

Parent-Student Handbook

2026-2027

Your Children, Our Students, the Nation's Future

St. Joseph Catholic Academy

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St. Joseph Catholic Academy

September 2026

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Welcome to **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** and the 2026-27 school year! We are pleased to provide you and your children with a team of professionals dedicated to the highest standard of Catholic education and care of your child(ren).

As parents/guardians of children enrolled in the Parish School, you also serve as a partner in education. As partners, parents, faculty and staff will work together to ensure the academic, social, spiritual, and emotional growth of your children while they attend the Parish School. I trust that you are up to the task, and I welcome working with you to ensure the success of your child and all the students at the Parish School!

In order to provide the best quality of education and safety, we ask that all parents/guardians and students adhere to the Parish School's policies. This Parent-Student Handbook contains the Parish School's policies and is intended to provide you with a guide. Please take the time to review this Handbook in its entirety. I hope the Handbook will answer questions you may have regarding the policies of the Parish School, although you may always reach out to me or the pastor if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

This Handbook will be distributed as a hard copy upon request. It will remain accessible to you on the school website.

At the end of this Handbook are various documents for you to review and sign, as well as an Acknowledgement of Receipt of this Handbook. Please sign and return all these documents by September 8, 2026.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you as we provide the upmost quality Catholic education to your children in a secure, safe and nurturing environment.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lucy Alaimo

Principal

A. PHILOSOPHY AND VISION

St. Joseph Catholic Academy is a community of faith whose purpose and vision are derived from the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and are aimed at the spread of His message of faith, hope, and love.

We believe in the development of the whole child – the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social. To that end, we seek to create a nurturing and supportive community and incorporate the teaching of religion along with opportunities for prayer, religious celebrations, and service to others. In addition, we strive to create a learning environment committed to academic excellence, character building, and a respect for the religious and multi-cultural diversity that characterizes our community. We believe in making the best use of current teaching and learning methodologies, advances in technology, and resources within the community to achieve our goals.

We believe that our goals are best realized when parent and teacher partner in the best interests of the child and when they, along with older students, serve as positive role models to create a community in which children care about each other and share with one another.

Finally, in order for our students to be prepared to meet the future challenges to our society and our planet, we believe that our educational program must encourage in students a desire for life-long learning, a willingness to give of their time and talents in service to others, and the development of a God-centered value system for life.

B. Mission Statement

St. Joseph Catholic Academy is committed to the development of students of diverse backgrounds and faiths from 3K through eighth grade by providing a well-rounded foundation for future learning and life. Our partnership between school and home utilizes the Gospel message as well as the latest advances in technology and learning to empower students to serve God and each other by being well-mannered, well-educated, responsible, and compassionate citizens of the global community.

C. A Brief History of St. Joseph Catholic Academy

In response to the mandates of the Bishop through the diocesan strategic planning process – *Preserving the Vision* – all of the current parish elementary schools across the diocese have been transitioning into Catholic academies, each separately incorporated by the New York State Board of Regents.

The concept of a parish elementary school dates back to the nineteenth century when virtually every parish opened an elementary school to educate the parish children. However, demographic shifts and financial difficulties have caused many parishes to reevaluate their ability to financially support their schools. The new academy structure is independent of the parish and has a board of directors who are responsible to insure the long term viability of the academy through long range planning, marketing, and fundraising efforts.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy opened in September 2012 in the same space formerly occupied by St. Joseph School. While the Academy is a relatively new entity, many of the traditions, including the charism of the founding religious community – The Sisters of St. Dominic, Amityville – have been preserved. One cannot fully understand the formation of the new Academy without knowing its roots in history.

St. Joseph Parish dates back to 1879 when the first church was erected as a mission of St. Mary, Help of Christians, in Winfield. The parish buildings, circa 1907, included a convent, a new church, and a rectory – all along 30 Avenue, now eastern Woodside, Queens. The current rectory was built in 1928; the convent building in 1938, now housing the parish offices and used for various parish activities.

In 1880, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville (Amityville Dominicans) purchased a plot of ground to build an orphan home on 43 Street, opposite the parish property. The house accommodated as many as sixty children at a time and still stands though no longer associated with the parish. At that time, Father Cyprian Eisele, Pastor, approached the Sisters and asked if they would also take care of educating the children of the parish, and they agreed. Therefore, it may be said that the educational enterprise – aka St. Joseph School - had its beginnings in 1880.

The current main school building was erected in 1917, and a new wing was dedicated by Bishop Kearney in 1954. From the late 1950's through the next decade, over 1600 students were enrolled yearly in kindergarten to eighth grade. In 1966, there were thirty-four teachers, approximately 10 lay teachers and twenty-five Sisters, including the Sister Principal. Certified lay teachers were paid ninety dollars per month without benefits. Beginning in the mid-sixties, a gradual increase in the number of lay teachers and a corresponding decrease in the number of religious in the parish school occurred. When St. Joseph School ceased operations in June 2012 to transition into an academy, all teachers, including the principal, were lay personnel.

Happily, the Academy is able to occupy the same parish buildings and continues to afford a new generation of parishioners, along with families from the greater Astoria area, an education of proven excellence. For pastoral purposes, Bishop DiMarzio has aligned our Academy with the following six parishes in the Astoria/LIC/Woodside communities: St. Joseph, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Most Precious Blood, St. Rita, and St. Patrick. We welcome children from these parishes and ask them to think of the Academy as their parish school.

Continuing in the traditions and charism established by the Dominican Sisters, St. Joseph Catholic Academy develops young minds and shapes values by meeting the educational challenges of a new century for a new generation of youngsters.

Our Motto: *YOUR CHILDREN, OUR STUDENTS, THE NATIONS'S Future!*

D. Parental Expectation of Adherence to School Policy

Discipline in the schools should reflect the spirit of *Vatican Council II*, as expressed in *the documents on Christian Education and Religious Liberty*. Therefore, discipline should be geared to assist a child develop in the understanding of self as being made in the image of God.

...Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. *Spe Salve*, 4). This relationship elicits a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching. In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of God to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the Church...Dear friends, I wish to conclude by focusing our attention specifically on the paramount importance of your own professionalism and witness within our Catholic universities and schools. First, let me thank you for your dedication and generosity. I know from my own days as a professor, and have heard from your Bishops and officials of the Congregation for Catholic Education, that the reputation of Catholic institutes of learning in this country is largely due to yourselves and your predecessors. Your selfless contributions – from outstanding research to the dedication of those working in inner-city schools – serve your country and the Church. For this I express my profound gratitude. Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Catholic educators at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, April 17, 2008

Evidence of discipline exists in a school community when the students, teachers, administration, and parents/legal guardians work cooperatively to educate the whole child: spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

I. PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This Parent-Student Handbook (“Handbook”) is designed to provide important information regarding rules, policies and procedures relating to the operation and safety at our Parish School. The Handbook summarizes policies and contains general guidelines and information. To the extent that anything in this Handbook conflicts with applicable law, the applicable law governs. Further, this Handbook may be changed from time to time during the academic year. If you have any questions on this Handbook or otherwise, please contact the Principal.

Parents/guardians are required to sign a form stating that they have read the rules and regulations outlined in this Handbook and that they agree to abide by those rules, and to ensure that their children abide by the rules. Students in grades 6-8 must also sign this form. Failure to sign the form will not prevent the Parish School from enforcing its policies, but could result in disciplinary action being taken and/or the prevention of the student from enrolling in the school. This form can be found at the end of this Handbook.

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

Finally, in light of the unique situations which may arise in the educational process, and because it is impossible to foresee all school issues, the Parish School reserves the right to address and take appropriate action for any such situations not specifically referenced in this Handbook. And, in light of the unique and essential religious mission of the Parish School, the Parish School may take actions in cases where moral offenses occur which reflect adversely on the Parish School, the Diocese of Brooklyn, or the Roman Catholic Church, or which interfere with the ability of the Parish School to perform its religious mission or to effectively maintain the intimate working relationship of the Parish School and the community of Faith.

II. CATHOLIC IDENTITY

A. Catholic Identity

The mission of Catholic Education is to form children in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ as celebrated in the Catholic Church, while providing a comprehensive academic education that will help them reach their full human potential and contribute to the common good of our nation and the world. Ultimately, the mission of all Catholic education is to lead those entrusted to its care to find salvation in Jesus Christ.

In *Catholic Schools on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (#11) Saint John Paul II wrote that Catholic schools are “...the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. Catholic schools are at once places of evangelization, of complete formation, of enculturation, of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds.”

Diocesan academies and schools strive to emulate the words of Saint John Paul II by:

- creating an evangelizing community, where people come to have a better and deeper understanding of Christ and His Church
- recognizing the importance of multi-cultural, multi-faceted, academically sound educational programs that meet the needs of the poor and the rich, the Catholic and the non-Catholic, the wise and the not so learned
- welcoming members to the school community regardless of culture, race, or religion and celebrating the diversity that exists within our communities, churches, and schools
- creating an environment that encourages young people to grow, not separated from others, but as part of a larger community, as part of the family of God
- not only promoting and encouraging academically sound individuals, but rejoicing with children who are spiritually, theologically, and liturgically enlivened and fulfilled

B. Adherence to Catholic Doctrine

The Parish School is a Roman Catholic school located in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn (“Diocese of Brooklyn”), and is committed to providing quality Catholic education for both Catholic children and those of other faiths who share our commitment to Gospel values and academic excellence. Our goals include teaching Christ’s truth and fostering the formation of the Parish School’s students by conveying the values rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a religious organization of the Roman Catholic faith, the Parish School, at all times, adheres to the doctrines, customs, tenets and teachings of the Roman Catholic church, and the curriculum guidelines in religion from the Diocese of Brooklyn. All students and parents, including those who are Non-Catholic, must accept and adhere to the standards, values, and religious tenets of the Roman Catholic faith. All parents/guardians are expected to support the Parish School’s mission and commitment to Christian principles.

C. Inclusion of All Other Faiths

The presence of students from other faiths provides a wonderful diversity, and the Parish School welcomes students and parents/guardians of other faiths. However, as a Catholic school located within the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Parish School is focused on the formation of children in the Catholic faith. Parents/guardians must accept the intentional Catholic values and tenets that are the underpinning of our Parish School. All students, including Non-Catholic students, are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the Parish School, including, but not limited to, liturgies, religious functions, and religious classes. It is also expected that Non-Catholic students and parents/guardians participate as fully as they can in the liturgical and prayer life of the Parish School. The teachers and administration at the Parish School are also committed to teaching the fullness of revelation as it is taught by the Roman Catholic Church and the Diocese of Brooklyn. While our teachers, administration, and staff value the presence of students from other faiths and respect other faiths, they always teach and model within the context of the doctrines and tenets of the Roman Catholic Church.

III. ACADEMICS

A. Academic Expectations

The Parish School expects its students to perform to the best of their ability. Teachers evaluate students’ progress on a regular basis with quizzes, tests, homework, presentations, participation, behavior in the classroom, and class presentation.

B. Curriculum & Assessments

NYS Testing

Students in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will participate in New York State Testing. Parents receive an Individual Student Report (ISR) when they are released by NYS, which includes a breakdown of a student’s performance in different skill areas within ELA, Math and Science. This helps parents understand where their child is doing well and in what areas he or she may need additional practice. Parents can use these results to guide a discussion with their child’s teacher about additional supports or challenges that may be needed in the classroom, as well as ways to support learning at home.

There are no negative consequences when taking state tests as the tests are considered diagnostic. The ELA and math test results are not recorded on student permanent record cards or report cards. New York State law forbids the use of state test results as the determining factor in promotion.

i-Ready Testing

i-Ready is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that helps teacher(s) determine students' needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. Students cannot opt out of i-Ready assessment. i-Ready allows teachers to meet your student exactly where they are and provides data to increase students' learning gains. i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction. The Diagnostic provides a score reflecting students' grade level and potential.

i-Ready scores are the standardized test results that will be entered onto student permanent records cards and the TACHS record for 8th grade students applying to Catholic High Schools.

C. Religious Education

Religion is part of all that we see, teach and do at the Parish School, and is a crucial component of students' academic learning. The Parish School adheres to the current Diocese of Brooklyn curriculum guidelines in religion. Non-Catholic students are expected to fully participate in all religious education and formation programs, including, but not limited to, religion class, liturgies, and religious functions.

