

## **PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021-2022**

### **Mission and School Governance**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School is an educational community that provides, Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, an environment centered in faith formation, rigorous academics, and service to others. We recognize the value and dignity of individuals living out their Catholic values, while fostering their own gifts and talents.

#### **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

We believe that St. Francis de Sales Catholic School will:

- Instill and nurture the development of Catholic values in its students, parents, and faculty.
- Be an educational ministry and an integral part of the community.
- Provide a safe environment for students, staff, and families.
- Provide a comprehensive academic program that is both rigorous and challenging.
- Prepare the students academically and morally to succeed in today's society.
- Foster emotional, social, and physical development.
- Have facilities and equipment that are current and prepare students for a technologically oriented world.

#### **PROFILE OF A GRADUATE**

A St. Francis de Sales graduate models Jesus in thoughts, words, and deeds while:

- Recognizing God in others while acting with kindness, courage, and peace.
- Living out faith, mercy, empathy, and justice through service.
- Possessing critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Demonstrating academic integrity and effective study habits.
- Listening actively and communicating effectively.
- Utilizing and adapting to technology.
- Aspiring to higher education and career readiness.

#### **SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

Saint Francis de Sales School is committed to helping each student achieve the goal of becoming a fully responsible Christian citizen. We strive to integrate the Gospel message in all areas of the curriculum. We are devoted to building community in our families, our church, our neighborhoods and our world. We are dedicated to the service of others. Together we express our faith as a worshipping community. We are responsible for the care and education of the whole person. We recognize each student as a unique gift of God's creation entitled to an education that motivates the individual to achieve her/his potential.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

We are a Catholic elementary and middle school affiliated with the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wilmington. The pastor is the spiritual leader of the parish and is responsible for the various ministries of the parish, including the ministry of education. The Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington delegates to the pastor the responsibility of supporting and maintaining the school and providing for the spiritual needs of the school community. With his associates, the pastor takes an active role in the religious and moral development of the students, and in the support and development of the spiritual lives of the students, the administration and faculty, and the parents.

The Principal is the spiritual leader of the school, and is responsible for its daily Catholic Identity. The principal supervises the instructional delivery of the Diocesan curriculum.

Our school is guided by a Board of Specified Jurisdiction. This group helps lead the school through the work of five committees. These are finance, membership, facilities, development and enrollment. The Pastor is a member of this board. The principal is a non-voting member.

#### **HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

All parents are members of the Home and School Association upon registration of their children and payment of annual dues. Families are encouraged to participate in all activities of the H.S.A. and attend scheduled functions and/or meetings.

The objectives of this organization are as follows:

1. To provide a structure within which the school community can assist the administration in creating a Christian environment that fosters the moral, educational, and physical growth of students.
2. To promote the active participation by parents in all aspects of their children's education and welfare.
3. To secure resources for auxiliary programming, services and materials that enrich the educational experience of the children.
4. To provide a forum for discussion and expression of specific needs of the school.
5. To foster communication between the school, teachers and parents.

#### **ADMISSION POLICY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON**

Children are admitted to school for Pre-Kindergarten 3 if they are 3 years of age or older before September 1, Pre-Kindergarten 4 if they are 4 years of age or older before September 1 and Kindergarten if they are 5 years of age before September 1. Students for grade 1 must be 6 years of age before September 1 and have successfully completed Kindergarten. An original birth certificate is required along with a certificate of baptism for Catholics not baptized in St. Francis de Sales Parish. A health certificate containing current immunization information is required along with the social security number of the student. All registrations must be made in person with original certificates. An assessment is given to all new students before acceptance is finalized. School records must be received before final acceptance. Admission is determined on a year by year basis with priority given to active parishioners of St. Francis de Sales Parish. Any student/family who requests a transfer to another school may be asked to complete an exit interview and/or survey. All financial obligations are to be paid before a student's records can be released from St. Francis de Sales.

#### **IMMUNIZATION POLICY**

As a school in the Diocese of Wilmington, we do not accept any waivers for religious reasons for immunizations that are required by the State of Maryland. All students must have all immunizations up to date and provide documentation to the school nurse. There may be rare exceptions to immunizations due to medical complications. These would have to be documented by a physician and shared with the school nurse.

#### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic School does not discriminate against applicants or students on the basis of race, color, gender, religious, national and ethnic origin as well as sexual orientation.

#### **ASBESTOS INSPECTION**

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the Management Plan for Asbestos-Containing Materials is available for your inspection at the school office.

#### **RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND WORSHIP**

The development of each child's faith life is fostered through times of prayer, participation in religious celebrations, liturgy, services and the study of Scriptures, thereby providing a Christian foundation and climate of faith in which to mature. Non-Catholic students participate in all religious activities and classes, except the Sacramental Life of the parish.

Sacramental preparation occurs through religion classes and the parish program. To be a part of the sacramental programs of First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation, a student must have completed one year of religion classes either in school or with the parish prior to the year of sacramental preparation. Children in second grade will be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Confirmation is celebrated at the end of eighth grade.

Saint Francis de Sales School exists as a vital part of the worshiping community of Saint Francis de Sales Parish. Our Catholic students' presence at Mass on Sundays manifests their faith life and the commitment of the school to witness the sacramental life of the Church by participating in the celebration of the Eucharist. Our community advocates and expects that our school parishioners will be supportive and active in parish life and will attend Mass weekly.

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES and EXPECTATIONS**

### **Arrival**

- Arrive at **8:00 am**. Note that students who arrive before 7:50 am who are not signed up for before school care must have parental supervision.
- Teachers bring students inside at 8:05 am.
- Students who enter the school building **after 8:10 am are tardy**.

### **Dismissal**

- Prekindergarten 3 and 4 dismiss at 3:00 pm for those that stay all day. Parents/Guardians should park in the church lot and walk up to the teacher to sign the student out.
- Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade dismisses at 3:00 pm. Parents/Guardians will drive through the pick-up line for students.

### **Traffic procedures for arrival and dismissal**

\*Arrival/Dismissal is different for Prekindergarten. Parents need to park in the church parking lot and walk to and from the school with their child.

