

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

### **CODE OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT COVERING STUDENTS AND PARENTS OR GUARDIANS**

The students' interest in receiving a quality, morally based education can best be served if students, parents and school officials work together. Normally, differences between these individuals can be resolved. In some rare instances, however, the school may find it necessary, in its discretion, to require parents or guardians to withdraw their children.

It shall be an express condition of enrollment that the students and parents or guardians shall conform themselves to standards of conduct that are consistent with the Christian principles of the school, as determined by the school in its discretion. These principles include, but are not limited to any policies or procedures set forth in any student/parent handbook of the school.

These Christian principles further include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Parents or guardians are expected to work courteously and cooperatively with the school to assist the student in meeting the academic, moral and behavioral expectations of the school.
- Students and parents or guardians may respectfully express their concerns about the school operation and its personnel. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, scandalous, rumor driven, disruptive, threatening, hostile or divisive.
- Any parent or guardian or other person whose conduct in a place where a school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties materially disrupts class work or extracurricular activities or involves substantial disorder is guilty of a misdemeanor. This statement does not apply to any otherwise lawful employee concerted activity, including but not limited to, picketing and the distribution of handbills.
- Any parent or guardian, or other person who insults or abuses the principal or any teacher in the presence of other school personnel, students or parents and at a place which is on school premises or public sidewalks, streets, or other public ways adjacent to school premises or at some other place if the principal or teacher is required to be at such other place in connection with assigned school activities, risks the continuation of his or her child in the school.

- These expectations for students and parents or guardians include, but are not limited to, all school-sponsored programs and events (e.g., extended care, athletics, field trips, etc.).

The school reserves the right to determine, in its discretion, when conduct is of such a severe nature as to warrant immediate action without warning.

## **CONSULTATIVE SCHOOL COUNCIL AND PARENT ORGANIZATIONS**

It is expected that each Catholic elementary school will establish a Parent Teacher Organization and a Consultative School Council. Both groups exist to support the school and are critical to the school's viability, but they have very different functions.

### **Parent Organizations**

The main functions of the Parent Teacher Organization are to raise funds for the school's current operational expenses, to promote parental support for the school program, and to increase mutual understanding between school and parents. The membership of the parent teacher organization shall include the pastor, the principal, the parents or legal guardians, and the faculty of the school.

Financial operation of a parent teacher organization shall be governed by the regulations for financial operations as found in the Parent Teacher Organization Bylaws.

### **Consultative School Council**

The general responsibilities of the Consultative School Council are in the following areas: strategic planning; policy development; resource development; institutional advancement; advice and counsel with regard to financial planning, management and reporting; marketing of the school and evaluation of the Council's goals and activities.

The membership of the Consultative School Council should include the pastor, principal, parents (no more than one-third of the total membership), alumni parents, parishioners, members of the civic and local business community, and area educators. Under Canon Law and Archdiocesan guidelines (see Administrative Handbook for Bylaws), the members advise the administrative team (pastor and principal) and cannot make decisions binding for the parish education program without the approval of the administrative team (A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church, the CACE/NABE Governance Task Force, NCEA, 1998).

The regional supervisor at the Department of Catholic Schools is available to assist and guide schools in the implementation of a Consultative School Council.

## **"Zero Tolerance Policy"**

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles will not knowingly assign or retain a priest, deacon, religious, lay person or volunteer to serve in its parishes, schools, pastoral ministries, or any other assignment when such an individual is determined to have previously engaged in the sexual abuse of a minor.

Under the "Zero Tolerance Policy" of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, any person guilty of sexual misconduct with **a minor under the age of 18:**

- **May not have any paid or volunteer assignment in any "ministry" in the Archdiocese, and**
- **May not volunteer in any "non-ministerial" activity or event where he or she has any possibility of more than incidental contact or supervisory or disciplinary power over minors.**

Any parent or guardian who is a registered sex offender must contact the principal to discuss the requirements in order to assure compliance with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Zero Tolerance Policy.

As members of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles community, we want to assure that we are in compliance with both Megan's Law and our "Zero Tolerance Policy."

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Each school and religious education program must establish an ongoing safe environment training program for the children at its site. Home-based materials must be provided to all parents to help them understand and support their children's education regarding child sexual abuse. The approved programs include **Good-Touch/Bad-Touch®** and **VIRTUS® Teaching Touching Safety** (*Mandated September 1, 2006*).

**Good-Touch/Bad-Touch®** is being implemented in Grades K-9 in Catholic elementary schools throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The program is designed to be age-appropriate, to support children in understanding occasions of abuse, and to give them confidence in reporting and asserting themselves in situations where they feel unsafe.

**VIRTUS® Teaching Touching Safety** is a K-12 program being implemented in religious education programs and Catholic schools. This program is a vehicle through which parents, teachers, catechists and youth ministers give children and young people the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them.

The Archdiocesan Office of Safeguard the Children will work with principals at the schools and Directors of Religious Education in the parishes to establish these programs. Questions concerning this program can be forwarded to Chancellor, Coordinator of Children's Programs at (213) 637-7460.

**GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH MINORS AT PARISH OR PARISH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS**

*Revised August 20, 2007*

Adults acting in a staff, faculty, ministerial or other paid or volunteer position in the Archdiocese are role models who are called to treat each minor with respect and care. Staff members, faculty or volunteers serving either in a paid or volunteer position need to maintain professional relationships with minors whether on or off parish or parish school locations. **Please review the following guidelines and sign the "Acknowledgment of Receipt" for the file at the parish or parish school where you work or volunteer.**

- Staff members/faculty/volunteers will ensure that minors are properly supervised at all times, thus providing them a safe environment. Minors must be viewed as "restricted individuals" because they are not adults and are not independent.
- If staff members/faculty/volunteers who are supervising minors observe a situation where civil law, parish and/or school rules are being violated, they must take appropriate action immediately.
- Staff members/faculty/volunteers should always be aware they have considerable personal power because of their ministerial positions. Therefore, they will maintain respectful ministerial relationships, avoiding manipulation and other abuses of power.
- Staff members/faculty/volunteers must avoid assuming the role of a "father or mother figure" which may create an excessive emotional attachment for all parties.
- Attraction between adults and minors is possible, and care and caution should be taken in all interactions. The parish/school administration should be informed immediately if such an attraction exists. Dating or sexual relationships between a staff member/faculty/volunteer and a minor are inappropriate and unethical. Dating or sexual relationships between a staff member/faculty/volunteer and a minor are unlawful.
- Communications with minors (e.g., notes, email and internet exchanges, telephone calls) must be for professional reasons only.
- Discussions of a sexual nature must always take place in an appropriate educational context. Sexual jokes, slang or innuendo are inappropriate when interacting with minors.
- Staff members/faculty/volunteers will respect confidential information concerning minors or confidential information of a personal nature shared by a minor. However, if a minor shares confidential information that could pose a threat to the minor or to others, the staff member/faculty/volunteer has an obligation to notify the proper authorities.
- When staff members/faculty/volunteers are supervising minors or young adults at parish/parish school-sponsored activities, they may not be under the influence of alcohol, may not consume alcohol in the presence of persons under age 21, nor offer alcohol to them.
- When a staff member/faculty/volunteer is alone in a room with a minor, the door must be open or there must be clear visibility through windows.

