



*St. Paul Catholic School
Deeply Rooted in Knowledge, Faith, and Family,
Since 1930.*

This on-line handbook was revised and updated for the 2015-2016 school year for the purpose of clearly communicating school policies and procedures.

Parents and guardians are required to review with their children those items that are appropriate for children's grade level. Parents with children in grades K-8 are expected to have an "age appropriate" conversation in regards to the contents of this handbook. All students are expected to understand the expectations for Uniforms and Personal Appearance, Behavior, Discipline, Respect for School Property, Attendance, Homework, and Arrival and Dismissal. Parents and students are responsible for signing and returning the Handbook Acknowledgement Form found on the last page of this Handbook.

Thank you for sending your children to St. Paul Catholic School. We are looking forward to another successful year as we celebrate eighty-three years of Catholic education. We are truly blessed!

Thank you for your continued support.

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**Parent & Student Handbook
2015-2016**

SCHOOL HOURS

School Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Arrival and Morning Supervision: 7:30 – 7:50 a.m.

School Begins: 7:50 a.m. on Plaza; School Ends: 2:50 p.m.

Extended Day Program: 2:50 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Inspired by the charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany,
the mission of St. Paul Catholic School is to provide students with a foundation for life through
faith, academics, and service
and to assist students in developing their gifts and talents,
so that they may fulfil the plan God has for their lives

PHILOSOPHY OF ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Paul Catholic School exists to provide students with an excellent academic education that implements the teachings of our Catholic faith throughout everything we do. We work with the Church, the family, and the community, to nurture the whole child. We are committed to providing a high quality, well-rounded education that includes religion, technology, athletics, music, art, foreign language, media, retreats, field trips, and daily recess. We attend weekly mass together. We teach our students virtues and scripture verses to use as a source of strength throughout their lives. Our school is an educational ministry that is committed to guiding and empowering students to seek their full potential, prepared to live, work, and serve others in a global society. The Franciscan charism of caring for the environment, justice, and nonviolence has been evident at St. Paul Catholic School since its founding in 1930.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

BELIEF STATEMENTS

Developed by the Faculty and Staff of St. Paul Catholic School

1. We believe that the traditions and charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, namely those of justice, peace, hospitality, service and non-violence, are as alive in our school today as they were in 1930 when the Sisters founded the school.
2. We believe our primary role as a Catholic school is to provide all students with a holistic foundation for life through faith, academics, and service, and help all students learn how to use their gifts and talents to fulfil the plan God has for their lives.
3. We believe in providing a safe, disciplined, and prayerful environment that enhances teaching, learning, and respect for self and others.
4. We believe our actions are to reflect that every person is a valued child of God, worthy of love, dignity, and respect.
5. We believe students must be offered a variety of instructional strategies and differentiated activities to support their learning needs.
6. We believe that teaching Biblical Scripture, participating in liturgical celebrations, and practicing Catholic virtues provides our students, families, and faculty with a moral compass for their life journey.
7. We believe effective use of technology can improve teaching and learning and that we must continue to meet the challenges of integrating evolving technology into our classrooms.
8. We believe student learning is enhanced when clear goals, high expectations, and implementation of best practices guide classroom instruction, curriculum development, and authentic assessment.
9. We believe in commitment to academic excellence and school improvement, through continued professional development for teachers, high quality curriculum and varied learning materials for students, and long range planning for our school.
10. We believe the partnership between school and family is essential to the development of the whole child.

ACCREDITATION

St. Paul Catholic School is fully accredited by the *Florida Catholic Conference*. More details about the Florida Catholic Conference can be found on the following website: www.flacathconf.org/accreditation/

AFFILIATIONS

NCEA – National Catholic Educational Association

FCC – Florida Catholic Conference

ASCD – Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

IRA – International Reading Association

NSTA – National Science Teacher Association

NASSP - National Association of Secondary School Principals

NJHS – National Junior Honor Society

NASC – National Association of Student Councils

CYLC – Congressional Youth Leadership Council 8

***The Lord is good to those who hope in Him,
to those who seek Him.***

Lamentations 3:25

ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION

St. Paul Catholic School is a parochial school sponsored by the Catholic people of St. Paul and Blessed Trinity parishes. 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 one of the two parishes, are participating in weekly Sunday Mass, and supporting the parish through use of the Sunday envelopes. Enrollment in the school in a particular year does not guarantee the child a place in the school in the following year unless these requirements are met. Applications for registration for the following year are accepted in January.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY ON ADMISSIONS AND HIRING FOR THE DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of St. Petersburg restate their open admission policy; namely, that no person on the grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin is discriminated against in admission or in receiving services in any school operated by them, nor do they hire or assign staff on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin of either the staff or the students.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ST. PETERSBURG ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Facilities/Maintenance Department maintains the St. Paul Catholic School, St. Petersburg Asbestos Management Plan, which is available in the Administration Office for review upon request.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

To comply with federal law attempting to control the spread of disease by exposure to blood and other bodily fluids, 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 blood borne pathogens. These practices are called "universal precautions."

*There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love,
and the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13 9

POLICY REGARDING THE REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

The welfare of children is important to the staff at St. Paul Catholic School, as well as to the parents. 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 Statutes 415.504)

DIOCESAN HARASSMENT POLICY

St. Paul Catholic School strives to establish a Christian, professional and supportive educational community for administrators, faculty and staff, parents, and students. The Diocese of St. Petersburg has adopted and promulgated a harassment policy for its schools that addresses behaviors that interfere with the school's mission. We, at St. Paul Catholic School, condemn any form of harassment. Concerns should be reported directly to the school/center administrator. All credible allegations will be addressed accordingly to the Diocesan policy.

Students should be aware that name calling, bullying, and verbal or physical threats are forms of harassment and are unacceptable in our Catholic/Christian environment. Under federal and state laws (Florida Statutes 111.32) and policies, sexual harassment is illegal and prohibited in school settings. Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature, which interferes with a student's right to learn, study, work, or participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. Some examples of behavior that may be considered sexual harassment are:

- Staring or leering at parts of someone else's body
- Comments, gestures, or jokes of a sexual nature
- Display of sexual pictures of objects
- Spreading sexual rumors or commenting about sexual behavior
- Repeated pressure for dates or unwanted sexual activity
- Touching, grabbing, pinching
- Physical sexual assault

In keeping with the Catholic regard for dignity of each person, sexual harassment will not be tolerated at St. Paul Catholic School.

Children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward.

Psalm 127:3

MANDATED SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

The US Council of Catholic Bishops met in Dallas in November of 2002, to deal directly with the topic of protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults in our communities. From this meeting, the 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.

Our Diocese has chosen to present the Girls and Boys Town Center for Adolescence and Family Spirituality program as a vehicle to deliver this training. Attendance at Safe Environment Training is mandated for anyone in ministry – priests, deacons, religious, educators, parents, volunteers, and church staff... anyone who will have a supervisory role with youth.

The Safe Environment curriculum for students at St. Paul Catholic School is based on the standards and benchmarks of the student program. In EC 3 through grade 2, classes are taught through developmentally appropriate whole-group lessons with the School Counselor, and teachers. In grades 3 – 5, the school counselor offers weekly lessons that cover the Safe Environment Standards. In middle school, students receive the complete Safe Environment Training through the Mind, Body, and Spirit Retreats which are held twice a year for each middle school class.