- **Arriving to School in the morning**

**"Kiss & Go" Traffic:** For those families that pull in, drop off children and leave.

1. Enter the Church lot from Riverside Drive.
2. Pull forward toward Camden Ave. past the Carriage House in a **single lane ONLY**.
3. Stop and deposit precious cargo.
4. Proceed to the exit on Camden Ave. **RIGHT TURN ONLY ONTO CAMDEN.**

**"Park & Walk" Traffic:** For Prek families that normally park and walk their children to their line.

1. Enter the Church lot from Riverside Drive.
2. Park in the direction of the Carriage House in the closest available space.
3. Walk your child to the appropriate class line.
4. DO NOT LEAVE the parking lot until the children have entered the building, by 8:05 AM.
5. Once in your vehicle, pull forward only. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL DRIVERS TO AVOID BACKING UP THEIR VEHICLES.
6. Exit the Riverside Dr. exit. **RIGHT TURN ONLY ONTO RIVERSIDE**

Reminders:

- ALL TRAFFIC MUST PULL FORWARD! PLEASE, NO BACKING UP.
- THE GATE NEAR THE CARRIAGE HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED BY 8:30 AM.
- PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AT ALL TIMES.

- **Dismissal from School in the afternoon**

**"Pick Up & Go" Traffic:** Children in K-8

1. Cars will be formed in one line. Teachers will determine how far back in the line the cars are to be loaded. You may not circumvent the staff member's decision.
2. Once the line of cars has been loaded, they will leave as directed by the faculty to exit turning right on Camden Ave.
3. The next group of cars will be directed forward by the staff member.
4. This procedure will continue until all cars have been loaded.

**"Park & Walk" Traffic:** For Prek and those families that might need to park and walk to the dismissal area or who have children participating in an after school extracurricular activity, making up school work or playing on the grounds past 3:20 PM.

1. Enter the church lot.
2. Park in the church parking lot and walk to your child's teacher. Escort your student to the car.
3. Leave the church lot onto Riverside Drive turning right only.

### **ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC REMINDERS**

- **Please be mindful of moving traffic in the parking lot. You must accompany (not send) your child(ren) to the car. (Drivers of moving cars do not always see darting children.)**
- **DO NOT PARK ALONG THE ATHLETIC FIELD.**
- Students should be accompanied by adults at all times during arrival and dismissal times.
- PLEASE! NO CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING in accordance with MD state law. Please Park & Walk if you require use of the phone.
- Children should know where they will be picked up each day. This is especially important at times of inclement weather.
- Children not picked up by 3:20PM will be sent to the office. Please notify the office if you will be late. If you know that you will not be able to pick up by this time each day, then you will need to enroll your child in aftercare.
- Please drive slowly at all times.
- Parents of students who walk or bike to and from school will need to notify the office in writing.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Illness may result in absence from school. Students **must stay home for 24 hours without fever, diarrhea or vomiting**; or following the first dose of a prescribed antibiotic in accordance with **Maryland State** regulations. All contagious illnesses must be reported as soon as diagnosed to the school nurse. Excessive absences not related to a health problem during any one trimester or during the school year may hinder advancement to the next grade the following year. More than **20 days** absent per year is considered excessive and may affect a student's academic standing and grade promotion. This guideline does not apply to quarantining due to COVID. Students who must quarantine will have packets sent home or will complete work upon returning to school. There will be no virtual option.

Please note that a child who arrives after 9:30 AM is considered absent for the first half of the day. A parent is expected to call or email the office any time before 9:30 AM on the day of the absence to report the absence of their child. An email or note is expected upon the child's return to school with the following information: Child's Name, Grade, Date of Absence, Reason, and Signature by a Parent or Guardian. If any student is absent for three or more consecutive days, a doctor's note is expected to be presented to the office. When a student in grades 6-8 has been absent from school for any reason, it is her/his responsibility to personally check with the teacher(s) to determine the work that has been missed during her/his absence and the possibility of make-up work where the teacher feels it is necessary. Parents of younger students will of course need to contact the teacher via email. Students will have the number of days they are absent with which to complete missing assignments. If an extended absence from school is necessary due to illness, please contact the homeroom teacher to coordinate completion of assignments. Absence from school excludes attendance/participation at ANY extra-curricular activities held that day. Perfect attendance for the year means no days absent or tardy. This includes non-school related early dismissal and being sent home ill.

### **VACATION ABSENCES**

Family vacations should be planned to coincide with school holiday periods whenever possible. Students need the continuity of the learning experiences provided through teacher presentations and student interaction. Written work alone cannot substitute for these experiences. If a family chooses to remove a student from school for a vacation, the office and teachers must be notified in writing (or via e-mail) regarding the dates that your child will not be in school. This will result in an unexcused absence. **NO ASSIGNMENT WILL BE GIVEN BEFORE OR DURING VACATION ABSENCES in keeping with Diocesan policy.** Students will make up work upon their return. No virtual option will be offered.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Medical appointments should be scheduled outside school hours and on school holidays whenever possible. A written request from the parent or guardian must be submitted to the office on or before the requested day of early dismissal stating the reason for this request. The note should clearly state who is picking up the student. The parent, or approved adult, must go to the office to sign out the student, who will be called to the office for dismissal. Students are responsible for any work missed due to an early dismissal. Students who leave school before 11:30 AM will be marked absent for half the day (afternoon). Students who arrive at school after 10:00 a.m. will be marked absent for half the day (morning).

### **TARDY**

Students must be inside school by the 8:10 AM tardy bell. Students who are late must report to the office to obtain an admittance slip to class. Students should expect to receive a Procedural Referral Detention form and serve a recess detention for each tardy incident that exceeds more than 5 unexcused tardies to school or class in any given trimester. Continued and repeated tardiness may result in afterschool detentions and a meeting with parents. Tardiness prevents a student from attaining perfect attendance and affects academic success.

### **TRUANCY**

Maryland State law requires all children between the ages of 5-18 who live in the state to attend school unless excused for medical reasons with a lawful absence.

## ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

It is important for the parent to update the office with phone (cell) number changes. This can be done by the parent in the parent portal of Power School. Emergency numbers for parents and two other people responsible for the child must be kept current. Parents will be notified by phone if a child becomes ill or is injured during an accident that occurs while at school. Should an urgent situation occur, parents are responsible to provide transportation for their child, unless it requires emergency services. If a child has a special medical condition, this information must be filed with the nurse.

*\*Should a child be suspected of having COVID, he/she will be quarantined with the nurse until a parent can pick them up. Maryland Childcare regulations state that they must be picked up from school within 30 minutes.*

## MEDICATIONS

Students needing medication, both prescription and over-the-counter, while at school must have a statement of permission signed by the doctor and parent. This permission must be updated yearly. A labeled bottle with the student's name and dosage is required and must be signed in by the nurse or the school office. No staff member may issue any medication to any student at any time, if not doctor prescribed. This includes applying sunscreen. Students are not permitted to carry medications, including cough drops and over-the-counter medications. Any surplus student medication that has not been retrieved by that child's parent or guardian by the last day of classes will be disposed of by the nursing staff.

