

Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook

2010-2011

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PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT
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DIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations
Teaching them to carry out everything I have commanded you.
Matthew 28:19-20*

These words of Christ addressed to the apostles at the Ascension bestowed on the Church the office of teacher. Obedient to this divine challenge, the Church provides education permeated with the spirit of Christ and dedicated to promoting the full development of the human person¹. The two-fold goal of Catholic schools is to provide an environment which will foster rich religious training as well as solid academic education in a Catholic value-oriented manner.

¹ Declaration on Christian Education #3

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY

THE MISSION of St. John Academy in McLean, Virginia is to answer the call of the Church to support parents in the education of their children. The parents' hope is that their children, like them, will exert a meaningful influence on society. With this in mind, The Academy engages in a threefold work based on the Gospel ideals of FAITH, COMMUNITY AND SERVICE:

TO TEACH THE FAITH as it is found in Sacred Scripture as well as in the tradition and teachings of the Catholic Church and to provide the necessary academic instruction to teach skills that illuminate and enrich the students' knowledge of God, life and culture.

TO BUILD COMMUNITY based on the command of Jesus to love one another so that the students become caring and concerned members of the world community and

TO FOSTER SERVICE to the community through prayer, worship and social action so that young people grow in service to God, their Church, one another and the global community.

Faithful to its mission, St. John Academy as part of St. John The Beloved Parish community extends the Church's mission to teach by handing down the Faith to the next generation, not merely to be preserved but to become more glorious, more efficacious and more valued by those who, with the habits of mind and heart cultivated at St. John Academy, will serve the world of tomorrow with integrity, dedication and respect. *

- Teach them . . . a statement of the Catholic Bishops; May 6, 1976.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Each school shall utilize the OCS template to develop and distribute a handbook for students and parents. All local policies and procedures must be in conformity with Diocesan policies, guidelines and regulations.

A committee, representative of the total school community, shall be involved in the development and

periodic revision of this handbook.

All parents, along with students in middle and high school, are required to sign a form stating they have read the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and they agree to abide by those rules (see Appendix AG-1 and AG-2). This signature form will be given to students when they receive a copy of the handbook and the form must be signed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than the date when first interim grades are distributed. Failure to have a signed form on file will not prevent the School from enforcing its policies, but result in disciplinary action being taken and/or prevent a student from enrolling (or continuing enrollment) in the school.

Faculty and staff members shall be given copies of all school handbooks.

Handbooks and all subsequent changes are subject to prior written approval by the Diocese. To the extent any local handbook or policy statement therein may be inconsistent with the policies, guidelines or regulations of the Diocese, the Diocesan policies guidelines or regulations shall be of controlling force and effect.

PARENTAL ROLE

The Catholic Church recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. The Catholic school exists to assist parents in the Christian formation of their children.

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

Parents are expected to display an attitude of respect and support toward the school, the staff, and the educational process by:

- Supporting the school's mission and commitment to Christian principles;
- Supporting the school policies as outlined in the school handbook and regulations. In addition, parents are to ensure their son/daughter has read this handbook;
- Participating fully in school programs that are developed to support the education of their children;
- Remaining informed about and involved in the religious instruction of their children.

In the event a parent desires to discuss a problem with his/her child's teacher, the parent should make an appointment for a private meeting with the child's teacher. Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss a matter of concern with parents before it becomes an actual problem. Any parent who wishes to speak with the principal may do so, but after an initial meeting with the classroom teacher.

If a parent repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students, or displays disrespectful, disruptive or harassing behavior toward teachers or toward school, parish or diocesan staff, the school may take corrective action. Such corrective action may include, at the discretion of the principal (and, for parish schools, the pastor of the parish), the following:

- imposition of particular rules or procedures the parent must follow in interacting with the school and its students and staff;

- restriction or termination of the parent’s access to school or parish property;
- dismissal of the parent’s child(ren).

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

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

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

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

NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS

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

- Non-Catholic students are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the school.
- Non-Catholic students must participate in liturgies, retreats, other religious functions and religion classes for credit.
- Non-Catholic students may be exempt from formal co-curricular or extra curricular sacramental preparation programs, but not from the catechesis held during the school day.
- Students are expected, for testing and discussion purposes, to be knowledgeable of the Catholic Church’s positions on scripture, revelation and moral practices. While Catholic teaching respects the various faith traditions of the students attending the Catholic school, parents must be aware that it is the Catholic position that will be taught.

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

The school may modify this handbook after reasonable notice to the parents/students of the

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

All parents (and middle school students) are required to sign a form stating they have read the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and they agree to abide by those rules. This signature form will be distributed with a copy of the handbook and the form must be signed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than the date when first

interim grades are distributed. Failure to have a signed form on file will not prevent the School from enforcing its policies, but may result in disciplinary action being taken and/or prevent a student from enrolling (or continuing enrollment) in the school.

ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

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

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

Students must satisfy the following criteria to be placed in Algebra I:

- Math Composite standardized test score

- National Percentile: 90 or above
- Class grade in Math : 90 or above
 - Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test results: 80 or above
(Recommended time of testing – May of seventh grade year)
 - Teacher evaluation/recommendation
(Because the Algebra I course incorporates numerous word problems that students need to solve, a teacher's recommendation should take into consideration the reading comprehension standardized test score when making a final decision for placement in Algebra I.)

A student who does not meet this criterion must receive a favorable teacher recommendation to be considered for placement in Algebra I.

Prior to entering Algebra I as an eighth grader, the student will have mastered all Diocesan Mathematics Curricula for students in grades kindergarten through pre-algebra.

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

1. Passing the Algebra I course
2. Scoring 77% on the Diocesan Algebra I exam
3. Receiving teacher recommendation for placement in the next level of high school math instruction

If a student does not score 77% on the exam, a compelling case made by the teacher through the use of the Teacher Recommendation Form can be forwarded to the high school. The decision of the high school will be final.

Eighth grade students must satisfy the following criteria to receive credit for World Languages Level I instruction and placement in high school World Languages Level II:

1. Passing the eight grade World Language course
2. Scoring 77% on the Diocesan World Language exam
3. Receiving teacher recommendation for placement in Level II

If a student does not score 77% on the exam, a compelling case made by the teacher through the use of the Teacher Recommendation Form can be forwarded to the high school. The decision of the high school will be final.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

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

TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Textbooks and supplemental materials are selected after a year of study by the faculty with the approval of the Headmaster. All textbooks and supplemental materials must have the approval of the Office of Catholic Schools.

TECHNOLOGY

There is no expectation or right to privacy or right to freedom of speech when using the school's computer resources, which are the school's property. Any use of the School's computers and Internet access must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Office of Catholic Schools.

Using school facilities for Internet access and e-mail is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use which includes but is not limited to unauthorized transmittal or improper use of copyrighted materials or materials protected as trade secrets; transmission of threatening or obscene materials; vandalism of computer files; and violation of computer security as determined by the school administration can result in a cancellation, denial, suspension and/or revocation of those privileges by the school administration and also subject the user to other disciplinary action. Where appropriate, the school should submit a completed Internet Threat Report form to the Superintendent of Schools and to the local police department. Vandalism is defined to include any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet or any agencies or networks connected to the Internet. The creation and/or uploading and/or downloading of "computer viruses" are expressly prohibited.

Additional responsibilities for use of school facilities for the Internet and e-mail are:

1. When using networks or computing resources of other organizations, students must observe the rules of that organization regarding such use.
2. Users should not reveal their personal addresses or phone number(s), and shall not reveal the personal address or phone number(s) of others without their authorization/permission.
3. Users are reminded that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Operators of the network/system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
4. Students shall immediately notify the system administrator/school administration if they suspect that a security problem with the system and/or the Internet exists.
5. Any attempt to log onto the Internet or the school's network/system as a systems administrator will result in a loss of user privileges at the school. Any user identified as a security risk by the school administration/systems administrator due to a history of actual or suspected unauthorized access to other computer(s), network(s) or system(s) may be denied access to the school's computers, networks and/or systems.
6. Users shall abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette, which include but are not limited to:
 - Messages to others shall be polite and shall not be abusive. Messages shall use appropriate language and shall not use obscenities, vulgarities or other inappropriate language. Use of the network shall not disrupt use of the network by others.
7. The Diocese/schools make no warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, for

Internet service. The Diocese/school will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or user errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's risk. The school specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

TESTING

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

In addition to academic tests for grading purposes, the school will administer standardized religion and achievement tests according to the diocesan testing program. All eighth grade students take the high school placement test used in determining placement in diocesan high schools. Eighth grade teachers are encouraged to review only the format and style of the high school placement test with their students.

