad categories.

Formative

Whenever a student learns new material, he or she needs time to practice and gain familiarity with the material. It is expected that the student will make mistakes during this learning process. Any work done during this learning period is considered *formative*. The purpose of a *formative* assessment is to evaluate where a student is in the learning process, diagnose any problems, and motivate and help the student learn the material. Formative assessments also inform the teacher of learning areas that may need reinforcement or re-teaching. Middle School students are required to submit all assignments by the end of each unit. Assignments turned in after a unit has been completed will not be accepted.

Summative

After a student has had instruction and practice on a topic, including assessments of a formative nature, it is then necessary to evaluate mastery of understanding, content or skills. The purpose of a summative assessment is to evaluate how well a student knows and understands the material.

School Wide Assessments

Students throughout the school use STAR and MAP assessments. These are assessments students take on the computer. They adapt to the student's answers and response pattern as the student is taking the assessment. Teachers use the assessment results to determine what students already know, identify what they are ready to learn next, and monitor their academic growth over time.

Purpose of Grades

A grade is a recorded score derived from an assessment or assessments. The purpose of grades may be summarized as follows:

- To provide information to students with regard to their performance relative to the learning standard(s).
- To provide information to teachers on the individual student's level of mastery of the content/skill.
- To communicate information to parents about student achievement and performance in school.
- To document student performance for transcripts.

The Grade Composition

In order to represent an accurate measure of student performance, the academic trimester grade needs to be based on work that is evaluated for an appropriate level of mastery of the standards. Summative assessments will therefore be

the primary constituent of the trimester grade. They will account for no less than 70% of the trimester grade. Formative assessments will account for no more than 30% of the trimester grade.

1. All grading is done using the 100-point scale.
 - a. The lowest “earned” grade is 50.
 - b. An “earned” grade is derived from any assessment that is reasonably attempted and handed in.
 - c. An attempted assessment is one where the student has made a diligent attempt to follow the instructions and complete the assessment.
2. Assessments not attempted or not handed in will receive zero points.

Completed student work will be assessed and is a direct measure of student learning. Non-academic attributes will be reported separately. Please see “Approaches to Learning.”

Grading Scale/Grading Codes

Letter Grade	% Score
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	65-69
F	0-64

Gradebook Code	Description
E = Excused	Student is not required to make up assignment.
A = Absent	Student was not present for assignment.
P = Pending	Assignment is submitted and will be graded soon.
I = Incomplete	Assignment is incomplete. Recorded as 0 in the overall grade until submitted.
M = Missing	Assignment is missing. Recorded as 0 in the overall grade until submitted.

Approaches to Learning (ATL)

The principles of Organization, Communication/Collaboration and Reflective Thinking should be the focus for all ATL behaviors. The following are the indicators of Organization, Communication/Collaboration and Reflective Thinking.

Organization

- Prepared for class.
- Punctual with homework and in-class assignments.
- Completed homework and in-class assignments.

Collaboration & Communication

- Participates in class.
- Attentive and engaged during instruction.
- Demonstrates helpfulness and teamwork.

Reflection & Personal Initiative

- Open to teacher help and correction.
- Makes effort to improve behavior/performance by seeking help when needed.
- Makes time for personal study and improvement.

Conduct Grade

All students in K-8 will receive a behavior grade on their report card for each trimester listed as a “Conduct”. This is an overall snapshot of the student’s behavior for that specific trimester. Behavior is graded on a rubric score. Students should strive to always maintain a 3 as their behavior grade.

Other Matters on Assessment and Grades

Roman Reminders

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, we are committed to building responsibility, encouraging reflection, and strengthening communication between school and home. In grades 5–8, a Roman Reminder may be issued when a

student consistently struggles with preparation, punctuality, or active participation. These are not punishments, but tools designed to guide students in their growth and to keep families informed.

A Roman Reminder may be sent home for the following:

Collaboration & Communication

- Not following instructions
- Inattentive in class
- Uncooperative during group work

Reflective Thinking & Personal Initiative

- Off-task behavior
- Careless academic work
- Late for class

Organization

- Not prepared for class
- Assignments turned in late
- Incomplete or missing classwork/homework

What to Expect When Your Child Receives a Roman Reminder:

- Notice will be sent home via email.
- Both the teacher and parent/guardian may leave comments to support open communication.

If incomplete or missing work needs to be completed (as indicated on a Roman Reminder Notice), students must also return the work on the next school day. If the student's work is still not completed, they will receive a 0 in the gradebook. However, the student's work must be completed and submitted to the appropriate teacher. A missing summative assignment will result in an immediate Roman Reminder. *Not completing schoolwork is not an option. All schoolwork must be completed.*

Additional disciplinary actions will be taken if this becomes a recurring issue.

If your child receives one, understand that it is not a punishment, but a valuable opportunity to reflect and improve. However, students who receive three or more Roman Reminders in a single subject area (e.g., reading, math, science) within a trimester will receive a lower Approaches to Learning (ATL) grade on their report card. This can impact their eligibility for the Honor Roll or Principal's List, even if their academic average remains high.

Principal's List and Honor Roll certificates are awarded each trimester for students in grades 3-8.

Principal's List and Honor Roll eligibility is determined by:

- Grades in all subject areas
- Approaches to Learning (ATL) in all classes
- Conduct in all classes

Students can earn Principal's Honors or Honors. Eligibility requirements follow:

Principal's List

- 93% - 100%
- 3 or 4 in all ATL
- 3 or 4 in Conduct in all subjects

Honor Roll

- 83% - 92%
- 3 or 4 in all ATL
- 3 or 4 in Conduct in all subjects

Conduct Score Impact on Honor Roll and Principal

A student's conduct score is based on reflection assignments that are given by school administration. Students are given viable warning in the class (See Section 8: Expectations for Student Behavior), however there are circumstances when a child will need to meet with school administration and receive a reflection assignment. After three reflection

assignments have been assigned a student's conduct score will drop to a 2 and will remove a student off honor roll or principal's list regardless of if academic status is high.

Other factors can be taken into consideration such as in or out of school suspensions. All conduct scores are at the discretion of the school administration.

Make-Up Work

Make-up work for students will never replace teacher instruction or the learning experiences of the classroom. With that in mind, teachers will provide make-up work under the following conditions:

- Make-up work is not provided prior to absences.
- Make-up work is gathered on a daily basis during the student's absence and provided to the student upon their return to school.
- Make-up assessments are scheduled with the teacher.

*The number of days absent equals the number of days students have to make-up an assessment. For example, if a student misses two days of school, the student will have two school days to make up the assessment.

Retakes

The focus of our Catholic schools is to always encourage and support the learning process that leads to mastery. This retake policy supports this emphasis on learning and relearning. Teachers have the discretion to refuse retakes to students who do not fully engage in the learning process prior to the summative.*

The following retake policy is designed to encourage relearning on the part of the student.

Criteria for Retakes Grades K-5

- The retake process is initiated by the teacher. The teacher will communicate with the parent/guardian when a retake is necessary.
- A student may retake a summative once.
- Students may be required to participate in additional practice and/or tutoring sessions to qualify for a retake.

Criteria for Retakes Grades 6-8

- The retake process must be initiated by the student, and only if the student has no missing assignments in that unit of study for the subject area.
- A student may retake a summative once.
- The Application for a Retake should be completed by the student (with parent/guardian, if needed), signed by student and parent/guardian, and returned to the examining teacher no more than five (5) school days after the grade has been posted.
- On the Application for a Retake, the student will identify the deficient standards/topics and include a clear learning plan and timeline to close the learning gap. It is the student's responsibility to complete all tasks within the given timeframe to retake a summative assessment.
- Students may be required to participate in additional practice and/or tutoring sessions to qualify for a retake.

Limitations and Deadlines

- Only one retake will be allowed per summative.
- All graded formative assessments must be completed prior to the original summative.
- The retake for any summative in a unit must be completed before the date of the first summative of the following unit.
- Trimester summatives that are extended projects with ongoing feedback and clear completion deadlines do not qualify for retakes.
- The student will forfeit the retake opportunity if either the scheduled retake date or a scheduled teacher required additional practice is missed, unless excused or rescheduled by the teacher.

Teacher Facilitations

- Teachers will group summative assessments around specific learning standards to help the students identify deficiencies and plan a successful retake. Teachers will post retake dates when the summative assessments are returned.

