



— SPRINGFIELD —
CATHOLIC
— SCHOOLS —

www.springfieldcatholic.org

FAMILY HANDBOOK PS-8

MISSION STATEMENT

Springfield Catholic Schools prepares and empowers students, in an atmosphere of academic excellence, with God's help, to be sent forth as beacons of the Catholic faith and models of service.

VISION STATEMENT

Educating today's youth for tomorrow's discipleship.



Dear Springfield Catholic Schools Families,

Welcome to Springfield Catholic Schools! As we begin this school year, we do so with hearts inspired by our theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.” Like pilgrims on a journey, we walk together with faith, perseverance, and joy, trusting that God will guide our steps. Each day is an opportunity to grow in wisdom, deepen our relationship with Christ, and share His love with others.

Everything offered to you in this handbook is designed to assist and guide you as you work toward the goals set by our faculty and school system. We are committed to supporting you in every way we can. We encourage our students to be active learners and active participants in their educational journey, walking in hope toward the future God has prepared for them. Please take time as a family to read and discuss the contents of this handbook to help make the year a success.

We extend a special welcome to our new families. We are blessed that you have joined our community. Please know we are here to serve you, no question or concern is too small. We look forward to getting to know you and encourage you to be involved in the life of our schools in any way you can.

Our journey is not walked alone. We are stronger when we work together, and we warmly invite all parents, grandparents, family members, and close friends to join us in volunteering. Your time, talents, and presence enrich the lives of our students and help create lasting memories. For volunteer opportunities and procedures, please contact your school office.

As we embark on this year, we look forward to celebrating the spiritual growth, academic achievements, and joyful moments that will unfold. Let us communicate openly and walk together in faith. The administration, faculty, and staff of Springfield Catholic Schools are here to serve you.

May God bless you abundantly for your faith, your hope, and your commitment to Catholic education. Let us journey forward as Pilgrims of Hope, confident in the Lord’s promise to be with us every step of the way.

In Christ,

Jeanne Skahan

Director of Springfield Catholic Schools

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ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES

All local guidelines, policies and regulations contained in this student handbook are subject to the diocesan Catholic School Manual. During the year, Springfield Catholic Schools administration may need to revise, update and/or add to guidelines, regulations and/or policies included in this student guide. Parents will be given prompt notification.

THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR HAS FINAL RECOURSE OR CAN WAIVE ANY OR ALL REGULATIONS AT HIS/HER DISCRETION.

ACADEMICS

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways during the course of their studies at Springfield Catholic Schools. Progress reports for grades 1-8 will be available through the infinite Campus Portal at mid-quarter, and report cards for grades K-8 will be provided digitally at the end of each quarter. The following Diocesan scales will be used to determine grades:

Grades 4-8

A = 93-100

A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89

B = 83-86

B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79

C = 73-76

C- = 70-72

D+ = 68-69

D = 66-67

D- = 65

F = 64 and below

Grades K-3

E Excellent

S Satisfactory

P Progressing but not yet Satisfactory

U Unsatisfactory

Kindergarten Academics

I Independently performs the skill

P Progressing toward, but not yet achieved

B Beginning the skill

N No skill observed

Blank Skill not assessed this quarter

Kindergarten Specials Classes

E Excellent

S Satisfactory

P Progress but not yet Satisfactory

U Unsatisfactory

It is the responsibility of the parent to monitor their child's grades via the Infinite Campus online parent portal. Teachers will notify parents when they notice ongoing academic or social concerns that require more support.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to do their best to reach their potential while allowing other students to do the same. To create an environment conducive to learning, teachers will implement their own rules and procedures due to the difference in age and maturity.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

The goal of Springfield Catholic Schools is to bring each student to a level of maximum achievement and readiness for promotion to the next grade level. We believe that both mastery of skills and accountability are necessary for success.

Students failing at semester will follow a recovery plan approved by the classroom teacher and principal for a passing grade. For example, a set number of tutoring hours, summer school, mandatory study hall for grades 3-8. Any cost is the responsibility of the family.