D. Homework

Homework is an essential part of the Parish School's instructional program, as it reinforces learning and provides students with opportunities to practice what they were taught in class. Homework can come in many forms, including, but not limited to, projects, reports, and independent reading. Students are required to complete all homework, including when a student is absent. Parent, guardian, or other adult assistance with homework is key to a student's academic success! **In keeping with the Academy's mission to educate for responsibility, ultimately each child must be responsible for his/her own learning, and while assistance from a parent is necessary, parents should not take any action that would interfere with a child's responsibility to produce his/her own work.**

ALL students are expected to read independently for 20 minutes per evening (or, in the case of lower grades, to be read to).

Additionally, the time allotments for other homework, not including reading, are *approximately* as follows:

Please keep in mind that each child works at a different pace and the time frame for completing homework for one student may be different than that for another.

Homework must be done at home and may not be done at school unless child attends the extended day program.

E. Grades

The determination of grades is the responsibility of each individual teacher. Parents/guardians and students must know and understand how grades are determined, and are encouraged to reach out to each student's teacher or teachers.

The following is an overview of grades at the Parish School:

Kindergarten will utilize the following grading system to identify progress for each area

- 4: Meeting grade level expectations with distinction
- 3: Meeting grade level expectations
- 2: Progressing toward meeting grade level expectations
- 1: Not meeting grade level expectations
- X: Student is receiving this service

Grades 1 through 8 will utilize the levels included above and alpha/numeric grades as indicated below:

A+	= 97 – 100
A	= 93 – 96
B+	= 89 – 92
B	= 85 – 88
C+	= 81 – 84
C	= 77 – 80
D+	= 74 – 76
D	= 70 – 73
F	= Below 70

For social emotional learning/ personal progress and religion report card evaluations.

G: Area of Growth

A: Area of Strength

Regents

Students enrolled in Regent's level classes should receive an Enrichment Report Card.

Please note: Regents classes offer an opportunity for advancement for qualifying students. They are not intended to replace the required grade-level NYSED curriculum standards classroom instruction.

HONOR ROLL: The Honor Roll (Grades 5-8) is published at the end of each trimester. Students receiving overall averages between 89 and 92 are awarded Second Honors Certificates. Students receiving overall averages between 93 and 96 are awarded First Honors Certificates. Students receiving overall averages between 97 and 100 are awarded Principal's List Certificates. To be eligible for the Honor Roll, students must have a good attendance record and not receive a score of 2 in any area of personal progress.

ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATES: Achievement Certificates are awarded to students in Grades 1 to 8 at special assemblies held at the end of the trimester – twice during the year. Among the criteria for the selection to receive a certificate are the following: follows Academy/class regulations, puts forth best effort, is punctual, is prepared for school and in uniform, puts the school's philosophy and mission statement into action.

F. Make-Up Work

Students who are absent from school are given sufficient time by their teachers to make-up classwork and homework that could not be completed during the absence.

G. Protecting Instructional Time

Maintaining school schedule and structure is of the utmost importance during the school year. As academies make their calendar and schedules, their goal is to protect instructional time as much as possible. In protecting instructional time, parents are asked to refrain from removing their child during the school day for unnecessary activities. **Appointments should be scheduled, when possible, before or after the school day in order to avoid disrupting student learning. Vacations and family trips should also be planned, when possible, for existing school vacation weeks.** In the event of a necessary absence, parents should alert the school and classroom teacher as soon as possible. If an extended absence is known, parents should communicate with their child's teacher to create a plan for making up missed work.

H. Progress Reports & Report Card Schedule

Parents/ legal guardians will receive report cards three times a year, at the end of each trimester.

Parents/ legal guardians will also receive progress reports during each trimester prior to receiving the report cards. It is vital to a student's progress that an open communication exists between parents/ legal guardians and their child's teacher. Any concerns regarding a child's progress should be addressed first to the child's teacher.

I. Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents will have the opportunity to attend parent teacher conferences at the end of the first and second trimester following receipt of student report cards. While these are formally scheduled conferences, parents are also encouraged to schedule meetings with teachers or other staff, when necessary, to discuss their child's progress and learning goals.

J. Admission Policies

Roman Catholic schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn base their educational purpose and all their activities on the Christian teaching of the essential quality of all persons as rooted in God's love.

The process for admission to the Academy is as follows: parents must complete the Academy application form and provide all required documents. If necessary, an interview will be held. Following an interview (if held) and evaluation of the materials, the parent will be notified if the Academy is offering the child a position.

K. Transfers and Withdrawals

If a parent/guardian wishes to transfer his or her child(ren) out of the Parish School, a transfer request form must be obtained from the academy office. Before records are transferred to another school, all bills must be paid in full and all books must be returned.

When a student transfers from one school to another, or enters high school, the new school may request a copy of the permanent record and health card from the former school. The Parish School may disclose a student's cumulative record (*i.e.* permanent record, attendance record, test results) to another school with a legitimate educational interest if a written request is made and when a parent/guardian has given written permission for the release of the child's records. Parent/guardian signature is required for release of a student's confidential file, which includes special education records, psychological reports, disciplinary records, and reports by a school counsellor.

At the discretion of the Principal, and in accordance with applicable law, the Parish School has the right not to certify a student's graduation or provide transcripts of the student's academic record to third parties such as other schools, colleges, or employers, or to issue a diploma to the student, if there has been a breach of a material condition of the educational contract, such as failure to meet financial obligations, infractions against the school's code of conduct, anti-bullying policy or violations of the policies of the Parish School and those set forth in this Handbook.

The Parish School reserves the right to request that a parent/guardian withdraw his or her child from the school.

L. Recommendation for Next Grade Level

Testing, diagnosis and actual performance may indicate that a student cannot follow the school's complete course of study. In accordance with NYS Education Law, Assessment and Performance a student is being considered for retention at the same grade level, teachers will discuss the possibility with the Principal. Although the teacher consults with the Principal, the final decision for retaining a student rests with the Principal. Certain criteria the Principal and teachers may take into account as they consider a recommendation for retention includes that the student has failed to pass major subjects on each grade level and/or has not demonstrated acceptable progress toward mastery of standards, including failure to complete assignments, or repeated low scores in several areas on a report card.

A student who receives a final failing grade in religion will NOT be promoted.

If a student completes all requirements for promotion or graduation, and there has been no recommendation or approval to retain the student, a parent/guardian or family cannot self-select that the student be retained.

M. Graduation

At the discretion of the Principal, the Parish School has the right not to certify a student's graduation or to issue a diploma to the student, if there has been a breach of a material condition of the educational contract, such as failure to meet financial obligations, infractions against the school's code of conduct, anti-bullying policy or violations of the policies of the Parish School and those set forth in this Handbook.

N. Distance Learning/Remote Learning Days (Inclement Weather or Emergency Days)

The Covid 19 pandemic introduced educators to distance learning and provided a way to manage the delivery of instruction during the suspension of ordinary life and regular schooling. That said, distance learning – especially on the elementary level – is not a long-term solution or even a desirable temporary substitute. That said, we are prepared to revert to distance learning should another emergency force the complete closure of school buildings again for any extended period of time. Outside of that type of unexpected event, students are expected to attend school in person where their educational needs are best met.

O. Extracurricular Activities

The Academy offers various extracurricular activities. Students are expected to follow school policy while engaged in any extracurricular activity. Participation in these activities is a privilege, and students are expected to fulfill their obligations in the classroom as a priority to any extracurricular activity. Students are expected to follow Academy policy while engaged in any extracurricular activity. Participation in these activities is a privilege, and students are expected to fulfill their obligations in the classroom as a priority to any extracurricular activity. Failure or difficulty meeting academic or behavioral requirements will result in a student's suspension or dismissal from the activity. The Principal makes the final determination as to participation in an extra-curricular activity.

When participating in extracurricular activities, including sports or otherwise, students must at all times demonstrate Catholic values. It is expected that students, coaches and fans display respect, civility and responsibility during all events, contests, and/or practices.

P. Recess

With the exception of school-wide events, which may include Mass, daily recess will be provided. If weather permits, the students will attend recess outdoors. If not, the gym will be used. If a student has any physical limitation which may affect his or her ability to engage in all recess activities, the Academy must be notified in accordance with the Limitations of Physical Activity policy found in this Handbook.

Q. Summer School

In accordance with NYS Education Guidelines a student who has received a failing grade in reading, mathematics, and language arts in three marking periods of the report card will be required to attend mandatory summer school in the low performing content areas. Summer school may also be recommended due to poor performance on standardized tests or in the classroom. Excessive absences during the school year may result in the child being required to attend summer school. The final determination as to whether a student must attend summer school rests with the Principal.

The summer school report card must be submitted to the Principal before September 1. Failure to attend summer school when required will result in retention at the same grade level or discharge of the student. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide documentation that summer school has been successfully completed. In cases in which tutoring is allowed for the remediation, it must be undertaken by a qualified teacher and approved in advance by the Principal.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Parish School Calendar

New York State Law currently requires a school calendar to provide 177 days of instruction with 3 professional days. Please check the Parish School calendar website for holidays and days when school is not in session.

B. The School Day

Please arrive (K to 8) for school between 7:45 a.m. and 8 a.m. All students in grades K through 6 will enter through the main lobby doors on 44th Street only. Junior-high students will enter through the lot on 43 Street. There is no outdoor supervision before 8:00 a.m. The Academy doors will be opened at 7:45 a.m., and the students will go directly to their respective classrooms.

PreK 3 children should arrive at 8:10 a.m. and are dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Pre-K 4 students should arrive at 8:05 a.m. and are dismissed at 2:25 p.m. Dismissal doors are noted in the orientation information provided by the teachers. To help alleviate congestion and safety hazards, parents are asked not to congregate in front of the entrance doors. Parents may wait across the street from the building and are asked to leave once the children have entered the building.

If you are driving your child to/from school, **please remember that double parking, parking in crosswalks or in the NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS area or driving into the SCHOOL PLAY STREET is subject to a summons. Also, please do not drive into the school yard when dropping off/picking up children. Please cooperate with us in these matters for your child's safety, the safety of the other children, and for the sake of positive community relations with our neighbors on 44th Street.**

The school day begins promptly at 8 a.m. for K to 8 students. After 8 a.m., children will be considered LATE to school. While an occasional lateness is understandable, lateness always causes an interruption to the class and interferes with the academic progress of the latecomer as well as the rest of the students. Therefore, repeated lateness to school is an infraction that must result in some consequence. If lateness is deemed chronic, parents will be notified and the youngster will be subject to disciplinary action.

Frequent (excessive) lateness will disqualify a student from receiving achievement or honors recognition.

Unless in the event of an extreme emergency, it is not possible to interrupt classes while in session. Parents/Visitors are not permitted to go to classrooms during class time.

In order to teach a youngster responsibility and to insure against repeated interruptions of the instructional program, any items forgotten at home will not be accepted at the school office. A child who forgets his/her lunch will be given a jelly sandwich for lunch.

C. DISMISSAL

Please meet children at the corners of 28th or 30th Avenues at 44th Street. Except for parents of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, please do not wait for your children at the school doors or along 44 Street. Please remain on the avenue away from the corners. Please do not congregate on the corner since to do so may obstruct the teacher's view when s/he is releasing a child.

Students will be walked to the corner by a teacher. Students have been instructed NOT TO LEAVE THE LINE UNTIL THEY ARE DISMISSED BY THE TEACHER. Therefore, for the safety and security of each child, please DO NOT CALL OUT TO OR DISTRACT YOUR CHILD WHILE S/HE IS BEING DISMISSED. Junior High students are dismissed via the gym exit on 43rd Street.

The Academy will not release a student to any adult that is not known to the teacher releasing the student. Parents must provide authorization for their child to be released to an individual other than themselves.

Students who proceed home on their own, either by walking, bicycle, or otherwise, must do so as safely and directly as possible and submit written authorization signed by the parent to the Academy. They must obey all traffic and trespassing laws, and cross at designated crosswalks. Students in PK3 to Grade 5 will not be permitted to travel home from the Academy without a parent or other authorized adult or another pre-arranged travel accommodation (such as a school bus). In the case of a younger student traveling home with an older student, such as an older sibling, the Academy must receive written authorization from a parent.

The Academy reserves the right to not release the student(s) to travel home on their own, either by walking or otherwise, if it deems that is not in the best interest of the students.

For safety and security reasons, students will not be permitted to return to their classrooms after dismissal.