- The retake will only assess the deficient standards, allowing the student to focus on closing the learning gap and improving the assessment score. The higher grade (out of the retake or the original grade) will be recorded for credit in the grade book.
- Teachers have discretion and may require that a student complete missing ungraded assignments correlated to the deficiencies before the retake is administered.
- Teachers have discretion over the format of the retake assessment.

*Note: Teachers reserve the right to deny a student a retake before, during, or after the retake form is completed if the teacher can show due cause as to why there should not be a retake. This may include, but is not limited to, situations that involve academic dishonesty.

Promotion/Retention/Summer School

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School strives to ensure that each child has a valid formation in the basic skill areas that will render him/her capable of living in society as a responsible citizen. Therefore, in order for a student in the primary grades (K, 1, and 2) to be promoted to the next grade, he/she must demonstrate an overall mastery in the areas of English Language Arts (Reading, Grammar, Composition, Spelling) and Mathematics skills, as indicated on their respective report cards.

The core subjects for students in grades three through eight in the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of St. Petersburg include: Religion, Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. A student enrolled in a Catholic school who fails one core subject must participate in a remedial program. Failure of two core subjects will result in remediation or retention at the discretion of the school principal. Failure of three or more core subjects will result in retention.

The following criteria must be met with regard to the remediation process:

1. Remediation must take place in one of the following ways:
 - a. By a teacher certified in the subject area contracted by the parent/guardian and approved by the school principal.
 - b. In a remediation program which has been approved by the school principal.
 - c. *Note: Neither the student's current teacher, nor any teacher who presumably will be the subject area teacher in the future, may tutor or provide remediation for a student.
2. Prior to the beginning of the next school year, the school principal must receive:
 - a. Validation of attendance.
 - b. Proof of proficiency in the subject area(s), including work samples and test scores.
 - c. *Note: Failure to meet remediation guidelines will result in retention.

The following documentation guidelines will be followed after meeting remediation guidelines:

- d. The original failing grade is recorded on the permanent record and may not be altered;
- e. Proof of proficiency in the subject area must be recorded separately on the permanent record card.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School reserves the right to withhold a student's report card and FACTS SIS Parent Portal privileges if tuition and/or additional fees are not current, Home and School Meetings not attended, or Student-Led Conferences not attended.

Transfer Rule

Any student who fails one or more core subjects must meet the remediation guidelines of the originating school. After these criteria have been met, further assessment may be administered by the school Principal to ensure proper placement.

Religion

Religious training is of the utmost importance and forms an integral part of school life. Students attend daily Religion classes that provide the foundation for a clear understanding of Catholic faith and living.

The student body has the opportunity for Reconciliation, Mass, and Eucharist on a regular basis. Para-liturgical celebrations are also scheduled for special feasts. Every effort is made to lead the student to live his/her Christian commitment daily in all he/she does. Parents/Guardians are asked to cooperate in the faith formation of their children, especially through the example of their own Christian living in the circumstances of each day and in their faithful observance of the Sunday obligation.

Student Records

The student permanent record card contains the following information: student's full name and any known changes thereto due to adoption; authenticated birth date, place of birth, race, and sex; last known address of student; names of student's parent(s) or guardian(s); name and location of last school attended; number of days present and absent; date enrolled; date withdrawn; courses taken and a record of achievement; date of graduation; standardized test results; health data, sacramental information, divorce decree, and custodial information, if applicable.

If parents, guardians, or an eligible student (18 years or older and self-supporting) wishes to view this record, this request must be made in writing and submitted to the school with no less than twenty-four hours' notice. The inspection and review of the record will be held in the presence of the school principal or assistant principal.

Section 8: Expectations for Student Behavior

Expectations for Parents and Guardians

Early intervention and positive working relationships are the key to helping students succeed. Teachers have support from the school administration when it comes to managing student behavior. For this reason, the school administration gets involved early in the process of working with children who need to improve their behavior.

The school administration reserves the right to speak with students during school hours without parent permission or notification. Parents are notified of student interactions with administration which are considered serious in nature. Many conversations between students and the administration are not serious and are not followed-up by a parent phone call.

Parents are expected to be respectful of the school rules and disciplinary actions. The school reserves the right to dismiss a student based on a parent's lack of support for disciplinary actions, policies, or lack of respect for teachers, staff, or administration, whether it's in person, in writing, or communicated through electronic means. The school also reserves the right to restrict a parent's involvement in the school or interactions with the staff due to what the administration deems to be unsupportive or disrespectful behavior.

We believe all students have the right to learn, pray, and play in a safe and healthy environment. Behavior that negatively impacts the environment for students or staff members will not be permitted. The following is a list of behavior infractions that have a negative impact on the school environment and will not be tolerated at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

Any of the following behaviors may result in disciplinary action.

The following expectations must be observed at all times; in all classrooms, field trips, cafeteria, gymnasium, playground, sporting events, general assemblies and after-care.

Students will be respectful to other students. The following behavior is unacceptable:

- Verbal or physical harassment of other students; Name calling, verbal intimidation, threats, continual teasing, etc. through personal interaction, media, or the use of an electronic device. (Students may be disciplined for harassment of other students outside of the school day, if there is reason to believe that the harassment has created an impaired learning opportunity for any student.)
- Physical aggression or physical harm, fighting and/or physical violence
- Unwanted teasing, name calling, and derogatory comments.
- Poor behavior in the hallways and locker areas, such as yelling and running.
- Bullying or harassment as defined in the Diocese of St. Petersburg Harassment Policy
- Vulgar language or gestures, physically or through the use of media or an electronic device.
- Property damage or vandalizing students' possessions
- Stealing, or using property without permission
- Inappropriate touching
- Inappropriate communicating, such as yelling in another students face or writing hurtful messages

Students will be respectful to teachers. The following behavior is unacceptable:

- Interrupting classroom instruction - examples below
 - Yelling out
 - Responding to the teacher with sarcasm or an unacceptable tone of voice
 - Interrupting when the teacher is in Direct Instruction
- Not following the classroom rules for direct instruction, collaboration, or independent work time
- Not following the class rules in the cafeteria, at recess, assemblies, or field trips.
- Not responding appropriately to redirected behavior from a teacher, such as arguing, disregarding, or disrespectful gestures/attitude.
- Displaying a poor attitude, including disrespectful gestures, eye rolling, mumbling, etc
- Arriving late for class
- Cheating - copying - plagiarism - forgery
- Possession and/or use of cigarettes, matches, lighters, vaping, alcohol, illegal drugs, over the counter medications, or prescription drugs, knives, pocket-knives, weapons (real or facsimile), laser pointers, belong in the home and could be used as a weapon, such as a hammer or aerosol sprays.

- Possession of inappropriate pictures/media
- Disregard for uniform policy or dress code.
- Leaving any activity or learning environment, inside or outside, without permission.
- Violation of the Internet Use Agreement.
- Violation of the Technology Use Agreement.
- Damage or vandalism to school property.
- Running, yelling, throwing objects/food, or any such disruptive or potentially harmful behavior.
- Public display of affection.
- Chewing gum.
- Eating or drinking in the classroom, other than bottled water, without teacher permission.
- Repeated violations of any expectations for student behavior.

Safety in Private Spaces - Students

The school complies with the requirements of §553.865, Florida Statutes, “The Safety in Private Spaces Act”, which is consistent with the teaching and tenets of the Catholic Faith. Except where facilities are specifically designated as unisex, the school’s bathroom and locker rooms/changing facilities are designated exclusively for use by biological females or biological males. Any student who willfully enters a school restroom or locker room/changing facility designated for the opposite sex and refuses to depart when asked to do so by any school personnel will be subject to disciplinary consequences as established by the school principal unless a specific statutory exception applies. This handbook provision shall be considered a part of the school’s code of student conduct.

It is impossible to foresee all situations that may arise. Therefore, the principal reserves the right, as deemed necessary, to take action for any behavior that does not align with the Expectations for Student Behavior, even though not specified in the Parent - Student Handbook. Actions may include suspension and expulsion.

Discipline Policy

One of our primary roles as a Catholic school is to partner with parents to teach children the importance of making good choices and treating others with respect. We understand that childhood is a time of learning and development, and during this time, children are going to make mistakes. When this happens, our job is to help children learn from their mistakes and make positive changes to their behavior. Therefore, in most situations, the first step is to work in partnership with parents to help children change their behavior.