- Failing grade
 - Kindergarten- (B)
 - Grades 1-3 (U)
 - Grades 4-8 (D/F)

A student whose academic performance indicates serious deficiencies will be placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation will be placed on an academic contract (length of plan to be determined on a case-by-case basis). The principal will provide the contract along with teacher input. The student's academic progress will be reevaluated at the end of the probationary period.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

As AI tools are being released and developed at a startling rate, our school's policy on the use of AI in research and writing emphasizes academic integrity, encourages critical thinking, and considers both the benefits and drawbacks of using AI tools. The school expects all members to comply with this policy and to use AI tools in a responsible and ethical manner. This policy may be subject to change and amended on short notice. The school is not responsible for AI generated content that may be offensive or dangerous, and relies upon students, faculty, and parents communicating with administration when such results become apparent. The administration will take measures to investigate and address any questionable AI tools. Should the AI tool be deemed too compromised, it could potentially be prohibited from use. Refer to Policy 1.44A (Approved June, 13, 2024)

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. (Plagiarism is stealing the words, ideas, etc. of

another and using them as one's own. Students who plagiarize do not give proper credit for the ideas or quotations of others.) Disciplinary measures will be left up to the teacher and administration on a case-by-case basis.

HONOR ROLL

Students in grades 5-8 receiving all A's or A/B's on any of the semester report cards will be considered for the school's Honor Roll.

RECESS

All students are expected to take part in activities outdoors unless the weather is bad or the student has been asked to stay inside by a teacher. Students should come properly dressed for outdoor play.

ACCREDITATION

Springfield Catholic Schools is accredited through the Missouri Chapter of the National Federation of Non-Public School State Accrediting Association. This association is composed of non-public schools in the states of Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan, Arkansas, and Georgia, and is recognized by the United States Department of Education, the Missouri State Board of Education, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton operate under the mantle of SCS and are fully accredited.

ADMISSION

Springfield Catholic Schools System is part of the teaching ministry of the Catholic Church. We are a parochial school system committed to fostering the faith development of our students.

In recognition of the important role parishes have in fostering the full development of our youth, our admissions procedures require that our Catholic parents obtain written approval from their Pastor to complete the registration process. (Policy 1.11).

Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Schools follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the school board for admission into Springfield Catholic School programs. The school system does employ a priority admission process. (Policy 1.13)

Requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Verification of Active Parish Affiliation/Stewardship (Catholic families only)
- Current Immunization Record (Policy 1.45)
- Baptismal Certificate (Catholic families only)
- Birth Certificate
- Release of Records from previous school, if applicable

All academic and behavioral records will be reviewed by school administration prior to admission to determine whether the programs available at Springfield Catholic Schools will meet the educational needs of the students.

All students are enrolled on a probationary basis. If during this probationary period there are any problems, a student may be asked to withdraw his/her attendance from Springfield Catholic Schools. The recommendation and decision of the school system is final. Springfield Catholic Schools is limited in its human capital resources and will make *reasonable* accommodations for learning differences when possible.

TRANSFER STUDENT GUIDELINES

All internal and external transfer students will be admitted to Springfield Catholic Schools on a probationary basis. The transfer process begins with the building administrator at the school in which you wish to transfer. It is the family's responsibility to contact the building administrator.

Transfer student policy guidelines include the following:

- The Director of Schools, Building Administrator, Coordinator of Student Services, and other appropriate personnel may contact the former schools regarding the student's educational history. Only students who are in good standing at their prior school will be considered for enrollment.
- The building administrator may conduct an interview/tour with parents and the student.
- The Director of Schools and building administrator will make the decision regarding enrollment and grade placement.

The building administrator, under the direction of the Director of Schools, will create a probationary enrollment agreement, which will be placed in the student's permanent file. The administrator may: (1) remove the enrollment agreement of the student, (2) extend the enrollment agreement of the student and/or (3) dismiss the student from school.

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the educational staff. Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irretrievably broken.

TUITION AND FEES

Please refer to School Board policies 1.21, 1.22, and 1.23 for all information related to tuition or contact our Central Office at 417-865-5567. The SCS policy manual is posted on the Springfield Catholic Schools' home page <http://www.springfieldcatholicschools.org/>.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

The safety of Springfield Catholic Schools students is the first consideration when arrival and dismissal procedures are developed. To ensure the safety of students, we ask that all parents or designated drivers respect and comply with all procedures. Teachers have been directed to enforce procedures, so please cooperate with them as they carry out these responsibilities.