C. Office Hours

The academy office is open for business from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. daily. If your business requires more than a fifteen minute communication, please contact Mrs. Sgritto (718-728-0724 or

JSgritto@sjcalic.org) to schedule an appointment. Please – unless in an emergency – please refrain from contacting the office between 12:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Questions/concerns dealing with tuition or other payments are not considered ordinary business and cannot be handled efficiently in person during ordinary hours.

D. Attendance

The Academy has developed our attendance policy in accordance with New York State Education Law. This comprehensive attendance policy will help us uphold the philosophy and mission statement of our Academy.

Education Law of the State of New York mandates school attendance for all children between the ages of 6 and 16, but the responsibility for compliance rests with the parents/legal guardians. The school is required to keep an accurate record of daily attendance, absence and tardiness in the register of attendance in a manner approved by the Commissioner of Education.

- A parent/guardian is required to phone the school to report an absence. If a call is not received, the academy will call the parent/guardian.
- When a child has been absent, a written excuse is required from his or her parents/legal guardians. If a student is absent without an excuse, or if the school has reason to suspect the validity of the excuse, the principal will investigate the situation.
- When a student has repeated illegal absences or lateness the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to work with them to ensure that the student(s) are on time and in school each day.
- If the repeated absences or lateness continue or the parent/guardian is not responsive to the school outreach, the school is required to report the situation to the NYS Registry for possible educational neglect.
- Although each case is different, it should be noted that excessive absences and lateness disrupt the continuity of education and retention is a strong possibility.

Doctor or dental appointments should be scheduled for after regular school hours. Family vacations should not be planned for days when school is in session. Rather, students receive vacation time throughout the year. Teachers are not required to give assignments in anticipation of family vacations, and are not required to give make-up tests for absences due to vacation trips.

E. Early Dismissal Schedule – (Modified Schedule Day)

Unless otherwise specified, early dismissal means that school is in session from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – with a staggered dismissal beginning at 12:35 p.m. with kindergarten. For PreK 3 and 4 students, early dismissal is at 12:30 and 12:25 respectively.

F. Extended Day Programs/Bus Policy

The Academy offers an Early Morning Drop-Off Program (7:10 a.m. to 8 a.m.) and an Extended Afternoon Program (dismissal to 5:30 p.m.). These programs are an extension of the academic day, and students are expected to follow all academy policies and procedures. Directors of individual activities held after hours may also issue rules of behavior, which recognize the special nature of non-classroom activities. Parents are expected to make arrangements to pick up their children at the end of the program or activity. Students will be released only to a parent or a person previously specified by the parent. Program fees are expected to be paid in full upon being invoiced. Past due balances may result in a student not being allowed to participate in the program until the account is brought up to date.

Students taking the bus are expected to adhere to all academy code of conduct and behavior policies.

If a child's behavior is putting other students' safety at risk or distracting the bus driver, they will be suspended from taking the bus for a specified number of days.

G. Attendance

The Academy has developed our attendance policy in accordance with New York State Education Law. This comprehensive attendance policy will help us uphold the philosophy and mission statement of our Parish School.

Education Law of the State of New York mandates school attendance for all children between the ages of 6 and 16, but the responsibility for compliance rests with the parents/legal guardians. The school is required to keep an accurate record of daily attendance, absence and tardiness in the register of attendance in a manner approved by the Commissioner of Education.

- A parent/guardian is required to phone the school to report an absence. If a call is not received, the Parish School will call the parent/guardian.
- When a child has been absent, a written excuse is required from his or her parents/legal guardians. If a student is absent without an excuse, or if the school has reason to suspect the validity of the excuse, the principal will investigate the situation.
- When a student has repeated illegal absences or lateness the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to work with them to ensure that the student(s) are on time and in school each day.
- If the repeated absences or lateness continue or the parent/guardian is not responsive to the school outreach, the school is required to report the situation to the NYS Registry for possible educational neglect.
- Although each case is different, it should be noted that excessive absences and lateness disrupt the continuity of education and retention is a strong possibility.

Doctor or dental appointments should be scheduled for after regular school hours. Family vacations should not be planned for days when school is in session. Rather, students receive vacation time throughout the year. Teachers are not required to give assignments in anticipation of family vacations, and are not required to give make-up tests for absences due to vacation trips.

H. Early Release

Students are expected to be in attendance for the complete session each school day. If for any reason a student must leave the Parish School before the regular dismissal hour, a parent/legal guardian or a person authorized by the parent/legal guardian must come to the Parish School office to pick the student up and escort the student out of the building. Parents/ legal guardians must provide authorization for their child to be released to an individual other than a parent/ legal guardian. **Students will not be released by themselves for early release.**

I. Use of School Grounds

Unless students are formally registered for before or after school programs, including Academy after school activities, the school does not have staff available to supervise students outside the general school hours.

J. Dress Code

The wearing of a uniform allows everyone to be seen for who they are, not by what they have. The purpose of a uniform is a means of consistency in student dress, while keeping costs to a minimum for parents. It also reduces the problem of competitive dressing. Students, unless otherwise notified by administration, will wear the school uniform.

All students are expected to keep themselves well-groomed and neatly dressed at all times. A clean and healthy appearance is important. Any form of dress which is considered by the administrations to be

contrary to good hygiene or which is distractive or disruptive in appearance and detrimental to the purpose or conduct of the Academy will not be permitted. All clothing should be clean, neat, and in good repair. The academy has contracted with Flynn and O'Hara Uniforms (800-441-4122) and Da-Bar Too shoes.

K. Grooming Code

Hair must be its natural color, clean, neatly combed, not totally covering the ears or eyes.

- Facial hair is not permitted
- Hair must be a natural color. Streaking, highlighting, lowlights, glints, etc. are not permitted.

Students are not allowed to wear make-up at any time. This includes eye make-up, nail polish, and acrylic nails. Only appropriate modest and safe jewelry is allowed. One pair of small earrings may be worn by girls only. Necklaces must be tucked into the shirt. Tattoos and body piercings are not allowed.

Nothing in this policy is meant to prevent a student from attending school with an ethnic hairstyle in connection with his or her race, heritage, or national origin, including, but not limited to, braids, locs, or twists.

Parents/guardians will be notified if a child comes to school consistently in an unkempt manner. If no improvement is noticed within a reasonable amount of time, an appointment with the parents/guardians and the Principal will be made.

L. Dress Down Days

There may be occasions in which students are allowed to wear non-uniform attire. Students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress – no shorter than 3" above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry.

M. Field Trips

Written permission must be obtained from parents/legal guardians of students who wish to go on scheduled trips. Information to the parents/legal guardians will include the date, purpose and destination of the trip, the expense, the means of transportation, and probable time of return.

Adults who wish to chaperone must complete Virtus training and background checks prior to accompanying students. Please see section on Volunteering, Chaperoning & VIRTUS training for further information about this process. The final decision for volunteers or chaperones is at the principal's discretion.

Field trips are considered an extension of the school day and the code of conduct and anti-bullying policy will apply. All disciplinary rules pertaining to students equally apply to students during school field trips. Students who engage in poor behavior on field trips may be required to be escorted by a parent/guardian for future field trips or may lose the privilege of attending field trips. Individual teachers in consultation with the Principal reserve the right to restrict or deny student participation on any field trip due to, but not limited to, poor academic performance, violation of the code of conduct or poor behavior, or violation of school policy.

All medications given on field trips must comply with the Administering Medication policy. For a student with prescription medication and/or medical necessary related treatments, a trained individual needs to be present on a field trip. This can include a parent/guardian, a designated family member to ensure care in the case of an emergency, or the school nurse *if* the nurse is attending the field trip. Given the needs of the Parish School, the Parish School cannot guarantee that the nurse will attend the trip. If a trained individual of the Parish School cannot attend the field trip, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide a trained individual to accompany the student on the field trip. Any adult accompanying the student must complete Virtus training and background checks prior to accompanying the student.

The Parish School reserves the right to cancel school-sponsored field trips at any time and for any reason, including inclement weather and safety risks.

N.Care of School Property

Students will be held responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, devices, accessories or equipment furnished to them by the Academy. Students who damage, lose, or deface Academy/ School property shall be required to pay for the damage or loss.

Desks, lockers, and any other area on Academy School property where students store items are Parish School property and subject to searches by school authorities to protect the safety of all.

O. Books and Supplies

Each child is responsible for keeping his or her books in good condition. Books that are lost or defaced become the liability of the student and his or her parents. Contact paper is NOT to be used to cover any books obtained under the New York State textbook loan. Parents are responsible for providing their children with supplemental materials listed on the yearly supply list for use in the classroom.

P. Telephone/Cell Communication

If a parent needs to reach a student, the parent must call the office at 718-728-0724. Similarly, if a student seeks to call his or her parent, the student must make the request – initially to his/her teacher to ask to go to the office. Under NO circumstances should a parent or child call or text each other during school hours from a cell phone. Parents who send children to school with a cellphone must understand that the cell phone will be collected by the homeroom teacher and returned to the student at the end of homeroom. The academy is NOT responsible for student's cellphones. Students who are found with a cellphone during class will have their cellphone taken away and will serve detention, a parent will be notified. If a child is found inappropriately using a cell phone or in possession of a cellphone for a second time the parents will have to come to school to pick up the cell phone and they will face suspension.

Q. Personal Property

The Academy is not responsible for valuables that are lost or damaged. Therefore, it is strongly advised that students do not bring valuables into the school building including cell phones. Personal electronic devices such as iPads, Chromebooks, etc. are not permitted. The Academy will supply each student with an Academy-owned electronic device to be used only for educational purposes each day.

R. Announcements

Informational announcements are handled through the Academy's P.A. system. Students must courteously listen when a message is presented over the P.A. system, especially when prayers are recited.

S. Fliers and Informational Brochures

Students may, upon approval by the principal, distribute, at reasonable times and places, unofficial material, including petitions, buttons, or other insignia. However, all such material must be in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Failure to comply will result in confiscation of the material and possibly disciplinary action. Further, any such material may not be obscene, libelous, contain indecent or vulgar language or content, advertise a product not permitted to minors by law, constitute insulting or fighting words the purpose of which may be to injure or harass other people, or present a high likelihood of causing a disruption at the Academy. Further,

parents may not distribute, either through their child or otherwise, any material not authorized by the principal.

T. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND BEHAVIOR

A. Student Behavior and Code of Conduct

All students are expected to thrive toward excellent behavior at all times. Behavior problems include disrespecting authority, including teachers, staff, and other students, teasing, bullying, socially unacceptable behavior, or behavior contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church or the mission of the Academy. If behavioral issues persist, a disciplinary conference may be required with the parent.

Students are expected to be present, punctual, properly attired, honest, cooperative and respectful toward one another and to all adults in the school. Students are expected to be cooperative with all policies of the school, their teachers and any adult in a supervisory capacity in the school.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in disciplinary action that may include detention, suspension, or dismissal from St. Joseph Catholic Academy. A parent will be notified if and when a student is to be so detained in school or out of school for disciplinary reasons. For serious acts of misbehavior, the student may immediately be suspended for a period of one to five days at the determination of the principal.

In addition, each teacher will publish expectations for student performance and behavior in her/his classroom. The teacher at the Parent Orientation/Information Meeting in September will explain these expectations. Students and parents are responsible to be aware of these guidelines and to comply with them. To the extent a teacher finds it necessary, parents will be notified of classroom problems. As partners in education, parents should work with the teacher to ensure that inappropriate behavior is addressed and corrected.

Infractions in the following areas may result in recess or after school **detention**: repeated lateness, dress code violations, failure to complete homework, unsigned tests or homework, failure to present an absence note after an absence, possession/use of any items deemed distractions to learning (radio, CD player, laser pointer, any balls or toys, etc., uncooperative or disrespectful behavior, defacing property, gum chewing, eating without permission). Students are not permitted to bring any electronic entertainment devices to school. These serve as a distraction to the academic nature of the school day and are not permitted. Such items will be confiscated and will be returned only to the parent. The Academy does not accept liability for loss or damage. A cell phone is permitted in school provided that the student keeps it in the OFF position and gives it to the homeroom teacher upon entering the classroom. It is NOT used by anyone during school hours in school or outdoors around the school. SMART watches are NOT permitted in school. If the phone/watch regulation is abused, the phone/watch will be confiscated and returned to the parent only. The academy does not accept liability for loss or damage of any electronic devices.