We start in the classroom with very clear expectations: The three most common behavior expectations posted are for the following teaching and learning times:

- Direct Instruction
- Collaboration
- Individual Work or Quiet Time

When students do not follow the expectations for behavior, students receive the following interventions:

- STEP ONE: Verbal warning/encouragement from teacher
- STEP TWO: Visual warning (Name on board, or clip down - depends on the classroom)
- STEP THREE: Checkmark next to name (Or something similar - depends on the classroom)
- STEP FOUR: Student is sent to the office (An office visit is the result of not responding to steps 1, 2, & 3 and the student having a direct impact on the loss of teaching and learning time in the classroom.)

The steps above often take place in the sequence shown, but this sequence is not required by the teacher. Each situation is addressed individually. More serious student behaviors can begin on STEP FOUR with an immediate referral to the office.

As part of STEP THREE, the teacher may also administer disciplinary action such as, but not limited to:

Reflection Assignments

The administration creates a developmentally appropriate assignment that will allow the student time to reflect on his/her behavior and understand the importance of making changes. Students are often required to read a short story that teaches a lesson, followed by reflective questions that relate specifically to their situation. All reflection assignments are tied into the values of our Catholic faith and are designed to help students understand how, as Catholics, we are called to love one another in all that we do.

Students who do not meet all the requirements of a reflection assignment will be prohibited from attending class the following day. Students will complete the assignment in the school office and return to class once it is completed.

When students receive three or more reflection assignments in a single trimester, the following steps may be taken:

- Removal from the National Junior Honor Society and extra-curricular activities, such as sports, performing arts, Student Council, etc.
- Loss of field trip privileges.
- Removal from Honor Roll and/or Principal's List

In-School Suspension

- In-school suspensions are given after a student exhibits behavior that results in the loss of the privilege to return to class.
- Typically issued after previously completing an overnight reflection assignment
- Students are assigned an area where they will be supervised by a staff member and work alone to complete their assignments.

Out-of-School Suspension

- Students may be given an out-of-school suspension at any time their behavior is unacceptable. Out-of-school suspensions are typically issued for 1, 2, or 3 days, but can also be issued for up to 5-10 days. All out-of-school suspensions are accompanied by a project that must be completed by the child during their time out of school. Students are provided with a project that has been intentionally developed to align to their developmental level and specific needs. The goal of each project is to give students an opportunity to reflect on their choices and understand the importance of making positive changes upon their return to school. Suspension projects are designed to be an opportunity for students to view their behavior from a different perspective and provide the time that is needed outside of school to stop, think, and refocus on positive changes. With parent support, the results can be positive and successful.
- Each project includes a specific list of criteria that must be met. Failure to meet all of the criteria will result in the child not being permitted to return to class until all the criteria has met the satisfaction of the administration. Students are prohibited from taking part in any school activity/function while on suspension.

Expulsion

Expulsion can occur when the above behavior interventions have not resulted in a positive and continual change in a student's behavior. However, expulsion may also be the first punishment issued, if the serious nature of the behavior, in the sole judgment of the school administration, warrants expulsion.

The above behavior interventions are not steps and not necessarily issued in the order they are listed. Each child and each situation is completely different. We believe, as a Catholic school, we are called to see the uniqueness of each child, each situation, and the details of the circumstances surrounding each event. It is only after all of these important components are given thoughtful consideration that a disciplinary decision is made.

The Pastor and Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School reserve the right, as they deem necessary, to take disciplinary action for any behavior which violates the spirit and philosophy of our school, and the teachings of the Catholic Church, even though it may not be specified here.

Parents are expected to support disciplinary actions. Parents who do not support disciplinary actions may be required to withdraw their child based on their lack of support for the policies and procedures outlined in this Parent-Student Handbook.

Any behavior, on or off campus, unbecoming of an Our Lady of Lourdes student, may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, should it impact the school environment and emotional/physical safety of students.

Positive Recognition

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we believe recognizing and rewarding students for following and exceeding expectations is very important. Each classroom creates their own reward system. At times, classes come together to create reward systems.

All teachers use positive praise and other forms of encouragement to reinforce school and classroom expectations. Beginning this year, Our Lady of Lourdes will place a greater emphasis on recognizing students who model Christlike

character by demonstrating the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their daily words and actions. Students at all grade levels who go above and beyond or consistently exhibit these Christlike qualities will receive Fruit of the Holy Spirit Positive Recognition cards.

In addition, once a month during our Friday assemblies, we will recognize students through the Fruit of the Holy Spirit Positive Recognition Awards. This new recognition program celebrates students in all grade levels, PreK–8th, who demonstrate the Fruits of the Holy Spirit through their attitudes and actions, reflecting Christlike character in their daily lives.

Expectations for Cell Phone Use

Students may bring cell phones to school, with parental permission. Students may not be in possession of their cell phone during the school day. Cell phones may not be kept in lockers or backpacks. Each homeroom teacher has a designated safe place for cell phones to be kept during the day. Students are to be placed in the designated place upon arrival to class and pick them up prior to dismissal. Students who attend After Care also are required to place cell phones in a designated safe place until dismissal. In certain situations, students may be permitted to use their cell phone to call parents, but only with permission from the supervising teacher.

Physical Restraint

Corporal punishment is not used as a means of student discipline. However, there are times when physical restraint may be necessary to maintain order in the school or classroom, or at a school activity or event, to prevent a student from harming him/herself, other students, and/or school/staff property.

Search and Seizure

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

Vandalism/Property Damage

Students and their parent/guardian are liable for any and all damage to equipment or school property.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words, or other behavior, such as name-calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more children against another, with an imbalance in real or perceived power existing between the bully and the targeted child. These negative acts are not intentionally provoked by the targeted child. Bullying is not acceptable behavior and will be addressed. Reported bullying situations will be investigated and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.

Bullying can take many forms but may be:

- Physical: e.g., hitting, kicking, taking, or hiding belongings, tripping, punching.
- Verbal: e.g. name calling, teasing, insulting, writing unkind notes.
- Emotional: e.g., spreading rumors, tormenting, humiliating, manipulating friendships, blackmailing.
- Cyberbullying: e.g., use of technology for threatening and/or cruel e-mails, instant messages, and text messages, creating websites that ridicule others, taking and sending embarrassing photos with cell phone cameras, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat posts, etc.

Any student and/or parent/guardian who wishes to report alleged bullying at school should contact the teacher first. If the behavior continues contact the Assistant Principal.

Per the policy, bullying is defined as:

- Unwanted aggressive behavior, AND
- Involves a real or perceived imbalance of power, AND
- Is repeated or has the potential to be repeated overtime.

All three parts of this definition must be present in a situation to be considered bullying. Please understand that not all negative peer conflict is actual bullying.

If a student experiences any form of bullying at school or at any school sponsored activities, he/she is advised to:

- tell the student who is bullying to stop and walk away from the situation.
- report bullying incidents to school personnel (teacher, administration, etc.) immediately.
- not to retaliate with physical or verbal abuse.

If any form of bullying happens outside of school and is reported to school personnel, parents/guardians will be notified. If any form of bullying happens outside of school and is not reported to school personnel, action is at the discretion of the parent/guardian and will not be handled at school.

Note: False reports or accusations of bullying and/or harassment also constitute a violation of this anti-bullying policy and will subject the offending party to appropriate disciplinary action.

Confidentiality

The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected to the extent possible but will be consistent with legal obligations and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

Harassment Policy

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School strives to establish a Christian, professional and supportive educational community for administrators, faculty and staff, parents/guardians, and students. The Diocese of St. Petersburg has adopted and promulgated a harassment policy for its schools/centers that addresses behaviors that interfere with fulfilling the school's mission. We, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, condemn any form of harassment. Concerns should be reported directly to school administration. All credible allegations will be addressed confidentially and according to the Diocesan policy, in cooperation with the Pastor.

Students should be aware that name-calling, teasing, bullying, and verbal or physical threats, whether made in person or through electronic communication, are forms of harassment, and are unacceptable in our Catholic/Christian environment. Under federal and state laws, as well as Diocesan policies, sexual harassment is illegal and is prohibited in school settings. Harassment of any kind that interferes with a student's right to learn, study, work, achieve, and participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere is unacceptable. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School provides a working and educational environment free from discrimination, insult, and ridicule, and takes action to eliminate such practices and remedy their effects.

In keeping with the Christian regard for the dignity of each person, no form of harassment will be tolerated at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and could lead to suspension and/or expulsion.

The school will try its best to keep parents/guardians updated regarding Internet Safety through the school website, newsletter, and/or presentations. Parents/guardians should also make an effort to educate themselves on Internet Safety.