- Staff members/faculty/volunteers are to engage in games or sports activities with minors only in the presence of other adults, or in a place openly accessible/visible to others.
- Staff members/faculty/volunteers planning parish/parish school events in their homes with minors must have the permission of the parish/school administration. In addition, staff members/faculty/volunteers may not have any minor in their homes without the knowledge of the minor's parent or guardian.
- Staff members/faculty/volunteers may not drive minors unless it is to or from a parish/parish school-sponsored activity and may never drive alone with a minor. Driving minors requires parental permission slips that indicate the transportation is by personal vehicle. The parish/parish school administration must approve any use of personal vehicles. Trips involving minors must have a sufficient number of adult chaperones and minors to preclude the appearance of inappropriate personal involvement with minors.
- Parent or guardian written permission is required for the publication of a picture of a minor.
- Adults are permitted to interact alone with minor(s) only after complying with Archdiocesan policies regarding fingerprinting and safe environment training. They may work with minors only as part of a team if they have not these requirements.

**BOUNDARY GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH  
WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING WITH CHILDREN OR YOUTH**

*Revised August 20, 2007*

To ensure the safety of the children in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, all youth volunteers, both junior high and high school students, including students who are already 18, who work or volunteer with children/youth in school or parish settings must receive training on these boundary guidelines before undertaking their ministry in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and must sign this Code of Conduct form to verify that they understand their obligations.

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT WORKERS/VOLUNTEERS**

I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Code of Conduct. I understand that any action inconsistent with or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal from my volunteer or work assignment.

As a student volunteer I will:

- Respect the adults and supervisors with whom I interact
- Safeguard at all times children or other youth entrusted to my care
- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy and dignity
- Take care to be positive, supportive and caring in my speaking, writing and actions with the children/youth
- Avoid situations where I am alone with a child/youth
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism or comparison when working with children/youth
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children/youth. Report suspected abuse to my supervisor, or if it involves my supervisor, report it to the principal or pastor at the location
- Be aware that young people can easily become infatuated with a youth leader or an adult. If I sense that this is happening. I will not encourage it. I will make my administrator aware of it so that the supervisor can resolve the matter, including reassigning me to other activities.
- Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries with the children/youth
- Dress appropriately and not wear any clothing with offensive messages or pictures

**As a Student Volunteer I will not:**

- Endorse, during my ministry, any view contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Commit an illegal or immoral act
- Smoke or use tobacco products
- Use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at anytime while at work or volunteering
- Verbally threaten or physically abuse anyone
- Use profanity in the presence of children/youth
- Use discipline that frightens or humiliates a child/youth
- Touch a child/youth in a sexual, overly affectionate or other inappropriate manner
- Sexually harass, request sexual favors from, or make sexually explicit statements to anyone
- Place myself in a situation where my interaction with a child/youth cannot be witnessed
- Participate in private visits, parties or other activities with the children/youth unless approved by my supervisor

- Accept gifts from or give gifts to children/youth in my care without approval from my supervisor
- Tolerate inappropriate or bullying behavior by a child/youth towards another child/youth
- Fraternalize with minors over the internet or through other forms of communication

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the Archdiocese of Los Angeles *Boundary Guidelines for Junior High and High School Youth Working or Volunteering with Children or Youth* and will abide by them at all times. We also understand and agree the parent or guardian will be notified at the time of any infraction requiring dismissal from any work or volunteer assignment at the school or parish or other setting where the student is working or ministering, and that he/she will be sent home at the expense of his or her parent or guardian.

Print Name of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or Volunteer Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School or Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Youth Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Title of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PARENT/STUDENT COMPLAINT REVIEW PROCESS**

Concern for the dignity and rights of each person are intrinsic to the Church's mission as a true witness to the spirit of the Gospel. Circumstances may give rise to conflicts among students, parents and school staff. All parties are encouraged to use every available means to resolve these conflicts when they occur. However, if the involved parties are unable to resolve their conflicts, families may use the Parent/Student Complaint Review Process for additional assistance. All those participating in the Complaint Review Process are responsible to strive toward reconciliation and act in good faith. Legal representation is not permitted at any meeting or mediation of the Complaint Review Process. Any person filing a complaint is to be free from restraint, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal in any form.

### **School Level**

The person bringing the complaint is encouraged to try to resolve the complaint by discussing it with the persons directly involved.

If resolution is not achieved, the complaint should be discussed with the principal (or the pastor, if the principal is the subject of the complaint).

For elementary schools, if the principal is unable to resolve the conflict, the principal will bring the pastor into the process as appropriate.

After reviewing the facts and facilitating discussion of the problem the principal will respond to the person bringing the complaint.

## **Department of Catholic Schools Level**

- If the complaint is not resolved at the school or parish level, the complaint may be submitted in writing to the supervisor at the Department of Catholic Schools, outlining the concerns and reviewing the local process.
- The supervisor will review the complaint (with such consultation as may be appropriate) in a timely fashion and will endeavor to mediate and resolve the matter.
- However, if no agreement can be reached, the supervisor will make a final determination concerning the resolution of the complaint, based on the application of Archdiocesan and school policies and/or regulations, and communicate that determination, which will be final and binding, in writing to all parties.

## **B. ADMISSION AND ATTENDANCE**

### **GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

- Preferences shall be given to active members of the parish
- Under Archdiocesan guidelines for financial considerations, the optimum number of students per classroom is 35
- The recommended age for kindergarten students is five 5 years of age on or before September 1, but required by December 1
- The recommended age for first grade students is six 6 years of age on or before September 1, but required by December 1, unless waived by the principal
- All students must comply with current California immunization and health requirements prior to enrollment
- The parish school will strive to have Catholic education accessible to as many students as possible, both with its educational programs and financial considerations; however, it may have insufficient resources to meet the educational and financial needs of all students
- The pastor and principal will review a students' continued eligibility for enrollment in the parish school
- Each school shall establish procedures for admission and enrollment

## **SCHOOL STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The school, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students regardless of race, color, or national and/or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, or national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies and practices, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs, although certain athletic leagues and other programs may limit participation and some archdiocesan schools operate as single sex schools.