## WATER BOTTLES

Students may bring a **clear** water bottle to school. We have water refill stations for students to use throughout the day.

## LEAVING SCHOOL CAMPUS

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds unaccompanied by a parent or teacher during school hours or during after school activities. If leaving campus during school hours, parents must sign out the student from the office prior to leaving. Students are required to remain "in sight" of teachers and supervisors at all times. In addition, students leaving campus at dismissal time are expected to notify school personnel upon departure from that adult's supervision.

## EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS

In the event of a SFdS school cancellation or other emergency, please stay tuned to WBOC (TV 16) for delays or closure announcements. Moreover, families will be notified by phone using the School Messenger system for any affected school closure or delayed opening. In the event that public schools open late or close early, parental discretion is advised. Please be sure that your emergency contact numbers are current in the parent portal. Some factors for closings or schedule changes will include the condition of roads in and around Wicomico County, parking conditions in and around school, and weather bulletins posted by the National Weather Service. The administration will make every effort to post announcements in a timely manner considering how early our school day begins.

## DRESS CODE (See school website for photos.)

**SCHOOL UNIFORMS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH LANDS END OR SCHOOL USED UNIFORM SWAP. ALL STUDENTS MUST BE IN THE COMPLETE REQUIRED SCHOOL UNIFORM UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.**

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN 3, 4 AND KINDERGARTEN

### BOYS AND GIRLS

#### FALL AND SPRING

T-shirt, grey with logo screen printed  
Shorts, maroon  
Socks, white crew  
Sneakers-Please avoid light up feature

### BOYS AND GIRLS

#### WINTER (NOVEMBER 1ST-APRIL 3RD)

T-shirt, grey with logo screen printed  
Sweatpants, maroon  
Socks, white crew  
Sweatshirt, maroon with logo screen printed  
(shorts may be worn UNDER sweatpants in case of indoor PE)  
Sneakers-Please avoid light up feature

## GRADES 1-5

### BOYS

#### Fall and Spring

Grey Shorts and Black Belt

### GIRLS

#### Fall and Spring

Gray Shorts and Black Belt or Grey Skort

Maroon Golf Shirt, logo  
Solid Black Dress Socks (no logos)  
Shoes, sturdy black dress

Maroon Golf Shirt, logo  
Socks, maroon knee highs  
Shoes, white saddle or sturdy black dress

**November 1st-April 3rd**

Grey Pants and Black Belt  
White Dress Shirt (short or long sleeve)  
Maroon Sweater vest or cardigan with logo  
Tie, maroon  
Socks, black, dress, no logos  
Shoes sturdy black dress

**November 1st –April 3rd**

Maroon Plaid School Jumper  
White Blouse (Peter Pan collar, short or long sleeve)  
Maroon cardigan with logo (optional)  
Socks, maroon knee highs or tights  
Shoes, white saddle, or sturdy black dress

**GRADES 6 - 8**

**BOYS**

**Fall and Spring**

Grey Walking Shorts or long Pants  
Black Belt  
Maroon School Golf Shirt, logo  
Black Dress Socks  
Shoes, sturdy black dress  
or Vans grey tie sneaker with **no stripes**

**GIRLS**

**Fall and Spring**

Grey Walking Shorts or Maroon Plaid Kilt or Skirt  
Maroon School Golf Shirt, logo  
Maroon Socks or tights  
Shoes, white saddle, sturdy black dress or Vans grey tie sneaker with **no stripes**

**November – April**

Grey Dress Pants and Black Belt  
White Oxford Shirt (short or long sleeve)  
Maroon tie  
Maroon Sweater vest or cardigan with logo  
Blazer jacket, black (optional)  
Black Dress Socks no logos  
Shoes, sturdy black dress  
or Vans, grey tie sneaker, no stripes

**November - April**

Maroon Plaid School Skirt or skort  
White Oxford Blouse (short or long sleeve)  
Maroon Sweater vest or cardigan with logo  
Blazer jacket, black (optional)  
Grey pants (optional) for very cold days  
Maroon Knee Highs or Tights  
Shoes, white saddle, sturdy black dress or Vans, grey tie sneaker, no stripes

**Physical Education uniform all grades PreK 3 and 4 through 8<sup>th</sup>**

**All students wear PE uniform to school on their designated day for PE.**

**Boys and Girls**

**Fall and Spring**

T-shirt, grey with logo screen printed  
Shorts, maroon  
Socks, white crew  
Sneakers-Please avoid light up feature

**Winter (November 1st-April 3rd)**

T-shirt, grey with logo screen printed  
Sweatpants, maroon  
Sweatshirt, maroon with logo screen printed  
(shorts may be worn UNDER sweatpants in case of indoor PE)  
Socks, white crew  
Sneakers-Please avoid light up feature

**Other Dress Code Details:**

- **Parents must take responsibility for their student's uniform attire every day.**
- Uniform school shorts, skirts and pants must be worn at the waist. Shorts, , skirts, skorts, jumpers and kilts should come down to **the knee** and they must **not** be rolled up at the top. Uniform shirts and PE shirts must be worn tucked in at all times.
- Nail polish, false eye lashes, false fingernails and make-up are **not permitted** for any student.
- Girls may wear single stud earrings. (no hoops or dangle earrings) Jewelry is to be limited to one religious necklace and no more than one wrist adornment such as a bracelet or watch. No ankle bracelets may be worn.
- Student hairstyles are to be clean and neat. Fad or extreme hairstyles are not permitted for any student. Hair may not be "spiked" with gel. Boys' hair must be evenly cut and ABOVE the collar and ears. Hair is to be kept off the face for all students. Hair may not

be dyed an un-natural hair color.

- **Hair accessories must be white, grey or maroon.**
- Body decorations such as tattoos and piercings will not be permitted, except for girls' earrings (small post). Students may not wear hats, bandanas, scarves, or sunglasses indoors.
- Students may not use cologne, perfume or scented lotions, since it may bother others with allergies.
- All articles of clothing should be labeled with the name of the student in order to return it in the event of loss. The school is not responsible for lost, misplaced or misappropriated clothing!
- If attire, accessories, or hair are questionable, the determination will be made by the principal along with the homeroom teacher. Parents will be called to bring the appropriate uniform.