Offenses which are grounds for **suspension** include, but are not limited to the following: cheating/forgery; destruction of property (repair or replacement of vandalized property will be the responsibility of the parent of the offender); fighting, bullying, cyber bullying or harassing/threatening another in word or demeanor; any behavior that may cause harm to self or others; insolence or grave disrespect; stealing; disregard for school authority; truancy; leaving school property without permission while under the jurisdiction of the school; violations of the acceptable use policy (Internet); gambling of any kind (including dice and card games) for money or anything of value; any pattern of repeated infractions of school behavioral guidelines or of those established for the class by a teacher; smoking while under the jurisdiction of the school.

Suspension may be of two types: in-school and out-of-school. A student placed on an in-school suspension is required to be present in school, but will not be allowed to attend classes and activities with the other children during the duration of the suspension. Parents will be notified of the reason for and duration of the suspension. A parent conference may be required.

In the case of an out-of-school suspension, the parent will be notified and the student will not be permitted to attend school for a period of up to five days per suspension. A disciplinary conference with the student, parent and principal will be required before the student is permitted to return to school.

Any child so suspended is automatically excluded from participation in special school activities during the time of the suspension. Corrective measures decided by the principal will be required in order for a child to resume classes and remain at the Academy. In cases of vandalism, the parent must pay the full cost of the repair or replacement of the item before the child may return to the academy. In cases of theft, the item is either returned in good condition or the cost of replacement is borne by the parent before the child can return.

Individual-directed threats of violence or harm communicated directly or indirectly by any means, as well as building-directed threats of violence or harm communicated directly or indirectly by any means (e.g., shooting, bomb threats), or to harm students, employees, or visitors are taken seriously. Upon knowledge of the threats, the Principal will notify the Office of the Superintendent and call the parents. The administration will determine the course of action to be taken up to and including calling law enforcement, requiring a mental health referral, and/or expulsion.

Lastly, a child's arrest for a crime on or off of school grounds, within or beyond the vicinity of the Academy, at any time could result in the child's suspension or expulsion. A child's conviction of a crime on or off of school grounds, within or beyond the vicinity of the Academy, will likely result in a child's expulsion.

B. Anti-Bullying Policy

The school communities within the Brooklyn Diocese believe in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person. We believe that all students, school employees and volunteers have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. All members of the school community, in turn, have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance. Research shows that students who learn in a safe and supportive environment succeed academically. Students have a right to learn in an environment free of any harassment that substantially interferes with their education.

This policy applies while on school property, the school bus, and during any school-sponsored activities or events regardless of whether such occurs on school property. This policy also applies to behavior that occurs off school property and creates, or would foreseeably create, a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is reasonably foreseeable that the conduct might reach school property. The contents of this policy are in accordance with The Jack Reid Law: Protect All Students Act.

Definition of Bullying (including Cyber-Bullying) and Harassment:

Bullying, bias-based harassment/intimidation are intentional, repeated, hurtful acts (physical, verbal, written) committed by one or more persons towards another person or persons. It usually involves an actual or perceived imbalance of power which can be physical, emotional, or verbal. If not addressed, bullying can lead to the creation of a hostile, offensive, or intimidating school environment and can affect a student's educational opportunities and mental, emotional, or physical well-being.

The behaviors include but are not limited to:

- *Physical:* physical violence, stalking, threats, aggressive or menacing gestures, exclusion from peer groups which is intended to humiliate or isolate the target (relational bullying), or could reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his/her physical safety
- *Verbal:* taunts, teasing, derogatory language, derogatory jokes, name calling, slurs, spreading rumors
- *Written:* written or graphic material including graffiti containing comments or stereotypes that are electronically written and transmitted via internet, social messaging sites, blogs, instant messaging, text messages, cell phone, webcams. This would also include forwarding such messages if received. This generally constitutes cyber-bullying.

Reporting Procedures:

- *The targeted student, parent of a student or other students in the school (bystanders), or any school staff who believes that bullying has occurred should report the incident to the principal.*
- *The principal or designee will conduct an investigation by interviewing all parties separately.*
- *The parents of all involved students should be notified.*
- *If it is determined that bullying has occurred, the child who bullied will be subject to consequences per the academy's disciplinary code.*
- *Parents will be advised to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency if the situation warrants such a report.*
- *Referral to counseling will be made for all identified parties if deemed necessary.*
- *The principal will follow up to see that the offending conduct has stopped.*
- *All students will be notified that retaliation against anyone who makes a report will not be tolerated and those that retaliate will be subject to disciplinary actions.*

School employees who witness or receive an oral or written report of bullying or harassment must orally notify the Principal within one school day, and must provide a written report to the Principal within two school days. The Principal must promptly investigate in accordance with the procedures above.

Disciplinary Measures:

If bullying or harassment occurs, the school reserves the right to take any and all action it deems appropriate, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.

Cyber Bullying Policy

In accordance with New York State Law on Cyber-Bullying, inappropriate, defamatory, or content found to be injurious to an academy community member may result in disciplinary action, even if done outside of Academy premises or using devices not owned or controlled by the Academy. All instances of such behavior must be reported immediately to the administration, which will investigate the matter and enforce the consequences deemed appropriate.

Violation of this policy in whole or in part may result in any or all of the following and will be issued at the discretion of the Academy principal:

- of use/privileges of school/academy technology.
- Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, detention, suspension, expulsion, and /or legal action
- Compensation for damages, both physical and punitive, incurred due to actions in violation of this policy.

Regarding cyber-bullying: inappropriate, defamatory, or content found to be injurious to a Parish School community member may result in disciplinary action even if done outside of Parish School premises or using devices not owned or controlled by the Parish School. All instances of such behavior must be reported immediately to the administration, which will investigate the matter and enforce the consequences deemed appropriate.

C. Alcohol and Drug Free Zone Policy

The New York City Tobacco Products Regulations Act of 1994 curtails exposure to tobacco use on school grounds. For the purpose of this legislation “school grounds” means the “buildings, grounds or facilities, or any part thereof, owned or occupied by public or private institutions for the primary purpose of providing educational instructions to students at or below the twelfth grade level.” Tobacco use is not permitted on academy grounds at any time. A “tobacco product” is any substance which contains tobacco including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and chewing tobacco. New York City regulations are far more stringent than the regulations promulgated by New York State. However, schools subject to the rules of this municipality, as are the academies of the Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens, must follow the local laws. Thus, smoking is prohibited on ALL ACADEMY PREMISES AT ANY TIME.

For the safety of our students, alcohol is also prohibited from being consumed on academy premises at any time.

D. Impermissible Items

Students must conduct themselves at all times in a courteous manner in accord with Catholic principles. To that end, and also in the interest of safety of the students and protection of the Academy’s property, the following items are among those NOT allowed at any time:

1. Any type of permanent marker
2. Spray cans, smoke bombs, stink bombs, powders/choking agents or chemicals or any kind.
3. Gum
4. Alcohol or drugs of any kind, and matches or lighters, and drug paraphernalia
5. Laser pointers, knives/box cutters, or any type of weapon
6. Any type of toy weapon
7. Nail files
8. Energy drinks and caffeine
9. Extreme jewelry
10. Makeup of any kind
11. Personal electronic devices (cell phones while permitted are strongly discouraged and may NOT be used during school hours)

The presence of any of these items can lead to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension. The presence of alcohol, drugs, or weapons is a criminal offense and the police will be notified.

E. Discipline Policy

The Academy may need to involve disciplinary measures from time to time. The purpose of disciplinary measures is to provide structure to students and for them to learn self-discipline, which strengthens and promotes the values incorporated in our Catholic faith. Disciplinary measures should have as an end the development of the human person who respect one self, other persons, and those in authority.

At no time will corporal punishment be used against a child. Any perceived acts of corporal punishment or reports from a child of corporal punishment should be reported to the Principal immediately by the student and/or the parent/guardian.

By enrolling your child in the Academy, the parent/guardian agrees to be supportive of the rules and regulations that the Academy deems as critical in the spiritual, academic and behavioral growth of the child.

Teachers are the primary disciplinarians within the classroom and among students. Teachers will discipline students for minor classroom disruptions, such as not completing homework, minor verbal disputes with other students, or not being in the complete uniform. To the extent a teacher finds it necessary, parents/guardians will be notified of classroom problems. As partners in education, parents/guardians should work with the teacher to ensure that inappropriate behavior is changed.

At times, however, teachers will refer classroom discipline issues to the administration of the Academy. This is likely to include chronic minor problems listed above, or major problems, including chronic lateness, verbal abuse of a teacher, signs of disrespect to a teacher or another adult on the staff, fighting,

vandalism, stealing, physical, sexual, or verbal harassment or bullying of a fellow student, violent behavior, smoking, or the possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, cigarettes, lighters, matches, stink or smoke bombs, chemicals/irritants, alcohol, dangerous items or a weapon. The administration will handle such matters in a variety of ways depending on the severity of the incident, up to and including suspension, police notification, and expulsion.

For serious acts of misbehavior, such as, but not limited to, fighting, stealing, vandalism and harassment, the student may immediately be suspended for a period of one to five days. In cases of vandalism, the parent/guardian must pay the full cost of the repair or replacement of the item before the child may return to school. In cases of theft, the item is either returned in good condition or the cost of replacement is borne by the parent/guardian before the child can return to school.

In cases where a child engages in a fight which causes injury to another child or adult, the police may be summoned and, then, the parents/guardians will be notified. Likewise, the possession of drugs or alcohol by a child may be reported to the police. The Academy reserves the right to expel the child due to such an offense.

In cases in which a child brings a weapon to school, the police are summoned, and then the parents/guardians are called. The Academy reserves the right to expel the child due to such an offense.

Police will always be called in the case of a weapon.

Individual-directed threats of violence or harm communicated directly or indirectly by any means, as well as building-directed threats of violence or harm communicated directly or indirectly by any means (e.g., shooting, bomb threats), or to harm students, employees, or visitors are taken seriously. Upon knowledge of the threats, the Principal will notify the Office of the Superintendent and call the parents. The administration will determine the course of action to be taken up to and including calling law enforcement, requiring a mental health referral, and/or expulsion.

It is the expectation of the Academy that student behavior is exemplary both on and off school grounds. A student always represents the entire school community. Therefore, the Academy reserves the right to discipline students for acts such as, but not limited to: stealing, fighting, vandalism, bullying or any other type of threatening or inappropriate misconduct (personally, via telephone, or the internet). Such misconduct could result in punishments including suspension and/or expulsion.

Lastly, a child's arrest for a crime on or off school grounds, within or beyond the vicinity of the Academy, at any time could result in the child's suspension or expulsion. A child's conviction of a crime on or off school grounds, within or beyond the vicinity of the Academy, will likely result in a child's expulsion.

In any matter of discipline or academics, including a decision to expel a student, the school's decision is final.

F. Respect for Life

A fundamental belief and tenet of the Roman Catholic faith is that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. All students and parents are expected to live and follow gospel teachings and the Catholic faith in this area.

VI. EXPECTATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

A. Parental Involvement

Home is the first place where a child learns love and respect for God and neighbor. Parents, by choosing a Catholic school to continue the education begun at home, have responsibilities as well as opportunities to share in the continuance of their children's education.

Parental involvement consists of parents and staff meeting together because of common interest in the child. It is expressed in many ways such as sharing in student supervision in the lunchroom or playground or serving as library or teacher aide. In some instances, parents may be asked to assist in advocacy in all areas that would benefit the academies, including programs that request government assistance, in consultation with the Office of the Superintendent. The involvement of the total family is also a means of communicating the academy's performance to the total parish community.

AA. Parental Communication

Regular communication between the Academy and parents is a crucial component of a child's educational experience. Scheduled parent teacher conferences allow teachers and parents to discuss student achievement as well as to develop means to assist students in areas of difficulty.

A parent may request a meeting with a teacher at any time by simply sending a note/email to the teacher in question and the teacher will arrange for this meeting outside class time at a mutually convenient time. Teachers will not discuss serious issues on the street at arrival or dismissal times. It is also recommended that a parent communicate with a teacher regarding any concerns prior to involving the administration. Initiating an open communication with the teacher first continues a positive relationship between families and teachers. A parent seeking to meet with the Principal should contact the academy office to set up an appointment.

Additionally, the Academy may communicate with the parent in many ways, including: Email, phone messages and posts through the FACTS Family Portal. Important information about events, activities, and calendar items may be found on the academy website: www.sjcalic.org. Occasionally, teachers or administration at the Academy will send hard copy information home with your children. Please check your child's backpack/folder *daily* to check for any information sent home by the Academy.

B. Home Academy Association (HAA)

The purpose of the HAA is the educational enrichment of parents and teachers. The goal of the Home Academy Association is to foster a clearer understanding of the mutual responsibilities of parents and of the students.