While the school does not discriminate against students with special needs, a full range of services may not always be available to them. Decisions concerning the admission and continued enrollment of a student in the school are based upon the student's emotional, academic and physical abilities and the resources available to the school in meeting the student's needs.

### **INCLUSION PROCEDURES**

Through the mission of the Archdiocese, our schools strive to serve children with varied learning needs. All educators in Archdiocesan schools follow "Directions for the Inclusion Process in Catholic Schools: Support Team Education Plan Process (STEP) and Minor Adjustment Plan Process (MAP)". Parents or guardians who feel that their student may need a minor adjustment to enable him/her to participate in the general education curriculum of the school should consult the student's teacher and principal to determine how best to meet the students needs. Parents or guardians may request the "Disability Discrimination Complaint Review Process" from the principal to address unresolved issues.

## **WORK PERMITS**

Under California law and other relevant laws, a minor student may not work without a work permit issued by the appropriate authority. To obtain a work permit, certain information is required from the student's school. Information regarding work permits and how to apply is available from the California Department of Education website: [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

The minor/student, after obtaining a promise of employment, must obtain a "Statement of Intent to Employ Minor and Request for Work Permit." The minor, the employer and the parent or guardian must each complete their sections and submit the completed application to the school. The school will verify the information entered on the application by the minor and parent or guardian and will also examine the student's records and consult the teacher to confirm the student's satisfactory academic achievement to date. The student must then submit the form to the "work permit issuing authority." If all requirements are met, the work permit issuing authority may issue the "Permit to Employ and Work." The "work permit issuing authority" is the Superintendent of the local public school or those persons authorized in writing by the Superintendent to issue the permit.

A copy of the signed work permit must be kept in the student's file.

For additional information and forms see <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/ChildLaborPamphlet2000.html>

## **PRIVACY AND ACCESS TO RECORDS**

Maintaining confidentiality is the legal, ethical and professional responsibility of every member of the school community, including students, parents or guardians, teachers, aides, and all other employees. Every member of the school community must respect the privacy of all students, families, employees, the principal and the pastor.

### **Pupil Records**

"Pupil records" means any record related to a student that is maintained by a school or one of its employees. It includes health records. It does not include "directory information" or a school employee's informal notes, if the notes remain in the sole possession of the maker and are not made available to others, except to a substitute.

Only the principal, as custodian of the records, authorizes the release of pupil records. Only teachers or administrators charged with pupil oversight have the right to view or use pupil records. A teacher's aide may view or use pupil records only with direct teacher supervision. Pupil records may be released by judicial order such as a subpoena or a search warrant. In specific cases, such as suspicion of kidnapping, police officers may be given access to records.

Parents and legal guardians of minors have the absolute right to access their child's pupil records in accordance with the school's reasonable procedures for providing such access. Parents or legal guardians may grant any specified person written consent to access specifically identified pupil records. In cases of legal separation and/or divorce, California state law gives the custodial parent and a non-custodial parent with visitation rights, the right to access and examine pupil records. However, only the custodial parent may consent to the release of records and has the right to challenge the content of the records and to write responses to information regarding disciplinary action. A non-custodial parent without visitation rights has no right of access to records of any kind.

### **Directory Information**

"Directory information" means one or more of the following items: pupil's name, address, telephone number, date and place birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous public or private school attended by the pupil.

The school will, to the extent possible, minimize access to student telephone numbers or personal email addresses, unless the parents or legal guardians consent to broader access. To the extent possible, users should try to minimize access to or distribution of student telephone numbers or personal email addresses, unless the parents or legal guardians consent to broader access

Room parent rosters, class lists, telephone numbers, email address lists or any other personal information about families and students are considered confidential and may be used only for the purposes specified. In no cases should commercial enterprises be given access to Directory Information.

### **Verbal/Written Confidences**

Confidential information may be provided by students or parents or guardians to school employees in many ways. Students may confide in staff verbally, in writing, such as a note or a writing/journal assignment. All school employees must respect the verbal or written confidences of adults and students, except in cases where the health or safety of the student or others is involved. If the confidence received relates to a health or safety

issue, the pastor, principal or other person in charge or appropriate authorities must be notified promptly, keeping in mind the rights of privacy that apply. Archdiocesan policy on reporting suspected abuse of children or vulnerable adults must be followed when applicable.

## **TRANSFER OF RECORDS**

### **Student Transfers, Withdrawals and Graduation**

Whenever a pupil transfers from one school to another, a copy of the Cumulative Student Report and the original Health Record shall be transferred by the former school upon a request from the school where the pupil intends to enroll and a release from the parent or guardian. The original Cumulative Student Report will remain at the school.

A record of the transfer, the reason for the transfer, and the name of the school to which the student is transferring or entering after graduation should be entered on the original copy of the Cumulative Student Report and in the Student Attendance Register.

Official transcripts are not given to students or parents. The school grants full credit for all work a student accomplishes up to the time of transfer.

Principals may be required by the County Board of Education to report the severance of attendance by any student.

### **Withholding of Records**

Under California law, a private school cannot refuse to provide student records to a requesting school because of any charges, including tuition or fees that are owed by the student or parent. However, the school may withhold from parents or guardians the grades, diploma, or transcripts of a pupil pending payment of certain amounts for damaged property, the return of loaned property or unpaid tuition or fees, in accordance with school policy.

## **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The Student Accident Insurance Program is provided for all full time students in archdiocesan schools/parish. This program assists only with medical expenses incurred because of accidental bodily injury sustained by students while attending school, while traveling to or from school or while participating in a school sponsored and supervised activity, including school sponsored sport and extended day programs.

## **C. ACADEMICS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **TUTORING**

- If a student requires private tutoring or parents wish to have a student tutored in school subjects, the parents are responsible for engaging the tutor and paying all tutoring costs. The school may assist the parents in identifying tutoring resources.
- Teachers may not be paid for tutoring students assigned to their classes. With prior permission from the principal, teachers may tutor other students who attend the school and be paid for such tutoring by the parents.
- A school may arrange with independent contractors or entities, who are not teachers or staff at the school to provide tutoring on a fee basis. Independent entities must have appropriate licenses, agreements for use of the premises and insurance.
- All tutors and entities must comply with the procedures and policies of the extended school day program and the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Adults Interacting with Minors at Parish or Parish School Activities or Events.

### **COUNSELING POLICY**

The mission and purpose of the school is education. Schools do not assume the responsibilities proper to the family and to society. Schools may not assume the responsibility for psychological counseling or therapy because they are not qualified or licensed to provide such counseling or therapy.