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE UNIFORM CODE MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

## **N.U.T. DAYS**

On certain occasions students are permitted to be out of uniform. On these **NUT days (No Uniform Today)** students are encouraged to "dress up". Students may wear jeans that are not baggy and have **NO holes**. In addition, the following are **NOT permitted**: tank tops, yoga or other tight pants, camouflage, flip flops, hats, baggy sweat pants, halter tops, bare midriffs or sheer clothing. Shorts, skirts and dresses should touch the knee. Shirts should not contain sayings or pictures that have inappropriate language or advertisements. Nail polish and other make-up is still prohibited on NUT days. The principal and faculty will determine the suitability and therefore violation of any item of clothing worn by a student on a NUT day. For such infractions, the students will call home for appropriate clothing to be brought to change.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

On the day of or nearest to your child's birthday, he/she may have a personal NUT day. If your child has a summer or holiday birthday, he/she may choose the date of their "half-birthday" day to celebrate. The selected day must be pre-arranged with the child's homeroom teacher. On days such as Mass/prayer service days, school pictures, field trips and other days requiring uniforms, your child may choose the day before or after to celebrate. NUT day dress code regulations must be followed. The homeroom teacher will inform you as to classroom regulations for birthday snacks. Please be aware that there are students in our school who have severe food allergies. It is important that there is strict avoidance of certain foods in order to prevent life-threatening allergic reactions. Please check with the teacher before providing any snacks to the class. Snacks are expected to be a small or of modest proportion and will be distributed among the birthday student's classmates only. Distribution of birthday invitations in the classroom is permitted only if the entire class is receiving invitations to the celebration. If the entire class is not invited, we ask that you use other methods to distribute the invitations in respect to all.

## **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Reasonable care of the school buildings, furnishings, books, Chromebooks and other instructional materials is expected at all times. If any book is torn or defaced, payment must be made for the replacement. Books must be covered at all times. Book bags are to be used by all students to transport to and from school. Destroying school property is subject to disciplinary action. This may include paying for damages.

## **VISITORS**

For the safety of our students, **all visitors**, including parent volunteers at the school, except at the times of public function, **must sign in/out at the school office before going through the school. Parents should not let visitors in the building without permission from staff.**

Parents are to schedule conferences in advance at times convenient for both teachers and parents. Conferences will be scheduled at such times that they do not interrupt or interfere with a teacher's class. Parents may not interrupt teachers during class time since the teachers have the responsibility to supervise the students. Unless mutually agreed upon, dropping by for a conference before school is not appropriate.

## **USE OF TELEPHONE**

We make every effort to keep interruptions of the instructional program to a minimum. Therefore, teachers and students will not be called to the phone during the school day. Messages to students from parents will be taken and delivered by the school administrative assistant. Students are not permitted to use the school phones or their personal cell phones to call home for lunch, homework, changes in dismissal arrangements, etc. unless authorized by staff, faculty or the principal. The best way to contact teachers is via their school email.

## **SCHOOL/COMMUNICATION**

The school website **stfrancisdesales.net** includes most information needed by families. Teachers use **Class Tag** to post important information in real time. Each Wednesday, information about school events, important dates and happenings, etc., will be emailed as part of the **school newsletter**. Parents are expected to be aware of the information included in this weekly correspondence. When necessary, a hard copy of particular information will be sent through the **YOUNGEST and/or ONLY child** in the family. A school newspaper (**The Busy Beak**) is also

published periodically throughout the school year and is mailed home. Parents have access to their child's gradebook through the parent portal in PowerSchool. All families will receive their access code with which they can set up an account at Back to School Night.

## **PARENT COMMUNICATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

If social media posts reference St. Francis de Sales School or the administration, faculty, staff, or students of the school, parents and students are expected to use commentary which is **courteous and productive**. In addition, parents are expected to avoid comments that use social media sites to publish disparaging or harassing remarks about the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School and Church community or any of its members. We are a Christian community and as such should lift each other up at all times. Parents, students or other family members who choose to post editorial content to websites or other forms of online media must ensure that their submission does not reflect poorly upon the school. Care should always be taken to avoid libelous statements. Parents or students that habitually post negative dialog on social media about our community will be contacted by an agent of the school and may be asked to leave.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **Cell Phones/Texting:**

A student may have a cell phone in his/her school backpack, which is to be **kept turned off** while inside either their locker or classroom closet throughout the school day. If a cell phone is seen in use during the school day, no matter what the use (texting, talking, web access), the phone will be confiscated and the administration will contact the parent to come pick up the device. Repeated offenses or violations of the Diocesan **Acceptable Use Policy for Technology** will result in detention, suspension, and/or expulsion. Students may ask for permission to use their phone before or after school. Cell phones are not to be used during before or after care.

### **Electronic Devices**

We strive to maintain technological relevance in education, in providing the opportunity for students to use these devices in accordance with our **Acceptable Use Policy for Technology**. This opportunity is a privilege that requires extra caution and responsibility both on the part of the students and their parents. Students must obtain permission to bring electronic devices to school and may not access the school's wireless network without approval from the Technology Coordinator. Guest speakers or parents having business at the school (activities, board meetings, etc.) may use their own cellular service or request a login for the guest Wi-Fi network. St. Francis de Sales Catholic School as well as the Diocese of Wilmington are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronic devices.

### **Wearable Technology Policy**

Wearable technology, such as fitness trackers or Smart Watches, which allow for notifications, such as email alerts, caller ID, text notification, social networking, photo/video capturing, and/or calendar alerts are prohibited. No student in Pre-kindergarten 3 through Grade 2 may wear any form of wearable technology.

Devices that have the capability to connect to a personal technology device (cell phone, tablet, etc.) are never permitted, even if the connecting device is out of reach. Normal analog watches are permitted in all grades and encouraged for the learning of time telling.

Examples of allowed wearable technology in grades 3-8: Fitbit Flex, Fitbit One, Jawbone UP3

Examples of prohibited wearable technology in all grades: Apple Watch, Fitbit Alta, Fitbit Blaze, Fitbit Surge, Gizmo, Garmin Vivosmart or Samsung Watch.

Prohibited devices are not limited to the above named examples. Administration shall have the final say in all matters related to wearable technology.

### **Acceptable Use of Technology Policy:**

In an effort to ensure the safety of our students and the security of our school assets, our school along with the Diocese of Wilmington has developed an **Acceptable Use Policy** that is specific and clear. A student who violates any portion of the **Acceptable Use Policy** may immediately lose the privilege to use their electronic devices at school for a length of time commensurate with the nature of the violation.

1. All parents and students must sign and follow the Acceptable Use Policy.
2. Electronic devices are to be used only for academic activities assigned of or approved by the teacher.
3. All material on the electronic devices must comply with the spirit and policies of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School.