SCHOOL MASSES

Students in grades K-8 attend the 8:15 a.m. Mass each Wednesday (EC3 and EC4 attend every other week beginning in October). Masses on Holy Days will be at 8:30 a.m. Girls in grades K-5 are required to wear plaid skorts on Mass Day. Students in grades 3-8 rotate by class, planning the Mass and leading the student participation. The students' prayers, responses, and hymns are a vibrant part of each Mass. The Catholic Church must always be a place to feel and experience God. Everyone is expected to participate with enthusiasm, reverence, and respect.

VISITORS

For the safety of students and staff, all visitors must enter through the front door, sign in at the front office, and wear a visitor badge. The only exception to this rule is first thing in the morning, for EC 3 parents who are going straight to the EC 3 classroom, and then out the back door.

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

VOLUNTEERS

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

Complete an electronic Level II Background Check

Complete the Diocesan Safe Environment Training through a local parish or school

Enter through the front door of the school, sign in at the school office, and receive a volunteer badge.

- Volunteers who appear without an appointment with the teacher will not be permitted to visit the classroom.
- Volunteers are expected to be dressed appropriately and modestly.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

For the safety of all students, it is important that the school administration be able to contact parents in case of an emergency. Each parent must provide the school, in writing, the following information

Home Phone Number -Cell Phone Number

E-mail Address / Alternate Contact Information

Custody Agreements

The school must be given written notification as soon as possible when there are changes in the above emergency contact information. St. Paul Catholic School cannot prevent a parent from picking up his/her child without a court ordered custody agreement. All custody agreements are kept in a confidential file in the school office.

***Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.
1Corinthians 10:31***

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Because it is impossible to foresee all problems that may arise, the Principal reserves the right, as she deems necessary, to take disciplinary action for any behavior which violates the spirit and philosophy of our school, even though not specified in this Handbook.

The following rules must be observed at all times - in all classrooms, church and school grounds, field trips, lunchroom and gymnasium, during sports activities, general assemblies, and Extended Day.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Students are required to show respect towards faculty, staff, administration, and classmates at all times. Behavior that disrupts classroom instruction, such as disrespect, excessive talking, not following teacher directions, making noises, or distracting other students, is cause for disciplinary action.

Poor attitudes, poor behavior, or any conduct detrimental to the reputation of the school, whether inside or outside the school, may result in detention, suspension, or expulsion.

RESPECT FOR SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are expected to respect school property both inside out outside the school building. Students are expected to report any damage to school grounds, such as bathrooms and locker rooms, or items assigned for their personal use, such as textbooks, lockers, and desks, to their teacher immediately. Students who do not report damage immediately could be held responsible for covering the cost of repairing or replacing the damaged item. Damaging or defacing school property is a major offense and is cause for serious punishment, suspension, or expulsion.

***To do what is right and just
is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
Proverbs 21:3***

ILLEGAL AND HARMFUL OBJECTS

Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs may not be carried or used at any time. Matches, fireworks, knives, guns, slingshots, chemicals and objectionable materials or objects are not to be brought to the school at any time. Use of any of the above may result in immediate expulsion.

BLOGS

Engagement in online blogs such as, but not limited to, Instagram, Twitter®, Facebook®, etc. may result in disciplinary actions if the content of the student's blog includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students or the parish.

BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING

St. Paul Catholic School is committed to providing a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken very seriously. Students making such threats seriously, in jest, or online, face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Every student is expected to respect the feelings of others. Language or behavior that is hurtful, threatening, or unkind will not be tolerated, whether joking or serious. Any type of harassment, sexual or otherwise, whether joking or serious, will not be tolerated. Tripping, pushing, shoving, spitting, swearing, or making rude noises or gestures, are cause for disciplinary action.

CELL PHONES

With permission from their teacher as well as the office staff, students will be given permission during school hours to use the school's landline phone in either the office or the clinic, to contact a parent. Should a parent see the need to send their child to school with a cell phone, the phone **MUST** be left in the child's locker. Students are not permitted to have cell phones on their person. Use of cell phones on school grounds is prohibited from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This means once students enter school property, cell phones may not be used. Student athletes, with permission from the Coach, are permitted to use the landline phone in the athletic office to contact a parent after practice or a home game. If a cell phone is taken away from a student for breaking the above rule, the parent will be called by the administration to retrieve the phone. The student will **NOT** be allowed to bring the cell phone back to school for the remainder of the school year. Cell phones are not permitted on field trips or any other school sponsored event.

*As for me, I will look to the Lord,
I will put my trust in God my savior. Micah 7:7*

PERSONAL ITEMS

Electronic devices such as I-pads and laptops, are not permitted in school without permission from a teacher. In addition, toys, special watches with distracting sounds, I-pods, music devices, tape recorders, computerized pens, skateboards, and similar items must be left at home unless permission to bring them is granted in advance by the teacher. If such items are brought to school, the school will not be held responsible for damaged or lost items.

Students in grades 4-8 are permitted to bring e-readers to school. Students and parents are required to sign the E-Reader Acceptable Use Policy form each year. The information below is part of the policy:

E-Reader Acceptable Use Policy

The wide variety of hardware and software capabilities of available e-Readers makes them challenging to monitor and control in a school environment in contrast with school owned technology assets like computers, etc. Therefore, our e-Reader Acceptable Use Policy needs to be specific and clear. A student who violates any portion of the e-Reader Acceptable Use Policy may immediately lose the privilege to use their e-Reader at school for a length of time commensurate with the nature of the violation.

1. Students will request the form from the school office. This Acceptable Use Agreement form, signed by both the parents and the student, is to be turned in to the student's homeroom teacher. The homeroom teacher will alert other teachers that the student is in compliance with the policy.
2. E-Readers are to be used **only** for the reading of school approved material (books, etc.) and not for other purposes such as communication, entertainment, music, gaming, etc.
3. All material on the e-Reader must comply with the spirit and policies of St. Paul Catholic School.
4. All e-Readers must have cellular and network capabilities disabled (turned off) while the device is at school.
5. E-Readers must be used at appropriate times in accordance with teacher instructions. The e-Reader must not be a distraction for the student or those around him/her nor be a source of any classroom disruption.
6. E-Readers are not to be used during lunch, middle-school breaks, or during playground/recess time.
7. The student is responsible for knowing how to properly and effectively use their e-Readers and this should not be a burden for the teachers.

STUDENT SAFETY

Running is permitted only during physical education classes or on the playground during supervised activities. There is never a reason to run inside the school buildings, hallways, or stairwells.

- All students are expected to be orderly and quiet in the hallways. Loud, boisterous behavior is not necessary and will not be permitted.
- There are students in our school who are allergic to animal hair. We have a responsibility to protect those students. Animals are not allowed on the blacktop during morning opening or dismissal, unless previous arrangements have been made with the administration. Animals may be brought to the school only with the approval of both the teacher and the Principal.
- Chewing gum is not permitted on school grounds.

Parents are expected to support all school policies, as well as consequences for inappropriate student behavior.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students in grades 3-8 will be required to sign a Student Rights & Responsibilities form twice a year. Teachers use this opportunity to review the expectations for student behavior. Students are assured of the school's efforts to maintain a safe, happy, and respectful place for students, faculty, and staff.

DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

It is important for parents to understand that the teachers and school administration carefully look at each individual disciplinary situation. Decisions for disciplinary consequences are not given without thought and consideration to what is best for each student. A student will receive a written disciplinary referral when he/she has not successfully responded to his/her teacher's attempt to correct inappropriate behavior. When a disciplinary referral is given, students take the referral to the office and meet with an administrator. Parents are notified, and an appropriate consequence is given by the teacher or administrator. This action can include, but is not limited to, a phone call home from the student, teacher, or administrator, after school detention, a written assignment, in-school suspension, Saturday detention, out of school suspension, probation, or expulsion. Each disciplinary referral must be signed by a parent and returned on the next school day, to the school office. Failure to do so will result in an immediate in-school suspension.