Schools may engage in the following activities in addition to providing classroom instruction:

- Provide advice regarding academic subjects and student progress in school;
- Give limited guidance to students who present with non-academic personal issues or situations;

- Provide referrals to marriage and family counselors, child psychologists, licensed academic psychologists, psychiatrists and similar professional for diagnosis and treatment. If the school provides referrals to parents, the list must include at least three names of qualified persons or entities;
- Provide career counseling through career information centers and plan periodic career days or career sessions during which students meet representatives of different professions;
- Retain, where necessary, appropriate professionals to provide educational testing that is needed for assessment of a student's academic ability, learning patterns, achievement motivation, and personality factors directly related to academic learning problems, or psychological counseling services for the school. Prior to entering into such a contractual relationship, the principal will ensure that the person is credentialed, licensed or otherwise properly qualified. The school may refer a student for specific or additional testing, as appropriate, generally at the parent or guardian's expense.
- Provide high school and college counseling, including providing information to parents and students about high school and college application procedures, entrance exam tests, scholarships and financial aid. Schools may also provide high schools college and university catalogs and information sessions.

In cases of actual or suspected child abuse or neglect or abuse of vulnerable adults, the Archdiocesan Victims' Assistance Ministry is available as a resource. The Victims' Assistance Ministry provides outreach and guidance to those suffering from abuse; sponsors a faith-based trauma recovery program; and assists in informing parish, school, archdiocesan and governmental authorities of the allegations of abuse or neglect. Referral to the Victim's Assistance Ministry is not a substitute for mandated reporting of suspected abuse. Such a report must be made in accordance with Archdiocesan policy.



PARENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO USE CHILD'S IMAGE, NAME, VOICE AND/OR WORK FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

*This section to be completed by Archdiocese/School/Parish*

Archdiocese/School/Parish:

Class/Activity:

The Archdiocese/School/Parish intends to use your child's image, name, voice and/or work for the following non-commercial purposes (describe class/activity, date(s) if applicable):

The following person(s)/entity not connected to the Archdiocese/School/Parish will be involved in the class/activity:

*This section to be completed by Parent/Legal Guardian:*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), am the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name), a minor. I hereby authorize the Archdiocese/School/Parish to use the following personal information about my child:

**1. Please initial the applicable boxes**

Image/visual likeness:	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	Voice:	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	Work:	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no

I understand and agree that my child's image, name, voice and/or work (the "Personal Information") will be used for the particular reasons identified above. I further understand and agree that the Archdiocese/School/Parish may use the Personal Information for other non-commercial purposes, including, but not limited to, publicity, exhibits, electronic media broadcasts or research. I understand and agree that the Personal Information of my child may be copied, edited and distributed by the Archdiocese/School/Parish in publications, catalogues, brochures, books, magazines, exhibits, films, videotapes, CDs, DVDs, email messages, websites, or any other form now known or later developed (the "Materials").

The Archdiocese/School/Parish may use the Personal Information at its sole discretion, with or without my child's name or with a fictitious name, and with accurate or fictitious biographical material. The Archdiocese/School/Parish will not use the Personal Information for improper purposes or in a manner inconsistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

I waive any right to inspect or approve any Materials that may be created using the Personal Information now and in the future. While the Archdiocese/School/Parish will take care to maintain the particular intents and purposes of the photographs or electronic recordings, editing may be necessary to obtain the best results. I release and discharge the Archdiocese/School/Parish and its employees and agents from any liability that may arise out of the making or editing of the photographs or electronic recordings, including but not limited to, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical or auditory illusion or use in composite form.

In exchange for the Archdiocese/School/Parish's giving my child an opportunity to participate in the class/activity, I hereby agree that neither I, nor my child, will receive monetary compensation, royalties or credit for use of the photographs or electronic recordings by the Archdiocese/School/Parish. I understand and agree that the Archdiocese/School/Parish shall be the owner of all right, title and interest, including copyright, in the photographs, electronic recordings and Materials. If the Archdiocese/School/Parish intends to use the Materials for a commercial purpose, I will be provided at that time with information about the terms of the commercial use.

I hereby waive, release and forever discharge any and all claims, demands, or causes of action against the Archdiocese/School/Parish and its employees, agents, contractors and any other person, organization, or entity assisting them with the photography, electronic recording or Materials, for damages or injuries in any way related to, or arising from the photography, electronic recording or Materials, or the use of the Personal Information, and I expressly assume the risk of any resulting injury or damage.

I further understand and agree that this Authorization remains in effect until it is withdrawn in writing. I understand that if I change my mind about this Authorization, that I will submit another, new authorization form to the Archdiocese/School/Parish. However, my new authorization will not have the effect of revoking this Authorization, and the Archdiocese/School/Parish will have no duty or obligation to make any changes or alterations to any Materials that may have been prepared based on this Authorization.

I represent that I have read this Authorization, understand the contents and am able to grant the rights and waivers it contains. I understand that the terms of this Authorization are contractual and not mere recitals. I am signing this document freely and voluntarily.

Signature:

Date:

Print Name:

Relationship to Child:

Address:

Telephone:

Name of Child:

Age:

## **E. DISCIPLINE**

### **DISCIPLINE**

Discipline in the Catholic school is an aspect of moral guidance and not a form of punishment. The purpose of discipline is to provide a school climate conducive to learning and one that promotes character development.

Discipline is maintained in a classroom or school when students work cooperatively with the principal, the teachers, and their classmates towards the attainment of the class and school objectives. However, it should be noted that the legitimate interest of the school extends beyond the school day and beyond the school hours.

### **MAINTENANCE OF EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE**

Effective discipline is maintained when there is

- Reasonable quiet and order in the building
- Positive correction of behavior
- Constant encouragement of acceptable classroom conduct
- Firm but fair treatment of difficult students
- Consistent follow through

### **DISAPPROVED DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

The following disciplinary measures are forbidden:

- All corporal punishment, including shaking and slapping is unacceptable
- Language that is sarcastic or calculated to bring ridicule on the student, his or her parents, or background
- Using religious exercises or important class assignments as punitive measures
- Bizarre and unusual punishments
- Withholding or altering rightfully earned academic grades
- Any disciplinary action that isolates a student without proper supervision

## **DETENTION**

- No student shall be required to remain in the classroom during the lunch break, or during any recess. All students shall be required to leave the school rooms at recess and lunchtime, unless it would occasion a danger to health
- Detention before or after school hours is considered an appropriate means of discipline
- A student shall not be detained in school for disciplinary or other reasons for more than one hour after the close of the school day
- Under no circumstances shall a student be detained at school without the knowledge and consent of the parent or guardian who should also be informed of the reason for detention and the exact time the period of detention will begin and end