Please refer to the **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** on the school's website:

## **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AS REQUIRED BY THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON**

Access to technology is integral to the educational mission and purpose of our institution. These policies address the appropriate use of technology provided by the school and personally owned technological devices. This Technology Agreement is an abbreviation of full policies. For full policies, please refer to the complete version of the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy found on our school website. The responsibilities and expectations we have for our students, include but are not limited to:

- We expect our students to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology.
- Students should not expect that what they write or publish online is private. The school reserves the right to monitor and track all behaviors and interactions that take place online or through the use of technology on our property or at our events.



- The use of all school-owned technologies including the school network and its Internet connection is limited to educational purposes.
- **Commercial and recreational use of school technology resources is prohibited.**
- **Recreational use of the school technology is prohibited.**
- **All e-mails sent from school provided accounts are representative of the school.**
- **Connection to wireless Internet by students is prohibited unless otherwise directed/instructed.**
- Students are responsible for any activity that occurs through their personal account.
- Students must respect the privacy of others.
- Do not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to others.
  - Do not misrepresent or assume the identity of others.
  - **Do not re-post information that was sent to you privately without the permission of the person who sent you the information.**
  - **Do not post private information about another person.**
  - Do not post photos or videos of others without prior permission.
  - Do not use another person's account. If you have been given an account with special privileges, do not use that account outside of the terms with which you were given access to that account.
- Do not voluntarily post private information about yourself online, including your name, your age, your school name, your address, your phone number, or other identifying information.
- Our institution prides itself on its reputation for excellence; therefore, you may not use the school's name, logo, mascot or other likeness or representation on a non-school website without express permission from school administration.
- Students may not initiate electronic communication with teachers, adult leaders in ministry, or administrators unless authorized to do so.
- Personal Technology Devices (PTDs) are for use only during an actual lock down and as instructed by emergency or parish/school personnel.
- Never use devices capable of capturing, transmitting, or storing images or recordings to record others without the expressed permission of the person(s) being recorded (including adult leaders and other young people). Such recording devices may never be accessed, turned on or operated in restrooms, sleeping areas, dressing rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Teachers or school personnel reserve the right to confiscate, collect, and inspect any PTD in accord with written policies.
- Social networking websites, profiles, or accounts, may not be accessed through the school's technology at any time. Students may not create social networking pages, accounts, sites, or groups that impersonate or misrepresent any individual. Prudent and appropriate use of any off-campus social media outlet should be done in a manner that is respectful to their standing as a member of the SFdS community. Actions contrary to this practice will be considered by the administration and thus might encounter school sanctions.
- Students may not access material that is offensive, profane, or obscene including pornography and hate literature.
- Inappropriate communication is prohibited in any public messages, private messages, and material posted online by students.
- Students may not utilize any technology to harass, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
- Unless explicit permission is granted by legitimate authority, students are not allowed to bring iPods, MP3 players, CD players, DVD players, or other similar data-accessing devices, or personal video game systems onto school property or to school events.
- International websites may only be accessed from school owned technology under the direction of legitimate authority.
- All students are expected to maintain academic honesty.
- All access to the Internet is filtered and monitored.
- Unless legitimate authority grants explicit permission, students are not allowed to alter, change, modify, repair, or reconfigure settings on school-owned computers. This includes downloading, adding, or installing new programs, software, or hardware.
- If you accidentally access inappropriate information or if someone sends you inappropriate information, you should immediately tell a staff member or teacher.
- If you witness someone else either deliberately or accidentally access inappropriate information or use technology in a way that violates this policy, you must report the incident as soon as possible.
- The school retains the right to suspend service, accounts, and access to data, including student files and any other stored data.
- The school is not responsible for any damages students may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruption of service.

Parents and students are required to read the Acceptable Use Agreement and sign it each year. **It is available on the school website for parents to print and sign.**

## PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF STUDENTS

Occasionally the school publishes information about school activities or student accomplishments including names, pictures, and/or student work. Permission of parents is required each year regarding the publication of these pictures, activities or accomplishments. This Permission Form is available on our school website and as well, is distributed in the packet at Back to School Night. Parents are requested to indicate their choice and return the form with their signature and date. **Forms not submitted will be interpreted as granted permission to the school to post/use photographic images.**

## LOST AND FOUND

**THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ITEMS THAT ARE LOST, MISSING OR MISAPPROPRIATED. FOUND ARTICLES WILL TYPICALLY BE DONATED TWICE A TRIMESTER. ALL CLOTHING AND LUNCH BAGS MUST BE LABELED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES. LABELED CLOTHING WILL BE RETURNED TO STUDENTS. A LOST AND FOUND BIN SITS IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The safety of the students, faculty, and staff is our top priority. Our parent notification system, School Messenger, allows us to send a timely message via all contact numbers to the parents of **ALL** of our students after an emergency or incident has occurred at school. It is imperative that parents provide the school with their most up to date contact information using the parent portal in Power School.

**If parents are to pick up their children, they must sign them out and may need to provide proper identification. Other persons listed on the Emergency Form may also sign children out provided they have the proper identification. NO child will be released without proper identification.**

In accordance with the Maryland State and Diocese of Wilmington regulations, we participate in emergency drills every month. These will include at the very least one fire drill per month and one of each of the following-lockdown, intruder, shelter in place, bomb/evacuation and tornado/severe weather throughout the year. Students are trained to move quickly and quietly to their designated locations. Fire equipment is inspected in accordance with state law requirements. St. Francis de Sales School has developed a comprehensive crisis management plan that is a workable response primarily focused on ensuring the safety, emotional and spiritual well-being of students and staff. This plan focuses on the prevention of problems and provides a positive approach to unforeseen events. We teach students and teachers situational awareness.