ACADEMIC REFERAL TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Students may receive written academic referrals to the school administration for missing or incomplete work or poor grades. The first academic referral is always handled by the administrator with encouragement and help for the student. Time is taken to talk with the student and set goals. On the second referral, parents are notified and if necessary, consequences are given. These consequences can include, but are not limited to suspension from athletic games, cheerleading, or other school events, such as field trips.

The written referral is sent home for a parent signature. Referrals must be returned on the following school day with a parent signature. Students who fail to return the signed referrals will serve an in-school suspension upon returning to school. All referrals are kept in the school office.

STUDENT SUSPENSIONS

In School Suspension: Students with disciplinary referrals may be required to serve an in school suspension. Students are sent to another classroom for the designated period of time and are expected to complete all class work that the teachers have provided.

Out of School Suspension: Students with disciplinary referrals may be required to serve an out of school suspension. Students are not permitted to attend school during this time and may be given an assignment to complete prior to returning.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM: EC 3 and 4

St. Paul Catholic School is licensed as a pre-school with the Pinellas County License Board.

Children must be completely toilet trained to be enrolled in the program. Teachers and staff are not licensed to change clothing. In the event of an accident, the parent is called to come to school and change the child's clothing. Aggressive behavior which causes harm to other children or serious classroom distractions, such as hitting, biting, or continual yelling/crying, will result in the child going home the remainder of the day. Parents will be required to meet with administration should behavior become chronic.

COMMUNICATION

The success of St. Paul Catholic School relies upon good communication and parental involvement. Our school attempts to keep families informed and involved in a variety of ways, including the following:

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.stpaul1930.org

This website is updated regularly to help keep you informed of school and classroom news.

Teacher Websites

Teachers have their own classroom websites where they post homework assignments, current newsletters, spelling lists, study guides, and informative information for parents.

REDIKER

Parents and students can check grades and continued progress online through Rediker.

NEWSLETTERS

The Eagle News is e-mailed to parents via Constant Contact and posted to the school website every Friday. Please be sure to check it regularly. This is a valuable way of communicating important information to our families.

THE BROWN ENVELOPE

The "Brown Envelope" is used periodically throughout the school year as a means of communication to parents. When there is information to send home, the envelope is sent home on Fridays with the oldest child in the family. It is used only to communicate school information that cannot be put on the website. Parents must sign and date the Brown Envelope and return it to school on the following Monday. If the Brown Envelope is not returned by Thursday morning, it will not be sent home that week.

STUDENT AGENDA BOOKS

Students in grades 2 - 5 use daily assignment books to communicate between the classroom and home each day. Students are expected to have all homework assignments, test and quiz dates, and project due dates written in their assignment books. Parents are asked to sign and check their child's assignment book each night.

Middle School Students use an assignment book to keep track of all homework assignments, tests, quizzes and project due dates.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed every nine weeks in Grades 1-8. Tuition must be current before students receive report cards. Kindergarten students receive an assessment report in January and another at the end of the school year.

St. Paul Catholic School, in conjunction with other Catholic schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, has adopted a new method for reporting student achievement to parents. This new method is called Approaches to Learning and Behavior. Approaches to Learning (includes being prepared for class, homework, participation in class, etc.) and Behavior (student attitude, following directions, etc.). These attributes will be recorded separately under the respective headings. The main purpose of this method is to give parents a clearer picture of their children's achievement. Teachers will use both Formative assessments (practice and examples that show how successfully the student is mastering the concepts) along with Summative (end of unit or end of lesson) assessments to determine the student's grade. Parents are encouraged to examine and discuss the report card with their children.

St. Paul Catholic School, along with the majority of other Catholic schools, has adopted the policy of not entering grades below a fifty (50). An explanation of this policy is as follows:

When assigning grades, teachers acknowledge whether the student has demonstrated an understanding of the learning outcomes. The student's grade should reflect the fact that the student has a limited, approaching, full, or exceptional understanding of the outcomes. A grade of zero (0) communicates that the student demonstrated that he/she does NOT understand the learning outcome. In other words, the student has "zero" knowledge of the material taught.

If a student has failed to hand in an assignment, teachers cannot fairly judge whether or not the student has met the learner outcomes. Teachers can't fairly say that the student knows "nothing" - as they have no proof of that - but neither can they say that they know "something" - as they have no proof of that, either. In the grade book, assignments that are not handed in do not receive a grade. Students will be required to miss recess or, in Middle School, Choice Class until the missing work is turned in. This "study hall" will be supervised by administration or a designee. If the assignment is not turned into the teacher after 2 weeks of lunch study hall, the assignment will receive a grade of 50 (F). When students turn in late work, they will be assessed appropriate late marks, but will receive no grade lower than a 50. Teachers also have the option of allowing students to show what they have learned in other formats. When it comes to assigning a final grade, teachers will take into account all of the work that the student has done and assign a grade that communicates the student's level of understanding.

If a student continues a pattern of missing assignments, their Approaches to Learning (ATL) grade will be affected, as work habits are more closely related to a study skill.

***The person who pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor.
Proverbs 21:22***

Approaches to Learning

	Organization	Collaboration & Communication	Reflective Thinking
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared for class • Homework completed • Classwork completed • Punctual with assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in class • Attentive and Engaged during instruction • Demonstrates helpfulness and teamwork • Seeks help when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to teacher help and correction • Makes effort to improve behavior or performance. • Produces quality work • Makes time for personal study and improvement.
3	Consistent in 3 of 4	Consistent in 3 of 4	Consistent in 3 of 4
2	Consistent in 2 of 4	Consistent in 2 of 4	Consistent in 2 of 4
1	Consistent in 1 of 4	Consistent in 1 of 4	Consistent in 1 of 4

Behavior

	Respect	Responsibility
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a good attitude • Respectful to adults and peers in speech and action • Maintains positive peer relationships • Respectful of personal, peer and school property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibits self- control • Follows directions and does not need constant reminders • Socializes only at appropriate times • Takes ownership for behavior
3	Consistent in 3 of 4	Consistent in 3 of 4
2	Consistent in 2 of 4	Consistent in 2 of 4
1	Consistent in 1 of 4	Consistent in 1 of 4

HONOR ROLL

Students in grades 6-8 who excel in academic achievement will be included in the Honor Roll. **First Honors** are awarded to students who achieve all A's and who do not have any ATL or Behavior grade below a 2. **Second Honors** are awarded to students who achieve A's and B's and who do not have any ATL or Behavior grade below a 2. Students who receive NI's or U's in any area, including specials classes and conduct, will not be eligible for the Honor Roll.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Days are set aside during the school year for teacher conferences. Teachers may request a conference with parents to discuss academic achievement or behavior. Parents may also request conferences by calling or e-mailing the teacher for an appointment.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal strives for a positive relationship with all parents. Parent opinions and concerns are very important to the administration. Parents are always welcome to call or e-mail the principal to schedule an appointment. When parents have questions or concerns in regards to a classroom situation, the school policy is to discuss the situation with the classroom teacher

prior to contacting the principal. This often brings clarity or a better understanding to an existing problem or concern. The principal also understands that there are topics that need to be addressed directly with her first. If parents are not sure where to begin the process of communication with the school, they are asked to e-mail the principal or assistant principal for direction and advice. After meeting with the school administration, if there is no resolution to parent concerns, parents may also contact the pastor.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Students may arrive at school by car, bicycle, or by walking.