## **SUSPENSION**

- Any of the reasons listed for expulsion with mitigating circumstances are adequate cause for suspension of a student
- No student shall be suspended from school for more than two consecutive weeks, unless there is an ongoing police investigation of a possible crime, in which case the student may be suspended during the entire investigation
- Notice of suspension must be given to the parents or guardians by telephone or in a conference
- The principal shall schedule a conference with the suspended student's parents or guardians to discuss matters pertinent to the suspension especially the means by which the parents or guardians and the school can cooperatively encourage the student to improve behavior. The suspended student may be present at the conference
- In no case will a teacher on his or her own authority suspend a student

## **EXPULSION**

## **Reasons for Expulsion**

Reasons for expulsion are, but are not limited to, the following offenses committed by students:

- Actions gravely detrimental to the moral and spiritual welfare of other students
- Habitual profanity or vulgarity
- Assault, battery or any threat of force or violence directed toward any school personnel or student
- Bullying, harassing or hazing school personnel or other students
- Open, persistent defiance of the authority of the teacher
- Continued willful disobedience
- Use, sale or possession of narcotics, drugs or any other controlled substance
- Use, sale, distribution, or possession of any alcoholic beverages on or near school premises
- Smoking or having tobacco
- Stealing
- Forging signatures
- Cheating or plagiarism
- Willful cutting, defacing or otherwise injuring in any way property, real or personal belonging to the school
- Habitual truancy
- Possession of harmful weapons (e.g., knives, guns, etc.) or materials that can be used as weapons
- Membership in, active involvement in, or affiliation with a gang or group responsible for coercive or violent activity
- Actions in or out of school which are detrimental to the school's reputation
- Violation of the Electronic Use policies and guidelines
- Inappropriate conduct or behavior unbecoming a student in a Catholic school.

## **Procedure for Expulsion**

Except in cases involving grave offenses, the following steps must be taken:

- A conference must be held with the parents or guardians, student, teacher, and principal present to advise the family that serious action is contemplated unless there is immediate improvement in behavior. In parish schools, the pastor should be notified of the conference, given an opportunity to attend and provided a report of the discussion.
- If there is no improvement in behavior, the final decision will be announced at a second conference attended by the principal, teacher, and parents or guardians. If the parents fail, without cause, to attend the conference, the pastor, principal, and teacher will reach a final decision. The final decision rests with the pastor in consultation with the principal.

- In no case will a teacher on his or her own authority expel a student.
- Full credit will be given for all work accomplished by the student up to the moment of expulsion.

**Written Record**

A written record of the steps leading to expulsion must be kept on file with copies of all communications and reports. The following form should be used, one copy kept on file and a copy mailed to the supervisor at the Department of Catholic Schools.

Name of Student:  
 Offense or situation:  
 Date:  
 Parents notified by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 Remarks:

First Meeting:  
 Place:  
 Time:  
 Persons present:  
 Remarks:  
 Signature(s):

Second Meeting:  
 Place:  
 Time:  
 Persons present:  
 Remarks:  
 Outcome:  
 Signature(s):

**Cases Involving Grave Offenses**

- In cases involving grave offenses, which may include a violation of criminal law or actions so outrageous as to shock the conscience or behavior of the community, the student is immediately suspended and there is no requirement to hold the initial parent-principal conference.
- The procedure involving cases of grave offenses should be followed when the continued presence of the student at school (even for a short period of time) will, in the reasonable judgment of the principal, pose a serious threat to the health and welfare of another student or students, or faculty members.
- When immediate suspension is imposed, with probable expulsion, while the case is being investigated, the rules and the consequences of the violation should be clearly explained to the student and parents or guardians.

### **Time of Expulsion**

- An expulsion may be made immediately if the reasons are urgent
- Only in exceptional cases shall expulsion of an eighth grade student who has been in the school one or more years be allowed
- If an expulsion is to take place during the last quarter of the school year or during the last semester in the case of an eighth grade student, prior approval of the Department of Catholic Schools is required before the expulsion can take effect
- If such action is contemplated, approval shall be obtained before the announcement of the final decision to the parents at the meeting described below

### **Reporting of Expulsions**

- All expulsions even if they occur at the end of the year, are to be reported by telephone to the elementary supervisor at the Department of Catholic Schools within 24 hours. The elementary school written report, Notice of Dismissal, should be mailed promptly to the supervisor.
- The County Office of Education shall be notified immediately of expulsions. A copy of the *Cumulative Student Record* should be held until requested.

### **Right to Make Exceptions**

The principal, in consultation with the pastor if a parish school, retains the right to make exceptions in cases where mitigating circumstances call for a different response than policy suggests.

### **Home Study**

Circumstances may arise which dictate that a student, at the discretion of the principal, be excluded from school attendance for a period of time. This is a remedy for unusual situations and is not considered a suspension. Students may be given tests, etc. outside school hours so that grades can be reported.

## **HARASSMENT, BULLYING AND HAZING POLICY**

(Name of School) is committed to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment that respects Christian values and is free from harassment, bullying or hazing in any form. Harassment, bullying or hazing of any student by any other student, lay employee, religious, clergy, or school volunteer is prohibited. The school will treat allegations of any such conduct seriously and will review and investigate such allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner. This policy shall be communicated clearly to faculty, staff, volunteers, parents or guardians and students.

Substantiated acts of harassment, bullying or hazing by a student will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal of the student. Students found to have filed false or frivolous charges will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. For students in grades K-3, this disciplinary action shall depend on the maturity of the students and the circumstances involved. For students in grades 4 through 8, the disciplinary action may include suspension or dismissal.

**Harassment** occurs when an individual is subjected to treatment or a school environment that is hostile or intimidating. It includes, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:

- Verbal harassment: Derogatory comments and jokes; threatening words spoken to another person.
- Physical harassment: Unwanted physical touching, contact, assault, deliberate impeding or blocking movements, or any intimidating interference with normal work or movement.
- Visual harassment: Derogatory, demeaning or inflammatory posters, cartoons, written words, drawings, and gestures.
- Sexual harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

**Bullying** is the habitual harassing, intimidating, tormenting, browbeating, humiliating, terrorizing, oppressing and/or threatening of another person. Bullying typically consists of direct behaviors, such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, shoving, and stealing that are initiated by one or more students against a victim or victims. In addition to direct attacks, bullying may also be indirect, such as spreading rumors that cause victims to be

socially isolated through intentional exclusion. Whether the bullying is direct or indirect, the key component of bullying is physical or psychological intimidation that occurs repeatedly over time to create an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse.