The faculty and staff have received extensive Active Shooter response training with local county and city first responders. They have also been trained in basic first aid (Epi-pens/AED) by our nurses, and Stop the Bleed and Narcan training from Peninsula Medical Center. Our childcare team, early childhood teachers, assistants, and before/aftercare staff, are all CPR certified per the State of Maryland guidelines.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are called to develop in their children good habits of behavior as well as demonstrate respect and proper attitudes toward school. To help children, all parents should:

1. Maintain positive communication among students, faculty, staff and administration.
2. Teach and explain to children respect for rules, authority, faculty and staff, the rights of others, and for private and public property.
3. Monitor student academic progress via the Parent Portal as part of our Power School platform.
4. Insist on prompt and regular school attendance and comply with attendance rules and procedures.
5. Communicate with the school nurse about health requirements:
  - a. Immunization Records/Health Inventories
  - b. Current Medications
  - c. Allergy Protocol
  - d. Short and Long Term Illnesses
6. Attend requested parent-teacher conferences.
7. Keep current with activities and assignments via the Wednesday newsletter and teacher communications.
8. Carry out recommendations made in the best interest of the child.
9. Comply with the procedures of the school concerning student conduct and cooperate in carrying out disciplinary action.
10. Model Catholic Christian values with the child.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are called to positively contribute to the educational and spiritual environment of our school. To accomplish this, all students should:

1. Recognize and respect the authority of the faculty, staff and administration.
2. Work to their fullest potential.
3. Conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner.
4. Accept responsibility for their actions.
5. Respect the rights and property of others.
6. Obey school procedures and regulations.
7. Arrive on time to school and classes daily.
8. Observe the dress code policies.
9. Refrain from damaging and defacing the school property and environment.
10. Model Catholic Christian values.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR / DISCIPLINE

The immediate objective of school discipline is to maintain effective teaching and learning conditions. While positive behavior is reinforced, consequences will be administered when any individual's actions interfere with the right of teachers to teach, students to learn, and all to be safe. In addition to school wide policies, students must adhere to individual classroom procedures and accept consequences when the procedures are not followed. Any faculty, staff or administrator has the authority and responsibility to correct any inappropriate or unacceptable behavior that occurs on campus and during any school sanctioned events. If flagrant violations of school rules take place or repeated indifference to correction is demonstrated, appropriate disciplinary action must be taken.

## CONDUCT / PROCEDURAL REFERRALS

A Conduct-Procedural Referral Form is used to communicate violations of school policies and procedures. A referral may be issued by faculty, staff, or administration. The written referral will be accompanied by an email from the teacher or administrator. It must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned the next school day.

### Conduct referrals may be administered for:

1. Failure to observe school/class rules
2. Destruction of school property
3. Disrespectful/discourteous/rude behavior to an adult
4. Unacceptable physical contact or striking of another student
5. Multiple or repeated incidents of insubordinate behavior
6. Public displays of affection
7. Academic dishonesty (plagiarism or cheating)
8. Other serious infractions

### Procedural referrals may be administered for:

1. Failure to observe school/class rules
2. Running in hallway/classroom
3. Inattentive behavior in class
4. Excessive talking or loud behavior
5. Inappropriate etiquette at school assemblies/liturgies
6. Failure to abide by the *Acceptable Use Policy for Technology*
7. Dress code infractions
8. Other incidents of disruptive or inappropriate behavior

### Conduct/Procedural Referrals may merit the assignment of one or more of the following:

1. Teacher conference held with student
2. Student referred to the principal
3. Lunch, recess, or after-school detention
4. Student removed from class
5. Student sent home
6. Student suspended
7. Parent contacted
8. Parent conference requested

## **DETENTION**

Teachers may use detention at their own discretion. Afterschool detention will typically be held until 4:00pm. Failure to attend detention sessions as scheduled may result in the assignment of additional time or suspension. Parents will be notified in writing by way of an office referral and email at least 24 hours before a scheduled afterschool detention is to be served. The detention period will require the student to complete assigned work that might be academic or reflective in nature.

## **SUSPENSION**

Suspension may be given to a student for serious infractions of the school rules. The student will be removed from the classroom for one or more days. During an in-school suspension, the student will be removed from class and supervised by the administrator. During an out-of-school suspension parents provide supervision of the student. Students must complete all assignments given during the suspension period. While suspended, the student is ineligible to attend or participate in any school sponsored activity. In addition, the student is placed on probation until the next Progress Report is distributed.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROBATION**

A student is placed on probation for any serious misconduct. The probationary time period will be determined by the Principal. This designation is assigned to a student who has failed to demonstrate improvement in conduct after warnings or who has been involved in a serious offense against school policy. Probation is both a formal notification to parents that their child may face possible expulsion if further behavioral issues continue to occur, and as well, a trial period in which the student must demonstrate significant improvement in behavior. A violation of probation may result in immediate dismissal by the Principal if circumstances warrant such action.

## **EXPULSION**

Expulsion is a denial of the right to attend school for the remainder of the school year and thereafter. It is warranted when extreme violations of school rules take place, repeated indifference to correction is demonstrated, or the well-being of those within the school community has been jeopardized. This action and the authority to do so lie in the hands of the principal, pastor and the superintendent of Catholic Schools. Parent and student will attend a meeting conducted by the administration before the expulsion is finalized. The following list gives examples of student behavior that violate school policy and may result expulsion whether they occur at school or during school sponsored activities:

1. Physical or psychological abuse of others.
2. Insolence, disrespect, or insubordination of authority.
3. Extortion.
4. Arson.
5. Grave defacing or destruction of school, church, personal property.
6. Habitual disruption of school function.
7. Possession of and/or trafficking in alcohol, tobacco, vaping products and illegal drugs, as well as their related paraphernalia.
8. Possession of a weapon, or any other dangerous article or look-alike weapon.
9. Possession of and/or trafficking in pornographic materials.
10. Criminal activity.
11. Conduct unbecoming a student of a Catholic school.

## **HARASSMENT & BULLYING BEHAVIOR**

As a member of the Body of Christ and part of the community of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, each person has a right to be treated with respect and dignity. As such, SFdS is committed to each student's success in learning within a caring, responsive, and safe environment that is free of harassment, discrimination, violence, and bullying. Our school works to ensure that all students have the opportunity and support to develop to their fullest potential and share a meaningful bond with people in the school community. Each student in our community has a right to:

- Learn in a safe place
- Be treated with respect
- Receive the help and support of caring adults

Bullying behaviors (physical, emotional and sexual) will not be tolerated in our Christ-centered environment. Some, but not all, examples of this behavior are the following: a repeated pattern of name calling, put downs, starting or spreading rumors, lying about another person, physical threats, intimidation, insults, negative gestures, facial expressions, writing/drawing unkind notes or pictures, and social media harassment that influences the climate of our school community. Appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken for violations of this policy.

## **ACADEMICS**

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic School is committed to providing the best possible education for its students. Realizing that each child is an individual and has a tremendous potential for achievement, the curriculum meets the needs of the student according to the standards of the Maryland Department of Education and within the guidelines set forth by the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Wilmington. Students receive instruction in religion, mathematics, language arts (reading/literature, English/grammar, spelling/vocabulary, penmanship, written expression), science, social studies, and Spanish. We also offer classes in art, technology, library, music and physical education.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports are emailed at the end of each trimester for grades PreK3-8 and are an indication of a student's achievement in various academic areas along with their effort and conduct. Formal parent/teacher conferences are held at the interim of the first and second trimesters. Individual conferences may always be made with specific teachers throughout the year. All financial obligations must be current in order to receive progress reports.