****Because it is impossible to foresee all behavior issues which may arise, the administrator(s)/ Pastor reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action in response to these problems, even though that action may not be specified in this Student-Parent Handbook. The principal and pastor have the final say in disciplinary action.**

Section 9: Use of Technology Policy

Technology Program/Acceptable Use Policy

Grades K-3

Purpose

The purpose of this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that all technology resources are used safely, responsibly, ethically, and in a manner consistent with the mission and values of our Catholic school.

Use of school technology is a privilege, not a right. Students who use school-owned devices anywhere or personally owned devices at school are expected to follow this policy and all school rules.

Student Honor Code (Grades K-3)

Teachers/Parents: Please read and discuss these simple points with younger students.

My Digital Promise

1. I will be kind. I will use technology in ways that are Christ-like. I will not use my device to say mean things to others.
2. I will take care of my device. I will keep food and drinks away from it, carry it with two hands, and treat it gently.
3. I will only use apps and websites approved by my teacher. I will not search for things that are scary or inappropriate.
4. I will protect my passwords. I will never share my passwords or type my name, email, phone number, or address online without asking a teacher or parent first.
5. I will ask for help. If I see something on my screen that makes me feel uncomfortable or sad, I will close the screen and tell an adult right away.

Privacy

Students should have no expectation of privacy when using school technology.

The school reserves the right to:

- Monitor internet usage.
- Review files stored on school devices or school accounts.
- Access emails and digital communications.
- Inspect devices used on the school's network when permitted by law.

Monitoring is conducted to protect students, maintain network security, and ensure compliance with school policies.

Parent & Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Discuss responsible technology use with their child
- Realize the parental responsibility to monitor technology usage outside school hours.
- If their child is the recipient of inappropriate emails, images, etc., it is the parents responsibility to contact the police.
- Reinforce expectations of digital citizenship.
- Report concerns regarding online safety to the school.

Parents and guardians understand:

- **Web Filtering:** In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the school utilizes internet filters to block inappropriate, obscene, or harmful content. However, no filter is 100% effective, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired on the network.
- **Financial Liability:** Parents/guardians may be held financially responsible for the full repair or replacement cost of school-issued devices if damage is caused by negligence, abuse, or intentional misconduct.
- **Device Take-Home Policy (If Applicable):** If my child is permitted to bring a school device home, I will supervise its use and ensure it is returned fully charged each school day.

Grade 4-8

Purpose

The purpose of this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to ensure that all technology resources are used safely, responsibly, ethically, and in a manner consistent with the mission and values of our Catholic school. Use of school technology is a privilege, not a right. Students who use school-owned devices anywhere or personally owned devices at school are expected to follow this policy and all school rules.

Student Honor Code (Grades 4-8)

Respect Yourself & Others (Digital Citizenship)

- **Kindness Online:** I will use technology in ways that reflect Catholic values of respect, honesty, kindness, and integrity. I will not engage in cyberbullying. I will not use school technology to harass, tease, intimidate, or exclude others.
- **Classroom Courtesy:** I will only use devices during designated times. I will not record video, audio, or take photos of students or staff without their explicit permission and teacher supervision. I will not access websites, applications, and resources unless approved by the teacher or school.
- **Digital Footprint:** I understand that once something is posted online, it can be permanent. I will not post or send anything I wouldn't want my teachers, parents, or future schools to see.
- **Protect Personal Safety & Security**
- **Password Privacy:** I will keep my passwords private and will never log in under another student's account.
- **Personal Information:** I will never share my name, email, phone number, address, birthday, or location online without permission from a parent or teacher. I will not share personal information about classmates or staff without permission.
- **Safety Alerts:** If I receive a message or see content that makes me feel uncomfortable, threatened, or concerned for my safety, I will report it to a staff member or parent immediately.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence tools may be valuable learning resources when used responsibly. Students may use AI only when permitted by the teacher.

Students may not:

- Submit AI-generated work as their own.
- Use AI during quizzes, tests, or assignments where independent work is required.
- Use AI to create harmful, inappropriate, or misleading content.
- Enter confidential or personal information into AI tools.
- Students are expected to acknowledge AI assistance when required by the teacher.

Internet Safety

Students will:

- Notify a teacher immediately if they encounter inappropriate material.
- Never arrange to meet someone they met online.
- Never respond to inappropriate online messages.
- Use caution when communicating online.
- Respect the privacy of others.

Respect School Property & Network

- **Care of Equipment:** I will treat school devices carefully. I will not modify device settings, attempt to bypass internet filters, or download unauthorized software/extensions. I will keep food and drink away from my device and others. I will report damages immediately to a school staff member.
- **Intentional damage or negligent misuse** may result in financial responsibility for repair or replacement.
- **No Hacking:** I will not attempt to access accounts, files or networks that do not belong to me.

- **Honest Work:** I will not plagiarize. I will cite my sources and give credit when using images, text, or ideas found on the internet.

School Email and Communication

School email accounts and communication platforms are provided for educational purposes and may only be used as authorized by the teachers.

Privacy

Students should have no expectation of privacy when using school technology.

The school reserves the right to:

- Monitor internet usage.
- Review files stored on school devices or school accounts.
- Access emails and digital communications.
- Inspect devices used on the school's network when permitted by law.

Monitoring is conducted to protect students, maintain network security, and ensure compliance with school policies.

Consequences of Misuse

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in:

1. Temporary or permanent loss of technology privileges.
2. School disciplinary action (in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct).
3. Financial responsibility for damaged equipment.
4. Referral to law enforcement when required by law

The school administration will determine appropriate consequences based on the severity and frequency of the violation.

Parent & Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Discuss responsible technology use with their child
- Realize the parental responsibility to monitor technology usage outside school hours.
- If their child is the recipient of inappropriate emails, images, etc., it is the parents' responsibility to contact the police.
- Reinforce expectations of digital citizenship.
- Report concerns regarding online safety to the school.
- Parents and guardians understand:
- **Web Filtering:** In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the school utilizes internet filters to block inappropriate, obscene, or harmful content. However, no filter is 100% effective, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired on the network.
- **Financial Liability:** Parents/guardians may be held financially responsible for the full repair or replacement cost of school-issued devices if damage is caused by negligence, abuse, or intentional misconduct.
- **Device Take-Home Policy (If Applicable):** If my child is permitted to bring a school device home, I will supervise its use and ensure it is returned fully charged each school day.

Students will be required to return the Chromebook, protective case, charging block and cable at the end of the school year.

Section 10: Code of Conduct (Adult)

This Code of Conduct applies to all parents, guardians, caregivers, volunteers, and visitors who interact with our schools and Catholic Education in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. It also applies to all parents, guardians, caregivers, volunteers, and visitors who are present at school and school sponsored activities, meetings, and/or functions within and outside of school hours. As parents, guardians, caregivers, volunteers, and visitors, there is an expectation of support for the Vision and Mission of Catholic Education in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Parent/Guardian Partnership and Responsibilities

Enrollment at a parochial school such as Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is a privilege, not a right. Under normal circumstances, a student should not be deprived of a Catholic education on grounds relating to the attitude of the parents/guardians. However, a situation may arise in which the uncooperative or destructive attitude, actions, or words of parents/guardians so diminishes the effectiveness of the school that the family may be required to withdraw from the school. Parental support of a child's defiance of the school rules is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Therefore, the following Code of Conduct has been promulgated by the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers for use in diocesan Catholic schools within the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Code of Conduct for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg

The school is a multifaceted organization comprising a diversity of populations that have distinctive relationships to one another. Relationships are at the very core of our Catholic Christian belief in our Triune (three persons in one) God. The Holy Trinity is God in relationship! This beautiful doctrine inspires all of us in Catholic Schools, to attempt to be a living Christian community in relationship with God and others. It is essential in such a community that all members recognize and respect not only their own rights and responsibilities but also the rights and responsibilities of other members of the community and those of the school itself. "All rights have to be balanced by responsibilities because we are in relationship" (Putney, 2005).

The responsibility for promoting and upholding these core values of the school community must fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. Therefore, it is the expectation of the school that all parents/guardians/caregivers/volunteers and visitors' model acceptable behavior always within the school setting, at school sponsored activities or when the school can be involved in any social or professional media. "It is incumbent upon parents to cooperate closely with the school teachers to whom they entrust their children to be educated; and in fulfilling their duty, teachers are to collaborate closely with parents who are to be willingly heard and for whom associations or meetings are to be inaugurated and held in great esteem" (The Code of Canon Law, Canon 796, Para. 2).