Students also may be involved in cyberbullying, which occurs when they bully each other using the Internet, mobile phones or other cyber technology. This can include, but is not limited to:

- Sending inappropriate text, e-mail, or instant messages.
- Posting inappropriate pictures or messages about others in blogs or on Web sites.
- Using someone else's user name to spread rumors or lies about someone.

**Hazing** is any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to these organizations which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, to any student or other person.

It is the responsibility of the school to:

- Establish practices and provide staff development training and age-appropriate information for students, designed to create a school environment free from discrimination, intimidation or harassment.
- Make all faculty, staff, students, parents or guardians, and volunteers aware of this policy and the commitment of the school toward its strict enforcement
- Remain watchful for conditions that create or may lead to a hostile offensive school environment.

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Conduct himself or herself in a manner that contributes to a positive school environment.
- Avoid any activity that may be considered discriminatory, intimidating, harassing, bullying or hazing.
- If possible, inform the other person(s) that the behavior is offensive and unwelcome.
- Report all incidents of discrimination, harassment, bullying or hazing to the principal or teacher.
- As appropriate, the students involved may be asked to complete a formal, written complaint which will be investigated thoroughly and

will involve only the necessary parties. Confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible.

### **STUDENT THREATS**

All threats by students to inflict serious harm to self or others, or to destroy property, will be taken seriously. Whoever hears or becomes aware of any threat made by a student should immediately report it to the pastor, principal, or a teacher. The principal will notify the police and the Department of Catholic School immediately.

The student who has made the threat will be kept in the school office under supervision until the police arrive. The parents or guardians of the student who has made the threat will be notified. Any adult or student who has been identified as the potential victim, or mentioned in writing as a potential victim, will be notified immediately.

The student who has made the threat will be suspended until the investigation by the police and school has been completed.

The decision to re-admit a student who has made a threat will be made by the principal and pastor on a case-by-case basis.

Practical jokes or offhand comments of a threatening nature will be taken seriously and will be investigated. The police may be notified and these actions may result in suspension or removal of a student from school.

## **SCHOOL SEARCHES**

A student's legitimate expectation of privacy in their person and in the personal effects they bring to school must be balanced against the obligation of the school to maintain discipline and to provide a safe environment for the school community. Accordingly, school officials may conduct a search of the student's person and personal effects based on a **reasonable suspicion** that the search will disclose evidence that the student is violating or has violated the law or a school rule.

School officials do not need a warrant or a parent's permission to conduct a search of the student and/or the school's or a student's personal property, as long as they have a reasonable suspicion that a law or school rule is being or has been violated. Whenever a school principal conducts a search of a student's person or personal effects, an adult witness should be present.

Students do not own their lockers or other school property. Lockers are made available to the student by the school. The student does have some expectation of privacy in his or her locker from other students. However, a student may not exclude school officials if the school official has a reasonable suspicion that a law or school rule has been violated.

A student has a greater expectation of privacy concerning his or her backpack, purse, clothing and other personal effects. A school official who finds it necessary to conduct a search of a student's backpack, purse, clothing or personal effects, must have a reasonable suspicion that the student is violating or has violated a law or school rule. The student's parents should be notified of any such search.

An alert from trained and certified detector dog is sufficient to allow the school official to have a reasonable suspicion and to conduct a warrantless search of the student's locker, car or his or her personal property and effects. In addition to this policy on searches by the school, every student is subject to the Archdiocesan and school use and privacy policies concerning cell phones and other electronic devices, whether the devices belong to the school or to the student.

If a student refuses to cooperate in a reasonable search of the school or student property (including electronic devices), the student's parents and/or the police may be called for assistance or referral.

In the event that any items belonging to a student are confiscated, the principal should document that fact and, when possible, take a photograph of the place where the confiscated object was found and of the object itself. It is also recommended that the school obtain a signature from the student acknowledging that the item was in his or her possession at the time it was found.

### **EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY PROGRAMS**

The decision to provide an extended school day program shall be made jointly by the principal and, and, in the case of parish schools, the pastor, after careful and thorough consideration of the responsibilities, liabilities, and long-term consequences. If the school decides to offer an extended school day program, the school must consider the following points:

- The program must be consistent with the school's philosophy and mission
- The principal is the administrator responsible for the managerial aspects of the program, including financial management, and the recruitment, employment and, if required, termination of supervising personnel
- Archdiocesan student insurance covers students during the time of the program
- The school requires an extended school day agreement with participating parents
- Fees charged to parents must be adequate to cover the total cost of the extended school day program
- Programs under the auspices of elementary schools may only serve those students presently enrolled in the formal school program
- Adequate space shall be provided for activities detailed in the program, and this space shall be clean, safe, well maintained, and provide a pleasant, child-centered environment. The facility must have access to a telephone
- Extended school day staff must be at least eighteen years of age, and have undergone a tuberculosis check and must comply with the Safe Environment Policy and Archdiocesan Guidelines for Adults Interacting with Minors at Parish or Parish School Activities or Events. It is recommended that they have formal training in child development, recreation, or education, possess prior experience working with school-age children, and are familiar with age-appropriate behaviors and abilities of children

- Staff shall supervise children appropriately at all times, and a written job description detailing work duties shall be given to all staff members. It is recommended that there be no more than 14 children per one adult staff member. It is also recommended that two staff employees be available at all times in the event of an emergency. At no time should a child be left unattended
- Staff members shall be inserviced regarding signs of child abuse and neglect, and appropriate reporting procedures. Workers shall be given opportunities to attend workshops in child development, and individual staff members shall meet on a regular basis with supervisory personnel for on-going support and feedback
- Staff members shall carefully maintain appropriate records regarding family information, emergency contact, arrivals, and departures

A school may arrange with independent contractors or entities to provide extended school day programs on a fee basis. Independent contractors and entities must have appropriate licenses, agreements for use of the premises and insurance. All individuals and entities providing extended school day programs must comply with the procedures and policies of the extended day program and the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Adults Interacting with Minors at Parish or Parish School Activities or Events.

## **FIELD TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **FIELD TRIP POLICIES**

The field trip policies listed below apply to class trips, school group trips (e.g. choir, academic decathlon) and trips for school sport teams.