Parent volunteers and chaperones are an integral part of the academy community. All parents and other adults in this capacity must sign a Code of Conduct and complete VIRTUS training which includes a background check. Background searches will be rerun every 5 years for volunteers

C. Parent Conduct

Parents, guardians, and adults are expected to uphold the behavioral expectations set forth for students and staff within the school community. Parents must support and uphold a respectful school environment free from bullying, harassment, and intimidation. Parents/guardians/adults must avoid disruptive behavior while on school premises, at a school event, or while communicating with staff. It is also expected that parents/guardians/adults follow all school protocols and respect student privacy and confidentiality. Furthermore, parents/guardians/adults also agree to respect the decisions by the school administration and staff.

At no times will the following by parents, guardians, or other adults, although not exclusive to this list, be tolerated: threats (either verbal or physical), aggressive and/or violent behavior, harassment and/or discriminatory behavior, disregard for school rules, disruptive behavior on school premises or at a school event, disregard for student privacy and confidentiality, inappropriate or harassing online behavior, and the spreading rumors regarding the school, staff or students. Failure of parents, guardians, and adults to act in a manner compatible with the values of the school may result in student dismissal or the parent being banned from the premises or school events.

The Academy reserves the right to make any decisions necessary in the best interest of the entire school community.

D. Proximate Preparation for the Reception of Sacraments

Diocese of Brooklyn

Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Proximate Preparation for Reception of Sacraments Program

Handbook Format

Proximate preparation takes place during the Faith Formation year immediately preceding the reception of the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The Five (5) proximate preparation sessions offer the candidates and their families the opportunity to “deepen the life of faith, especially regarding knowledge of the sacraments of the Church.”

“The ‘Year of Renewal’ begins with the core of the mission of Catholic education — to form children in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ as celebrated in the Catholic Church. By investing in our children, we are investing in the future of the Church. Education isn’t just in the classroom or the religious education room. It begins and is nourished in the family. ‘Year of Renewal’ provides an opportunity to highlight parents’ roles as primary witnesses of the faith and educators in everyday life... This is just the beginning, and it’s meant to be a spark of awareness that will grow, year after year.”

These words describe the “Year of Renewal for Catholic Education.” This Renewal is a combined effort to enhance Catholic Academies/Schools, Faith Formation Programs, and Parishes. It reflects the missionary call to all God’s people to evangelize and renew the face of the earth. In this Year of Renewal, it is most important that we, as parents and educators, once again familiarize ourselves with the Diocesan guidelines for the reception of sacraments.

“As a family of families, the parish remains the ideal home for Catholic families to join together”, to ensure the integrity of parish life, all constituents should review these guidelines and discuss the pastoral implications. Parents and children should be catechized as to the importance of returning to their home parishes for the reception of sacraments. It is the parish that confers a sacrament, not a Catholic academy or parish school.

Can. 913 §1 For holy communion to be administered to children, it is required that they have sufficient knowledge and be accurately prepared, so that according to their capacity they understand what the mystery of Christ means, and are able to receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion.

Can. 914 It is primarily the duty of parents and of those who take their place, as it is the duty of the parish priest, to ensure that children who have reached the use of reason are properly prepared and, having made their sacramental confession, are nourished by this divine food as soon as possible. It is also the duty of the parish priest to see that children who have not reached the use of reason, or whom he has judged to be insufficiently disposed, do not come to holy communion.

THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED

Can. 889 §1. Every baptized person not yet confirmed and only such a person is capable of receiving confirmation.

§2. To receive confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises.

Can. 890 The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time.

Can. 891 The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is the danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister, a grave cause suggests otherwise.

SPONSORS

Can. 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 893 §1. To perform the function of sponsor, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in **can. 874. (Can. 874 §1.** To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must: 1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function; 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause; 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on; 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. **§2.** A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.)

§2. It is desirable to choose as a sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism.

What this means:

- All proximate prep must be done through the home parish of each student
- Families must participate in Proximate Prep
- Sponsors must be practicing Catholics

Session One (3 hrs)

Preparation of the Candidates

This first Session should be held at the beginning of the Faith formation Year (September, October). It should follow a Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist. The intention of the Session is to introduce the families to the importance of Faith formation, the Domestic Church, and parish life. The important personnel is the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Catechetical Leadership, families, and candidates for Sacraments.

Catechetical Formation: It is the personal responsibility of the Parents, Pastor, and Catechetical Leadership to ensure the adequate catechetical formation of the candidates and to vouch for such preparation in the presentation of the candidates to the Bishop (in the Sacrament of Confirmation) and to the parish. Because of this presentation, it is not necessary or required to have a public presentation of the candidates during a Sunday Mass prior to the conferral of the Sacraments.

Sacrament of Penance: It is important for the Reception of First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation that the candidates be “properly disposed” (**Canon 889**). *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that “to receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit...” (**no. 1310**). For the Sacrament of First Penance and First Holy Communion the Catechism states: According to the Church’s command, “after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year.”¹ Anyone who is aware of having committed a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion, even if he experiences deep contrition, without having first received sacramental absolution unless he has a grave reason for receiving Communion and there is no possibility of going to confession.² Children must go to the sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Candidates should therefore be expected to receive the Sacrament of Penance in proximate preparation for their Confirmation and be given the opportunity to do so. (**no. 1457**)

Reception of Holy Communion: Candidates and sponsors should prepare to receive Holy Communion at Mass, including the Confirmation Mass. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that it “is in keeping with the very meaning of the Eucharist that the faithful if they have the required dispositions, *receive communion when* they participate in the Mass” (**no. 1388**). By receiving Holy Communion both the newly confirmed and their sponsors give witness that Christian Initiation is directed toward the Eucharist.

- “A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine.” (**Canon 919 §1**).
- “The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour” (**Canon 919, §3**).
- Family members and invited guests for First Communion should likewise understand the importance of the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and be spiritually prepared to receive Eucharist.

Universal Prayer: The Pastor should encourage the parish community to pray for the candidates for First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, especially with a petition in the *Universal Prayer* on the Sundays leading up to the date of the sacrament.

What this means:

- Weekly Sunday celebration in the home parish is expected
- Parents participate in the preparation of children for sacraments
- Families are known in the parish
- Children are prepared for specific sacraments: First Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation

Session Two (3 hrs)

The Liturgical Calendar and Advent Season

This second Session should be held on the first or Second Sunday of Advent. It involves a presentation on the Liturgical calendar and highlights the importance of Advent as a season of preparation for Christmas. The intention of the Session is to (re) introduce the families to the liturgical year, how the Domestic Church celebrates this season with Catholic cultural elements, and how the parish prepares for the coming of the Messiah. The important personnel is the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Catechetical Leadership, families, and candidates for Sacraments.

Celebrating Christmas

Advent is the period of preparation and waiting for the coming of the Lord. It begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and it lasts until the 24th of December. As in many other Christian churches, Advent is observed in Catholicism too and is related to a range of preparatory Christmas practices. Some of them are to make an Advent wreath, to keep an Advent calendar and pray a daily devotional, as well as to set up Christmas decorations and erect a Christmas tree.

Christmas is an extraordinary event for the Catholic Church. It signifies the birth of the savior who is coming (in flesh) to meet people in the world. The Catholic Church designates the four weeks preceding Christmas as Advent. It is a preparatory period of a major event where the Lord is coming as a King and Savior.

According to the Catholic tradition, Christmas is not a one-day celebration, but it is a longer festive period that can last up to 22 days. It is also connection to other holidays that are celebrated in the winter period of the year.

What this means:

- Families will have a deepened understanding of the meaning of Advent/Christmas Season
- Families will participate in a parish-wide celebration
- A family Advent/Christmas project will be presented

The Liturgical Seasons of Lent/Easter/Pentecost

This third Session should be held on the first Sunday of Lent. It stresses the importance of the Lenten practices of prayer, self-sacrifice, and charity as a means of preparing for the renewal of **Baptismal promises** at Easter. The intention of the Session is to present a liturgical/spiritual understanding of Lent, provide examples of how the Domestic Church may pray and sacrifice together, present cultural elements of the Easter celebration, and illustrate how the spirit of Pentecost is found in each sacrament's candidates will receive. The important personnel is the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Catechetical Leadership, families, and candidates for Sacraments.

Lenten Devotions

Lent in the Liturgical Year is a time when families examine the Catholic customs of our heritage. The Catholic cultural traditions, especially in the types of **Easter foods**, can become a special treat and religious experience for the family, which can be handed down to the next generation, and to the next.

Fasting conveys a sense of self-sacrifice which is an important theme to teach our children. While Mother and Father may restrict their diet considerably, children should be encouraged to “fast” from desserts or sweets, using their mobile phones, and other electronic devices. References to the fasts in the Bible might be explained several times at dinner during Lent. All family members can also be encouraged to fast from gossip, unkind remarks, or any hurtful behavior. This has been a season of “giving up” things for Lent. Each family member might also be asked to choose one thing to give for every day of Lent. This may be helping someone, donating clothing or food, or some other act of charity.

Holy Week

Holy Week is a serious, deeply religious experience. The week is filled with prayer—formal prayer and private prayer. Families should be encouraged to attend the special Masses and rituals of the week in their home parishes.

From noon till three on Good Friday, many families keep silent. Children should be encouraged to meditate or to say private prayers. Watching a video of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary while saying the **rosary** or watching a video of the Stations would be appropriate while saying the Stations.

As His apostles today, we want to spread the message. Families may write “He is Risen” on different colored sheets of construction paper, and tape them all over the doors of the domestic church. Greet each other with “He is Risen!” In all these ways, make your family life mirror the life of the church. In that way, it will indeed become the domestic church.

What this means:

- Families will have a deepened understanding of the meaning of Lent/Easter Season
- Families will participate in a parish-wide celebration
- A family Lent/Easter project will be presented

Sacraments and Family Life

This fourth Session should take place on a **weeknight** well before the ritual celebration of the sacraments. The presentation highlights the nature of sacraments, the role of sacraments in family life, and the role of the sacraments in the life growth plan of students. The intention of the Session is to present a liturgical/spiritual understanding of sacramental life in general, provide examples of how the Domestic Church may experience sacraments and present cultural elements of Eucharistic celebration. The important personnel is the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Catechetical Leadership, families, and candidates for Sacraments.

Many Catholic families live their Faith only one hour a week by attending Sunday Mass. The rest of the week, the cares of the world impinge on the family, and the Faith is practically forgotten. We are called to lead lives worthy of our baptismal calling. We are to live with God as a constant part of our lives, especially by including Him in our family life. This proximate prep affords the opportunity to reflect on discipleship in light of the sacraments.

To be an authentic Catholic family, we must live a sacramental life. The sacramental life means not only the regular reception of the sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist but also the daily practice of using sacramentals, to help us to live the life of prayer and to celebrate the feasts of the liturgical year.

Receiving the Sacraments

Next to the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is our biggest help in living the Catholic lifestyle. If we are really aiming to be the best possible Catholic family, it is important to stress the frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Receiving the Sacrament of Penance frequently will make us concentrate on strengthening our virtues and ultimately improve our Catholic family life.

Parents must be encouraged to raise children to love all the sacraments. The sacramental life involves taking the children to observe the reception of the other sacraments, especially Baptism and Confirmation, and explaining their meaning. When possible, children may opportunities to experience a wedding ceremony, have instruction concerning the deeper meanings of the sacrament of Matrimony according to their age level. When appropriate Children need to witness the Sacrament of the Sick.

Sacramentals

While the Sacramental Life means frequent reception of Penance and Holy Eucharist, it also means the daily use of sacramentals. Sacramentals are a part of our Catholic cultural heritage. They can supplement the daily reception of the Holy Eucharist, and, in some cases, maybe the only way to maintain the sacramental life for some families during the week between Sunday Masses.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines **Sacramentals** as “sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the **sacraments**. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the **Church**. Sacramentals are signs reminding us of God, of the saints, and Catholic truths. While sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ as a direct means of obtaining sanctifying and sacramental graces, sacramentals were instituted by the Church to obtain graces for us.

Sacramentals embody and make alive Catholic traditions which have existed for centuries. The rosary, the scapular, the Advent Wreath, Miraculous Medal—these are not merely objects, but truly represent the Catholic way of life.