<b>Grades K-2 and Specials:</b>	<b>Progress Codes</b>	
	P	Demonstrates Proficiency
	G	Very Good Progress
	S	Satisfactory
	I	Improvement Needed
	N	Not Yet Demonstrating
	NA	Not Applicable

<b>Grades 3-8:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent Range</b>
	A	93-100
	B	85-92
	C	77-84
	D	70-76
	F	69 and below

#### **Effort/Conduct:**

**O**-Outstanding; **G**-Very Good; **S**-Satisfactory; **I**-Improvement Needed; **U**-Unsatisfactory

### **ACADEMIC DISTINCTION**

The following criteria have been established, in grades 6-8, for students to earn recognition for Academic Excellence and Academic Achievement for each marking term:

**Academic Excellence:** All As in major subjects. P's and G's in special subjects. Students must have S or better in Effort and Conduct.

**Academic Achievement:** A's and no more than four B's in major subjects. P's and G's in special subjects. Students must have S or better in Effort and Conduct.

**Major Subjects:** Religion, English/Grammar, Reading/Literature, Written Expression, Vocabulary/Spelling, Mathematics, Science, Spanish(8<sup>th</sup>), and Social Studies.

### **BENCHMARK TESTING**

Students participate in Renaissance Star 360 benchmark assessments three times each year. (September, February and May) These reading and math tests are used to make informed decisions about student instructional needs. Families will receive a parent report with their student's results. Students in kindergarten participate in a STAR Literacy assessment. This test offers insight for reading and math readiness. Students also take these assessments each month for internal progress monitoring.

### **STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS**

Parents have access to review their child(ren)'s records. This request must be made in writing to the principal, and the school will respond to the request within twenty-four hours. In the absence of a court order stating otherwise, a non-custodial parent has access to the academic records and to other school related information regarding the child(ren). If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with a copy of the court order. A transfer of student records to another school must be submitted to the school office by the receiving school. Records will be sent only with this official request. All financial obligations to the school must be settled prior to the transfer of such records.

## RETENTION

A student is promoted if he/she has successfully achieved the standards for the grade level. As the school year progresses, it may become evident that a student needs to be retained at the current grade level. In such a case, conversations between teachers and parents should be expected to begin during Trimester 2. This decision is not done lightly. Parents are provided specific information about the progress of the child. Students may be retained in a grade by the school administration in consultation with the teacher and parents if either or both of the following conditions exist:

- The student has not adequately completed the grade work or has a failing average in two major academic subjects.
- The student's maturation is developmentally, socially or emotionally delayed for the next grade level.

If approved by the principal, summer school or tutoring may be accepted in order to remediate these failures. The major subjects are: religion, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

In all cases, grade level retentions are a school decision and must have the approval of the principal.

## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

The school's policy is to assign homework to provide reinforcement of skills or content previously presented in class. Homework should be completed neatly and legibly. If this expectation is not adequately fulfilled, students may be required to redo assignments. Parents should not do their child's homework. Advice and direction are sometimes needed, but the child develops self-confidence and a sense of responsibility when working independently. If a written assignment has not been requested for the night, it is advisable for the student to review her/his work in preparation for the next day's classes. Homework is a review or added practice of a skill already taught in class.

The following arrangement itemizes the average expected written homework load for each night - Kindergarten: up to 15 minutes; First Grade: up to 20 minutes; Second Grade: up to 30 minutes; Third Grade: 35 minutes; Fourth Grade: 40 minutes; Fifth Grade: 50 minutes; Sixth through Eighth Grade: 60-80 minutes. The aforementioned average may not include reading or long term project assignments. In addition, these totals are merely an average and may exceed the specified minute total on any given night. In addition to daily written homework assignment, long range projects are also assigned.

All work missed through absences, etc., must be made up at the teacher's discretion. Students will have the number of days absent with which to complete missed work. Tests will typically be announced at least three to five days in advance. Student planners are given to students in grades K-8 and are utilized in each grade based on the specific teacher guidelines. Students are encouraged to use this organizational tool.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council provides the leadership in promoting the goals of Saint Francis de Sales School. It is responsible for organizing spiritual, educational, and social activities. Student Council is a main channel of communication between students and administration. It is open to students in grades 5-8 who qualify for membership. The Student Council is advisory in nature and all procedures and activities must meet with the approval of the faculty advisor and principal.

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Student membership in the National Junior Honor Society is based on outstanding Scholarship, Citizenship, Character, Service and Leadership. Students are eligible for membership after the second trimester of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are invited to join the NJHS if they have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 93 or above, Ps or Gs in special subjects, and Os or Gs in Effort and Conduct in all subjects. In addition, students being counseled for academic dishonesty, repeated behavior problems or inappropriate use of technology (as deemed by the *Acceptable Use Policy* of the Diocese of Wilmington) will not be eligible for membership or may lose their membership for violation of these various codes of conduct. Students who are invited to participate complete an application for membership. This application allows the student to demonstrate their strengths in the five characteristics for NJHS. These are scholarship, character, citizenship, leadership and service. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the five-member Faculty Council. A student is expected to maintain his/her cumulative GPA, grades in conduct and effort and service activities throughout his/her membership. Those students who do not continue to meet the qualifications listed above are subject to a probationary period of one trimester in which to correct the deficiency. If the deficiency is not corrected, the member is subject to dismissal.

## Programs

### CAFETERIA

Students may buy lunch on Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday. Lunches are paid through the use of an on-line POS food service system or cash/check payment may be sent in to the school office. Payment must be made in advance no credit can be extended. Children may also bring lunch from home. Students should not pack sodas or candy for lunch. We need parent volunteers to help serve lunches each day.

## Cafeteria Procedures

1. Students do not leave the classroom before the bell rings. The Grace before Meals prayer is to be said prior to leaving the classroom. Therefore, students may be immediately seated as they enter the lunchroom. All classes are to walk **quietly** to their assigned table. Students who are buying lunch may go directly to the line before going to their place. Grace after Meals is to be led by the teacher on duty before dismissal.
2. Only lunches should be on the tables. (no toys or books etc.)
3. All students should leave their place clean for the next class. Trash is to be put in the waste receptacles and the floor should be cleaned of all debris.
4. Other than use of the restroom facilities, students are not permitted to walk around the cafeteria. Everyone is to stay in her/his seat. Students are to ask permission from the supervising teacher to leave their lunch table.
5. Students should not be excessively noisy.
6. Students will be assigned to help wash tables after lunch.