Children will not be released to anyone other than their custodial parent/guardian or approved adult on the Infinite Campus portal during the school day unless the school is otherwise notified. Custodial parent or guardian must provide notification to the office prior to any child being picked up during the school day. Custodial parents or approved individuals by the custodial parent MUST report to the office and sign their child out before taking him/her from school any time during the school day. The office must be made aware of any custodial changes and legal documentation must be provided. Students who return to school after an appointment should be accompanied by a parent/guardian to be checked in.

Guidelines for Arrival and Dismissal

- Please refer to the diagram for each school building included in the appendix section of the handbook, which will provide directions for traffic flow for our arrival and dismissal procedures.
- No cell phones during the carline to ensure student and teacher safety.
- Pull your car as far forward in the loading zone as you can before you stop.
- All passengers should remain inside of their vehicles at all times during the carline.
- If you are parking, rather than using the car line, you must accompany your child to and/or from the school building.
- For the safety of the children, we ask that parents not pass other cars in the carline at arrival and dismissal times.
- Parents are expected to make arrangements to have their children picked up by no later than 3:30 (or 15 minutes after dismissal on early dismissal days.) The teachers' supervisory duties normally end at 3:30. Parents who do not use the PrimeTime or Extended Care programs and who do not pick up their children on time, place a hardship on the staff. If for some reason children have not been picked up after school by 3:30 p.m., they will be taken into the building to wait for parents, who must come into the building to pick them up. After 3 (three) infractions of picking up children late, parents will be asked to register for Prime Time or make other child care arrangements.
- Students who either walk or bike to and from school must have written permission from a parent and a route provided. These students will be dismissed at the conclusion of the car line.

- For liability reasons, the diocese does not allow for booster/car seats to be left at school for installation in a vehicle by someone other than a parent/guardian.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Asbestos-containing building materials are located within Immaculate Conception and St. Agnes schools. In their present condition they present no hazard to school occupants. An asbestos management plan has been developed to prevent the asbestos from becoming a hazard and is on file in the school office. This plan is available for inspection upon request and by appointment.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance and punctuality are conditions of enrollment at Springfield Catholic Schools. All parents are to call the school office by 9:00 a.m. if a student will be absent for the day. All healthy children are expected to be at school for the full school day. Parents are discouraged from taking their students out of school except for family emergencies or doctors' appointments. Tardy students must check in with the office upon arrival. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their assigned classroom by the tardy bell. Parents are requested to notify the office if a student will be leaving for an appointment during the school day. Students gone for less than 1 1/2 hours anytime during the school day will be issued a tardy. Springfield Catholic Schools requires students to "maintain an attendance record of at least 90% each semester. Students falling below this percentage may be put on an attendance contract. If the terms of the attendance contract are not met, the student may be asked to withdraw from Springfield Catholic Schools.

- Students who fall below 90% attendance will be notified in writing. If attendance does not improve, the student may be placed on an Attendance Probation Contract by the building administrator. If the terms of the attendance contract are not met in a timely manner, students may be asked to withdraw from Springfield Catholic Schools.
- Attendance percentage is calculated per semester.
- Please advise the office, classroom teachers and principal if there are special circumstances, illnesses etc. that might keep a student from regular attendance at school.
- Vacations are not considered special circumstances but may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Variables such as a student's academic performance, age, ability to make up and retain work, etc. may be considered prior to putting them on attendance probation.
- Makeup homework due to pre-planned absence will NOT be given ahead of time. All work will be given the same - One day for one day to make up when your child returns to school.

BIRTHDAYS/GIFTS

INVITATIONS

To prevent hurt feelings, we request that parents refrain from handing out invitations in the classroom for a party that is being held outside of school unless the ENTIRE CLASS or ALL THE BOYS or ALL THE GIRLS in the class are being invited; otherwise, they should be mailed to the student's home address. Valentines distributed at classroom parties should include a Valentine for each student in the class.

GIFTS

Students should not exchange individual gifts at school. This gesture only creates hurt feelings among other students.

CLASSROOM TREATS

In accordance with Wellness Policy 3.57, preference is given to healthy food items. Please ask your child's teacher about dietary needs of the class prior to sending treats.

BUILDING LEVEL ASSESSMENTS

Assessments are given in the classrooms throughout the year for all students in order to supervise their progress and evaluate programs within the school.