HOMEWORK

In order to reinforce daily work and develop good study habits, the school promotes specific homework policies.

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

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENTS

Homework is important. It is an extension of the learning that takes place in school. Homework can provide practice and drill that reinforces classroom learning and can provide opportunities for independent study, research, and creative thinking. Each teacher posts homework on the school website every afternoon. Parents can help their children by arranging a quiet, comfortable place for the student to work and by seeing that assignments are completed. Daily amount of homework is usually: Grades 1-3, 20-30 minutes; Grades 4-6, 45-60 minutes; Grades 7 & 8, 60-90 minutes. Homework is not assigned over the weekend in grades 1-5. However, students in grades 6-8 do receive weekend assignments. Parents should encourage their children to organize their time in long range assignments so they are not overwhelmed a day or two before the deadline date. **Please check with the teacher if your child consistently claims not to have homework.**

If your child is absent and you wish to pick up assignments/books for that day, please call the school office in advance so the teacher can arrange to have your child's work ready. Assignments/books for the day are to be picked up at the end of the school day. If requested, the teacher will also send a child's work to a sibling's classroom or a child in the same carpool. Persons picking up homework **may**

not go to the classroom during the instructional day as this interrupts the teacher and the class.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is due on the due date assigned. Late assignments will be accepted one day after the due date but full credit will not be assigned to late work. It is the student's responsibility to give any assignment to the teacher. No assignments will be accepted more than one day late.

Students who are absent have one day for every day they are out to turn in homework and make up tests missed during their absence. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete missed assignments. Assignments are posted daily in the classroom.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

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

SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Parents are encouraged to keep in close contact with teachers regarding student progress. Scheduled conferences are held at the end of the first and second quarter grading periods. First quarter conferences are mandatory. Teachers may be called at the school office and will return calls during free periods or after school or they may be contacted through the school e-mail. Teachers do not accept phone calls while they are teaching. However, they are most willing to meet with parents at an agreed upon time whenever the teacher or parent(s) feel this is necessary

GRADING/REPORT CARDS

Overall evaluation of the student must be based on teacher judgment and observation of the student's daily work, class participation, effort and performance on teacher prepared tests (to include but not be limited to projects, portfolios and other tools of assessment).

The purpose of report cards is to alert the parents and present to them an assessment of their child's achievement in his/her academic studies.

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

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades 1-3:

- 1 (O) 97-100 (reserved for exceptional student performance)
- 2 (VG) 90-96
- 3 (S/G) 89-76
- 4 (I) 70-75
- 5 (U) Below 70
- * Indicates modified curriculum

Academic Program

A numbered grade is indicated in the appropriate box for each subject area.

* (asterisk) Indicates modified curriculum

It should be noted that for Primary Progress Reports, the established scale (1 -5) has not been designed to be synonymous with the traditional letter grades (A, B, C, D, F).

Grades 4-8 use numeric grades. Below 70 is designated by an F.

Codes for Social and Work Characteristics

ME Meets Expectations
NI Needs Improvement

Codes for Effort and Arts & Skills:

Outstanding
Above Average
Average
Below Average
Unsatisfactory

Report Cards are issued four times a year based on the nine-week periods. Weekly folders containing each student's work are sent home each Wednesday. There is a Parent Signature Sheet in each folder assuring the teacher the student's work has been examined by the parents. In addition, the primary grades (K-3) send home a weekly progress report; teachers in grades 4 and 5 issue a mid-quarter evaluation for each student; teachers in grades 6, 7 and 8 issue a mid-quarter evaluation for those students who are not performing successfully. 7th grade students must have an 85 overall average for the first three quarters and must have met all expectations in order to run for Student Council positions.

HONOR ROLL

Honor roll is based on the student's grades in conduct and effort as well as academics in grades 6-8. To be eligible for first honors a student must have all grades 93-100 with no "NI" in any category. To be eligible for second honors a student must have all grades between 85-100 with no "NI" in any category. At the end of the year students in grades 6-8 who have been on the Honor Roll for all four quarters will receive a certificate.

AWARDS

Students receive special recognition at the school through a variety of awards programs. These awards are intended to promote and recognize academic skills, athletic achievement, and various aspects of good citizenship.

PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT POLICY

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

- The final decision to promote or retain a student is based on the student's academic performance and best interest as determined by the principal.
- Teachers will notify parents if their child is not progressing satisfactorily toward a passing grade in the course.
- Elementary students failing one or two academic areas must successfully complete summer school or another program approved by the principal in order to be promoted to the next grade. If a student fails three or more core academic subjects, the student will not be promoted to the next grade.
- Students who have not successfully completed summer school or another program approved by the principal but would not benefit from being retained in the grade may be "placed" in the next grade level; however the school must prepare and implement an "Academic Intervention Plan" for the student as a condition of placement.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

ADMISSIONS

DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

- Children from the parish
- Children from parishes without schools
- Children from parishes with schools (for sufficient reason)
- Children from non-Catholic families

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

Age for Admission to Kindergarten

Children who will have reached the age of five years by September 30th may be admitted to a kindergarten program. Readiness testing, at the discretion of school officials, may be used to determine, among other things, the developmentally appropriate placement in the kindergarten program. Readiness testing (fine/gross motor, speech, and language screen) is required for kindergarten entry and within 60 days of school admission for new students in grades 1 – 3. Additional school readiness testing may be conducted at the discretion of school officials. In those cases where the school has sufficient reservations regarding the potential for success, those students may be admitted on a conditional basis with dates and criteria of evaluation established in writing; however, the decision of whether to extend or remove conditional admission status should be made by school officials at their discretion.

Requirements for School Admission: Pre-school – Grade 5

1. Presentation of an original Birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
2. Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
3. Proof of custody where applicable
4. Current report card and previous academic years' report card as applicable
5. Current standardized test scores and previous years, if applicable
6. Completed Diocesan Application Form (Appendix J)
7. A non-refundable application fee
8. A fully executed MCH-213 Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 1. Proof of exact dates of immunization as required by the Code of Virginia
 2. Current Certification of Immunization
 3. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the

MCH-213, within 12 months prior to entering school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A preschool physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical unless it is completed within 12 months prior to kindergarten entry.)

9. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former Diocesan school if previously enrolled in a Diocesan school.

Requirements for Admission to Grades 6 – 12

1. Presentation of an original Birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
2. Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
3. Proof of exact dates of immunization
4. Records from previous school, including standardized test scores
5. Proof of custody where applicable
6. Completed Diocesan Elementary or High School Application Form (Appendix J)
7. A non-refundable application fee
8. If previously enrolled in a Diocesan school, proof of satisfying tuition requirements at that former Diocesan school.

General Conditions of Admission

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

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

Foreign Students

The Diocese of Arlington endeavors to remain certified by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to admit F-1 Non-Immigrant students. The school, therefore, adheres to the following policies for enrolling non-U.S. persons:

- A. Foreign students who apply for admission to a Diocese of Arlington School will be considered for admission, if all the following requirements are satisfactorily demonstrated:
 1. Students with F-1 Visas:
 - a. if a foreign student is a baptized Catholic, valid proof of baptism is required;
 - b. student guardian has guardianship of no more than two students at same local address;
 - c. documentation of legal guardianship
 - d. tuition payment is made in full upon admission;
 - e. if the student is represented by an educational consulting firm, an I-20 Sponsorship Survey is completed and returned to the Office of Catholic Schools.

2. The F-1 (non-immigrant student) status applies to those aliens who are in the United States for the purpose of attending school. Once a student is determined to meet the school's requirements for admission, the family must contact the Office of Catholic Schools or other "designated official" to process the Immigration and Naturalization Service I-20 form for eventual admission and stay in the United States as an F-1 student. Foreign students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation they are free from communicable tuberculosis.

3. In order to maintain a better accounting of F-1 (non-immigrant) status students, the Immigration and Naturalization Service requires ongoing accounting. In that regard, schools are responsible for reporting the status of these students via the Report on Status of F-1 (non-immigrant) Students form. Specifically, the school shall:
 - a. Report each semester to the Office of Catholic Schools regarding the status of any F-1 (non-immigrant) student as long as that child is enrolled in the school;
 - b. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools if an F-1 (non-immigrant) student who has been issued an I-20 and has been accepted by that school, fails to report to the school within 30 days of the designated start date;
 - c. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools within 15 days when an F-1 (non-immigrant) student transfers to another school or departs the United States;
 - d. Report any legal change in the name or address of an F-1 (nonimmigrant) student within 10 days.