As a parent/guardian, celebrate that you play a foundational role in the development of your child's sense of justice, equity, and worth of all members of the school community. You are one of the most instrumental role models within your child's life. "Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators" (Gravissimum Educationis, 1965, para. 3).

This Code is designed to guide all stakeholders in their dealings with staff, other parents/guardians, students, and the wider school community. All staff and students at our Catholic schools are guided by similar codes.

The Code is written in line with the school's values and expectations. The Code stands beside, but does not of course exclude or replace, the rights and obligations of individuals under common law. All Catholic schools are private property owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg.

The Gospel and Our Values

We are called to emulate Jesus' call to love God and to love each other. We look to the values taught to us in scripture and the Christian belief to guide us, including: Love (1 John 4:7-19); Promoting Life in Abundance (John 10:10); Inclusion (Luke 19: 1-10); Reconciliation (Luke 15: 11-32); Compassion (Luke 10: 30-37); Justice (Matthew 25: 31-46); Liberation (Luke 4: 16-21); Community (John 15); and Hope (Luke 24: 13-35).

In living out these Gospel values, we strive to develop the following:

- An inclusive approach including a non-judgmental and welcoming attitude towards all people
- An ability to appreciate the situation of others
- A cooperative attitude in working with others
- Open, positive, and honest communication

- The ability to work civilly with other people
- Reverence for Creation
- Trusting relationships
- Responsible actions

As a Parent, Guardian, Caregiver, Volunteer, and/or Visitor, we ask that you:

- Support in words and actions the philosophy of Catholic Education
- Work in trust with the school for the common goal of achieving what is best for all
- Support your child/ren in all educational endeavors by giving praise and showing interest in school activities

Help your child/ren to discover that it is more the process that is experienced, rather than the end-product, that makes it all worthwhile

- **Refrain from engaging in gossip and hearsay, in person and on social media.**
- **Refrain from making openly hostile written or verbal comments about school personnel or engaging in aggressive public defiance/challenge of Catholic truths or morality.**
- **Respect the decisions made by the administration, even if you disagree with them.**
- **Cooperate where your child's behavior has overstepped accepted school standards, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, and follow specified protocol for communication with faculty/staff members.**
- Help your child/ren to understand that 'giving of your very best' is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities or achievements of others.
- Listen to your child/ren, but remember that a different version of the event may be interpreted by others.
- Understand the importance of a healthy parent/teacher/child relationship and communicate any concerns to your school in a constructive and appropriate manner.
- Validate that both parents/guardians and teachers work together for the benefit of the child/ren.
- Observe the school's policies, as outlined on the school webpage and/or the school's handbook. and endeavor to support them in the home.
- Support the school in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment.
- Sustain a positive and co-operative attitude and interact positively with other parents/guardians and members of the school community.
- Encourage community building with other parents/guardians in your year, level, and across the school.
- Value the school community and its reputation especially when engaging with social media.
- Do not smoke or use offensive language on school premises.
- Model flexibility - encourage healthy problem solving.

Rights of a Parent, Guardian, Caregiver, Volunteer, and Visitor

- To be treated with respect and courtesy by staff, students, and other parents/guardians.
- To be listened to, and clearly communicated with by the school, regarding your child/ren's education and development.
- To have confidentiality over sensitive issues respected by faculty/staff.
- To be treated in a caring and polite manner.
- To have a timely response to concerns raised, usually within 24-48 hours.
- To be treated with professionalism by all faculty/staff members.

Responsibilities of a Parent, Guardian, Caregiver, Volunteer, and Visitor

- Value and advocate for your school and its reputation. Be mindful of the hurt and damage social media may cause to faculty/staff members and other parents/guardians.
- Under no circumstances approach another child while in the care of the school to address, discuss or reprimand them because of actions towards your own child/ren.
- Respect the rights of faculty/staff members and other individuals.
- Respect the reputation of teachers and be mindful of communications especially social media; e.g. tone of emails.
- Follow the correct procedures to resolve a grievance or conflict, as outlined in the school's handbook.
- Respect teachers' preparation time before, during, and after school. Make an appointment for long discussions at a mutually convenient time. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please do not expect a meeting unless pre-arranged.
- To protect our children do not discuss any grievances or perceived failings in front of them regarding the school.

- On excursions, helping in class or on campus, parents/guardians must follow the instructions and directions of the teacher. A parent/guardian may remind students of the rules but at no time issue consequences and should refer the student to the teacher if the behavior continues.
- As valued members of the school community attend and participate appropriately in school liturgies or special events including athletics, concerts, academic and cultural events.

Grievance Process for a Parent, Guardian, Caregiver, Volunteer, and Visitor

Our Catholic schools want to work in partnership with our families. If anyone has a current complaint, criticism, or concern, it is expected the following steps be followed in the first instance:

1. Speak to the appropriate school person involved (e.g. class teacher) first and try to resolve the concern with mutual respect and clear communication. Where/if possible, make an appointment with the relevant person. Follow the chain of command.
2. If for some reason this is not possible, then make an appointment to see an administrator, or other designated leadership personnel
3. The Administrator (or designee) should attempt to mediate and find resolution in the presence of both parties.
4. If, having followed Steps 1-3 with no satisfaction, you may complete the online form found on the website of the Diocese of St. Petersburg - Office of Catholic Schools and Centers for further facilitation.

It is important to note that criticism regarding a faculty/staff member will only be heard if it is related to their professional conduct.

Deliberate breaches and inability to respect the Diocese of St. Petersburg - Office of Catholic Schools and Centers Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians, Caregivers, Volunteers, and Visitors, or exasperating complaints, may result in exclusion of a parent, guardian, caregiver, volunteer, and/or visitor from a school, and/or possible termination of enrollment of their child/ren.

If your complaint relates to Sexual Abuse by a faculty/staff member towards a child in both an historical or current matter, you should, contact the statewide toll-free abuse and neglect registry at 1-800-96ABUSE (1- 800-962-2873) and/or law enforcement.

Parents, Guardians, and/or Caregivers, when signing off on accepting the school's policies in the Enrollment Application Form, and by the act of accepting enrollment at a Diocese of St. Petersburg Catholic School, are accepting of this Code of Conduct in its entirety.

Excerpts of this policy have been used by permission of the Diocese of Townsville, AU

Section 11: Communication

Flocknote - Weekly Newsletter to Parents

A weekly newsletter is emailed to every parent/guardian on Friday mornings at 5:00 a.m. This is an essential tool for parent/guardian communication, as it includes dates, documents, and important notices about our school. It is your responsibility as a parent/guardian to stay informed and report to the school if you do not receive this message.

School Website (www.myoll.com)

This site includes links to the FACTS SIS Parent Portal, Facebook and Instagram.

FACTS SIS - Parent Notification System

FACTS SIS - Parent Notification System is an instant alert notification system used to notify parents/guardians of school closings, emergencies, and important meetings via text and/or e-mail. This service is intended to serve as a safety feature, as well as to keep parents/guardians informed. Parents/Guardians must notify the office with any changes of email addresses or phone numbers to ensure the effectiveness of this system.

Emergency Contact Information

For the safety of all students, it is important that the school administration be able to contact parents/guardians in the case of an emergency. The school must be given written notification as soon as possible when there are changes in emergency contact information. Each parent/guardian must provide the school, in writing, with the following information:

- Home Phone Number
- Cell Phone Number
- Email Address
- Alternate Contact Information
- Custody Agreements

Family Legal Matters

The school recognizes that families may experience a variety of circumstances, including divorce, separation, shared custody, parenting plans, or other legal arrangements. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the school with current and complete copies of any court orders, parenting plans, custody agreements, or legal documents which affect a student's educational records, school communications, transportation, decision-making authority, or release from school.

Unless the school has received a valid court order or legal document stating otherwise, both parents/guardians will have equal access to student records, school communications, and participation in school activities as permitted by law. The school will follow the terms of any court order or legally binding agreement, if a copy has been provided to the school.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to notify the school promptly of any changes to custody arrangements or legal restrictions. The school cannot enforce verbal agreements between parents and will rely solely on official legal documentation provided to the school.

Report Cards

Report cards are electronically distributed at the end of each trimester in Kindergarten-Grade 8. Tuition must be current before students receive report cards. EC3 and EC4 receive an assessment report in January and an annual report card at the end of the school year. Parents/Guardians should examine and discuss the report card with their children.