Arrival by car:

Entering from 17th Avenue North, on the blacktop behind the church, parents follow the directions for drop off only, entering the parking lot by the gate closest to the playground (following the lane on the left, or along the fence). Parents who are parking and walking students to the plaza for morning opening will follow the lane on the right to an open parking spot.

Arrival by bicycle:

Students must walk bicycles while on school property.

Students must be in fourth grade or older to ride a bicycle to school, unless accompanied by an adult.

Bicycles must be placed in the bike racks provided. All bicycles must be securely locked at all times. The school will not be responsible for stolen or damaged bicycles while in the racks.

Florida law requires all students to wear helmets when riding their bicycles.

Walking to school:

Students should enter the parking lot by the cafeteria or cross 17th Ave. No. by the church and follow the sidewalk to the plaza

Students must be in fourth grade or older, or accompanied by someone in fourth grade or older, to walk to school

Rainy Days: Parent must remain in their cars. For students in grades K – 8, there are two areas for drop off:

The front of the school, on 12th Street, in the area marked with cones and patrols for students in grades 2-8 with no younger siblings.

Entering from 17th Avenue No. behind the church, parents may drop off on the blacktop by the cafeteria. Students in grades K-8 will be supervised as they walk directly to their classrooms on rainy days.

Rainy Day Drop Off For Early Childhood

Early Childhood children are to be dropped off in the back of the cafeteria, because they will remain in the cafeteria with their teachers.

AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Students are dismissed to car line beginning at 2:50 p.m.

Leaving by car: There are two car lines:

EC 3 – grade 2 line up on the playground side of the blacktop. Older siblings line up on this side as well.

Grades 3 – 8 line up on the side of the blacktop in front of the bell tower.

All students picked up by car must use the carline. Picking students up in other areas is prohibited.

Students must be picked up NO LATER than 3:05 p.m. At that time the car line is closed and students who were not picked up will be sent to the Extended Day program until their parents arrive. Three late car-line pick-ups are allowed with no penalty. The fourth late car-line pick-up will result in a \$15.00 late car- line pick-up charge each time thereafter.

**If lightning is spotted in the area in the course of regular dismissal, students will immediately be moved to the cafeteria and Rainy Day Dismissal procedures will begin.

Rainy Day Car Line

Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria on rainy days.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN CAR LINE

To prevent the need to cross in front of other cars when approaching the blacktop, parents are expected to be in the proper lane for car line. Parents picking up students in EC – 2 grade line up in front of the playground area.

Parents picking up students in grades 3-8 line up on the side of the bell tower.

Cars enter the school grounds from 17th Avenue No. and form a line behind the traffic flags on the school blacktop. The traffic flags will be removed after the last physical education class.

Parents of children in EC 3 through grade 2 should place their family name sign in clear view on the left side of the dashboard.

Cell phone use and/or texting while in car line, is not permitted. Please respect the school's efforts to maintain a safe environment and adhere to this rule.

Parents are not to socialize with staff members who are supervising the safety of the students.

Be cautious exiting onto 20th Avenue No.

Parents must stay in their cars at all times.

Students should never walk between vehicles. This includes going to the trunk of the car in car-line.

Parents of very young children will be asked to pull over to the side area near the Parish Center to buckle their child into the car seat.

WALKERS DISMISSAL

Parents who give permission for their children to walk home from school must complete a Walker Release Form at the start of the school year. This form can be found on the school website under the parent link. Students must be in fourth grade or above to walk home unless accompanied by someone in fourth grade or older. Students who walk home sign out with the designated teacher and are dismissed to 20th Avenue No. Walkers are expected to leave the school grounds following the sidewalk on 20th Avenue No. unless authorized by the administration to take a different route. Walkers are to walk directly home when dismissed. Permission forms for all students who walk home must be filled out and returned no later than the first week school.

RETURNING TO THE BUILDING AFTER DISMISSAL

Once students are dismissed, they are not permitted on the school grounds unless they are in a supervised activity. Students may not re-enter the school building once they are dismissed.

DISMISSAL TO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students participating in Extended Day and school-sponsored activities are released at standard locations in the school buildings. Students participating in other approved, supervised programs will be dismissed into the care of an adult sponsor. Sponsored activities include Girl Scouts, Brownies, Tiger Cubs, gymnastics, art club, cheerleaders, and after school sports.

STUDENTS STAYING TO WATCH SPORTING EVENTS

Students in grades 5-8, who are not in the sports program, and are staying to attend home games, must have a signed permission slip on file in the office. The permission form gives parental consent for middle school students to attend games without staff supervision. Parents who wish for their child to be supervised may indicate this on the permission form. Supervised students will be checked into the extended day program before and after attending the game.

STAYING AFTER SCHOOL

Students who stay after school for extra help or to work in the computer lab, must be picked up promptly at 3:30 p.m. at the front door to the school. After that time, pick up is at Extended Day. To avoid last minute calls to the office, parents are asked to make pick up arrangements before their child leaves home in the morning.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS DUE TO HAZARDOUS WEATHER

Pre-Hurricane Procedures

St. Paul Catholic School will continue to follow the decision of Pinellas County Schools in regards to school closings in preparation for a hurricane.

Post-Hurricane Procedures

If Pinellas County Schools are open, St. Paul Catholic School will be open. However, if Pinellas County Schools are closed, St. Paul's will not automatically be closed. We will assess our situation and make a decision by 3:00 p.m. for the following day. Parent should check the school website and answering machine, and watch BAY NEWS 9 or other local newscast for more information.

Tornado Warning

We will keep children at school beyond regular hours if threatening weather is expected; such as a tornado warning. Children are safer deep within a school than in a bus or car. Students should not be sent home early if severe weather is approaching, because they may still be out on the roads when it hits. Parents will be notified by Tweet or e-mail if time permits.

Post-Hurricane Procedures

If Pinellas County Schools are open, St. Paul Catholic School will be open. However, if Pinellas County Schools are closed, St. Paul's will **NOT** automatically be closed. We will assess our situation and make a decision by 3:00 p.m. for the following day. Parent should check the school website and answering machine, and watch BAY NEWS 9 or other local newscast for more information.

SCHOOL EVACUATIONS

In the event that St. Paul Catholic School has to be evacuated, due to toxic or hazardous materials on the premises or in the area, students will be walked to either St. Paul Catholic Church or St. Paul Parish Center, depending on the location of the hazardous materials. The church address is 1800 12th Street No. The Parish Center address is 1358 20th Avenue No. The fire department will determine when it is safe for students and staff to return to the building.

DAILY MORNING OPENING

Students should be in line on the plaza when the morning bell rings at 7:50 a.m. This bell signals the beginning of the school day. Each child is expected to be present as we begin our day with a welcome, prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance. Children who are not present at this time are considered **late**. Children who are not present miss out on a special ceremony in which we begin our day as a St. Paul Catholic School family. It is a solemn ceremony with a great feeling of unity that is unique to our school.

Birthdays are celebrated every Thursday at Morning Opening. Special awards and honors ceremonies are also scheduled throughout the school year. Students and parents will be notified in advance when a special ceremony will be included during Morning Opening.