4. Foreign students enrolling in a school in the Diocese must show a B-1 or a B-2 Visa. In addition to a B-1 or B-2 Visa, any foreign student seeking temporary enrollment, must provide the following documentation:
 - a. Diocesan Emergency Care Form
 - b. State Immunization Form
 - c. Local Admissions Forms
 - d. Signed statement indicating no grades will be given (i.e. the student is maintaining audit status)
 - e. Tuition Agreement

B. Foreign students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation they are free from communicable tuberculosis.

C. Any student applicant whose passport, United Nations travel document, or other Immigration and Naturalization documents indicate that he or she is a refugee, asylee, parolee, lawful non-immigrant, or permanent resident, may be admitted to the schools of the Diocese of Arlington under normal requirements for admission. This policy would also include undocumented children.

CLASS PLACEMENT

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

ATTENDANCE

DIOCESAN POLICY FOR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

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

The school (K-8) is normally in session not less than 180 days per academic year or the length of time as required by the Virginia Catholic Education Association.

- Once a student is enrolled in the school, the headmaster/administration and teachers will insist on regular attendance. Neither the Diocese, the Office of Catholic Schools, the school nor any of its employees are, however, responsible for ensuring actual attendance. This is the responsibility of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Students in grades kindergarten through grade eight who miss ten or more days of the school year, whether excused or unexcused, and who have not satisfactorily completed the required work, may be considered for retention. Certification of absence by a physician is an exception to the ten-day limit. However, satisfactory completion of required work is still required.

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL

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

1. A written excuse, explaining the reason for absence and signed by the parent, must be presented upon a student's return to school.
2. Persistent absences may cause serious academic problems (including but not limited to course failure) and could result in the dismissal of the student. The administration or the class teacher will normally review the matter with parents before a decision is made by the administration. Persistent absences may also result in the student being subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Except in cases of emergency as determined by the principal/administration and/or a faculty member (as applicable or necessary), a student may only (a) be released from school with the prior written authorization of the student's parent, or (b) leave the school grounds with the prior authorization from the principal/administration.

Tardiness

The tardy student will normally be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the school administration or by the class teacher.

A student who is tardy, as determined by local policy, should report to the principal's office or attendance office.

A student who arrives late with an excused reason (i.e. doctor's note) is counted tardy.

The student who is tardy due to unexcused reasons may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Frequent cases of tardiness should be brought to the attention of the principal so that the parent may be

contacted.

Absences for Other Reasons

When parents wish to take their student out of school for several days for personal and/or medical reasons, the parents should discuss the student's progress with the teacher. However, the school is not under any obligation to provide a tutor, make-up work or special testing schedules for such a period of absence. The administration has the sole discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.

ATTENDANCE/REPORTING PROCEDURES

Absence

Since even an occasional absence constitutes a handicap to the student's progress, parents are asked to cooperate in keeping absences to a minimum. When illness or some family emergency prevents attendance, the parent or guardian is asked to call the school attendance line (356-7554 ext. 1) at any time. When the child returns to school following any absence, a written excuse is presented to the classroom teacher. If a child is well enough to come to school, the child is expected to participate in all activities, which include Physical Education and outdoor recess unless there is a note from a doctor stating the reason and the length of time the child is not to participate in activities including recess or Physical Education.

Tardiness

All students are expected to be at their desks when the 8:10 bell rings. Children late for school (arriving after 8:10 AM when the school doors are locked) are to report to the Health Room for a tardy pass. Family emergencies causing tardiness should be called in to the school attendance line (356-7554 ext. 1).

Middle School students who arrive after change of class for first period will not be allowed to enter the homeroom. They must report directly to their first period class.

Algebra I class begins at 7:15 a.m. Students that are tardy will miss critical instruction which may adversely affect their grade.

Medical excuses

When the child returns to school following any absence, a written excuse is presented to the classroom teacher. If a child is well enough to come to school, the child is expected to participate in all activities including Physical Education and outdoor recess unless a note from a physician excusing them from activities including Physical Education and outdoor recess is presented. Children with special medical needs must present a note signed by a physician stating the child's needs while in school.

Anticipated absence

Responsibility for taking a child out of school for non-illness related reasons rests with the parents who also assume full responsibility for the work missed and make-up work. When the student returns to school after the absence the student will be given the missed schoolwork that should be completed as directed by the teacher.

Release of students

When students leave school during the day due to illness, appointment or any other reason, they must be called for in the School Health Room or the school office. **Children may never wait outside the buildings to be picked up during school hours, nor may teachers release a child directly from the classroom.** A note should be sent to school requesting early dismissal and stating who will call for the child. Persons picking up a child at a time other than dismissal should report to the school office and sign the child out. The school staff will page the child in his/her classroom to come to the office to meet the person picking him/her up. **Persons picking up a child may not go to the classroom.**

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

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

Records from St. John's will be sent free of charge twice to other institutions. After that, a \$5.00 fee will be charged for each additional set of records sent. **All requests for transcripts must be made in writing to the office.**

LUNCH/MILK PROGRAM

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

In the beginning of the school year parents will be offered the opportunity to purchase milk for the year. Milk will only be sold on a yearly basis. St. John Academy participates in the USDA Milk Program.

St. John Academy also participates in a hot lunch program. Sign up occurs by semester.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Morning supervision begins at 8:00 AM. The first bell will ring at 8:10 AM. Students who are dropped off between 8:00 and 8:10 are to go directly to their classrooms where they should quietly get ready for their day. An assignment will be on the board for the students to begin when they have finished unpacking their belongings for the day. At 8:10 the bell will ring for prayers and announcements.

Students entering the building at 8:10 will be considered tardy. Tardy students should stand quietly and respectfully in the hall until prayers and announcements are over before signing in and going to their classrooms.

At 2:50 PM the bell will ring to begin prayers at the end of the day. After prayers, students are to pack up their belongings in preparation for dismissal. Dismissal times are as follows:

At 2:50 PM the bell will ring to begin prayers at the end of the day. After prayers, students are to pack up their belongings in preparation for dismissal. Dismissal times are as follows:

2:55 PM Walkers and Extended Day

3:00 PM Carpool riders

The parking lot traffic plan for arrival and dismissal is as follows:

AM CARPOOL

ENTRY ON THE SCHOOL/CHURCH GROUNDS IN THE MORNING MUST BE VIA THE REAR ENTRANCE (BEHIND THE RECTORY AND OLD CHURCH). CAR POOLS MUST NEVER EXIT VIA THIS ENTRANCE. ONLY DURING ICY ROAD CONDITIONS SHOULD ENTRY BE VIA THE FRONT ENTRANCE. CARS FORM A SINGLE LINE BY THE CURB AND DISCHARGE PASSENGERS AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.

PM CARPOOL

ENTRY ON THE SCHOOL/CHURCH GROUNDS IN THE AFTERNOON MUST BE VIA THE REAR ENTRANCE (BEHIND THE RECTORY AND OLD CHURCH). CAR POOLS MUST NEVER EXIT VIA THIS ENTRANCE. ONLY DURING ICY ROAD CONDITIONS SHOULD ENTRY BE VIA THE FRONT ENTRANCE.

- Kindergarten through 8 -- ALL cars picking up these students are asked to be in the proper lane as explained in Item 3 below.
- Lane 1 MUST EXIT LEFT on to LINWAY TERRACE. Lane 2 MUST EXIT STRAIGHT to BIRCH ROAD OR LEFT on to OLD DOMINION DRIVE. Lane 3 (lane closest to the school) MUST EXIT RIGHT on to LINWAY TERRACE.
- Once you are in the correct exit lane, please turn off your engine. Students will be dismissed promptly at 3:00 Mondays – Fridays. On early dismissal days students will leave school at 11:30. Once students begin walking outdoors, no additional cars will be permitted in the parking areas.
- Please do not start your engine until the signal has been given.

- Students may not be picked up anywhere on school grounds other than the designated carpool pick-up zones. Parents/drivers who have parked on the parking lot in a place that is not a part of the carpool pick up area are to meet their child(ren) in front of the school at carpool dismissal time and walk them to the car.

Students may not leave the building before carpool dismissal to meet a car pool. If the child needs to be picked up before carpool dismissal time, the parent or driver must sign the child out in the Health Room.