The i-Ready is administered three times throughout the school year in math and reading for grades 1-8 in order to provide instructional data. Kindergarten students will participate in assessments during the second semester.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The philosophy of discipline of Springfield Catholic schools is based on the life and teachings of Jesus. These principles are the foundations for Christian learning. Springfield Catholic schools will strive to provide an education in a safe, disruption-free environment where each person is valued as a unique individual. Students are to show care, concern and respect for all individuals. Students at Immaculate Conception School, St. Agnes Cathedral School, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School are expected to act in a way that reflects the strong Christian values that have been taught by their parents as well as reflecting the philosophy of the school. "Students who engage in conduct, whether inside or outside the school, that is detrimental to the reputation of the

school, faculty, or staff may be disciplined by school officials.” Positive reinforcement for good behavior and clearly established rules of conduct for the classroom and school building help students to know and understand what is expected of them while they are under our care and supervision. When occasions arise where students do not reflect those high values, teachers are expected to handle those situations appropriately and to communicate with the parents accordingly. Students have a responsibility to inform teachers or school administrators of inappropriate behavior directed toward them or any student or person as soon as possible. Repeated offenses, documented by the school, by the same person to another person could result in suspension or dismissal. If necessary, the principal and/or assistant principal will become involved to the extent that the teacher and/or parents believe it will be helpful or the administration feels it is necessary.

- Verbal teasing and threats will not be tolerated. (This includes cyber-bullying.)
- The possession and/or use of any potentially dangerous or lethal weapon is prohibited on all school campuses and at all school-related functions.
- “Threats of violence will be taken seriously.”

Diocesan guidelines are established that direct the administration in serious cases where suspension or expulsion might be considered. Students who are suspended from school may not participate or attend extracurricular activities when suspended from school. Corporal punishment is never an option; however, removal of student privileges or service work might be a consequence. Cooperation, communication, and a positive approach to the relationships between home and school will always be the key to happy and successful student life. “Students, coaches, parents and participants in or at any extracurricular event should demonstrate behavior that reflects the strong Christian values of Catholic education. Extracurricular events include academic and sporting events. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Anyone displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be asked to leave the event.” Making peace must start within us, in our homes, and in our school. Each of us, as members of the Springfield Catholic Schools community, commit ourselves to act as peaceful and respectful people:

- To Respect Self and Others: We will respect ourselves, affirm others, and avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks, and self-destructive behavior.
- To Communicate Better: We will share our feelings honestly, look for safe ways to express our unhappiness, and work at solving problems peacefully.
- To Listen: We will listen carefully to one another, especially to those who disagree with us, and consider others’ feelings and needs rather than insist on having our own way.
- To Forgive: We will apologize and make amends when we have hurt another, forgive those who have hurt us, and keep from holding grudges.
- To Respect Nature: We will treat the environment and all living things with respect and care.

- To Play Creatively: We will select activities and toys that support our school's values and avoid activities that make violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable.
- To Be Courageous: We will reject inappropriate behavior in all its forms whenever we encounter it, whether at home, at school, or in the community, and we will stand with others who are treated unfairly.
- "Let us, then, make it our aim to work for peace and to strengthen one another." Romans: 14, 19

ON-CAMPUS CONDUCT

In accordance with the stated philosophy of the school system, which emphasizes deep respect for the human dignity and uniqueness of every individual, each student will be considerate of the rights of others in all interactions. All students are expected to cooperate with the spirit and policies of the school system which are designed to foster mature development and personal responsibility. This requires courtesy in all personal relationships, promptness in fulfilling obligations, concern for the environment, and many other factors which the students' sense of appropriateness will indicate to them.

Items that detract from a learning situation are not allowed at school at any time:

- Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home unless it is for a special shared time in class, at which time it may be retrieved from their book bag.
- Electronic device cannot be used during the school day unless authorized by staff at appropriate times

OFF-CAMPUS CONDUCT

The Administration of Springfield Catholic Schools reserves the right to discipline its students for off-campus behavior that is not in line with behavior expectations of its students during the school day. This off-campus behavior includes, but is not limited to cyber-bullying, fighting, etc. by any means.

The principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises.

The school administration, in accordance with state laws, will determine the appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken concerning the presence of these items in the school.

PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION OF SCHOOL

Participation in student activities is a privilege and not a right. Creditable citizenship shall be

one of the criteria for participation in school activities. Creditable citizenship includes such things as regular and punctual attendance and a quality of conduct that promotes the best interests of the school. Therefore, students shall exhibit standards of behavior that will bring credit to the student, the activity, the school and the community.