Parents may not enter the school through the back doors with their children. The only exception to this rule is for EC 3 parents who are going straight to the classroom first thing in the morning. Parents entering the building after morning opening must enter through the front door of the school, sign in at the front office, and receive a volunteer sticker.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and punctuality have a marked influence upon scholastic achievement. These are essential elements to good progress in school. Being absent means missing out on important classroom instruction, and can be a factor in promotion to the next grade. A student's presence each day is an important responsibility for both the student and their family. Good attendance is required in order to receive a good grade in each class.

Parents are encouraged to schedule their children's medical and dental appointments after school hours. Parents are also asked to please honor the school calendar and plan vacations to coincide with the school holidays.

Students must have a written note with a parent signature upon returning after an absence.

To report an absence, call the school office before 8:15 a.m. As a safety precaution, parents of absent students will be called if the office has not been informed by 8:15 a.m. In addition to phoning the school office, students must bring a written excuse signed by a parent when they return to school. The excuse should include the reason for the child's absence.

TARDY POLICY

Students are late if they arrive after the start of the morning opening (7:50 a.m.). Late records appear on report cards and become a part of each student's permanent record. Students who arrive late must report to the school office. Students are required to be present each morning for Opening Ceremony. Students who do not walk into school with their class are required to enter through the front of the school with a parent or guardian. Entering through the front door after morning opening ceremony will be counted as tardy.

Each student will receive ten "free" un-excused tardies to use during the year. Students who are tardy with a doctor/dentist note will be excused, and the tardy will not count as one of the ten free tardies. Students with ten un-excused tardies have reached their limit and will serve an in-school suspension on the morning of their eleventh tardy. The principal is very willing to assist parents who are having a problem getting their child to school on time, if it is the fault of the child. Sometimes, having the principal simply talk with the child, offer encouragement, and set goals, can help greatly. The parent should not wait until the ninth or tenth un-excused tardy to contact the principal for help. Communication should begin as soon as the parent realizes that school intervention would be helpful. However, if the problem is the fault of the parent, the parent, as the adult, is expected to make adjustments to their routines and comply with school policies.

LEAVING DURING SCHOOL HOURS

When students leave during school hours, they must bring notes signed by a parent to their homeroom teachers. The note should state when the child will be picked up and the reason for their release. They will be called to the school office upon the arrival of their parents. Parents must sign out their children before leaving. When returning to the school before regular dismissal, parents must sign children back into school.

SAFETY PATROLS

Safety Patrols are on duty before and after school. Safety Patrols have volunteered their time to help with school safety. They provide a service to students and the school administration. All students should respect the patrols and follow school rules at all times. Students accepted as patrols must report for duty at the appointed time and be responsible for wearing their orange patrol belt and badge. Patrols who do not have their belt and badge should not serve their duty until they are prepared to do so properly. Patrols are expected to focus on their job of keeping students safe and refrain from socializing while on duty.

USE OF SCHOOL GROUNDS / EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

After-school activities are a privilege. Participation in extracurricular activities (sports, cheerleading, student council,) is determined by a student's academic as well as conduct record. Students who are not involved in extracurricular activities or after school programs **MUST NOT** remain on the school grounds or in the school building. Any student who is present after regular school hours will be placed in the St. Paul Extended Day Program.

EXTENDED DAY

The St. Paul Extended Day Program is available to meet the needs of families with children enrolled at St. Paul Catholic School. The Program is available from school dismissal until 5:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday. All students must be registered for the Extended Day Program in the event that the parent is late for car line. Parents may choose to register their child until 4:30 each day, for the cost of \$25.00 per week, or until 5:30 each day for the cost of \$35.00 per week. For full time attendance, a discount of \$5.00 will be taken off the total weekly bill for families with more than one child enrolled. The one day drop-in cost is \$10.00 per child

(\$12.00 on noon dismissal days) and must be paid at the time of pick up. Parents are required to sign out their child each day.

IN LIEU OF THE EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Parents who cannot pick up students before 3:05 p.m. must make alternate arrangements with someone to pick up their children and must notify the school office.

HOMEWORK AND MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

It is the policy of the school to have regular homework assignments. Absence from school does not excuse a student from written or study assignments. Students are responsible for the subject matter in all classes, even when they have been absent. It is the student's responsibility to get make-up work from the website or their teachers. For each day a student is absent, they are given one day to turn in missed work. For example, if a student is absent for three days, all missed work must be turned in within three days of returning to school. Parents requesting work to be sent home for an absent child must give teachers 24 hours notice.

PDQ/ FAMILY NIGHT

Family Night occurs the first Thursday of each month. It is our goal to encourage families to spend quality time together. School students may receive less homework on Family Nights.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

Kindergarten students may wear tennis shoes to school on P.E. days. Students in grades 1-3 must bring sneakers to change into for P.E. class.

Students in grades 4-8 will wear the gym uniform. It is not acceptable for students to continually forget their P.E. uniform. Doing so will result in a reduction of the P.E. grade. A small towel, soap, and deodorant should be brought to P.E. class in a separate gym bag, small enough to fit in their lockers. Older students should take a few minutes to freshen up or wash their face before returning to class. To prevent loss and confusion, the bag and all clothing, towels, etc. should be clearly labeled. Students should not wear expensive rings, crosses, chains, etc. during P.E. or at school. Any injury, no matter how minor, must be immediately reported to the P.E. Teacher, administration, and homeroom teacher.

A note written and signed by a physician or parent is required before the administration or P.E. Teacher will excuse any student from participating in P.E.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)

The NJHS was founded to recognize and encourage academic achievement while developing other characteristics essential to citizens of a global society. St. Paul Catholic School is a charter member of the NJHS. After the third grading period, 7th grade students may be selected for membership in the NJHS. Selection is based upon scholarship (a minimum 3.6 grade point average) as well as leadership, service, character, and citizenship as judged by the faculty council. Students are not eligible due to grade point average alone. Service hours may be

required. Detailed information on NJHS is given to 7th grade students and parents at the beginning of the year.

MID-TERMS, FINAL EXAMS, and MID-YEAR REVIEWS

Comprehensive mid-term and final exams are given in grades 7-8. In addition, basic Mid-Year Reviews are offered in grades 3-6 in certain subjects. Reviews are a simple review of fundamental information in each subject. Exams cover more material and are given for the purpose of reviewing important fundamental skills, in core subject areas, prior to moving forward to the next level of instruction. Exams grades weigh more than a typical test.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfactorily complete the course of study prescribed for elementary/middle schools by the Department of Education of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, all eighth grade students must receive a final passing grade of a "D" or higher in the following major subject areas: Religion, Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

Eighth grade students who receive a failing grade in one core subject will receive a blank diploma at graduation. An official diploma will be received upon the documented completion of required summer coursework. Eighth grade students who receive a failing grade in two or more core subjects will be subject to retention. The High School and College Prep Middle School Choice class is a graduation requirement.

REMEDATION GUIDELINES

The core subjects in the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of St. Petersburg are Religion, Math, Language Arts, Writing/Composition, Science, and Social Studies. A student enrolled in St. Paul Catholic School who fails one core subject must participate in a remedial program. Failure of two core subjects will result in retention.

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

1. Two (2) hours per subject / per week of remediation for 11 weeks of vacation. Remediation must take place in one of the following: a remediation program in a Catholic School within the Diocese of St. Petersburg by a teacher certified in the subject area contracted by the parent and approved by the Principal
2. Completion of the course via Florida Virtual School (www.flvs.org)

Neither a student's current teacher nor any teacher who presumably will be the subject teacher in the future may tutor/provide remediation for a student. The student's current teacher will provide a packet of information to assist the tutor during summer instruction.