Conferences

Conferences are an important opportunity to foster open communication between families and teachers, and to support student growth and learning. Teachers may request a conference if a student is experiencing academic challenges or if there are other concerns that need to be addressed.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we host at least one scheduled conference day each school year. However, participation on that day is based on teacher discretion, and not all families will necessarily be called in for a meeting. Additional conferences may be requested at any time during the year by either teachers or parents/guardians.

To schedule a conference, parents/guardians may contact the teacher directly via email or written note. For urgent matters, arrangements may also be made by calling the School Office.

Please refrain from calling teachers at their homes, on their cell phones, or showing up to school without a planned conference. Teachers have been instructed NOT to engage in conferences of this type. **All teachers should be given the professional courtesy of preparing for a conference before it is held. Therefore, the teacher(s) should be provided the courtesy of being made aware of your specific concern prior to the conference.** Impromptu discussions in homeroom/hallway/carline and/or unannounced visits for a conference are never appropriate. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School reserves the right to ask that students NOT attend a parent-teacher conference; however, teachers may request for students to be present.

Guidelines for Conferencing

Because Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School strives to be a faith community, parental cooperation and good parental relations are essential. **Our first instinct should be to assume that each of us - teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and other care givers - have the child's best interest at heart.** While our school is excellent in many ways, no one within our community is perfect and problems and misunderstandings will occur. When a problem or disagreement arises, we will make every effort to contact you to clarify the situation. Parents/Guardians are asked to show similar respect. This way, positive resolutions can be reached.

While conferencing

- Please be as courteous to the teacher as you would expect him/her to be to you. Questioning the teacher's authority is never helpful. If you disagree with a teacher, please request a conference in private (without the child).
- Try to be open to both sides of the story if a problem arises. Perception differences and information reported incorrectly can lead to unnecessary confrontation with the teacher and unwise decisions.
- **Discuss difficulties in the classroom with the teacher before bringing your concerns to the attention of the Assistant Principal, Principal, and/or Pastor.** This includes problems such as routine procedures, (homework, class assignments), classroom or playground behavior, or student-to-student problems. Teachers can be contacted for appointments by email or with a phone call to the School Office. Teachers are available for conferences before and after school and in rare cases at other scheduled times.
- If the difficulty cannot be solved between the classroom teacher and the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian may request a conference with Administration:
 - Due to school responsibilities, the Assistant Principal, Principal, and/or Pastor may not be available immediately. Patience in setting appointments or in expecting return phone calls are appreciated and expected. Please allow 24 hours for email and phone call responses during the school week. An appointment is necessary to conference with the Assistant Principal, Principal, and/or Pastor. There is no exception to this policy. Please call the School Office to arrange an appointment time.
 - Administration/Pastor should also be given the professional courtesy of preparing for a conference before it is held. Therefore, school administration and/or the pastor should be provided the courtesy of being made aware of your specific concern prior to the conference.
 - The administration/pastor will NOT entertain notes that are not signed or callers that do not identify themselves.

All faculty/staff members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School promise prompt attention to problems, privacy in discussing matters, professional courtesy, respect when problems are presented, and a sincere effort to resolve problems in a Christian manner. Communication is the most effective method of understanding and problem solving. Communication and cooperation between student, parent/guardian, teacher, administration, and pastor is essential. If at any time a parent/guardian has a concern pertaining to their child in a school situation, we ask that the child's teacher be contacted as soon as possible.

Conference Request Sequence

Sequence Guidelines Regarding Conduct/Discipline Concerns

1. Teacher or Staff Member
2. Assistant Principal
3. Assistant Principal & Principal
4. Principal and Pastor

Sequence Guidelines Regarding Academic/Classroom Concerns

1. Teacher or Staff Member
2. Assistant Principal
3. Assistant Principal and Principal
4. Principal and Pastor

Parents/Guardians should discuss with the classroom teacher or staff member before going to the next step.

This includes problems such as routine procedures (homework, class assignments), classroom or playground behavior, or student-to-student problems. Parents/Guardian stating that they do not have a good relationship with a teacher or that they have already held a conference with the teacher with regards to another problem ARE NOT deemed as sufficient reasons to skip steps. Teachers should be afforded the professional courtesy of a conference before parents/guardians speak with the Assistant Principal, Principal, and/or Pastor.

Section 12: Volunteers

Visitors

For the safety of students and staff, all visitors must enter through the front door, sign-in at the front office with a valid Driver's License or State Issued ID, which will be run through our Raptor System. All visitors are required to wear a visitor badge. There are no exceptions to this rule. Note: Please see additional guidelines in Section 14: Covid-19 Policies and Procedures.

1. Expected Visitors

- Visitors must be expected. All visitors should be expected by a staff member before arriving on campus. This includes parents, guardians, volunteers, vendors, guest speakers, and any other individuals invited by school staff or administration.
- Staff must notify the front desk. Staff members expecting a visitor must document the following information in the visitor log at the front desk prior to the visitor's arrival:
 - Visitor's name
 - Purpose of the visit
 - Arrival time

2. Unexpected Visitors

School Parents. Unexpected visitors who are dropping off items for students will only be permitted to enter the office area if they are a current school parent or their name is on the green card in the school office. After entering, they will not be permitted to pass the school office.

Non-School Parents. Unexpected visitors who are not school parents, and whose name is not on the green card, will not be permitted to enter the front door. They may leave items outside the front door to be picked up promptly.

Volunteers

In accordance with the updated directives of the Diocese of St. Petersburg (DOSP), all volunteers who work with students must adhere to the following requirements:

- Complete an electronic Level II Background Check with the DOSP.
- Complete the Diocesan Safe Environment Training through a local Parish/school (using CMG Connect).
- Enter through the front door of the school, sign in at the school office, and receive a volunteer badge.
- Volunteers will only be permitted to visit the classroom with prior teacher approval.
- Volunteers are expected to be dressed appropriately and modestly. Exercise clothing, spandex, short shorts, low cut shirts or dresses, and tight clothing should not be worn while volunteering.

Volunteer Hours

Parent/Guardian volunteerism is the "time" and "talent" portion of stewardship at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Volunteerism not only builds community but enhances the vitality and spirit of our school. We, at Our Lady of Lourdes, have committed to three major fundraisers - the Fall Festival, the Annual Fund, and the Holy Huddle. Parents/Guardians are expected to participate in each of these fundraisers with time, talent, and/or treasure. These fundraisers feed directly into our tuition assistance fund benefiting every one of our students.

Required Hours:

All families are required to complete the following service hours annually and according to the criteria below:

1. Fall Festival
 - a. 12 Hours during Fall Festival (games, food tent, grounds, 50/50, etc.)
2. The Holy Huddle (providing auction items, set-up/ take-down, committee involvement, event assistance, etc.)
 - a. 3 Hours
3. General (Breakfast with Santa, Thanksgiving, Coaching, Parish Picnic, Catholic Schools Week, Open House, Multicultural Day, etc.)
 - a. 5 Hours
4. Please note: HSA Room Parents are integral to coordinating communication among our greater community, providing support to the classroom teachers and to the overall success of our school climate. They are also expected to attend regular meetings throughout the year. For their contributions, they are only required to complete Fall Festival and The Holy Huddle Hours. Committee Chairs for the Holy Huddle and Fall Festival, due to the demands of their position, may, at the discretion of the Fundraising Event Chair have volunteer hours not related to their committee waived.

5. When volunteering, parents, and guardians are reminded that they cannot care for younger children while on duty. Please speak with the coordinator for more clarification.
6. Once a person has signed up to volunteer, it is their responsibility to ensure the shift is covered. Charges will be applied to the original volunteer if a substitute does not show up when expected.

Volunteer Opportunities/School Fundraisers

Fall Festival:

Fall Festival has been a way of life at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL) for over forty years and is an integral part of the Dunedin community. Every year, hundreds of volunteers from our parish and school come together to put up the “big tent” and fill our campus with rides, games, live music, laughter, and fun! Thousands of visitors attend this event each year from the parish, Dunedin community, and beyond. Time spent each October at this four-day event has become a wonderful tradition for many, and it is a big part of the fabric of the OLL community. Some of the areas that volunteers are needed are set-up and clean-up, food, flea market, games, 50/50, and baskets. For more information, visit the www.ollfallfestival.com. Failure to fulfill required volunteer hours for Fall Festival will result in a \$50.00/hour fine.

Sunday Mass Ambassadors:

At various weekends throughout the year, help is needed before and after Sunday Liturgies to promote school fundraising activities. The dates are available prior to the beginning of the school year. Failure to fulfill required Sunday Mass Ambassador hours will result in a \$50.00/hour fine.