Living the Faith

The sacramentals with appropriate prayers are best used in conjunction with the liturgical year. The liturgical year, starting with Advent takes us through the history of mankind awaiting Jesus our Redeemer, and then through the life of Jesus Christ. (cf. Proximate Prep 2)

This is a wonderful way for us to grow spiritually, but best of all, a joyful way to teach our children how to live and practice the authentic Catholic family life.

To be more specific, certain traditional Catholic practices can be started (or maintained) to help us better understand and love our Catholic beliefs. During Advent, the making of the Advent wreath is a very special event.

What this means:

- Families will have a better understanding of the sacramental life of the Church
- Children will be given additional information about sacraments and their meaning
- Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to address important issues in their adult faith formation

Session 5 (1 1/2hrs)

The Celebration of the Sacraments

This fifth (final) Session should take place on a **weeknight** before the ritual celebration of the sacraments. The presentation highlights the nature of the particular sacrament to be celebrated. The intention of the Session is to present a liturgical/spiritual understanding of the particular ritual, explain the flow of the ceremony, and present cultural elements of Eucharistic celebration that may be particular to the Diocese or parish, i.e., presentation of candidates, style of clothing acceptable for participants, and specific elements of conduct that are allowed.

The Celebration of the Christian Mystery:

Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to share in the divine nature by conforming to Him through the grace of the Holy Spirit imparted to us through the Sacraments.

The sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. In Confirmation, the baptized is anointed with oil (a sign of abundance, joy, cleansing, healing, and strength) and is thereby consecrated, or imprinted, with the seal of the Holy Spirit. As Christ was marked with his father's seal, Christians are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit of divine protection in the great Eschatological (end times trial). The primary effect of the sacrament is the (full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.” Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace; it unites us more firmly to Christ; increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit and renders more perfect our bond with the church, And gives us a “special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ...”

The sacrament of the Eucharist (from the Greek meaning “thanksgiving”) completes Christian initiation. The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The other sacraments, along with all the work of the Church in her ministries, are bound up with and oriented toward the Eucharist.

“The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being.” In short, the Eucharist is the “sum and summary of our faith.”

Jesus Christ is present to the church in many ways: in his word, in the church’s prayer, in the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, in the sacraments, in the mass, and the person of the minister. At the same time, he is most especially present in the Eucharist, in the body and blood of Christ under the forms of bread and wine. The whole of Christ, his body and blood together with his soul and divinity, is truly, really, and substantially contained in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. This means that Christ is present in the fullest sense when the bread and wine are converted into his body and blood through the power of the Holy Spirit.

What this means:

- Families will have a better understanding of the liturgical aspects of the sacraments
- Parents/guardians will receive specific information about the ritual as it is celebrated in the home parish
- Children will have the opportunity to receive final instructions about the reception of a sacrament

E. Custody and Guardianship Orders

Parents must provide accurate custodial information to be kept on file at the Academy. Non-custodial parents do have rights. The law protects non-custodial parents and maintains that parents do not cease to be parents when they no longer have custody of their children. The Academy abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the Academy will provide the non-custodial parents with access to academic records and other school information regarding his or her child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the custodial parent’s responsibility to provide the school with a court certified copy of that court order.

F. Contacts with Media

Throughout the academic year, the Academy may take pictures or videos and release personal information about students for promotional purposes. This might include:

- where a special event or program at the Academy is covered by a newspaper or television station, resulting in student interviews and pictures;
- award-winning students who may have their names and photos published in a local newspaper; or
- if the Academy posts pictures of school activities on web pages and social media.

Parents have the right to exclude their children from videotaping, audio recording, school pictures, other photography or participation involving printed materials or on the Internet. If a

parent chooses to exclude his/her child, the parent must provide written notification to the administration.

Parents who do not object must fill out the media authorization release form, attached at the end of this Handbook. Without a completed form on file, the child may be excluded from certain group photographs or otherwise taken in connection with the school day or other Academy functions.

VII. Health and Wellness

A. Medical Requirements

The New York City Department of Health requires that all new students entering nursery through grade 12 show proof of having received a complete medical evaluation. Children who transfer from one school to another in New York City are not considered new students. These requirements may change from year to year.

New York State Law states that all students in grades nursery through 12 must be immunized as directed by the New York State and New York City Departments of Health. New students may enter school provisionally with documentation of an initial series of immunizations. Once admitted provisionally, a student has a certain amount of time to continue and complete the medical requirements. Students who fail to complete the necessary requirements within the appropriate time frame must be excluded from school by law. Parents must provide records of immunization to be kept on file at the Academy. Any exemptions to the immunization requirements must be approved by the Academy with documentation. Only medical exemptions are permitted per New York State Law. Religious exemptions are no longer permissible.

For 3K and pre-k programs--between July 1 and December 31 of each year, all children between the ages of 6 months and 59 months and attending a group child care or school-based child care program must receive one dose of influenza vaccine.

B. Health Services

The academy enjoys the services of a full-time nurse through the New York City Department of Health. The nurse is available to students in need of nursing services during school hours. For the child's safety, it is imperative that the parent keeps the nurse informed about any medical condition that may require

the services of the nurse. The nurse may not administer medication to a child unless a current, correctly completed 504 Medication Administration Form is on file in the medical room. All questions regarding medication and services should be directed to the nurse at (718) 267 – 9307). The principal will defer to the nurse and department of health regulations in all situations that involve the medical condition of the child.

A current physical examination is required for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and new admissions regardless of grade. Children without a current physical and required immunizations will not be permitted to participate in recess and gym class and may be excluded from attending classes.

Regarding school trips, students receiving nursing/medication services (e.g. epi-pen, inhaler, oral medication) who are not capable of self-administration will not be permitted to attend a trip unless accompanied by the parent or another responsible adult designated by the parent in writing.

C. Illness and Medical Conditions

The following provides an overview and not meant to be exhaustive but rather explanatory. In the case of any unnamed illness or medical condition, or if there are any questions, please contact the principal.

Parents are reminded of the NYC Department of Health Core Practices for reducing illness in school:

- Keep your child home if sick
- Practice good hand washing hygiene
- Practice good respiratory hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes

Allergies: Parents must notify the Academy of any documented allergies(including nut allergies) that a student may have. Nurse must be notified and appropriate forms submitted to school nurse.

Asthma: Parents are required to notify the Academy of the medical needs and protocols of any student who has asthma or a related condition.

Clearance to Return: In certain instances, the Academy may require medical clearance for the child to return to the Academy. If requested, the medical clearance note must specifically state that the child may return to the Academy and resume all activities including gym and playground. Clearance notes will be

required for severe illness, including hospitalizations and ER visits, surgical procedures, head injuries, cardiac/respiratory concerns, fractures, sprains, or significant changes in a child's health state which may impact physical activities.

Contagious Illness: To the extent a child has a contagious illness, please notify the Parish School as soon as possible so that we may alert others who encountered your child. We also may be required to notify the Department of Health. A student with a contagious illness should not arrive for school. This applies even if the parent/guardian has not received confirmation that the child's illness is contagious, but the child is exhibiting signs of a possible communicable disease, such as a suspicious skin rash, suspicious open wounds, redness of the eyes with intense itching/burning and a thick drainage, painful, reddened sore throat, and a constant cough accompanied by other symptoms. Students with a contagious illness should remain home from school until a doctor advises that he or she is no longer contagious and can resume normal activities.

Diarrhea/Vomiting: Students who are exhibiting vomiting and/or diarrhea should not arrive for school. Rather, they should stay home until they are free from symptoms for at least 24 hours.

Epinephrine: Severe allergic reactions leading to anaphylaxis are a life-threatening and time sensitive medical emergency. Therefore, and in accordance with New York State and City Departments of Health recommendations, Academies will work with local health providers to receive training on the administration of epinephrine. For more information, see the administering epinephrine policy below.

If a child is at risk of anaphylaxis, the parent/guardian MUST notify the school and inform it of the risk. Additionally, the parent/guardian must 1) inform the Parish School whether the student can self-administer epinephrine, 2) supply the Parish School with two epinephrine devices in its original packaging; and 3) replace the devices when it expires, has been used, or shows any other signs of defect, such as discoloration.

Fever: If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or over, he or she must stay home. Your child may not return to school until they are fever free without Tylenol, Motrin or Advil for at least 24 hours.

Lice: To the extent a student contracts head lice, he or she must stay home from school until the parent/guardian has treated the condition in accordance with the New York City Department of Health Regulations. This is to protect the health and safety of all students and staff given the highly likelihood that others can also contract head lice. In any cases where a student is infected, a letter will be sent out to the entire class. The student's name will not be revealed. If a parent/guardian becomes aware of a lice infection at home, do not send your child to school. Please inform the school via telephone. The Parish School does not pay for lice treatment regardless of where exposure may have occurred.

Mobility: As a matter of safety, and in accordance with all applicable laws, the Parish School may not be able to accommodate in-person learning for a child who is immobile, such as a child who is utilizing crutches or in a cast. The Parish School will endeavor to provide a reasonable accommodation whenever possible, but must ensure the safety of the student and all other students and be in accord with fire safety laws. Please speak with the principal about options for continued instruction.

D. Administering Medication

With DOH approval, the School nurse may administer over-the counter-prescription drugs to students with written consent and medical authorization from a parent. The nurse may administer prescription medication that has been prescribed by a physician but must be provided with:

- Medical authorization from the parent consenting to administering the medication

A medical plan developed by the child's parent and health care provider detailing the proper administration of the medication, details regarding the child's medical concerns, and other pertinent details.

The Academy reserves the right to call 911 in any case of a medical emergency.

E. Administering Epinephrine

Parents will supply their own epinephrine auto-injector and must provide written consent and medical authorization for its use. The Academy must have an up-to-date medical statement on file for each child in care. For a child with identified allergies or with special health care needs, the Academy must have a copy of an individual health care plan developed by the child's parents and health care provider. Parents must make program staff aware of the individual health care plan on their child's first day at the program.

It is the responsibility of the parent of the student who is at risk of anaphylaxis:

- to notify the academy that the student is at risk of anaphylaxis and is in need of the presence of epinephrine on academy premises
- to indicate to the academy if the student is capable of self-administration of the epinephrine device
- to supply the academy with the epinephrine device* in its original packaging as received from the pharmacist
- to replace the epinephrine device when it expires, discolors or has been used.

*It is recommended that two epinephrine devices be supplied, the second functioning as a back-up in case of malfunction or if an extra dose is necessary in accordance with medical documentation.

F. Administering Epinephrine on Field Trips

In the event of a school trip or school event conducted outside of the school premises, it is the responsibility of the parent (or a designated person who appears on the child's emergency contact list) to attend with the child/student for the purpose of epinephrine administration, if necessary. Please note in order to accompany a school trip or school event, any parent/guardian/volunteer must adhere to all Safe Environment protocols, including VIRTUS training, prior to the trip or event.

G. City & State Health Services

The Education Law of New York State mandates that students attending nonpublic schools receive the same health services provided to students attending public schools.

H. Accommodations

A student requiring medical accommodations throughout the school day (including physical education, dietary conditions, physical limitations and medical interventions) must submit a statement from his or her licensed medical provider stating the need for such accommodation each academic year. The Academy will attempt to provide the accommodation in accordance with all applicable laws, and will inform the parent if it is unable to do so. If the Academy is unable to do so, it may withdraw the child's enrollment in accordance with law.

I. Emergency Services in the Event of a Serious Injury

In the event of a serious injury, the Academy may call 911 and an ambulance may take the child to the hospital. The ambulance staff will determine the hospital based upon the severity of the emergency. A staff member will accompany the child in the ambulance and the parent will be notified to meet the child at the hospital. The Academy, its staff, and the Academy officials shall be held harmless from any liability, costs or expenses associated with any emergency services and such costs or expenses shall be the responsibility of the injured party or if a student, of his or her guardians.

J. Limitations of Physical Activity

Students at the Academy will be enrolled in physical education classes. To the extent a student has a physical disability or issue which may impair his or her ability to engage in the class, or which may make the class unsafe, the parents/guardians must notify the Academy at the beginning of the school year or as soon as the issue arises. A written doctor's recommendation may be required. Further, a student will be required to attend the physical education class for the instructional component and observation, and to complete an alternative assignment or to complete missed activities when physically able to participate.

If a student is not mobile on his/her own without assistance, the student may need to remain at home. Parents must discuss such a situation with the school about alternative instruction.

he responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

K. Counseling Services

The Academy provides counseling services for the students and families.

L. Wellness Policy

The Academy meets minimum federal and state standards for goals of physical education, nutrition, and healthy environments in schools.