Prior to the beginning of the next school year, the principal must receive:

- validation of attendance in a remedial program
- proof of proficiency in the subject area(s), including work samples and test

The following documentation guidelines will be followed after meeting remediation guidelines: The original failing grade is recorded on the permanent record card and may not be altered proof of proficiency in the subject area must be recorded separately on the permanent record card

Middle School Remediation Guidelines:

1. Completion of the course via Florida Virtual School (www.flvs.org)
2. Failure to pass Religion for the school year will require an individualized course of instruction approved by administration.

Transfer Rule: Any student who is transferring to St. Paul Catholic School, and has failed one or more core subjects, must meet the remediation guidelines of the originating school.

After these criteria are met, further assessment may be administered by the school principal to ensure proper placement.

TRANSFER OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

All information transferred from St. Paul Catholic School must be sent directly to the receiving agency. This includes, but is not limited to, academic records, health records, and information requested by physicians. Parents must complete a Consent to Exchange Confidential Information form which is available in the school office or on the website under forms.

HEALTH POLICIES

Do not send students to school when ill or when exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

Flu-like Symptoms

Fever

Skin Rash

Vomiting

Severe Sore Throat

Diarrhea

Bad Cough

After an illness, students may return to school if the above symptoms have not been present for at least 24 hours. Parents of children with a contagious condition such as chicken pox, strep throat, MRSA infections, or lice must notify the St. Paul Catholic School office. Parents are not permitted to send students to school if they have lice or nits. If a child is sent home for having lice or nits, the school will immediately implement the written policy for lice treatment and prevention. A copy of this policy is given to all parents of students who are sent home with lice or nits. A copy is available in the school office for parent's information.

Absence due to illness is excusable. However, parents must understand a pattern of irregular absences may negatively impact their child's grades. This is up to the teacher's discretion.

Parents must send a written explanation to the school for their student's absence. If students get sick or injured at school, their parents will be called to pick them up right away. The school is not able to take care of sick students for long periods of time.

IMMUNIZATION

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. The Florida State Health Department requires that all children be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, and rubella. Immunizations are to be documented on FORM 680 – the Florida Certificate of Immunization (blue form).

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 GRACE PERIOD.

MEDICATION

When possible, give medication at home. Teachers cannot give medication. All medication will be dispensed by the Principal or her delegate only when the following conditions are met:

There is a serious health need, such as chronic illness, or failure to take prescribed medication could jeopardize the student's health. All prescription medications and over-the-counter medications dispensed in school require by law a written prescription by a doctor or dentist.

Written permission for medication to be given must be on file in the school office. Notes must include the medication to be given 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 parents. Cough drops must be kept in the office and dispensed by office personnel. Please insure that medication is reliably and safely delivered directly to the school office with written permission and the reason the medication is needed.

HEAD LICE POLICY

Lice can become a problem in any school. Sticking to a strictly enforced policy, which includes providing parents with written directions for lice prevention and treatment, is very important. St. Paul Catholic School does not allow students with lice or nits to remain in school. Parents are not to send children to school if they suspect they may have lice or nits. If even one nit is found, the child is sent home for the remainder of the day, and the parent is provided with helpful literature on how to effectively treat the lice. Upon returning to school, the child is checked before being permitted to enter the classroom. This may occur for several days or weeks in cases with repeated lice infestation. In addition, all the students in a class are checked when one child is sent home, as well as the classmates of any siblings of the child who was sent home, and the classrooms are treated. An unresolved lice problem with a specific child will result in social service intervention.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a privilege. 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 signatures are required on a field trip form in order for students to participate. The field trip form indicates an acknowledgment by parents of the nature of the trip and the time supervision of the students will end. All appropriate documentation must be on file.

Drivers for field trips **MUST** follow the teacher's directives. **NO** side trips or unscheduled stops are permitted. Since school field trips are an extension of the class curriculum, **ONLY** students enrolled in St. Paul Catholic School are allowed on the field trip. Siblings are **NOT** permitted on field trips. Parent chaperones who have completed the Diocesan Level II Background Screening and Safe Environment Training, and who have been designated as a chaperone by the teacher, will accompany the class on field trips. At no time during the field trip are chaperones permitted to make any changes to the group of students assigned to their care. Parents, not designated as chaperones, are not permitted on field trips without the written consent of the Administration prior to the day of the field trip.

FIELDTRIP DRIVERS

Anyone providing transportation must have a valid Florida Driver's License and automobile liability insurance. The vehicle used must be in safe operating condition, and the number of passengers must not exceed the maximum occupancy for that vehicle. Seat belts and/ or booster seats are a must at all times.

FIELDTRIP DRIVER GUIDELINES

Field Trip Drivers must meet all of the previously stated volunteer requirements for background checks and Safe Environment Training.

No alcohol consumption prior to or during the volunteer driving event

No smoking at any time during the fieldtrip

Drivers are expected to arrive on time and dress appropriately.

Drivers must keep in their possession for the duration of the field trip, permission forms for the students they are transporting.

No volunteer driver should ever transport a youth alone.

LOCKERS

Lockers are the property of the school. Locks are discouraged, but if a situation arises where a student is requesting a lock, the teacher and the office staff must have the combination to the lock.

LOST AND FOUND

Any items found on school property must be turned into the school office. The items are then kept in the Lost and Found container in the school clinic. Students who lose items should check with the office for permission to look in the Lost and Found container. It is important to label your child's name on everything brought to school. Labeling belongings greatly helps to identify misplaced items.

BIRTHDAYS

Parents wishing to send a treat in for their child's birthday are asked to send in something simple such as cookies, popsicles, or cupcakes. The treat will be shared with the 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.

INVITATIONS TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL PARTIES

Invitations to parties held in a private location may not be distributed at school.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

St. Paul Catholic School uses a variety of school assemblies, such as pep rallies and the school Talent Show to build school spirit and a sense of community. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. School performances that are pertinent to a particular grade, however often reflect current, specific curriculum that is being taught. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend these performances as well, however it is our policy that siblings in the school remain in their assigned classes so as not to interrupt or disrupt their class/ subject matter being taught.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

St. Paul Catholic School conducts one emergency drill each month. 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 drill or fire emergencies, the fire alarm will signal to evacuate the building. Teachers regularly instruct students regarding specific procedures.

TORNADO AND HURRICANE 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.

LOCKDOWN / LOCK-IN

Students are taught the proper procedures for locking down or locking in the building 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.

**The school will NOT release students to ANYONE if the school is in a lock down/lock in. Parents will be notified via Rediker as soon as possible after the lock down/lock in has been called.

CAFETERIA

Hot lunch is available each day. Updated menus with prices are posted on the school website. Parents may pre-pay for lunch by using the [Lunch Payment Here](#) link on the school website.

Each class has a specific time set aside for lunch period. As in all areas of school, courtesy is expected in the cafeteria. Proper table manners are expected and required. When students finish eating, tables and chairs should be clean and neat.

The entire lunch (including drink and dessert) will be eaten in the cafeteria under supervision. The 40 minute lunch period includes a supervised recess time on the playground. Students who forget their lunch may phone for a lunch to be brought in. This should be a very rare occasion. Classroom teaching will not be interrupted to call a student down for his/her lunch. Lunches will be placed on a bench outside the office and students may check the bench on their way to the cafeteria. Neither fast foods nor candy may be brought to school for lunch or snacks.