General Hours:

Our school has a unique vibrancy, thanks to the dedicated parents/guardians who facilitate events throughout the year, including Breakfast with Santa, Thanksgiving, Coaching, Parish Picnic, Catholic Schools Week, Open House, Multicultural Day, etc. Failure to fulfill required general volunteer hours will result in a \$50.00/hour fine.

Guidelines for Use of the Conmy Center by School, Groups, and Parents/Guardians

Because the Conmy Center is a shared entity with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, the following guidelines are in place for usage of the building.

General Usage:

Usage of the Conmy Center for school events must be approved by the Pastor through a request to the Director of Events at the Parish Office. Requests for usage of the Conmy Center must be made through the approved forms. The building must be booked in advance. Forms are available online and should be channeled through the Administrative Assistant at the school. Conmy Center staff members are not present for school events; therefore, keys must be signed out in advance. Entrance should be through the ministry hallway doors.

Students are asked to be quiet in the hallway and lobby area.

Decorating:

Decorations are permitted within reason and must be approved by the Director of Events. Decorations are not provided by the Conmy Center staff.

Please **do not** attach decorations to the walls, doors floor, chairs, tables, windows, or ceiling in any part of the Conmy Center or DuBois Hall. The use of **tape, nails, thumbtacks, push pins, stickers, or “putty” to hang or affix any sign or apparatus is prohibited**. If a sign needs to be hung, please ask for assistance.

Open flames are not permitted. Candles inside glass enclosures are permitted at the discretion of the Director of Events.

Glitter and confetti are not to be used in the venue. Bubbles may not be blown inside the venue. Existing parish decorations in the space should not be moved unless requested and done so by a staff member in advance.

Tables and Chairs

Tables and chairs should remain in the room in which they were found. If you need to rearrange the tables and chairs from the agreed upon set-up request, please return them to their original configuration. Please do not drag the tables or chairs across the floor. Please do not sit or stand on the tables or chairs.

Linens

Table linens are not supplied by the Conmy Center.

Food/Drink

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School or the Home and School Association are responsible for food for any school meeting, gathering, etc. held in the Conmy Center. In an emergency, all food, and drinks, paperware, cutlery, utensils, etc. provided by the Conmy Center staff will be charged to OLL or the HSA. Alcohol is not permitted unless a liquor license has been procured in advance through the Director of Events.

Security

All exterior doors of the Conmy Center will remain locked during school days. No one should allow anyone other than faculty or staff into the venue. Students must be accompanied by their teacher/staff member at all times.

Athletic Events

Visitors/spectators are to enter through the Ministry hallway door. The Main Lobby will remain locked. Visitors are to use the restrooms in the rear of building.

Section 13: Health & Safety

Illness

Students should stay at home and will not be permitted to go to school if ill or exhibiting any of the following symptoms: influenza, fever, rash, vomiting, severe sore throat, diarrhea, excessive cough, lice, or nits.

If a child is sent home for having lice or nits, the school will notify parents/guardians so that classmates can be checked that evening. No student will be permitted back in school until they are completely lice/nit free. The school office will conduct a head check re-entry to school and before the child may return to his/her class.

After an illness, students may return to school if their symptoms have not been present for at least 24 hours. Parents/Guardians of children who have contracted a contagious condition such as chicken pox, strep throat, MRSA infections, or lice must notify the school office.

Absence due to illness is excusable, however parents/guardians must understand a pattern of irregular absences may negatively impact their child's grades. Your child's absence must be reported each day to the front office. If students get sick or injured at school, parents/guardians will be called to pick them up immediately. The school is not able to take care of sick students for a long period of time.

Medication

When possible, parents/guardians should give medication at home. Teachers cannot give medication. All medication will be dispensed by the Administrative Assistant or School Receptionist, both of whom are first aid certified, when the following conditions are met - there is a serious health need, such as a chronic illness, or failure to take prescribed medication could jeopardize the student's health. All prescription medications to be dispensed in school require by law a written prescription by a doctor.

Written permission, using the Administration of Medication Form, for over-the-counter medications to be given to a student must be on file in the school office. This form must include the medication to be given, the dose, and the time it is given. All medication must be in the original container and sent to the office. Students bringing cough drops must have written permission from a parent/guardian, as well. Cough drops must be kept in the office and dispensed by office personnel. Please ensure that medication is reliably and safely delivered directly to the school office and the Administration of Medication Form is completed.

Universal Precautions

To comply with federal law attempting to control the spread of disease by exposure to blood and other bodily functions, the staff, faculty, and students receive training on a yearly basis in the use of those health practices of good hygiene and protection that significantly reduce or eliminate the exposure to bloodborne pathogens. These practices are called "Universal Precautions."

Mandated Safe Environment Training

The US Council of Catholic Bishops issued the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People, which mandates training for individuals who come into contact with children and youth. This training helps individuals recognize, prevent, and report child abuse, including sexual abuse.

Safe Environment Training is mandated for anyone in ministry - priests, deacons, religious, educators, parents, guardians, volunteers, and church staff...anyone who will have a supervisory role with youth.

Policy Regarding the Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

The welfare of children is important to the staff at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, as well as to the parents/guardians. Under Florida law, anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect is legally obligated to report that abuse to the Department of Children and Families, even if there is no definite proof (Florida Statute 415.504).

OLL Staff Training

Annual training is provided for school staff in emergency procedures and includes, but is not limited to, protocols related to: First Aid, CPR, Eye injuries, Bleeding/Blood Borne Pathogens, EpiPens, Head Injuries, Heat Exhaustion, Choking, etc.

Visitor Screening Procedures

OLL uses the Raptor Visitor Management System to strengthen our program of campus safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times, and the Raptor system will allow us to do that. The Raptor system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our school and provide us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Upon entering the school building, visitors will be asked to present an ID such as a Driver's License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have a US government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. The Raptor system will check to ensure that registered sexual offenders are not entering our school campuses without our knowledge. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The Raptor system will also screen against custom alerts the district/school configures, such as, non-custodial parents/guardians, no-trespassing orders, etc. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our school simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork. The safety of our students is our highest priority, and the Raptor visitor management system allows us to quickly identify those that may present a danger to our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and your support in enhancing the school safety protocols in our community. Campus Security Notes: For the safety and security of our community, please remember that:

- All members of the community are to enter and exit through the designated exits.
- All visitors to the campus must enter through the front entrance and be vetted by the office staff.
- Students and Parents/Guardians are asked to refrain from opening the door to school visitors.
- Classroom doors will be locked at all times.
- Locked doors are not to be propped open.

Asbestos

The Our Lady of Lourdes Facilities/Maintenance Department maintains the school's Asbestos Management Plan for review upon request.

Drills and Procedures

Emergency Drills

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School conducts two emergency drills each month (Fire drill and one additional drill). The specific drills practiced are listed below.

Fire Drills

Students are taught where and how to exit the building in case of fire. For fire drills or fire emergencies, the fire alarm will signal to evacuate the building. Teachers regularly instruct students regarding specific procedures.

Tornado Drills

Students are taught the "duck and cover" procedure for hazardous weather drills and emergencies. For both drills and emergencies, students will be notified through the intercom system. Teachers regularly instruct students regarding specific procedures.

Intruder Drills

Students are taught the proper action procedures in the event of a potentially dangerous person or weapon on campus. Students are also taught the procedures for modified lockdowns in the event of a dangerous situation or person in close proximity to the school. Teachers regularly instruct students regarding specific procedures.

Pre-Hurricane Procedures

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School will follow the Diocese of St. Petersburg Catholic Schools' policy in regard to school closings in preparation for a hurricane.

Post-Hurricane Procedures

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School will follow the diocesan directives and communicate with parents/guardians accordingly regarding schools being open or closed. Parents/Guardians should check the school website, diocesan website (www.DOSP.org), their answering machine or voicemail, text messages, and/or email for a message from our FACTS SIS - Parent Notification System.

Severe Weather (during school)

Students will remain in the classroom and follow the directions of the teacher. If severe weather arises, students will remain in their classrooms and follow emergency procedures.

School Evacuations

In the event that Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School has to be evacuated, due to toxic or hazardous materials on the premises or in the area, students will be walked to the Conmy Center, the Church, or the DuBois Center, depending on the location of the hazardous materials. The fire department will determine when it is safe for students and staff to return to the building.