- Carpools are not allowed to park at the bottom of the school building on Linway Terrace. This area is reserved for faculty parking only.
- **Students whose rides are not on time will be sent to Extended Day AND WILL BE CHARGED THE ESTABLISHED HOURLY RATE.**

GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

ADMINISTRATIVE

STUDENT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

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

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

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

ACCESS TO RECORDS

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

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

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

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

TRANSFER OF RECORDS

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

Only copies of student records may be released. Original Cumulative Health Record and MCH-213 transfer with the student

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

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

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

Confidential records are to be retained for five years after the student leaves school or his/her class graduates, whichever occurs first. However, the most recent copies of the following documents must be kept for 75 years

- the IEP/ISP, or 504 Plan,
- Student Assistance Plan,
- Eligibility Minutes and/or
- Student Assistance Team minutes

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

SCHOOL VISITORS

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

All persons other than school staff and currently registered students must first report to the school office immediately upon entering school grounds, sign in/out, and wear an identification tag when visiting the school. **No visitor may go directly to the classroom during school hours.**

No child may enter the classroom prior to the start of school or when the teacher or classroom aide is not present. Messages for the teacher may be left in the school office. All volunteers must sign in before going to the classroom and then sign out when leaving. Forgotten lunches, books, etc. are to be brought to the Office and the child will be notified. Classrooms may not be disturbed. **Any student(s) not enrolled in St. John's wishing to visit in a classroom must request permission from the headmaster one week before the day of the visit. Any student(s) not enrolled in St. John's who wish to attend any school function/assembly during the school day must request permission from the headmaster one week before the day of the function/assembly and must remain in the company of his/her parent(s) during the function/assembly. All visitors must check in at the office and receive a badge.**

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Headmaster's Communication

Each Wednesday a newsletter from the school is posted on the school website and emailed home to parents containing a letter from the headmaster addressing current topics and informing them of activities and issues concerning the school. Parents who wish to speak to the headmaster directly may e-mail or call the office to arrange either a meeting or a telephone conference.

Take-Home Communication

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

TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

Students may use a school telephone only in an emergency and with permission from the headmaster. Forgotten homework, books, supplies, etc. are not considered an emergency. In case of an emergency, messages will be taken in the School Office and communicated to the child per a parent/guardian's request. Short of an emergency, after-school arrangements must be made before the child leaves for school that day.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In addition to the traditional 180 school days, schools should add at least three extra days to the Diocesan school calendar each year to accommodate days off due to inclement weather or other non-weather related emergencies. In the event these inclement weather/emergency days are not used, schools may dismiss for summer after completing the required 180 school days. If, however, during the course of the year, the school uses more than three inclement weather/emergency days, it is not necessary for the school to extend its school year beyond the 183 budgeted days, provided the school has surpassed 990 hours of instructional time (as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia).

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

In general, St. John Academy follows the decision of the Fairfax County Public Schools regarding school closings. Announcement of emergency school CLOSINGS, necessitated by weather conditions or, any other emergency, will be carried by radio stations or TV Channels. For emergency RELEASE due to weather-related conditions, Fairfax County Public Schools make a decision by 10:30 AM and notify parents via radio or TV Channels. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. If no information is forthcoming, school will be in session as usual. For unexpected emergencies, an announcement will be made via WMAL. In addition, the St. John PTO has a phone tree and a school wide e-mail and immediately notifies all parents of unexpected emergencies that necessitate the closing of school during the school day.

If school is already in session and closes early due to bad weather, **Extended Day will close at 3:00 pm.** If parents cannot pick up their child by 3:00, they should make arrangements to have someone else pick up their child/ren. **There is a late fee of \$5.00 for every five minutes beyond 3:00 pm.** If school is closed for the day, the Extended Day program is also closed.

PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA

Schools must state in their Parent/Student Handbook the right for parents to forbid their children from

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

LIBRARY

All books chosen for classroom reading in Diocesan schools must be appropriate for students not only in age level and reading ability but also for the moral development which we are working to foster. All books shall conform with Diocesan policies and guidelines regarding Catholic education.

Parents or teachers who object to reading or audio-visual/computer materials must complete an Objection to Content Form (Appendix K) and submit it to the school principal. A review committee (to include an Office of Catholic Schools member) will subsequently discuss the objection and decide the disposition of the challenged material. The parent or teacher initiating the review should be personally notified of the results of the review.

FIELD TRIPS

- Field trips are privileges planned by teachers and approved by the school administration with educational purposes as the primary objective and in light of financial considerations.
- Field trips are considered an extension of the school day and the code of conduct will apply.
- A student must give to the sponsoring teacher a permission form signed by a student's parent(s) prior to a student participating in each activity (Appendix).
- In the event private automobiles/vehicles of students, parents or other authorized adults are to be utilized to transport students on field trips, the drivers and/or the vehicle owners must have a valid driver's license and sufficient liability, medical and uninsured motorist insurance coverage as defined by the Diocesan Risk Manager. Evidence to this effect must be presented to the headmaster/administration for review and approval prior to the use of such vehicles. The headmaster/administration shall have the right to prohibit for any reason a proposed driver from transporting students on a field trip. Parents/guardians are to be furnished with detailed written information about the field trip, and must be given the opportunity to "opt out" their children from the field trip.
- It should also be understood, in light of world conditions and specifically threats of terrorism against Americans, it may be necessary to cancel school-sponsored trips due to world and national developments at any time.
- School-sponsored ski trips are not permitted.

Good behavior is expected of all students on a field trip. The school reserves the right to refuse a student permission to participate in a field trip if his/her behavior is inappropriate or could jeopardize his/her own personal safety or that of another member of the group. Students whose classroom behavior raises serious concerns with his/her teacher(s) or the Headmaster can be refused permission to participate in a field trip.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Overnight trips are not permitted for elementary school children.

MARCH FOR LIFE POLICY

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

Based on the headmaster's/administration's decision, students in grades 7 and 8 may be permitted to participate in the March for Life as a school and/or parish sponsored activity. Field trip procedures will be followed. Students in grades K through 6 will not participate as a group in the March for Life. Students with written parental permission may accompany their parents on the March for Life.

Students who accompany parents on the March for Life should not be marked as absent for that day.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/CEREMONIES

The school does not guarantee the award of a degree or any certificate of satisfactory completion of any course of study to students. In order to qualify for graduation and/or award of a degree, students must satisfactorily complete (by attaining a passing grade) all courses for credit in the school's academic program, satisfy their financial obligations, and be in compliance with the school's code of conduct and comply with all school regulations and policies.

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

- Graduation ceremonies should be characterized by dignity and due consideration for practical and economic realities.
- A celebration of the Eucharist should be held for the graduates close to the date of graduation.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Parent-teacher (and/or home-school) organizations are sponsored by the School to promote a cooperative effort at meeting certain needs of the student body. The parent organization is subject in all respects to the control of the school, and all parent organization activities and all materials prepared by parents must be submitted to the principal/administration for approval prior to implementation and/or distribution.

The parent organization should strive:

1. to serve in an advisory capacity to support the principal/administration;
2. to provide a means by which parents can respectfully articulate their values and expectations regarding the school so that these can be examined and addressed by the principal/administration;
3. to support and promote quality Catholic education at the school;
4. to encourage Catholic values of family life;
5. to share with teachers the values that parents are attempting to develop with their children at home;
6. to acquaint parents with up-to-date information concerning current developments in educational initiatives as they may affect the school so that they can be in a better position to promote the legitimate rights of their children;
7. to unify parents in an effort to raise funds each year for the school.

FUND-RAISING

Any program of fundraising at the school must have the approval of the pastor and the principal/administration. Fundraising activities should be organized and executed so that the school program is not interrupted. Students may participate in and cooperate with worthy collections and fundraising projects conducted by the school or parish.

PTO Fair Share Hours Program:

The St. John Academy PTO sponsors a mandatory volunteer program. Parents are asked to perform 12 hours (6 hours in single parent families) of volunteer service to the school and/or PTO during the school year. A family may also choose to pay \$25.00 per volunteer hour owed in lieu of working. All hours must be completed or payment made by the end of the school year in order for parents to receive the end of the year report card or for student transcripts to be sent to another school. A list of volunteer opportunities is sent home to each family before the beginning of the school year. Families may sign up for activities in which they wish to participate. Parents may also contact the school or the individual classroom teachers for other volunteer opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

Parents are asked to fill out a sheet at the beginning of the year as to the method in which their children will be arriving and departing school. Should the method of transportation change, parents are asked to notify the school office immediately.

Parents who have business in the school building are asked to park their cars under the trees on the island side of the parking lot or the upper Guardian Angel building lot. Cars should not be parked on the Guardian Angel side of the main lot or on the lower lot by Carlin Hall. No one is allowed to park in front of the church on the main lot. ***Parking at the end of the school building on Linway Terrace is reserved for faculty only. Children should never be discharged from or meet carpools in this***

area. If a carpool needs to leave early, then parking should be in the lower church lot on Linway Terrace in front of the church. Children meeting carpools in the lower church lot must be met by an adult in front of the building and walked to the lower lot. Parents walking a child to a car parked in the main carpool line are asked not to meet or walk the child in the island.