As a courtesy to the classroom teacher, parents who visit their children during lunch must notify the teacher before visiting. Parents must enter through the front door of the school, sign in, and wear a visitor badge. Parents are not permitted to bring fast food, with the exception of Catholic Schools Week, or to join the children for recess, unless special arrangements have been made with the teacher.

PLAYGROUND

St. Paul Catholic School has a well equipped playground. The same rules of safety and conduct used in the classroom and buildings apply to the playground area. Personal playground equipment may not be brought to school. The school cannot be held responsible in case of loss.

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.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center is an area of the school that must be respected. Students are responsible for the materials they use and check out. Reference materials may not be removed from the Media Center. There is a daily fee charged for books returned after the due date. If lost or damaged, books or materials borrowed from the Media Center must be paid for at the replacement price.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Students have a voice in their school through their representative to the Student Council. Each grade elects its own representative. The President (an 8th grader) and Vice-President (a 7th grader) are elected by the students. The Student Council is in charge of school spirit as well as service projects and fundraising. Guidelines for nominations and campaigning will be strictly monitored by faculty moderator and administration. Students and parents will be given a copy of the guidelines and will be posted on the website. Elections will be held yearly for officers in May and grade level representatives in August.

YEARBOOK

St. Paul Catholic School publishes an annual yearbook in which all students will be included. The yearbook is sold exclusively to St. Paul Catholic school students and families.

RESOURCE TEACHER

A full-time certified resource teacher works with the teachers in meeting the needs of students who qualify for accommodations or have a Student Support Plan. Students who are struggling in math or reading can receive extra accommodations while learning the same curriculum being taught in the classroom. Students may be pulled out to the Resource room for additional one-on-one or small group instruction.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

A part time school counselor is available to students to assist them in the development of healthy self-esteem, problem solving, peer relations, and other matters. Teachers may refer students to the counselor. Students and/or parents may request an appointment. Parents are notified if the situation warrants. Parents who do not want their children to be seen by the school counselor must submit a written request to the school administration. Such request does not prevent the school counselor from addressing the entire class.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

In order to foster the overall development of students attending St. Paul Catholic School, opportunities to participate on various athletic teams are provided.

Diocesan regulation requires that any student participating in league sports must complete the school Sports Physical and Emergency Medical Release Form each year. Students must have a sports physical on file in our office before trying out for any sport.

The following policy points should be followed with regard to athletic participation:

Open tryouts will be held for positions on all athletic teams. While it is desirable to foster the participation of as many students as possible, the number of positions available for each team shall be at the discretion of the team coach.

An athlete who is selected for a team after a try-out will be committed to that team until the conclusion of that sport season. Athletes are required to attend all practices and games. Removal of an athlete from a team by the parents during a sport season **MUST** be preceded by a discussion with the coach. Failure to adhere to this rule may lead to the exclusion of that student from future participation in the athletic program. Final selection of all team roster spots will be the responsibility of the team coach.

St. Paul Catholic School has a head coach who oversees all sporting events. Parents may become involved by assisting the head coach if help is needed. Parents may never be head coach for a team in which their own child is involved. If a student does not attend the first day of tryouts, the student will not be permitted to tryout unless there is an extenuating circumstance that the head coach has approved or there is a note from a doctor excusing absence. Any request for an exception must be put in writing and addressed to the head coach for consideration. Each of the above points shall be followed in order to maintain St. Paul Catholic School involvement in leagues with other Catholic schools. Sensitivity should be exhibited by all coaches in dealing with students who are not selected for participation on a particular team and in determining the mix of grade levels on all teams. Grades 6-8 shall be considered Varsity. Grades 5-6 shall be considered Junior Varsity. When additional students are needed to field a team, great care and consideration must be given to the social and emotional maturity along with the skill level of a 4th grade child before they are chosen. At all times, however, the ultimate decision for student selection to athletic teams will be the responsibility of the coach.

St. Paul Catholic School is a member of the Lower Pinellas Catholic Conference (L.P.C.C.). This league consists of six Catholic Schools and one Christian school in lower Pinellas County.

The L.P.C.C. offers opportunities for varsity level boys and girls to participate in soccer, basketball and track & field, boys flag football and girls volleyball. The L.P.C.C also offers opportunities for Junior Varsity girls and boys to participate in basketball and track & field.

Representing St. Paul Catholic School as an athlete is a privilege, which may be revoked if athlete's actions are in violation of the spirit and philosophy of our school. Athletes are also expected to maintain at least a "C" average in all classes, and must have a "2" or better in Approaches to Learning (ATL) and Behavior. Exceptions can be made for students with documented learning difficulties and a Student Support Plan, who are working to their potential.

Student Athlete Eligibility

Student Athletes who receive an academic referral will automatically be ineligible to play in future games until the reason for the referral is corrected. For instance, if the referral was received due to missing assignments, the student will not be eligible to play until the assignments are turned in. Student athlete's grades, ATL, and Behavior will be checked weekly.

Student athletes who receive two behavior referrals, per quarter, will be ineligible to play in the game following their second referral. Upon the third behavior referral in one quarter, the student will be ineligible to play any sport for the remainder of the semester.

CHEERLEADING

Opportunities are also provided to participation on varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads. The following policy points should be considered with regard to participation on cheerleading squads.

VARSITY

Open tryouts will be held for seventh and eighth grade students for positions on the varsity squad. The number of positions available on the squad will be at the discretion of the coach and/or coordinator. Final selection of all roster spots will be the responsibility of the coach and/or coordinator. If a student does not attend the first day of tryouts, the student will not be permitted to tryout unless there is a note from the doctor excusing absence. Any request for an exception must be put in writing and addressed to the head coach for consideration.

JUNIOR VARSITY

Participation will be open to all sixth graders who wish to participate on the junior varsity squad. To the extent practical and determined by the coach and/or coordinator, participation on the junior varsity squad will not be limited to a specific number of roster spots, tryouts/cuts, or other factors.

PARTICIPATION IN AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS

Students who are absent or unable to participate in P.E. during the school day may not participate in after school sports, extracurricular activities, or tryouts on that day. Any student who arrives after 11:00 a.m. will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity except for doctor/dentist visits (note from office visit required).

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ATHLETIC EVENTS

St. Paul Catholic School does not provide transportation to away games. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from all away games.

ATHLETES' CODE OF CONDUCT

As an athlete for St. Paul Catholic School and the Lower Pinellas Catholic Conference, students must subscribe to the principles of good sportsmanship, fellowship, and youth development during athletic competition. Recognizing these principles, student-athletes understand that profanity and/or any unsportsmanlike conduct will not be permitted. For any such conduct, the student-athlete's continued participation on the team will be reviewed by the Principal and coach.

SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

All who recognize the principles of good sportsmanship, fellowship, and youth development understand that profanity and/or unsportsmanlike conduct are not acceptable. Parents and all spectators must understand that failure to adhere to these principles could result in their being asked to leave an athletic event.

UNIFORMS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE

All students must be in uniform every day, with the exception of "out-of-uniform" days throughout the year. If the prescribed uniform cannot, for some legitimate reason, be worn, a signed note from a parent must be sent in with the student. The school administration expects the problem to be resolved immediately.

DRESS CODE

Students are to be in full uniform each day. Students not in uniform will be given a letter to take home and have signed. The letter must be returned on the next school day to avoid an in-school suspension.

GIRLS UNIFORM

- **K – 8: White or navy blue short sleeve shirt with School logo.**
Shirts must be purchased Reese Brothers
- **K – 5: Uniform plaid skorts or khaki shorts.** Skorts are to be worn on Mass days
- **Grades 6–8: Navy blue or khaki skort.** Must be purchased through Reese Brothers and must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee cap.