Schools may plan field trips for one or more days including overnight field trips. Schools, at their option, may decide not to offer overnight field trips. All field trips, whether day or overnight must comply with the following requirements:

- Prior permission of the principal
- Preparation, follow-up, and specific educational goals for students
- Signed and dated Student and Youth Activity Permission Forms and Emergency Medical Authorizations from parents All Permission and Authorization Forms must be in the possession of the supervising adult during the trip
- All participants should have appropriate identification and travel documents

- All archdiocesan policies on safe environment must be followed, including background checks for vendors providing the trips, as applicable.
- For trips outside the 100-mile radius of the school, guidelines must include consideration of the ability of parents to incur cost, the financial impact of the trip on other school fundraising activities and class work missed by students
- State law requires that a first aid kit be immediately available to the supervising adult on all excursions and field trips. First aid kits must be carried in all vehicles transporting students to school sponsored activities. Student emergency information must be immediately available to the supervising adult. At least one adult chaperone shall be in possession of a cell phone. A snake bit kit must be included in any area where there may be poisonous snakes.

### **TRANSPORTATION POLICIES**

- Transportation may be by personal car, school or chartered bus or van, boat, or air plane.
- Although discouraged, school employees, including teachers and coaches, may drive two or more students to or from athletic and co-curricular trips or events in their personal vehicle. School employees may not be alone with a student in a vehicle.
- School employees and parent or guardian volunteers driving students in their own cars must be at least 25 years of age, have a clean driving record for the past three years, a valid Class C driver's license and current, valid California automobile insurance. Each vehicle must have individual seat belts for each student. A copy of the parent or guardian's driver's license and insurance declaration page must be kept on file at the school.
- All contracts with bus companies or other transportation vendors must be submitted to the Archdiocesan Legal Department for review prior to signature
- Schools may only use buses or vans with valid California State approved licenses or charters. Verification may be obtained on the state Public Utilities website at <http://www.CPUC.ca.gov>. In addition, schools must verify insurance coverage of the transportation company.

**STUDENT AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PERMISSION FORM**

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity:  Field Trip  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_  See Attached

Mode of Transportation:  Walk  Car Pool  Bus  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Adult Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Attire: \_\_\_\_\_

I request that my son/daughter be permitted to participate in the above activity. My child has no medical condition that would render it inappropriate for him/her to participate in this activity. I have returned the Health and Medical Release Form to the school/parish. I agree to direct my child to cooperate and conform to directions and instructions of the parish, school or Archdiocesan personnel responsible for this activity.

As a condition of participating in this activity, I hereby release and discharge The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, a corporation sole, Archdiocese of Los Angeles Education & Welfare Corporation and the school and parish, their respective employees and any parent/volunteer chaperone, from any and all claims for personal injuries, wrongful death or property damage that my son/daughter may suffer as a result of participation in the activity described above, whether or not such injuries or damage are caused by the negligence (active or passive) of the Archdiocese, the parish, the school or their employees or chaperones.

Should it be necessary for my son/daughter to have medical treatment while participating in this trip, I hereby give the responsible personnel or chaperones permission to use their judgment in obtaining medical service, and I give permission to the physician selected by the school personnel or chaperone to render medical treatment deemed necessary and appropriate by the physician. I agree to relieve the school and other participating adults from any liability in connection with this request.

I understand that the insurance benefits through the school or parish, if any, may have limited application, and that I am entirely responsible for the cost of all medical treatment provided to my child. I agree to indemnify and hold the school harmless from the cost of any medical treatment and related expense and cost incurred.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Person to Notify in case of Emergency if Parent or Guardian is unavailable:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUMMER PROGRAMS**

The principal is responsible for the over-all administration of all summer programs. All archdiocesan policies are applicable to summer programs. The principal may delegate the day-to-day operations of the summer programs.

Each year the decision to have a summer program is left to the sole discretion of the principal and, in the case of parish schools, the pastor. Considerations for implementing a summer program must include financial feasibility, purpose (e.g., enrichment, remedial, etc.), and demand for the summer programs. Teachers have no right to employment in the summer program. Teachers employed in past summer programs have no tenure rights.

The following practices shall be observed in all summer programs:

- All summer programs shall have a budget that includes payroll, classroom materials, student activities, school maintenance costs, and utilities
- Students enrolled in the regular school program are automatically covered by school insurance. Prior to the beginning of summer activities, a listing of non-covered students (i.e., students from other schools) shall be sent to the insurance carrier accompanied by the special coverage fee.
- All summer program finances shall be posted in the school ledger
- The summer program staff shall participate in an orientation that includes:
  - The mission of the Catholic school
  - Child abuse reporting requirements; Safe Environment and the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Adults Interacting with Minors
  - Field trip policies
  - Safety and health procedures, i.e., first aid and CPR
  - Supervision of students
  - Emergency/Disaster plans

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

### **1. Systems, Devices and Materials**

- **Electronic communications systems** include, but are not limited to, electronic mail, voice mail, facsimile machines, stand-alone or networked computers, intranets, the Internet/World Wide Web and any other communications systems that may be created in the future.
- **Electronic communications devices** include, but are not limited to, regular and mobile telephones, computers, laptops, electronic notebooks, audio and video equipment, flash drives, memory sticks, iPods, MP3 players, Blackberries, and other wireless equipment.
- **Electronic communications materials** include, but are not limited to, DVDs, CDs, laser discs, audio and video-tape, audio and visual recordings, films, microfiche, audio and visual broadcasts, computer operating systems, software programs, electronically stored data and text files, computer applications, e-mails, text messages, instant messages, and all other downloaded, uploaded, retrieved, opened, saved, forwarded, or otherwise accessed or stored content.

### **2. Electronic Communications Systems, Devices and Materials and Users Covered**

- All electronic communications systems, devices and materials whether in a parish, school, or archdiocesan department or office;
- All electronic communications devices and materials taken from parish, school or archdiocesan office for use at home or on the road;
- All personal devices and materials brought from home and used on parish, school or archdiocesan premises during regular business hours;
- All personal devices and materials, regardless of location, that are used in such a manner that the parish, school or archdiocese may be implicated in their use.
- All users of electronic communications systems, devices and materials, including, but not limited to, students, employees, staff, contractors, volunteers, clergy and religious, and their families.

### 3. **Ownership and Control of Communications**

- All systems, devices and materials located in a parish, a school or an archdiocesan office, and all work performed on them, are property of the parish, school or archdiocese. These systems, devices and materials are to be used primarily to conduct official parish, school or archdiocesan business, not personal business.
- With permission from the pastor, principal or other person in charge, individuals may use systems, devices and materials, including access to the Internet, for personal business and web exploration outside regular business hours or during breaks. All users are expected to conform to appropriate content management and web surfing guidelines, whether during or outside regular business hours.
- Parish, school and archdiocesan systems, devices and materials are not private and security cannot be guaranteed. Passwords and user IDs are designed to protect confidential information, not to provide users with personal privacy. User account passwords for systems not controlled by a centralized user directory or authentication system must be on record with the pastor, principal or other person in charge at the parish, school or archdiocesan department.
- Minors may only access the Internet from devices with updated and functioning filters for prohibited content. All obscene materials, child pornography or materials that are otherwise harmful to minors or in violation of this electronic communications policy must be blocked. Before allowing minors to access the Internet, a responsible person must ensure that content filters are “ON.”
- Content filters for minors may NOT be disabled or turned “OFF” without obtaining prior permission from the archdiocesan Applied Technology Department or the person with equivalent authority at the parish or school.
- All files downloaded from the Internet, all computer disks received from outside sources, and all content uploaded from portable memory devices must be scanned with updated/current virus detection software. Immediately report any viruses, tampering or other system breaches to the person in charge at the parish, school or archdiocesan department.
- Parishes, schools and the archdiocese reserve the right to monitor, access, retrieve, read and disclose all content created, sent, received, or stored on parish, school or archdiocesan systems, devices and materials (including connections made and sites visited) to law enforcement officials or others, without prior notice.