FINANCES

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Application Process & Requirements

- a. All school families participating in the program must submit the same application form (available in English and Spanish) along with a processing fee payable to the private vendor.
- b. To become eligible for receiving funds from this program, students must satisfy all of the criteria described below:
 - A baptized Catholic or convert officially received into the Church
 - Family resides within the boundaries of the Diocese of Arlington
 - Family is registered and an active member of the parish
 - Student attends or is accepted by a Catholic school in the Diocese of Arlington
- c. The deadline for submitting applications to the contracted vendor is determined annually. Applications received after the stated due date will be considered for tuition assistance if funds are still available.
- d. Although students from families residing on local military bases are not domiciled in a Diocesan parish, those students are eligible for the Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Program.
- e. The funds from the program will be paid directly to the school that the qualifying student attends. Schools will credit the tuition accounts for those families who have been approved to receive aid for that school year.

SCHOOL TUITION POLICIES

Tuition Payments: Tuition payments may be made in full and forwarded to St. John Academy. Tuition payments may also be made directly to our tuition coordinator, SMART Tuition, Inc. SMART tuition payments are made by using coupon booklets or automatic bank account deductions. Each family may select a convenient payment date on the 10th, 20th or 30th of each month. A late fee of \$50 will be charged if payments are not received within 10 days of the due date.

Financial Aid: Financial aid is available for families in need of assistance. Applications are available at www.factstuitionaid.com or St. John the Beloved parish office. Please contact the Facts Tuition parent hotline at 866-315-9262 for additional information. The deadlines for filing applications will be announced by the diocese in January.

TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

Saint John Academy
2010~2011 Tuition and Fees & Tuition Agreement Form

Tuition can be paid in full, or through the SMART MONEY PROGRAM in ten monthly installments. The SMART MONEY Program charges a \$43.00 processing fee, and this fee is payable directly to SMART MONEY along with your first tuition payment.

Tuition payments received after the due date of any month will be considered late and will be assessed a late fee. Also, there will be a \$20.00 fee charged for any checks returned for insufficient funds. We reserve the right to require a money order, cashiers check or certified check from families with repeated late or returned checks. Balances in arrears over 30 days may require dismissal from the School.

Receiving In-Parish Tuition is dependent upon a family:

- Residing within the parish boundaries, being registered in the parish, regularly attending Mass, and using the parish contribution envelopes or participating in the electronic debit/credit card program, Faith Direct.
- Residing outside the parish boundaries, but accepted by the pastor of St. John the Beloved Church, regularly attending Mass, and contributing through using the parish contribution envelopes or participating in the electronic debit/credit card program, Faith Direct.

A determination will be made, prior to the beginning of each new school year, as to the compliance with the above requirements. Any family that has failed to comply with these requirements, during the previous year, will be given written notification stating that their tuition rate may be subject to change to that of “Out of Parish” for the coming year; a consultation with Fr. Scalia will be required.

Families meeting the eligibility requirements for “In-Parish” tuition need to provide the school office with proof of registration in St. John the Beloved, as well as the other necessary documents.

SAINT JOHN ACADEMY 2010-2011 Tuition Policy

In Parish

	<u>per year</u>	<u>per month</u>
Preschool (3 days)	\$ 2,800 per child	\$ 280.00
Preschool (2 days)	\$ 1,900 per child	\$ 190.00
Pre-Kindergarten AM	\$ 4,550 per child	\$ 455.00
Pre-Kindergarten PM	\$ 3,400 per child	\$ 340.00

1 child	\$ 5,100 per child	\$ 510.00
2 children	\$ 8,700	\$ 870.00
3 children	\$11,350	\$1,135.00
Each additional child	NA	NA

Out of Parish

	<u>per year</u>	<u>per month</u>
Preschool (3 days)	\$ 4,950 per child	\$ 495.00
Preschool (2 days)	\$ 3,400 per child	\$ 340.00
Pre-Kindergarten AM	\$ 5,100 per child	\$ 510.00
Pre-Kindergarten PM	\$ 4,150 per child	\$ 415.00
1 child	\$ 7,500 per child	\$ 750.00
2 children	\$13,000	\$1,300.00
3 children	\$17,200	\$1,720.00
Each additional child	NA	NA

Other Faiths

	<u>per year</u>	<u>per month</u>
Preschool (3 days)	\$ 4,950 per child	\$ 495.00
Preschool (2 days)	\$ 3,400 per child	\$ 340.00
Pre-Kindergarten AM	\$ 6,150 per child	\$ 615.00
Pre-Kindergarten PM	\$ 5,175 per child	\$ 517.50
Grade K-8th Grade	\$ 10,000 per child	\$1,000.00
2 children	\$ 20,600	\$2,060.00
3 children	\$ 31,375	\$3,137.50
Each additional child	NA	NA

Registration Fees: A non-refundable registration fee in the amount of \$275 per student is due for Kindergarten – 8th Grade. Our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students pay a registration fee in the amount of \$100.

Registration Payment Schedule: For students new to St. John Academy, registration fees are due in full upon acceptance. For students returning to Kindergarten – 8th Grade, a payment of \$150 is due by **February 12, 2010**. The balance of \$125 per student is due no later than **March 12, 2010**. **The Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten registration fees (\$100 per student) are due on February 12, 2010.**

Computer Fees: A computer fee in the amount of \$125 per family (Grades K-8) is due on **March 12, 2010**.

Tuition Payments: Tuition payments may be made in full and forwarded to St. John Academy. Tuition payments also may be made directly to our tuition coordinator, SMART Tuition, Inc. Each family may select a convenient payment date on the 10th, 20th, or 30th of each month. A late fee will be charged if payments are not received within 10 days of the due date.

Financial Aid Financial aid is available for families in need of assistance. Applications are available at www.factstuitionaid.com or at St. John the Beloved's parish office. Please contact the Facts Tuition parent hotline at (866) 315-9262 for due dates and additional information .

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION

Participation in co-curricular and extra curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who successfully meet the school's academic requirements and adhere to the code of conduct will be given the privilege of participating in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Girls are not allowed to participate in boys' football and/or wrestling activities.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES

Students participating in a school-sponsored sport who wish to drive to and from practice and games in a privately owned vehicle must have a written permission from their parents/guardians. This approval does not permit a student to transport other passengers, under any circumstances, unless that passenger is a member of the car pool as permitted by the parents and administration.

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

Quality co-curricular activities are provided for the students. Co-curricular activities are activities that extend the school's curriculum into the after-school activities such as treble choir, yearbook, student council, It's Academic, Spelling Club, Battle of the Books, etc. They are purely optional. However, it is strongly suggested that parents encourage students to join at least one of these activities. Leadership, cooperation, and a sense of responsibility and belonging to the Parish and School are valuable for life.

Extra-curricular activities are activities not directly related to the curriculum. However, meetings, etc., are generally held on the Parish or School grounds and are recognized by the School as wholesome activities that extend beyond the School. Recognized organizations and activities include: Altar Servers, Middle School Activities and the Daughters of Mary. St. John's also participates in the Diocesan CYO Sports program that is administered by the Parish CYO Coordinator.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

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

ATHLETIC PROGRAM AT ST. JOHN ACADEMY

St. John Academy has an athletic program that features boys' and girls' athletic teams in soccer, basketball and lacrosse. Lacrosse is held in the spring and is open to students in grades K-8.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR
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CODE OF CONDUCT

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

- Teachers have a right to teach. No student will stop the teacher from teaching.
 - Students have a right to learn. No student will stop another student from learning.
- Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, students:
1. will be honest and committed to integrity.
 2. will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers and adults.
 3. will refrain from harassment of any kind.
 4. will use appropriate language.
 5. will speak respectfully to and about others.
 6. will complete all assignments and participate fully in class.
 7. will respect all school and personal property (*Care of School Property*).
 8. will refrain from any deliberate disruption in the school.
 9. will adhere to the school's cell phone policy.
 10. will comply with the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
 11. will demonstrate good sportsmanship when engaged in all school-sponsored co- and extra-curricular activities.
 12. will be present for all required activities unless officially excused by the administration.
 13. will adhere to the dress code (*Dress Code*).
 14. will not give or receive unauthorized assistance on tests, quizzes or assignments.
 15. will not leave school grounds during the school day for any reason without permission from the headmaster/administration.
 16. will not bring to school nor possess at school any real or toy knives, guns (or any facsimile thereof), sharp objects that may be used as a weapon, matches, lighters,

sparklers, laser devices or any facsimile thereof. It is understood if this term is violated, suspension or expulsion may result (*Substance Abuse/Weapons* and *Inappropriate Materials*).