- Grades K–8: Uniform khaki slacks may be worn during the months from November through March. Slacks may be worn on Mass days during cold weather. Slacks should not be worn in warm weather.
- Grades K – 8: White quarter cut socks or white Bobby socks. Low cut, no-show socks are unacceptable. White or navy knee-high socks or tights are permitted from November through March only.
Grades K-8: Girls who wear hair ribbons and headbands must choose designs and colors that are not distracting to others and compliment the school uniform. One item may be worn in the hair. Feathers, beads, and such fads are distracting and not permitted.

BOYS UNIFORM

- White or navy blue short sleeve shirt with School logo. Shirts must be purchased from Risse Brothers and must be tucked in.
- Uniform khaki or navy blue shorts or slacks.
- White or navy shirts may be worn with khaki shorts or slacks. Only white shirts may be worn with navy shorts or slacks.
- White quarter cut socks. Low cut, no-show, or white knee-high socks are not permitted.

SHOE POLICY FOR ALL STUDENTS

All leather dress shoes in black or brown

Heel must be no higher than one 1 ½ inch

Slip on or tie shoes are permitted

Girl's Mary Janes are permitted

Shoes Not Permitted

Boat Shoes

Flats for girls (Soft ballet type shoes with no heels)

Black or brown tennis shoes

Leather and suede combination shoes

Long Sleeve Shirts: Navy blue long sleeve shirts with the school logo may be worn on cold weather days.

Outerwear: Only navy blue uniform sweaters, St. Paul Eagle sweatshirts or navy blue fleece with school logo are allowed. Additional outerwear such as coats may be worn to school on very cold days but must be removed when in the building.

Tennis shoes are worn for P.E. and on class t-shirt days.
All clothing should be labeled with a first and last name.

Please note: If a student's uniform is not the proper size, faded, or in poor condition, the purchase of a new uniform will be necessary.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION HAS FINAL DECISION

The Principal reserves the right to judge appropriate grooming and personal appearance.

BOYS: Boys are expected to come to school each day with a neat and clean appearance, including clean clothes, tucked in shirts, belts, and combed hair. Conservative hairstyles are required. Hair may not touch the collar, eyebrows, or ears. In the event hair is too long, parents are notified. Boys have three calendar days to correct length of hair. Fad hairstyles, hair coloring, or highlighting is not permitted. Facial hair, pen marks on the skin, and tattoos (temporary or permanent) are not permitted. Boys may not wear earrings, bracelets, or decorative necklaces. Simple religious necklaces are permitted.

GIRLS: Conservative hairstyles are required. Hair coloring and hair extensions are not permitted. Makeup of any kind is not allowed. This includes lipstick, eye makeup, foundation, artificial nails, colored nail polish, etc. Clear nail polish is permitted. Girls may wear only one small earring in each ear. No large dangling or hoop earrings are permitted. Girls may not have tattoos, (temporary or permanent) write on their skin with ink, or wear bracelets or decorative necklaces. Simple religious necklaces are permitted.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS

The principal reserves the right to judge appropriate attire.

On out-of-uniform days, whether dressy or casual, clothing must adhere to the following standards:

No T-shirts (exceptions to this rule would be class T-shirt days, the out-of uniform festival day or selected end-of-year field trips.) All shirts must have a sleeve. All shirts must be long enough to cover the mid-section. There will be no exceptions.

No shoes without a back strap

Girl's heels must be no higher than 1½ inches.

Parents will be called to bring in proper attire when an outfit is judged to be inappropriate.

JEANS DAY

Students may wear jeans with their class t-shirt and tennis shoes.

CLASS T-SHIRT DAY

Students must wear their Class T-shirt in place of their uniform shirt. Tennis shoes may be worn on class T-shirt days. Class T- Shirt days occur at least once a month.

GRADUATION BRUNCH and AWARDS

Eighth grade students and their families participate in a Graduation Brunch at the end of the year. Students who have excelled in certain areas receive awards such as Christian Character, Service, Academic and Musical recognition, Male and Female Athletic awards, Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and the St. Francis of Assisi Award.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The St. Paul Catholic School, School Advisory Council (SAC), is a consultative board to the Pastor and Principal. Their mission is as follows:

“The Mission of St. Paul Catholic School SAC is to represent our school community’s concerns, policies, and other topics by listening, praying, evaluating, and advising our Pastors and principal in such a way as to work for continuous improvement, two-way communication, and fostering of our Christ-centered curriculum and community environment.”

The school advisory commission consists of nine members who hold three-year terms. Meetings are held once a month. General elections are held each May. Members may be elected, appointed, or re-appointed by the Pastor or Principal.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Parental involvement through support groups is vital to the growth and development of the school. The St. Paul Home & School Association offers many opportunities to become involved in social and service activities.

Tuition alone does not cover the School's operating expenses. Each year In addition to providing fellowship opportunities, the Home and School Association raises funds for the school. These funds help to keep tuition affordable. This is accomplished by sponsoring and coordinating many enjoyable events such as the Annual Auction, and Grandparent’s Day. Officers may be elected by a general vote of parents or appointed by the Principal. Offices may be held for up to two years. Members-at-Large positions may be held for up to three years.

TUITION POLICY

All families must use the SMART tuition program, with the exception of those who choose to pay once or twice per year. For those who participate in the SMART program, payments are deducted on the 10th of each month. There are 12 installments- June through May. Parents are legally responsible for payment of tuition and all fees for the full year. For families paying tuition once or twice per year, the first and second installments are due and payable to St. Paul Catholic School on June 1 and January 1. Students whose accounts are not current will not be permitted to take final exams or re-register for the next school year. Tuition subsidy recipients who are delinquent in tuition payments may lose their tuition subsidy. Tuition matters must be settled with the bookkeeper prior to the opening day of school in order for students to attend.

CLASSROOM PARTNERSHIPS

Parents and business owners are given the opportunity to adopt a class by becoming classroom partners. 100% of the money donated with classroom partnerships goes directly to the teachers to spend on classroom and instructional enhancements and enrich student learning. There are four levels of partnerships: Bronze - \$25.00, Silver - \$50.00, Gold - \$100.00 and Platinum - \$150.00.

H.O.P.E. (Hours Of Parent Energy)

All two parent families are required to volunteer 25 hours during the course of the school year. Single parent families are required to volunteer 12 hours. Working on Home and School Association projects, driving for field trips, assisting teachers, and staffing the clinic are just a few ways to volunteer time and fulfill the 25 Hours of Parent Energy. There is a \$15.00 per hour fee for unfulfilled H.O.P.E hours. Families who do not complete or pay for the required hours for the previous year must pay this amount before the new school year. Please see the school website (www.stpaul1930.org) for the form to record your hours. Click on the Parent link, then scroll and click on forms. Complete the form and turn it in to the school office. The office staff will record your hours. We will notify you of your hours periodically.

*The Lord measures our perfections neither by the multitude nor the magnitude
of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them.*

St. John of the Cross

Handbook Acknowledgment Form

I have read the 2015-2016 Parent and Student Handbook and agree to follow the school policies and procedures as stated.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Students in Grades K – 8: I have discussed the Parent and Student Handbook with at least one of my parents. I understand what is expected of me in regards to my uniform and personal appearance, behavior, homework, and attendance.

Student Signature Grade

Student Signature Grade

Student Signature Grade

Student Signature Grade

(Amended 06/2015) RS