4. **Guidelines for E-mail correspondence and other electronic communications**

- All users of parish, school or archdiocesan communications systems and devices should use care in creating e-mail, text, instant or voice mail messages. Even when a message has been deleted, it may still exist on a backup system, be restored, be printed out, or may have been forwarded to someone else without its creator's knowledge. The contents of e-mail and text messages are the same as other written documentation and cannot be considered private or confidential.
- E-mail and other electronic communications are not necessarily secure.
- As with paper records, proper care should be taken in creating and retaining electronic records for future use, reference and disclosure, as applicable.
- Postings to "All Employees," "All Parents" "All Parishioners" and the like on intranets or the Internet or the World Wide Web **must be approved** by the pastor, principal or other person in charge at the parish, school or archdiocesan department before they are sent out.
- Use of personal electronic communications devices and materials during regular business hours should be kept to a minimum and limited mainly to emergencies.

5. **Prohibited Practices:**

Users of parish, school or archdiocesan electronic communication systems, devices or materials **and** users of personal devices and materials on parish, school or archdiocesan premises, during normal business hours or under circumstances when the parish, school or archdiocese may become implicated in the use, may not:

- Violate any federal, state or local laws, regulations, rules of conduct, codes of ethics, safe environment or any educational rules.
- Post or distribute personal contact information about the user or others without permission or review by a responsible adult person, unless required by the user's job duties or assigned responsibilities. Personal contact information includes names or screen names; telephone numbers; work, home or school addresses; email addresses and web addresses (URLS) of social networking sites or blogs.
- Post or distribute communications or pictures which a reasonable person, according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, would consider to be defamatory, offensive, harassing, disruptive, derogatory or bullying. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual comments or images, racial or

ethnic slurs, or other comments or images that would offend someone on the basis of race, creed, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political beliefs, mental or physical disability, or veteran status.

- Engage in improper fraternizing or socializing between adults and minors. Minors may not agree to meet someone they have met online without their parents' approval and the presence of a parent at any meeting.
- Engage in pirating or unauthorized distribution (such as "podcasting") of copyrighted materials, music or film; arrange for the purchase or sale of any drugs, alcohol, or regulated substances and goods; or participate in internet gambling.
- Post chain letters or engage in "spamming" (sending annoying, unnecessary or unsolicited commercial messages); repost a message that was sent privately without permission of the person who sent the message.
- Record any telephone or other conversation without the express permission of the other participants to the conversation except where allowed by law.
- Use electronic communications devices for designing, developing, distributing or storing any works of programming or software unless explicitly required by the duties of the job or assignment;
- Upload, download, view or otherwise transmit copyrighted, trademarked, patented, or indecent material, trade secrets, or other confidential, private, or proprietary information or materials to which the user does not have access rights. Regarding copyrighted materials, certain exceptions are given for educational and liturgical purposes. If in doubt, consult the pastor, principal or other person in charge.
- Damage, alter, disrupt, or gain unauthorized access to computers or other systems; e.g. use others' passwords, trespass on others' folders, work or files.
- Give unauthorized persons access to parish, school or archdiocesan systems, provide access to confidential information, or otherwise jeopardize the security of the electronic communications systems (e.g. by unauthorized use or disclosure of passwords).
- Transmit confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information unless the transmission falls within the scope of the user's job duties or assignment by a responsible person.
- Introduce a virus, attempt to breach system security or tamper with a system.
- Alter, without authorization, a start up screen or the desktop, or install applications that will subvert these functions.

- Allow any minor to access the Internet on school communications devices before a responsible adult has checked to insure that active filtering of prohibited materials is enabled.
- Use electronic communications devices or systems to transmit any radio frequency signal that is not permitted and/or licensed by the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”) or that would violate FCC rules or policies.

## 6. Consequences of violations of electronic communications policy

Violations of this policy, including breaches of confidentiality or security, may result in suspension of electronic communication privileges, confiscation of any electronic communication device or materials, and disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment, removal from parish or school activities, or other appropriate disciplinary action.

## 7 Local policies for parishes and schools

Parishes and schools should create their own policies addressing the use of electronic communications devices in classrooms or other parish or school-related settings to suit their local needs. Such policies may not deviate from this Electronic Communications Policy in any material way. Parishes and schools should incorporate paragraphs 1 through 6 of this policy in parish and parent/student handbooks in addition to local policies. The parish and school created policies should address:

- where students and staff may use electronic communications devices;
- when electronic communications devices may be used;
- where such devices will be stored when they are not in use (backpack, locker, elsewhere);
- extent to which the parish and school will communicate through email and the reasonable amount of time within which responses may be expected;
- appropriate language for email response to email or text messages that raise questions or concerns

*Sample:* “Thank you for sharing your concern/question with us. Because of the informal and insecure nature of electronic messaging and our inability to confirm who the senders and intended recipients of the messages are, we suggest you contact the parish or school by telephone or by regular mailed correspondence.”

- consequences that will result if the parish or school policy is not followed



School  
Logo

# St. Gregory the Great School Parent/Student Policies Agreement Form

*(Please print except where signatures are required)*

## **ACCEPTANCE OF PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Our family has received and read the \_\_\_\_\_ School Parent/Student Handbook. We are aware of, understand, and agree to follow the policies and procedures stated in the Handbook. We acknowledge that the school has the right to amend the Handbook during the school year as needed and we agree to follow the policies and procedures as may be added or amended.

We understand that we may be asked to withdraw our child(ren) from the school or our child(ren) may not be invited to return the following year, if we fail to fulfill our responsibilities under the Handbook and any additions and amendments that may be made. Our signatures below indicate our commitment to fulfill our obligations according to the requirements of the Handbook.

Father's or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's or Guardian's

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print student names and grades:

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this signed form promptly to the School Office.  
This form will be placed in the students' permanent files