Lock Down

In some situations, it may be necessary to perform a school lockdown. Law enforcement recommends the following procedures, which Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School performs during a school lock down:

A “Lock Down” will be broadcasted to initiate the lockdown. All interior and exterior doors will be locked. No one (including parents/guardians) will be permitted to enter or leave the buildings. The lockdown will continue until the school receives an “all clear” signal from emergency personnel.

Parents/Guardians should not call the school during a lockdown; the phone will be used by emergency personnel only. Lockdown drills will be performed with students as a preventative measure. Information will be provided as soon as possible via our emergency notification system.

Extended Day Guidelines**Homework**

Students will have the opportunity to complete homework. Students requiring technology may do so only if there is appropriate adult supervision while they are on their devices.

Procedure for releasing student:

- Children are released to parent/guardian when they arrive.
- Children can be released to any adults identified on FACTS SIS.
- An ID is asked for any adult who has not picked up the child before to verify identity.
- Parents/Guardians notify school or Extended Day Director when an adult who does not normally pick the child up, picks them up. ID is required.
- If the adult seems unsafe, staff reserve the right to withhold the child until a legal guardian has been contacted for approval.

Late pick up:

- When a parent/guardian is late, they are called to verify the situation.
- If parents/guardians do not answer after a reasonable period of time, administration is called to assist with the situation.
- Late charges are in effect and may be applied to FACTS payments.

Allergies:

Student allergies are listed in an emergency binder each staff member carries at all times, both in and outside the classroom

Accidents/Incidents:

- Minor injuries will be treated on site with a portable first aid kit.
- Parents or guardians will be notified immediately in the event of a head injury or any illness or injury that appears serious. If they cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called.
- Report of injury is sent home to parent/guardian with details of what has happened.
- All accidents/Incidents are logged for reference.
- Administration is to be notified any time an emergency contact is called.

Please note that the clinic cannot be used unless a staff member is present in the office to supervise the clinic.

Toileting Accidents:

- Extra clothes are provided, if needed.
- Note is always sent home along with verbal communication.
- An extra change of clothing is recommended specific to Extended Day. Spare clothes should be in a child's backpack.

Outdoor Recess Guidelines:

- No running on the asphalt. Students are to walk in a safe and orderly manner when on the concrete.
- The play structure use:
 - EC3, VPK, and Kindergarten have first priority for the use of this equipment. When these classes are present, older students may NOT use the equipment during school day recess activities.
 - Students are to use the equipment as intended.
 - Slides are for sliding down.
 - Only one person on an activity at a time.
 - Hanging in a position where a child may fall directly on his/her head is not permitted.
- Swings
 - Younger students always have first priority.
 - Ensure students observing are not in proximity where they can be accidentally injured.
 - Jumping off is not permitted.
- Equipment
 - PE equipment is not to be used unless supervised by the PE teacher.
 - Equipment is to be properly stored after each recess.
 - Equipment is to be used as intended, i.e. soccer balls are kicked, basketballs are dribbled.

Arrival

School supervision is provided starting at 7:20 a.m. each school day. Parents are asked not to drop off students prior to 7:20 a.m. Students who arrive before 7:20 a.m. will be left unsupervised until 7:20 a.m.

Students arrive each morning between 7:20 - 7:48. The Morning Opening Assembly takes place each Friday morning in the cafeteria at 7:50. Students arriving late to the Morning Opening, after 7:50, are tardy.

Parents are welcome to join us every Friday for the Morning Opening Assembly in the cafeteria. Parents are required to enter through the same front doors the students enter in the morning and remain in the back of the cafeteria to observe the morning announcements, prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dismissal

- OLL will continue to use the VO'SRI Dismissal System. Each school family will be assigned a QR code, which will be scanned in car line. Your child/ren will be notified and assigned a cone at pick-up. Please remain in your cars during dismissal. (Please see Appendix A - Pick-up Driving Pattern).
- Students riding home with another family will require written parental permission, and the school office must be notified prior to 1:00 p.m. that day.

Extended Day

- Extended Day will be offered from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. most school days (please see the Academic Calendar).
- Students in Extended Day will use the cafeteria and outdoor spaces and will be permitted to mix with students of other grade levels.

School's Right to Amend

The School, Pastor, Principal, and/or the Diocese of St. Petersburg retains the right to amend the Student-Parent Handbook at any time. Parents/guardians will be notified of changes in the weekly Parent Update.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS
Pastoral Center ❖ PO Box 40200 ❖ St. Petersburg, FL, 33743-0200 ❖ PH: 727-347-5539 ❖ Fax: 727-341-6848

STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
*Instructional Personnel, Educational Support Personnel,
and School Administrators*

In keeping with the Diocese of St. Petersburg's Code of Conduct for Adults and the National Catholic Educational Association's Code of Ethics for Catholic Educators, I will adhere to the following principles and statements:

1. I value the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
2. My primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. I will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
3. I am aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of my colleagues, students, parents, and other members of the community. I will strive to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct.
4. **Duty to Report Misconduct** - I understand that I have an affirmative duty and legal responsibility to report any alleged instructional personnel, educational support personnel, or school administrator misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. I also understand that a failure to report such misconduct may result in penalties up to termination of employment and/or revocation of any applicable licenses or certifications. I understand that examples of misconduct that may affect the health, safety, or welfare of a student include, but are not limited to, the following: drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual innuendo, cheating, testing violations, physical aggression, or accepting favors from students.
5. **Reporting Misconduct by instructional personnel, educational support personnel, and administrators** - I further agree to abide by the following procedures when reporting alleged misconduct of instructional personnel, educational support personnel, or school administrators:
 - a. Immediately report all allegations or any suspicion of misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student engaged in by any instructional personnel or educational support personnel to the **school principal, Mrs. Gerda Letizia at gletizia@myoll.com**.
 - b. Immediately report all allegations or any suspicion of misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student engaged in by any school administrator to the **school principal, Mrs. Gerda Letizia, at gletizia@myoll.com or**
 - c. Immediately report all allegations or any suspicion of misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student engaged in by the school principal or supervising principal to the **Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Mr. Chris Pastura, at ocsc@dosp.org**; and
 - d. Legally sufficient allegations of misconduct by Florida certified educators will be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services. Policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel educational support personnel, or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted in our Teacher's Lounge, and on the Diocesan website, <https://www.dosp.org/schools-office/>.
 - e. Thoroughly document the activities and details of the allegations or event; and
 - f. Secure evidence (if applicable).
6. **Duty to Report Child Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect** - I further understand that I have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the Florida

Department of Children and Families either by phone at 1-800-96Abuse or online at www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/.

- **Signs of Physical Abuse:** The child may have unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.
 - **Signs of Sexual Abuse:** The child may have torn, stained, or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in the genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child experiencing sexual abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person, seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.
 - **Signs of Neglect:** The child may have unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.
 - **Patterns of Abuse:** Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.
7. **Liability Protections** - I understand that consistent with Fla. Stat. 39.203, any person, official, or institution, including employees, who report in good faith any instance of misconduct, child abuse, abandonment, or neglect will be immune from any civil or criminal liability. Additionally, as provided by Fla. Stat. 768.095, any employer who discloses information about a former or current employee in response to a request or inquiry is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the employee.
 8. I further understand that every school that accepts scholarship students under the scholarship program sponsored by the State of Florida must comply with the terms of the Ethics in Education Act.
 9. **Training Requirement** - I acknowledge that all instructional personnel, educational support personnel, and school administrators are required as a condition of employment to complete training on these Standards of Ethical Conduct.

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FAMILY NAME (please print): _____

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Parent/Guardian and Student Acknowledgement Form

I have read and agree to be governed by the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook.

I have had an age-appropriate conversation with my child(ren) to ensure my child(ren) understand(s) the expectations for student behavior, academics, uniforms, personal appearance, and the acceptable use of technology.

I understand that the School Pastor, Principal, and Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools and Centers have the right to interpret all policies.

I understand that the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook is a living document that may be amended at any time, and that notification will be sent in the Friday Flocknote when such amendments are made.

Signatures of both parents/guardians are required. Exceptions are single parents, deceased parents, or cases where one parent has sole legal custody. All students in Grades 5-8 must also sign.

_____ Parent/Guardian name (please print)	_____ Parent/Guardian signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian name (please print)	_____ Parent/Guardian signature	_____ Date
_____ Student name (please print)	_____ Student signature	_____ Date
_____ Student name (please print)	_____ Student signature	_____ Date
_____ Student name (please print)	_____ Student signature	_____ Date

This signed page is a required document for your child(ren's) Admit Slip for the first day of school. Please bring this document on your registration day.