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

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

St. John Academy observes this Code of Conduct because it is built on fundamental Catholic social teachings. The role of the headmaster/administration, staff and faculty is to work with the students and parents to assist the students in developing a strong Christian attitude toward life. ***Gum chewing in the buildings or on the premises is not permitted.*** Students do not eat in class, at the change of classes or outside unless allowed to do so.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/WEAPONS

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

1. It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell or distribute or possess with intent to sell, give or distribute any controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana while upon the property of the School; on any school bus; upon any public property or any property open to the public use within 1000 feet of the School (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from School or a school-sponsored activity. If a student knows or suspects that any of the foregoing activities are occurring, he/she must immediately report the matter to the school administration/faculty so the appropriate law enforcement agency may be contacted.
2. If a student is suspected or is discovered to have (a) violated the foregoing policy with respect to any controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana, or (b) used, possessed or distributed alcohol or tobacco while upon the property of the School; on any school bus; upon public property or any property open to the public use within 1000 feet of the School (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from School or a school-sponsored activity), the student will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including

expulsion. In the event school officials believe that a student is under the influence of an illegal substance, the parents will be notified. School officials reserve the right to require that the student be taken for drug testing within 24 hours and that the results of the testing be shared with the appropriate school officials. If, however, a violation of the law has occurred, the proper law enforcement agency will be contacted.

3. A student shall not possess or use drug paraphernalia, including, but not limited to, water pipes, cigarette paper rolling machines and miniature scales on the property of the school, on any school bus, and/or any school-sponsored activity, whether discovered in an authorized search of his or her private property (See Policy 615, paragraph 1) or on school property (e.g., lockers—see Policy 615, paragraph 2). Any student who violates this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up and including expulsion. A student shall not possess, use or threaten to use on the property of the School, on any school bus; and/or at any school sponsored activity, any weapons (including but not limited to any pistols, revolvers, rifles or other firearms, stun weapons, tasers, knives, flailing instruments (which may sometimes be known as nunchucks or fighting chains), sling shot, metal knuckles, any type of pointed metal throwing disk or dart, mace, pepper spray or other similar propellant, or any type of explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade or rocket) or any facsimiles thereof, or any object that can be used with the intent of threatening or harming an individual, except when expressly authorized by a member of the School administration/faculty for authorized school purposes (such as knives for use only in food preparation activities in family life/home economics class; chemicals solely for use in instructional lessons as part of the School's academic curriculum; etc.). Any student who violates this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. If there is reason to believe a violation of law has occurred, parents as well as the proper law enforcement agency will be immediately contacted.

DISCIPLINE

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

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

USE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In cases where a student is continually disruptive of others or in the case of a single serious disciplinary infraction, the teacher will appraise the principal/administration of the situation. They will assist in the development of a course of action to be taken to correct the situation.

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

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The following are some approved disciplinary measures:

1. Counseling and/or conference with the student and family
2. Assignment of special tasks
3. Denial of privileges
4. Detention
5. Probation
6. Suspension
7. Dismissal
8. Expulsion

SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

Middle School Policy

Behavior notice – The purpose of the Behavior Notice is to inform the parents/guardians of a discipline infraction and to inform the parents of the action that has been taken by the teacher/ administration. In most cases this action will be a lunch detention. During lunch detention, students eat lunch in silence in a room away from their peers. Students will be permitted to go to recess at the usual time.

The Behavior Notice must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to school the following day.

If three Behavior Notices are accrued in any one grading period, an after school detention will be given by the headmaster. The headmaster will determine the length of time for after school detention. Depending on the nature of the offence, the headmaster may move right to the detention policy.

D1 – 15 minutes

D2 – 30 minutes

D3 – 45 minutes

D4 – 60 minutes

Two or more after school detentions per quarter will result in an NI on the student report card. An NI on the report card renders a student ineligible for the Honor Roll for that quarter.

SUSPENSION

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

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

DISMISSAL

Conduct, which is disruptive to the learning atmosphere and/or contrary to the school's Code of Conduct, is justification for a headmaster/administration to dismiss a student at the close of the school year. Students who are dismissed may apply for readmission to any Diocesan school after one full year.

EXPULSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

STUDENT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

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

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY

Searches

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

Interrogation of Students

Unless provided with a court-issued warrant, the pastor (or principal if Diocesan high school) or the Office of Catholic Schools must first be consulted before law enforcement authorities are allowed to

speak to any student for interrogation purposes of alleged illegal activities. This policy does not apply to Child Protective Services (CPS) officers, who are by law entitled to interview children.

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

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

The police officers, under unusual circumstances, may take legal actions that they deem necessary.

Students and Student Property

Students are solely responsible for their own personal property. The school accepts no responsibility for items left unattended in the common areas of the school. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in wallets, watches and other valuables to the physical education teacher/coach when participating in athletic events away from school. Items of personal property or clothing not directly related to academic or athletic events sponsored by the school should not be brought to school.

SCHOOL LOCKERS AND DESKS

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

Lunch containers (bag or lunch box), sweaters, books (workbooks, tablets, and folders), pencil cases, rulers, crayon boxes, school bags, boots, etc., are to be clearly marked with the child's name and grade. Items that are left after school or recess will be sent to the school's Lost and Found.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

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

Since textbooks are on a rental basis, they may not be written in or covered with contact paper. It is expected that students will take proper care of all school materials. Hardcover books are to be covered and carried in a school bag. A fee will be charged for any books that are lost or damaged.

Parents who wish to have a separate set of books for the child to use at home must purchase the books on their own. **The school will not provide a second set of books for any**

student. The school will provide the ISBN numbers of any textbook as well as the phone numbers of the publishing houses. Parents can then order the books directly from the publisher.

DRESS CODE

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

Final decisions regarding the school uniform rest with the headmaster/administration.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

All uniforms must be clean and in good repair.

School Uniforms must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara. P.E. Uniforms may be purchased at Flynn & O'Hara.

Girls Grades K-5:

Summer:

Plaid jumper, white blouse, white socks, white or navy cardigan sweater with SJA logo or name (Optional - navy blue skort and white golf shirt with SJA logo or name. **Skirts are to be no shorter than 1 (one) inch above the knee. Skorts must come within three inches above the knee and no shorter.**

Winter:

Plaid jumper, white blouse (long or short sleeve) with Peter Pan collar, navy blue, black or white tights or navy blue or white knee socks, navy cardigan sweater with SJA logo or name.

Turtleneck shirts **may not** be worn with the uniform.

Socks must come up above the ankle. Low athletic anklets are **not allowed.** Only socks that fold over can be worn. The sock, folded over, must come three inches above the ankle bone.

Girls Grades 6-8:

Summer:

Plaid skirt, white blouse or golf shirt with SJA stitched logo or name, white socks or tights, white or navy cardigan with SJA logo or name. Seventh and eighth grade girls may opt to wear the blue blouse or golf shirt with SJA logo stitched on it. **Skirts are to be no shorter than 1 (one) inch above the knee.**

Winter:

Plaid skirt, white oxford shirt with button down collar, navy blue, black or white tights or navy blue or white knee socks, navy cardigan or navy V-neck pullover sweater with logo or name. Seventh and eighth grade girls may opt to wear the blue blouse or oxford. **Skirts are to be no shorter than 1 (one) inch above the knee.**

Turtleneck shirts or any tee shirt **may not** be worn with the uniform.

Socks must come up above the ankle. Low athletic anklets are **not allowed.** Only socks that fold over can be worn. The sock, folded over, must come three inches above the ankle bone.

Boys Grades K-5:

Winter:

Navy trousers or corduroys pleated or straight front, white golf shirt with SJA logo or name (long or short sleeve) or white dress or button down oxford shirt (long or short sleeve), navy tie. The dress shirt/tie must be worn for Mass or special occasions. Tee shirts or undershirts should be solid white with no writing, logo or decoration on them.

Fall/Spring:

Navy blue walking shorts or navy trousers with white golf shirt with SJA logo or name.

Boys must wear long trousers and a tie for all Masses and services held in the church. Navy or white socks are worn. For extra warmth in school, boys must have a school sweater with SJA logo or name in either a cardigan or V-neck.

Turtleneck shirts **may not** be worn with the uniform. Tee shirts or undershirts should be solid white with no writing, logo or decoration on them.

Socks must come up above the ankle. Low athletic anklets are **not allowed**. Only socks that fold over can be worn. The sock, folded over, must come three inches above the ankle bone.