M. Breakfast/Lunch Program

During lunch, whether in the classroom or, if the case may be, a lunchroom, each child is expected to remain in his or her seat until dismissed. Each child is also responsible for keeping his or her area clean. Respect and obedience are to be always shown to those who are supervising lunch.

N. Accident Policy

If a student is seriously injured, the parent will be notified by the Academy as soon as reasonably possible, taking into consideration such factors as the apparent severity of the accident/injury and the priority of providing assistance to the student.

If an accident results in a medical condition/injury, the Academy is authorized to render reasonable first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion and judgment of the Academy, minimize the severity of the student or injured person's condition. The Academy may secure a professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion and judgment of the Academy, appears to be reasonably warranted. The Academy, its staff, and the Academy officials shall be held harmless from any liability, costs or expenses associated with any treatment of first aid provided (including, but not limited to the cost of transportation), and such costs or expenses shall be the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

VIII. TECHNOLOGY

A. Acceptable Use Policy

The use of technology is permitted on academy premises under limited conditions as authorized by the principal for the sole purpose of enhancing academic achievement while respecting the dignity and safety of all members of the Academy community.

In using the information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways, the following conditions of being a digital citizen within the Diocese of Brooklyn are expected:

Respect One's Self

- Public names should be appropriate
- Be mindful of any and all content you post including photos, personal views, comments, personal information, etc.
- Do not seek out and/or view inappropriate content

- Do not engage in potentially harmful activities such as communicating with persons unknown to you or Internet challenges

Respect Others

Be mindful of comments, posts, photos or any content directed toward or including others

Refrain from engaging in inflammatory, harassing, or any other such disrespectful behavior

Do not perpetuate inappropriate content by sharing it with or sending it to others

Warn others of potentially disturbing or harmful content that should be avoided

Protect One's Self and Others

Report any and all cyber-abuse committed against you or others to parents, teachers and/or administrators

Keep groups with friends private to avoid potentially inappropriate or dangerous content and communications from unknown sources

Respect Intellectual Property

- Cite sources when using any content not originally authored by you

Members of our community must remember that when telecommunicating with individuals, groups, or institutions, you are doing so as an individual. You should not represent yourself, your views, ideas, questions, or actions as representing the Academy without the expressed permission of the principal.

Security of Technology

The Academy assumes no responsibility for the theft, loss, repair or replacement of any technology device brought onto academy property, whether it is lost, stolen, damaged, or confiscated.

Although there are safeguards in place to protect all users from inappropriate content, we are not responsible for failures in filtering that result in a bypass of our program and/or access to objectionable content. If any inappropriate content bypasses these safeguards, any parties involved should turn off the monitor and report the security breach immediately to a system administrator, teacher or the principal. Additionally, a student shall not:

- Use another's credentials for any reason
- Gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to Diocesan or academy computers or computer systems.
- Download or install any software application without prior authorization.

Administrative Rights (To monitor use of technology)

The academy reserves the right to monitor student use of technology and computer accessed content. Due to the evolving nature of technology, the Catholic Schools and Academies of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn reserve the right to amend or add to this policy at any time without notice.

Personal use of Social Media

This section refers to the personal use of social media. This includes, but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn, Snapchat or any other such medium. All references to academy personnel, students and/or any member of the academy community in social media platforms or technology related mediums such as web pages or email which is deemed to be conduct injurious to the moral tone of the academy are violations of this policy. Personal posts must use appropriately respectful speech, and refrain from harassing, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, threatening or other inappropriate communications. Any communication with current students by faculty, staff or administration is strictly forbidden on any personal social networking site. Personal posts must use appropriately respectful speech, and refrain from harassing, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, threatening or other inappropriate communications.

Representation of the school/academy in whole or part on any personal posts and/or communication is prohibited. The Academy reserves the right to take disciplinary action for activity that occurs on social media or otherwise on the internet, if deemed, in the sole discretion of the Academy, in the best interest of the Academy.

Parents must sign this Acceptable Use Policy which effectively gives permission for their child to use the Internet and the Academy's technology resources for educational purposes and also understands and accepts the Academy's guidelines. The acknowledgement of the Acceptable Use Policy to be signed by parents and, where applicable, students, is attached to the end of this Handbook.

B. FACTS Family Portal

The FACTS Family Portal will be your one-stop destination to view student academic information, school announcements, school calendar and your FACTS payment plan and incidental billing information. You will conveniently be able to access all this information in one centralized location, eliminating the need for multiple log-ins. Once you create your user profile, you will be able to access the FACTS Family Portal from any device, including your smart phone whether it is an Apple or Android device. All parents are required to provide the school with emergency information that is kept on file.

C. Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security

State and federal laws, to the extent applicable to the Academy/Parish School, protect the confidentiality of information about your child that identifies him or her. This information is known as “personally identifiable information” or “PII.” Pursuant to the New York Education Law, parents and legal guardians of children at the Academy/Parish School have the following rights regarding the privacy and security of your child’s PII, subject to any other applicable law:

- Your child’s PII cannot be sold or released for any commercial purposes.
- If your child is under the age of 18, you have the right to inspect and review the complete records of your child’s education records, unless the law states otherwise.
- State and federal laws protect, to the extent applicable to the Academy/Parish School, the confidentiality of personally identifiable information. Safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including but not limited to, encryption, firewalls, and password protection, must be in place when data is stored or transferred.
- You have the right to make complaints about possible breaches of student data and to have such complaints addressed. You have a right to be notified in accordance with applicable laws and regulations if a breach or unauthorized release of your child’s PII occurs.
- A complete list of all student data elements collected by the State is available for public review. You can obtain a copy of this list by going here: <https://www.nysed.gov/data-privacy-security/student-data-inventory> OR writing to Chief Privacy Officer, New York State Education Department, 89 Washington Avenue, EB152, Albany, NY 12234.

Complaints to the Academy/Parish School should be directed in writing to the Principal.

Parents/Guardians may also submit complaints to the New York State Education Department as follows:

Email: CPO@mail.nysed.gov

Mail: Chief Privacy Officer

New York State Education Department

89 Washington Avenue, EB152

Albany, NY 12234

D.Hallow App

The Academy may partner with Hallow to provide a tool for mental and spiritual health for faculty, staff, and students. Hallow is a Catholic app that provides thousands of audio-guided sessions to listeners, covering a variety of prayer techniques, topics, and styles.

Hallow will set up an account for each child using the child's school email. The account will be designed for use in the classroom and at home.

Your signing of the Acceptable Use Policy is hereby deemed as consent for Hallow to set up an account for your child using your child's school e-mail. Should you object or have any questions regarding this, please notify the Principal.

E.Communications with Teachers

Students benefit tremendously when an open line of communication exists between families and teachers. It is recommended that parents/ legal guardians communicate any concerns regarding their child. Parents/ legal guardians as well as teachers should always use FACTS, school communication platforms (I.e. Google classroom), or a note sent directly to the teacher/ family. If needed, the parent/ legal guardian or teacher can schedule a follow-up meeting to address any further issue. It is also recommended that a parent communicate with a teacher regarding their concerns prior to involving the administration. Initiating an open communication with the teacher first continues a positive relationship between families and teachers.

Parents and teachers should not use personal social media accounts or personal cell phones (texting) as a means of communication in regards to school related concerns.

F. Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, although useful and helpful tools in many ways, must only be used appropriately by faculty, administration, staff and students. The use of electronic devices by faculty, administration, staff and students must be appropriate to the educational setting, and may not distract the student, other students, or the class as a whole during the course of the school day and after school. (i.e., cell phones, iPads, iPhones, Smart Watches and other personal electronic devices). The Academy is permitted to implement, at any time, any policy regarding electronic devices, such as cell phones, as it deems appropriate. In the event an electronic device, including a student cell phone, is believed to contain evidence of a violation of Academy policy and/or a threat to the school community, the individual possessing the electronic device is obliged to grant the administration of the Academy access to the device and the information on the device to ensure compliance with policy and the safety of the school, and parents/guardians further consent hereto. Further, parents/guardians and students are not permitted to take pictures or make recordings of any type, including but not limited to audio and/or video recordings, on school grounds without express consent of the Principal.

Inappropriate use of any electronic device may result in serious consequences, up to and including, expulsion.

Schools are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to electronic devices.

G.Parent/Guardian Monitoring of Child's Non-School Devices

Today more than ever young individuals need guidance from their parents to help navigate the technological world, create boundaries, and filter out inappropriate content. There are multiple consumer products, including some at no cost, which parents/guardians can secure for monitoring and controlling their child's access to technology. Specifically, products for mobile and cellular services include, but are not exclusive to, Apple Screen Time, Google Family Link, Qustodio and OpenDNS Family Shield.

The Academy expects parents/guardians to equip their child's personal electronic devices, including cellular devices and tablets, with parental controls if not already in place. The Academy expresses no preference or recommendation for any specific product but expects that parent/guardians utilize such a product to monitor their child's electronic activity. Further, as Catholics, we all have an obligation to our fellow Academy-community members. Therefore, the Academy expects that parents/guardians will notify the school if activity on a child's personal electronic device threatens the health and/or safety of any member of the Academy community. Please also see the Anti-Bullying, Cyberbullying and Harassment policy for related information.

IX. SAFETY

A. Commitment to Safety

The Academy maintains a high standard for safety requiring periodic drills and exercises. In order to maintain a safe environment, the Academy requires safety be practiced in hallways, when passing during class, while on staircases, when using restrooms, during recess and physical education, during after school programs and extracurricular activities, when outside the academy building, during arrival and departure.

B. Emergency Drills

Per New York State laws, academies are required to conduct emergency drills, including lockdown drills, over the course of the school year. Students are expected to follow all directives provided to them by school teachers and staff. Failure to comply or act appropriately during emergency drills will result in disciplinary action.

C. School Closings

The Diocese of Brooklyn will base their closings on the New York City Public School System. If the New York City school system closes due to inclement weather, the academies within the Diocese of Brooklyn are closed. Notwithstanding such closures, the Academy may close school based on inclement weather or other hazardous conditions (infrastructure issues, flooding, property damage, etc.). Parents will be notified as soon as possible.

D. Crisis/Emergency Information

Should a crisis require evacuation from the building, the students will be brought to the church or to PS 70 located on 42 Street between 30 and 31 Avenues. Parents will be notified to meet them at either location as appropriate. The Academy utilizes the FACTS portal to notify parents directly about the crisis.

E. Visitors

All visitors must be admitted to the building by main office staff. Visitors should proceed to the main office to sign in and receive a visitor pass if the visit requires movement beyond the main office. Prior to leaving, visitors should return to the main office, sign out, and leave through the main lobby doors to 44 Street. Visitors must not exit through any other doors in order to ensure that building security is maintained.

F. Video Surveillance/Photographs

The Academy employs video camera surveillance on Academy property to monitor the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to the property, and to safeguard facilities and equipment.

Video cameras are placed in locations as deemed appropriate by the principal.

Violations of diocesan policies, administrative regulations, building rules, or laws that images, video and audio capture through surveillance may be used as evidence that may subject violators to appropriate disciplinary and legal action, including, but not limited to, disclosure to law enforcement.

The Academy recognizes that parents will often want to document their child's life at the Academy, including by taking pictures or video recordings. The Academy requires parents to exercise caution, however, to not take pictures of other children without the express consent of those children's parents. Parents and students are not permitted to take pictures or video recordings on Academy grounds without express consent of the principal.

Students are prohibited from making any and all recordings (including audio and video) on Academy School grounds or at a Parish School-sponsored event, regardless of whether such event is on Parish School grounds. This prohibition applies to the recording of a class or Parish School event through the use of a personal electronic device, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, iPads, tablets, laptops, and/or iPhones. The Parish School may, in its sole discretion, authorize the recording of a class or Parish School event; however, such recording may only be done with the prior consent of the Principal.

X.SAFE ENVIRONMENT

A. Safe Environment Protocol & VIRTUS training

All teachers, staff and volunteers must complete VIRTUS training and a background screening which is administered by the Diocese of Brooklyn.

There are additional steps parents/guardians can take to keep their children safe, which we recommend parents/guardians consistently and regularly review with their children. This includes:

- Students should never go home with strangers.
- Students should never talk to strangers.
- Students should never take things from strangers.
- If students are approached by strangers and are still near the Academy, they should be encouraged to return to the Academy and immediately inform a staff member.
- Young students should be escorted to and from school.
- Older children should be encouraged to walk/travel to school in groups whenever possible.