## Recess Procedures

Students are permitted to play in the schoolyard during their recess period. For insurance purposes, there is always a teacher or assistant on duty. **ABSOLUTELY, NO ROUGH GAMES ARE PERMITTED AT ANYTIME.** The teachers/assistants on duty will be present before the first bell and to the end bell. Children who have a minor accident on the playground will be escorted by another student to the Nurses Office. In the case of a serious accident or emergency, teachers will escort the student to the Nurses Office.

The following guidelines are expected:

1. No rough play, such as kicking or hitting another student.
2. No standing on picnic tables or climbing trees.
3. No running or playing on the stairs or the ramp in front of the parish center.
4. No running or playing in the prayer garden or in the flower beds.
5. Students will exhibit sportsmanship in all play.

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

St. Francis' Before/After-School Programs are open for all students. They are held every day that school is in session. The aftercare program is **not** held the day before Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter holidays, the final day of Catholic Schools Week and the first and last day of school. The program begins on the first full day of classes in September and is held from dismissal time until 5:30 PM. Registration is required and is offered on a first come, first serve basis. While after-school care is provided during noon dismissal days, please note that these early dismissal days may incur an additional fee. Weekly payment is expected. Payment that is delinquent more than two weeks will likely result in removal from the program.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

St. Francis de Sales School offers several activities in which the students may participate if they meet the academic and physical requirements. Activities are field hockey, basketball, soccer, golf, lacrosse, school newspaper staff, band and choir participation. These activities are extra-curricular and should not interfere with academic progress.

For a well-rounded education, we offer a balance between academic studies and extra-curricular activities so that one has the opportunity to develop intellectually, morally, emotionally, physically and culturally. Parental permission is required for students who participate in these programs. Activities may require a fee.

A student who participates in any school or sport activity must maintain grades of C or above and at least Satisfactory in Conduct and Effort during participation. Students who do not maintain a C or above average may not participate in the activity until issued progress reports (report cards) or show adequate improvement as described by the administration. Students who participate in sports activities must maintain a yearly physical examination by a physician. **Students who are absent from school may not participate in or be present at any activity after school or be present on school property. Students who miss excessive amounts of practice without permission may not be able to participate in games. The principal holds the final decision on any issue relating to this policy.**

## COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend any community meeting, school assembly, function, Mass/Prayer Service, etc., even if their child is not actively participating. Your presence gives support and, at the same time, helps you keep in touch with the school. Proper audience behavior is expected.

## FIELD TRIPS

Periodically, students are taken on field trips as a part of their educational program. These trips are considered a privilege, and a student

may be denied participation if she/he fails to meet academic or behavioral requirements. When such trips are being planned, permission forms will be sent home to be signed and returned to school. Forms, other than the school form, will not be accepted. **Any student who fails to submit the St. Francis de Sales Permission Form signed by a parent will not be allowed to participate. Telephone calls or a fax are not typically accepted in lieu of the proper form being completed.** No refunds for the cost of the trip are given. A parent has the right to refuse to allow the child to participate in the field trip. If a student will not be participating, they will stay home from school. Siblings may not accompany students and/or parent chaperones on field trips. Any student who does not participate in the field trip will be marked absent. All chaperones must be cleared through a background check by the Diocese in order to accompany the students. (All trips are supervised by the classroom teacher and volunteer parents.) Students must remain for the entire class trip and will be dismissed from school. The school is not liable for any accidents or injury occurring during a class trip. When participating in a field trip, all school rules and sanctions apply. The Diocese of Wilmington does not permit over-night trips.

## **Tuition and Volunteering**

### **FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

Tuition covers approximately 75% of the total cost of educating a student at St. Francis de Sales School. Fundraising and contributions from the parish support the rest of the funds needed. Tuition paid is non-refundable and payments are expected to be current. Monthly payments should be signed up for direct withdrawal using the FACTS program.

**Please note that excessive delinquency of a family's financial obligations to the school may result in disenrollment from the school.**

Failure to complete financial obligations by the end of the school year will prohibit re-enrollment for the following year. It will also prevent parents from receiving student records. Other fees include the annual registration/re-enrollment payment. Additional fees include H.S.A. dues, Before/After School Care Programs, uniforms, team or co-curricular activity, class activities and trips.

A parent who is having unexpected financial difficulties should inform the business manager, Susan Flanagan, immediately. All tuition transactions are handled through the Business Office (410-742-6443).

### **VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT**

Since tuition and parish subsidy do not cover the cost of educating each child at St. Francis de Sales School, additional fees are derived from each family's participation in support of various fundraisers. Parents are also required to give no less than 30 hours of volunteer service during the school year. Volunteer hours are required to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The failure to complete the hours of volunteer service by the end of the fiscal year will result in a fee of \$15/hour for uncompleted service hours up to \$450. The recording of hours worked is to be entered by families into the Volunteer Service Program log book in the school office.

### **SCRIP Program**

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School families earn both volunteer hours and tuition money as a reward for purchase of SCRIP gift cards. This applies to both cards and online app purchases. The school gives families half of vendor rebates for this program.

1. The school incurs a \$30 administrative fee to cover mailing, copying and labor expenses. Once a family's SCRIP purchases have covered this fee, they begin to earn rewards.
2. For each \$2,000 in total purchases, families earn 5 volunteer hours for the current school year.
3. Families earn one half of the rebate amount for tuition credit for the next school year. For example, after purchases cover the administrative fee, a gift card for Food Lion for \$100.00 yields \$2.50 toward tuition.
4. The profits from SCRIP are directly deposited in the Home and School Association account. These funds are used for programs and resources that directly impact students. These include sports, technology and playground equipment. Support for this endeavor costs nothing extra for families while greatly benefitting our school.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

In accordance with the Diocese of Wilmington's "For the Sake of God's Children" mandate, **ALL** employees and volunteers (including but not limited to coaches, service providers, chaperones, classroom and lunch helpers) must complete a Criminal Background Check and receive clearance. Individuals will pay \$30 for a code from the office to be used by the vendor. The application is done online and once cleared lasts for 5 years.

### **LIBRARY BOOKS**



Students are responsible for lost or damaged books. All library materials must be returned as required before report cards will be issued. Families are required to pay for or replace lost or damaged books.

#### **PRINCIPAL'S RIGHT TO AMEND**

The administration reserves the right to rule on individual issues and retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause. For the most up-to-date version of the Parent-Student Handbook, families are asked to refer to the school website for its most current edition.

**(revised 8/1/2021)**