Boys Grades 6-8:

All boys in grades 6-8 must wear a blue or black belt with their shorts or trousers.

Summer:

Khaki trousers and white golf shirt. Golf shirt must have SJA logo or stitched name on it. If boys opt to wear the dress or oxford shirt **a tie must be worn at all times.** Tee shirts or undershirts should be solid white with no writing, logo or decoration on them. Seventh and eighth grade boys may opt to wear the blue golf shirt with the SJA logo stitched name or the blue dress or oxford shirt. (Optional - khaki walking shorts with light blue golf shirt with SJA logo or name)

Winter:

Khaki trousers pleated or straight front, white dress shirt or button down oxford shirt (long or short sleeve), navy tie. Navy or white socks are worn. For extra warmth in school, boys must have a school sweater in either a cardigan or V-neck with SJA logo or name. Seventh and eighth grade boys may opt to wear the blue oxford or dress shirt. Seventh and eighth grade boys do not have to wear a navy blue tie, but should choose a business tie that is in keeping with the classic look of the SJA uniform.

Turtleneck shirts **may not** be worn with the uniform. Tee shirts or undershirts should be solid white with no writing, logo or decoration on them.

Socks must come up above the ankle. Low athletic anklets are **not allowed**. Only socks that fold over can be worn. The sock, folded over, must come three inches above the ankle bone.

Girls and boys in grades 6-8 must wear the school sweater vest with the winter uniform at all times in class.

Girls and boys in grade 8 must wear the navy blazer with school crest with the winter uniform at all times in class. The blazer is always to be worn at Mass.

Shoes: Girls and Boys - Grades K-8:

Shoes in tie or loafer styles in black, brown or navy may be worn. No boots of any kind are permitted for boys or girls. Shoes may not be above the ankle. Heels may not exceed one inch in

height. Any type of athletic style or sneaker type shoe is not acceptable. Shoes must have non-skid soles. Ballet slipper style shoes are not allowed in any grade.

Physical Education Uniforms:

Girls and Boys - Grades K - 8

Gray T-shirt with navy St. John's logo, navy gym short with white St. John's logo, navy sweat pants with white St. John's logo (for cold weather), navy sweat shirt with white St. John's logo. Athletic or sneaker shoes **with** non-skid and non-scuff soles must be worn. Socks must come up above the ankle. Low athletic anklets **not allowed**. ***Socks must come up above the ankle.*** Low athletic anklets are ***not allowed***. Only socks that fold over can be worn. The sock, folded over, must come three inches above the ankle bone. From November 1- April 1, students must wear the sweatpants/sweatshirt over the PE shorts in all classes but PE.

Uniforms **MUST BE PURCHASED** from: Flynn and O'Hara Uniforms located at Fair City Mall 9650 Main St. Fairfax, Va. 22031. Telephone (703-503-5966) or visit the website at www.flynnohara.com. Parents may also purchase gym uniforms from the SJA student store. The PTO also sponsors a uniform exchange for parents. For more information, please contact the school office.

Grooming:

Girls and Boys - Grades K- 8:

Hairstyles are to be appropriate for academic purposes. Dyed and/or spiked hair, shaved heads, corn rows or bizarre haircuts or hairstyles of any kind are not permitted. ***Boys' hair may not be longer than the top of a dress shirt collar.*** No make-up may be worn. Earrings for girls must be small and only one pair of earrings may be worn at one time. Earrings may not be worn on boys. Only a watch and/or religious jewelry may be worn and religious necklaces may not be choker style. Only **clear** fingernail polish is acceptable with the school uniform.

Uniform infraction policy:

Repeated violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions: behavior notices, lunch detentions, after school detentions, NI on report cards. If the uniform infractions continue to occur, parents may be called to come and pick up the student.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

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

Large sums of money, walkman radios, Discman players, Ipods, cameras, hand games, cell phones or any kind of electronic equipment. Toys that simulate weapons are not allowed in school. Laser toys of any type are forbidden on school property. Possession of a laser toy on school grounds can result in suspension or expulsion. Live animals may be brought to school with the teacher's and headmaster's permission only if the animal is caged and accompanied by an adult who will remain with the animal at all times. Unusual items may be brought to school only with written permission and with a specific purpose in the curriculum.

If these items are found they will be confiscated and given to the headmaster. Parents will be required to

pick up the items from the headmaster's office.

PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS

- Children remain at school for lunch. Children bring their lunch from home or purchase lunch on specialty days.
- No child is permitted to leave the grounds during school time (including noon hour and recess) without a parent's written note that has been submitted to the office.
- Children are to go directly from the cafeteria to the place assigned to play during the recess period. They use the side door of the cafeteria. Front doors are used for black top and gym recess only.
- **A note from a physician is necessary to excuse a child from going outdoors at recess.** If the child is excused from recess, he/she is to go directly to the health room. They are to take a book or work to the Health Room and should not return to the classroom.
- Students staying in with the teacher for remedial or other work must wait in the cafeteria until that teacher arrives to collect them. They may not return to the classroom until the teacher has arrived.
- Games are limited to those that ensure the safety of all.
- Children are not to play too close to the swings for safety reasons.
- Only kick balls, basketballs, footballs, and large balls are permitted. Only rubber balls or tennis balls are permitted for baseball playing. There may not be baseballs, hard or soft, used during the play periods.
- Children are not to pull or throw each other to the ground.
- There may never be any tackling.
- Offensive and/or abusive language is never allowed.
- Jackets, sweaters, coats, etc., when worn to recess, should not be taken off and thrown on the ground.

LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS

Given the risk of potential harm, students' access and use of microwave will be supervised by an adult.

A prayer is said in the individual classrooms before the students come to the cafeteria for lunch and the Angelus is said in the cafeteria at the end of each lunch period. Students are to enter the cafeteria through the kitchen if they are receiving milk or a hot lunch then proceed directly to their class tables. Students who are not receiving milk or lunch are to go directly to their tables. Each class is responsible for making sure their table is clean and trash picked up from the floor when lunch is over. Lunch boxes should be placed in the basket with the child's grade on it. If a student wishes to use the restroom, get a drink or report to the health room, they must notify the cafeteria supervisor they are leaving. No student is allowed to return to the classroom. When it is time for recess, students will be dismissed when their tables are clean at the end of the first lunch period. At the end of the second lunch period students are dismissed by class. All students are to walk to the exit to the playground. Pushing and shoving are not appropriate behavior. Students wipe down the tables and sweep the floor at the end of both lunch periods as a service project.

If a student is staying in to work with a teacher, he/she must wait in the cafeteria until the teacher comes to pick him/her up. *No student may return to the classroom without a teacher.*

HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

STUDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

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

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR CHILD ABUSE

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

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

Any clergy, employee or volunteer with the Diocese who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an incident of child abuse or illegal sexual misconduct has been perpetrated by any individual, including clergy, employee or volunteer with the Diocese,

- must comply with applicable reporting and other requirements of state and local law;
- must report the incident to the Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of Arlington.

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

School personnel who suspect the abuse or neglect of a student must report the matter directly to Child Protective Services and to the school headmaster (who in turn will call the Moderator of the Curia). At that point, confidentiality must be respected.

According to the *Code of Virginia*, (Section 63.2 – 1518) *Authority to Talk to a Child or Sibling*, “Any person required to make a report or conduct an investigation or family assessment, pursuant to this chapter may talk to any child suspected of being abused or neglected or to any of his siblings without consent of and outside the presence of his parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loc parentis, or school personnel.”

ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

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

student.

If an incident results in a medical condition or injury which can be reasonably known to the appropriate supervisory faculty/staff member and/or the principal, the school and/or its staff are authorized to render reasonable basic first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion of the school, serve to minimize the severity of the injured person's condition.. In addition, staff may secure professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion of the school, appears to be reasonably warranted. The school and school officials shall be expressly held harmless from any liability costs or expenses associated with the professional diagnosis and/or any treatment or first aid provided (including but not limited to the cost of transportation), such costs or expenses being the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

ILLNESS

Each school will provide a health office or comfortable space, apart from the student population, where children who become ill or injured can be cared for following *Virginia School Health Guidelines, 2nd edition*.

Children with fevers, contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and excluded from school while in that condition, per Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a healthcare provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school, afterschool and extracurricular activities.

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

Any student who has had fever, vomiting or diarrhea must be temperature free and ***free from*** a vomiting or diarrhea episode ***for 24 hours*** before coming to school. ***Students who come to school before the 24 hours have passed will be sent home.***

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

Detailed Diocesan medication policies and procedures can be accessed on the Office of Catholic Schools website, in the school clinic and in the appendix of this document.