The teachers at the Academy will also remind students of the importance of not responding to strangers and actions each child should take if approached by a stranger, including reporting it to responsible adults.

B. Child Lures Prevention Program

The Child Lures/Teen Lures Prevention programs are presented to the children. This program is tailored to different age groups and covers topics such as staying healthy and safe, kindness and respect, trusted adults, my body belongs to me, child luring, choosing grown-ups to help, children are special, and abuse is never a child's fault (topics will vary based on age level appropriateness). For older students, topics include sexual assault, harassment, dating violence, bullying/cyberbullying, sexting, identity theft, online luring, suicide and human trafficking with the goal of facilitating authentic conversations to bring awareness to the topics.

Each program provides teachers with the resources to facilitate appropriate conversations. Parents will also be provided with a link to access parent guides digitally to continue the conversations within their homes.

C. Child Abuse Laws

Under NYS law, teachers are all **mandated reporters** and are legally required to report any suspected case of child abuse or neglect to the proper agency. The teacher will make a judgment that the child may be presenting signs of abuse or neglect. If the mandated reporter makes such a judgment and suspects abuse or neglect, in addition to reporting to the proper agency, the reporter must also notify the Principal.

D. Confidentiality

There is a professional, legal and moral ethic that requires all persons to safeguard all student information of a privileged nature. However, if a teacher learns of something that could impact the health or safety of a student or any person, the teacher has the responsibility to share the information with the Principal. Further, school officials are required to report when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child.

E. Sexual Harassment

The Academy is committed to providing for its students an atmosphere and school zone free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is a direct violation of the Catholic faith as it signifies a lack of respect for other persons.

Any student who believes that he or she is being sexually harassed, or a parent/guardian who was informed by their child that the child was sexually harassed shall immediately report this information to teacher and to the Principal. A student/parent who is uncomfortable reporting the alleged harassment to a teacher or Principal may report it directly to the Office of the Superintendent. Any information shall be treated as confidential, to the extent permitted by law. All claims of sexual harassment will be investigated in an appropriate manner under the supervision of the Office of the Superintendent. No student will be subject to any retaliation or disciplinary action on the part of the Academy for reports of sexual harassment made in good faith.

No student is to sexually harass another member of the school community. Any individual who engages in sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

F.. Child Reporting Abuse to Parents

If a student reports any form of abuse at the Academy to his or her parent, the parent must notify the principal. Any information shall be treated as confidential, to the extent permitted by law. This will permit the principal to investigate the situation and will ensure that the alleged abuse or harassment does not occur to other students.

XI. TUITION AND FINANCES

A. Tuition Policies

The success of our Academy relies on the commitment of our families to make Catholic education a financial priority. The Academy has full-year contractual and financial obligations that must be met, such as teacher salaries, utility bills, building maintenance and improvements, and other expenses. Families that seek enrollment are required to satisfy the annual tuition by specified due dates. By enrolling your child(ren), parents/guardians agree to pay the tuition and fees in accordance with the schedule set forth by the school.

These policies are not intended to deprive anyone of a Catholic education. It is our desire to maintain a fair approach to collection of tuition and to provide a sound financial policy for the overall welfare of our families. We encourage all responsible parties to maintain open communication with the business office to ensure a complete understanding of each family's financial obligations. The goal of our academy is to provide a Catholic education to every student who desires one, but only by mutual cooperation can we make certain that this goal is met. Parental non-payment or delinquency in meeting financial obligations creates an additional burden for the Academy. The Academy reserves the right to limit enrollment in the case of non-payment of tuition and fees.

- Tuition contracts specifying a payment schedule will be published and shared with families. All families must sign an enrollment contract that guarantees the family will be responsible for the full payment of tuition for the academic year.
- Academies will arrange for all tuition and fees to be collected through FACTS Tuition Management.
- Tuition payment schedule will follow the most appropriate schedule for the academy and parents: monthly, one payment, or three installments.
- A Tuition Assistance Committee will be in place at every Academy

B. Tuition and Other Fee Schedules

The Academy will collect tuition and fees over a ten-month period. This ten-month period will typically extend from May to February. Tuition collection will begin prior to the start of the school year.

Academies reserve the right to place severely delinquent accounts in the hands of a collection agency or its attorneys for collection. It is not our desire that any family should incur unnecessary legal fees or suffer further embarrassment or inconvenience in this regard. Again, we encourage prompt communication with the academy to avoid litigation.

To withdraw a student, the parent must submit written notice to the principal in advance of the withdraw date. This enables the academy to prepare necessary information and settle accounts. No student records will be forwarded to another academy or school until all accounts have been settled.

Following the terms of the enrollment contract, refunds will be made only in accordance with the stated guidelines and/or at the discretion of the administration. The refund must be requested prior to the start of the period for which payment would be made.

C. Resources for Tuition Assistance

Catholic education is meant to be available to every Catholic family. Every family desiring a Catholic education for their child(ren) is expected to participate to the extent capable in the cost of providing that education.

Each family in need of tuition assistance must complete a scholarship application through Futures in Education, which may currently be found at: www.futuresineducation.org/scholarships . The one exception is families returning to the Teddy Forstmann program coordinated by Children's Scholarship Fund.

If the family requests additional assistance beyond the awarded amount, the request should be made to the Tuition Assistance Committee of the Board of Directors. Its review will be completed as early as possible.

D.. FACTS

FACTS is a tuition management company designed to make tuition collection simpler for families as well as the Academy. There will be one FACTS record per family, and each student must be listed separately. This provides valuable detail about the charges and discounts each student is receiving. In turn, this provides the Academy better reporting. A major benefit of FACTS is the ability to process automatic drafts of the payer's bank account or credit card. There is a 2.85% convenience fee on credit card transactions. FACTS does offer an invoicing option as well. With this option, FACTS will send an invoice to the payer (via email or postal mail) 20 calendar days prior to the payment due date. The payer must then initiate payment either by using a credit card or bank account online, over the phone, or by mailing a check directly to FACTS. Families are encouraged to pay via automatic draft. FACTS also allows for flexible payment options.

Students may be excluded from attending class should any financial balance be past due.

In order to participate in graduation activities, all debts for eighth grade students must be cleared by the first Monday of June. Eighth grade transcripts will not be released to the high schools if the financial

obligations have not been met.

All fees must be paid in full before records or progress reports will be processed. It is the sole discretion

of the academy to withhold trimester exams, report cards, transcripts, records, and diplomas until all financial obligations are satisfied in full.

E.Tuition Delinquency

By standard practice, FACTS will send payment reminders prior to any due date, returned payment notices in the case of a failed payment, and will make automated phone calls to delinquent payers. Payers who fail to communicate with the academy and resolve the delinquency through a payment schedule approved by the academy will result in suspension of services for the student.

Students will not be permitted to attend class at the start of the trimester should any balance be past due.

No student will be permitted to begin an academic year unless all registration and other required fees are current. Registration and other required fees are paid through FACTS Tuition Management at enrollment. Enrollment for students whose families are not current in the registration or other required fees by June 30 may be cancelled at the discretion of the academy. In no event will students be permitted to attend class at the commencement of the academic year unless the delinquency is paid in full.

To participate in graduation activities, all debts for eighth grade students must be cleared by the first Monday of May. Eighth grade transcripts will not be released to the high schools if the financial obligations have not been met.

For all grades, to participate in school activities and field trips, all financial accounts are to be current and up to date.

All fees must be paid in full before records or progress reports will be processed. It is the sole discretion of the academy to withhold trimester exams, report cards, transcripts, records, and diplomas until all financial obligations are satisfied in full.

XII. TRANSPORTATION

A. Bus Procedure

While students are being transported to and from the Academy, it is expected that they will uphold the behavior expectations of the Academy as well as rules set forth by the bus driver or bus company. Students who continuously disregard bus procedures and rules are at risk of losing their access to bus transportation. The Academy does not assume liability for transportation not operated by it, such as Ubers, car service, private cars/buses or van services. Parents/ legal guardians must provide authorization for their child to be transported by someone else. This includes transportation for dismissal as well as extracurricular activities.

Each bus company must hold an evacuation drill at least once a year. Students are expected to follow all instructions as given by the bus driver or other adult facilitating the drill.

B. Use of Other Vehicles

Only a licensed public carrier that is fully insured should be used to transport students. Teachers or administrators are not permitted to transport students in their personal vehicles.

The Academy does not assume liability for transportation not operated by it, such as Ubers, car service, private buses or van services.

Parents/ legal guardians must provide authorization for their child to be transported by someone else. This includes transportation for dismissal as well as extracurricular activities.

XIII.RECORDS

A. Change of Information

For student safety, it is imperative that parents/ legal guardians alert the Parish School to any changes in address or phone number. Parents/ legal guardians must also provide the Parish School with an adequate number of emergency contacts (with up-to-date information).

B. Educational Records Request

In the event of a student transferring to a different academy, parish school, or public school, the school will provide student records to the school of transfer, not to the parent. Requests can be made in writing by the parent/ legal guardian or by the school that the student will be transferring to. The school office is responsible for sending student records directly to the school of transfer. If records are not provided in a timely fashion, parents or legal guardians may contact the Office of the Superintendent to receive further assistance in this matter.

C. Authorization to Release Records

Academies may not release the records of students without the written consent of the parents/legal guardians to any individual, agency or organization other than the following:

- Other academy or parish school officials who have legitimate educational interests.
- Officials of other academies or parish schools in which the student intends to enroll.
- Officials of the courts with lawfully issued judicial process, i.e., subpoena, court order, etc.
- Please note health records are the property of the Department of Health.

D. Review of a Child's Official Records

Parents/legal guardians have the right to inspect any and all material which is part of their child's permanent record. Academies require parents/legal guardians to provide a written request prior to when they wish to examine their child's permanent record. At the time of inspection, the academy administrator, or qualified delegate will be present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

I acknowledge that I have received and read the Parent-Student Handbook and all subsequent forms (“Handbook”).

I have read and understood the contents of this Handbook, and will act in accord with these policies and procedures. I have explained the contents of this Handbook to my child. I agree that I am responsible for my child’s adherence to the policies in this Handbook.

I understand that this Handbook supersedes any other previously issued handbook and personnel manual and that all previous versions are hereby revoked.

I understand that the Academy reserves the right to add, amend, modify, or discontinue any of the policies

and procedures as set forth in the Handbook at any time, with or without notice.

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of Child(ren) and Grades: _____

FOR STUDENTS GRADES 6-8

I have read the Parent-Student Handbook, have discussed its contents with my parent/guardian, and agree to abide by all its terms.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION

If a parent/guardian chooses to sign any form electronically, the following MUST be submitted beforehand to the Parish School with an original, and not electronic, signature:

I authorize the Parish School to accept my electronic signature.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ABSENT NOTE FORM

Student's Name: _____

Student's Class: _____

Date(s) of Absence: _____

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Doctor's Note Attached (circle one)?

Y

N

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Parent/Guardian

As the parent/guardian of a student at the Parish School, I have read the Acceptable Use policy and agree to abide by its terms, and to ensure my child abides by its terms. I understand that computer and internet access at the Parish School is designed for educational purposes. I am aware that it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold the Parish School responsible for materials acquired in use. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use of school's technology resources is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my child to use the school's technology resources and certify that I have reviewed this information with my child.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____

Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____

For Students Grades 6-8

I have read the Acceptable Use Policy in this Handbook.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Student's Grade: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Student's Grade: _____ Date: _____

MEDIA AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

I hereby consent to the taking of photographs, movies, videos, and images capable of reproduction in any medium of me or my children or children of whom I am the designated guardian by the Parish School, Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, and/or Department of Education and their parents, affiliates, trustees, directors, members, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, and contractors (the "Parties").

I hereby grant the Parties the right to edit, reproduce, use and reuse images for any and all purposes including, but not limited to, advertising, promotion and display, and I hereby consent to the editing, reproduction, use and re-use of said images in any and all media in existence and all media yet in existence including, but not limited to, video, print, television, internet, and podcasts.

I forever grant, assign, and transfer to the Parties any right, title and interest that I and/or my child/children may have in any images, including negatives, taken of me and/or my children by the Parties. I hereby agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Parties from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, loss, liability, damage, or cost arising from this authorization.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name and Grade of Child: _____

If you are choosing to opt out of this policy, the Parish School MUST receive the signed acknowledgement below and return it to the Principal by the first day of school:

I have read the Media Authorization and Release Policy and am choosing to opt out.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name and Grade of Child: _____