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

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

1. When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration) ;
2. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;
3. When the parent/guardian provides and transports the medication to and from school and the

medication is given directly to the school nurse/health assistant, or a senior member of the school administration;

4. When there is a health care provider's written order signed by the parent/guardian requesting the school to administer medication or to permit the student to self-administer the medication;
5. When the medication is brought to the school in its original container stating the name of the student, the dosage and method of administration prescribed by a physician. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription. The new prescription must also be brought to the school in the original container as stated above;
6. When the appropriate medication authorization form (Appendix) has been completed, signed and accompanies the medication;
7. For any medication, parents must document the number of tablets or dosages to be secured for administration by authorized school personnel. If tablets are to be divided, the parent or guardian is responsible for dividing the tablets that are to be divided in order to achieve their child's proper dosage.

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

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

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

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

SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS

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

PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND MODIFICATION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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Students participating in school-sponsored team athletic activities must have proof of an annual pre-participation sports physical. Submission of this form and a consent to participate form for elementary,

middle and high school based athletic program participation is required, excluding parish CYO and intramural sports.

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

Any student who has had fever, vomiting or diarrhea must be temperature free and *free from* a vomiting or diarrhea episode *for 24 hours* before coming to school. *Students who come to school before the 24 hours have passed will be sent home.*

INFECTIOUS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DISEASE

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

1. No daycare/preschool, elementary, middle or secondary school student may attend class without documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health's school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213).
 - a. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption CRE-1 form, which will be retained in the student health record.
 - b. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for five months or more during the last three years are required to provide documentation of a recent tuberculosis skin test result prior to school entry.
2. Students with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a health care provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school.
3. School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart, found in the Virginia School Health Guidelines, 2nd edition, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.

LICE

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

inspected.

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Follow up treatment is expected and verified by the school nurse. Classroom contacts may be inspected.

If an incident of head lice occurs in school, the parents of students in the particular class affected will be given notice and the children's heads will be examined. Parents of an infected child will be notified and the child sent home. A child found with nits cannot return to school until properly treated as prescribed by the Health Department and is nit/lice free. Upon returning to school, a child being treated for head lice must report to the health room first and have his/her head checked before going to the classroom.

BLOODBORNE DISEASE

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

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

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

FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted on a regular basis. During a fire drill everyone including visitors and volunteers must vacate the building. Students are to go quickly and quietly to the assigned place outside the building where the teacher will take roll to ensure all of the students have safely evacuated the building. Students are expected to remain silent and to follow instructions promptly.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT--STUDENTS

Sexuality affects all aspects of the person, including in a general way the aptitude for forming bonds of communion with others. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Arlington endeavors to provide for its

students an atmosphere free from sexual harassment.

1. No student is to sexually harass another member of the school community. Any student who engages in sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
2. 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. "Unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature" includes, but is not limited to, "the deliberate, repeated making of unsolicited gestures or comments, or the deliberate, repeated display of offensive, sexually graphic materials which is not necessary for school purposes."
3. Any student who believes that he or she is being sexually harassed shall immediately report such information to the supervising teacher and to the school principal/administration. A student who is uncomfortable for any reason in reporting such alleged harassment to the teacher and/or school principal/administration, or is not satisfied in doing so, may report the matter directly to the Superintendent of Schools. Any information reported shall, to the extent possible, be treated as confidential. All claims of sexual harassment shall be thoroughly investigated in an appropriate manner under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools and/or another designated Chancery official
4. No student will be subject to any retaliation or disciplinary action on the part of the school for reports of sexual harassment made in good faith.
5. In adherence to the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, schools will offer the "Safe Environment Program" endorsed by the Office of Catholic Schools. This program will be presented annually to students in selected grades (Policy 616.5).

Parents should be afforded the opportunity to review the materials prior to presenting the program at any given grade level and reserve the right to remove their children from the classes.

BULLYING

Bullying is prohibited and is defined as one or more actions of abusive treatment of another. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Physical intimidation or assault
- b. Extortion
- c. Oral or written threats
- d. Teasing
- e. Putdowns
- f. Name calling
- g. Threatening looks
- h. Gestures or acts of aggression (Overt and Covert)
- i. Cruel rumors & false accusations

- j. Social Isolation
- k. Cyber-bullying

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

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

- a. Consequences for students who bully others shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include:
 - Counseling
 - Parent conference
 - Detention
 - Suspension and/or Expulsion
- b. Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the principal may also report incidents of bullying to law enforcement if appropriate.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

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

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Catholic school recognizes the beauty and potential inherent within each student. In an effort to foster continued growth, the school embraces the challenge to provide assistance and programs to serve students with special needs according to the resources available within/to the school. Parents are considered an integral part of the process.

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

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

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

St. John Academy has a Resource Program to aid students with special needs. The classroom teacher recommends students for this program after consultation with the parents. Special needs students meet with the resource teacher during the week and are given a Student Assistance Plan outlining accommodations that are then implemented by the classroom teacher. Accommodations for students with an ISP from the public schools are discussed with the parents and implemented where possible. Arrangements may be made for specialized testing either privately or through the public school system. The parents, resource teacher and classroom teacher meet throughout the year to evaluate and discuss the student's progress.

EXTENDED DAY

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

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

CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

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

OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS

All non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall not be kept or used beyond the expiration date of the product.

For all over-the-counter skin products,

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

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

LICENSING INFORMATION

The Commonwealth of Virginia helps assure parents that child day programs that assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child for any part of a 24-hour day are safe. Title 63.1, Chapter 10 of the Code of Virginia gives the Department of Social Services authority to license these programs. While there are some legislative exemptions to licensure, licensed programs include child day centers, family day homes, child day center systems, and family day systems. The state may also voluntarily register family day homes, which are not required to be licensed.

Standards for licensed child day centers address certain health precautions, adequate play space, a ratio of children per staff member, equipment, program, and record keeping. Criminal record checks and specific qualifications for staff and most volunteers working directly with children are also required. Standards require the facility to meet applicable fire, health and building codes.

Compliance with standards is determined by announced and unannounced visits to the program by licensing staff within the Department of Social Services. In addition, parents or other individuals may register a complaint about a program, which will be investigated if it violates a standard.

Three types of licensing may be issued to programs. Conditional licenses may be issued to a new program to allow up to six months for the program to demonstrate compliance with the standards. A regular license is issued when the program substantially meets the standards for licensure. A provisional license, which cannot exceed six months, is issued when the program is temporarily unable to comply with the standards. Operating without a license when required constitutes a misdemeanor which, upon conviction, can be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for each day's violation.

If you would like additional information about the licensing of child day programs or would like to register a complaint, please contact the Regional Office of Social Services closest to you.

Fairfax Licensing Office
11320 Random Hill Road, Ste. 200
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 934-1505

Verona Licensing Office
Post Office Box 350
Verona, Virginia 24482-0350
(540) 248-9345

Northern Virginia Regional Office
320 Hospital Drive, Suite #23
Warrenton, VA 22186
(540) 347-6345
Central Regional Offices
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 130
Richmond, VA 23229-5008
(804) 662-9743

Piedmont Regional Office
Commonwealth of Virginia Building
210 Church Street, S.W., Ste. 100
Roanoke, VA 24011-1779
(540) 857-7920

Eastern Regional Office
Pembroke Office Park
Pembroke Four Office Building, Suite 300
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5496
(757) 491-3990

Abingdon Licensing Office
190 Patton Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
(540) 676-549

INSURANCE

The extended day program is covered by public liability insurance through the Diocese of Arlington and the Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America. Student insurance must be provided by the family through their own policy or purchased through an independent school insurance provider. The school will send home optional policies each fall for the families to consider.

TAX INFORMATION

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

St. John Academy's Extended Day is available daily. Extended Day is closed the day on which the school dismisses students for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter holidays, the last day of school in June and any day the school is not in session. The program is designed to meet the needs of students who are enrolled in the School (*grades K through Grade 8*) and whose parents are interested in a program of quality care after school hours (until 6:00 PM). The Extended Day Program is flexible to meet the needs of our families. Under Plan A, parents enroll their child(ren) for a specific number of days per week or month. Payment is on a weekly basis. Under Plan B, parents may take advantage of the program occasionally or in case of an emergency; however, parents must notify the School Office or the Program Director before 2:00 PM (10:30 AM on early release days) on the particular day. Payment is made on the day in which their child(ren) participates in the program unless other arrangements are made. Prior registration for either plan is required and an application fee paid. For further information please call the School Office (356-7554) or the Program Director **after 3:30 PM** (703-303-5488)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

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

APPENDICES

[Insert Diocesan Forms here--mandatory]