Student activities at other Springfield Catholic Schools provide a program for students to pursue special interests in addition to the more formal class activities. Student activities help develop leadership abilities, promote school spirit and loyalty, establish habits of good citizenship, and provide opportunities to learn to work as a part of a group. Although student activities are important for the all-around development of students they must necessarily be of secondary importance. Regular classroom work must come first.

Students who attend Springfield Catholic Schools should model Christian conduct and decorum while at school, during all school-sponsored events, and/or when representing our school.

When students attend events/activities as representatives of their school, their conduct not only reflects on themselves and their families, but also on the entire school and Church community. Hence, behavior outside of school which harms the image of our school or displays attitudes which are contrary to Catholic beliefs and practices may result in disciplinary action.

COMMUNICATION

Springfield Catholic Schools follow a chain of command when parents and/or students have a concern or complaint. Please follow these procedures. See Appendix for specific details.

Consistent communication and cooperation between the home and the school is vital to the success of any school program. Teachers send the majority of their communications to the parents through their students' backpacks and/or digitally. We recommend that all parents check their child's backpack and parent email on file on a daily basis so that important information will not be missed. Some of the ways provided for communication are:

School Email: Office communication is sent in weekly newsletters. Please check your personal email on file weekly, if not daily.

Website: School information, Facebook link, and classroom web pages can be found at <http://www.scspk12.org> and clicking on your school building link. Please notify the office immediately if you do not have regular access to online sources.

Assessment: Student assessment is available online using Infinite Campus. Parents will be provided a username and password to access grades, quarterly report cards, lunch accounts and other student information.

When areas of concern arise, parents are invited to communicate openly and honestly with the people who are most closely involved with the situation and can most likely help to resolve the situation. Teachers can be contacted at school during school hours at which time appointments

can be arranged to discuss issues that relate to school concerns. Teachers will keep confidential information entrusted to them so long as no one's life, health or safety is at stake. The principal and assistant principal are available for conferences and appointments in the same way as teachers. Parents are encouraged to call ahead for an appointment with administrators.

The staff of Springfield Catholic Schools recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children. Since the parents authorize the school to serve as an extension of the educational process of the home, the attitude of parents toward the school and educational process should be one of respect and support. Parents are encouraged to share their honest suggestions and feedback through the proper channels. Parents are expected to support the school (teachers & administration) with the consequences imposed upon your child due to the actions of your child.

CONFERENCES

When concerns arise, parents are invited to communicate openly and honestly, first with the classroom teacher who is most closely involved with the situation and can most likely help to answer questions. Teachers can be contacted through the school office and an appropriate time to meet will be arranged. If the concern is not addressed or resolved, the building administration should be contacted.

Please Do Not "Pop In" or "Stop By" when you are dropping your child off or picking them up in the carline. All staff have duties first thing in the morning and after school during the carline. It is a matter of safety and fairness to all that you set up an appointment unless otherwise instructed by the teacher, principal or staff member.

A Parent-Teacher conference is scheduled for all students following the end of the first quarter. Additional conferences can be arranged at other times during the school year. The principal is also available for conferences. Parents are requested to call ahead for an appointment. Please do not use the carline as a conference opportunity, as it is not the appropriate time or place.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Springfield Catholic Schools has a written Crisis Management Plan. This plan is on file in the school office and is available for parents upon request.

CURRICULUM

Springfield Catholic Schools Curriculum Guides are available in the school offices.

Our curriculum fosters the tradition of faith development, service, and academic excellence. Our Catholic faith serves as the cornerstone of all curricular and instructional planning. National Content Area Standards, Missouri Learning Standards, and the Catholic Curriculum Standards guide curriculum development. Research-based teaching methods actively engage students in the

learning process. Differentiated instruction is instrumental in meeting academic needs. Project-based and cross-curricular assignments help students to work collaboratively to learn and explore. Diagnostic testing is utilized at all grade-levels and iReady assessments are administered to students three times a year. Springfield Catholic Schools' curriculum includes but is not limited to:

- ***Religion-*** Catholic doctrine and tradition, Bible Study, Catholic Social Teaching, preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will be modeled and taught. Students attend All-School Mass every week, with some grades attending a second weekly Mass, as well.
- ***Language Arts-*** Reading, English, Spelling, Vocabulary, Composition, Library Skills, and appreciation of Literature will be taught.
- ***Social Studies-***History, Geography, Economics, State History and Current Events will be taught and discussed. We will establish an environment in which multiple viewpoints will be discussed and analyzed.
- ***Mathematics-*** Mathematics Skills, Pre-Algebra, and a strong Basic Math skills base will be taught.
- ***Fine Arts-*** Vocal Music, Visual Arts, Virtual Arts, and Band
Note: Vocal music, and Visual arts are offered for students in K–Eighth grades.
- ***Science-*** General Sciences and Laboratory Experiences
- ***Physical Education-*** Physical fitness programs and skills appropriate for each grade will be taught. We believe that a strong physical mind and body are imperative to a good education.

Note: All children will be required to participate unless a doctor's excuse is presented. If on a particular day your child cannot participate, please send a signed note/email to your child's teacher. A daily note will be satisfactory for up to three consecutive P.E. classes. After three (3) consecutive missed classes, a doctor's statement is required. Physical education is graded according to a student's participation, positive attitude, sportsmanship, and behavior. **All students are required to wear tennis/athletic shoes for P.E.**

- ***Computer & Library Literacy-*** Internet etiquette, social media responsibility, appropriate and ethical use of any electronic device, integration of technology into everyday subjects and life, and basic word processing skills will be taught. Library research skills, primary and secondary sources, as well as investigating the source of information in an effort to seek the Truth, will be taught.

GIFTED PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Students participating in a gifted education program in addition to their enrollment at Springfield Catholic Schools are involved in a shared home/school/gifted program center curriculum. This curriculum presents unique situations to the school's professional staff, participating students, and the involved families. Those students who are eligible to receive gifted services through local public school districts may voluntarily choose to access that programming. Because participation results in students being in another location one day each week, this presents unique challenges to our buildings and class schedules. As attendance days are determined and scheduled by the local public school districts without the input of Springfield Catholic Schools, student participation may result in unavoidable missed classes in PE, music, art, Spanish, or technology.

The gifted program student shall be excused from standard classroom assignments and activities missed on the day he/she participates in the program. The student is responsible for the concepts, principles, and strategies developed on the day he participates in the gifted program. The student is not excused from the accountability associated with these missed concepts and should access the teacher website for information on homework and daily activities.

DISCIPLINE

The discipline philosophy of Springfield Catholic Schools is based on the life and teachings of Jesus. These principles are the foundation for Christian learning. Springfield Catholic Schools will strive to provide an education in a safe, disruption free environment where each person is valued as an individual. Students are to exhibit respect for all individuals. Students at Springfield Catholic Schools are expected to act in a way that reflects the strong Christian values that have been taught by their parents as well as reflecting the philosophy of the school. Clearly established rules of conduct for the classroom and school building help students to know and understand what is expected of them while they are under our care and supervision. Students who engage in conduct, whether inside or outside the school, that is detrimental to the reputation of the school, faculty, or staff may be disciplined by school officials.

Our goal is to teach that each child is worthy and deserving of respect. With this in mind, we strive to teach children self-discipline. Children need adults who will consistently model values and actions that are in accord with our Catholic philosophy. The uniqueness of each child must be considered thus not all students will be treated the exact same but fairly and justly. Positive reinforcement for good behavior and clearly established rules of conduct for the classroom and school building help students to know and understand what is expected of them while they are under our care and supervision. When occasions arise where students do not reflect those high values, teachers are expected to handle those situations appropriately and to communicate with the parents regarding these things. Students have a responsibility to inform teachers or school administrators of inappropriate behavior directed toward them or any student or person as soon as possible. Repeated offenses, documented by the school, by the same person to another person could result in suspension or dismissal. If necessary, the principal will become involved to the

extent that the teacher and/or parents believe it will be helpful or the administration feels it is necessary.

Diocesan guidelines are established that direct the administration in serious cases where suspension or expulsion might be considered. Cooperation, communication, and a positive approach to the relationship between home and school will always be the key to happy and successful student life.

Students who are suspended from school may not participate or attend extracurricular activities when suspended from school. Corporal punishment is never an option; however, removal of student privileges or service work might be a consequence.

Students, coaches, parents and participants in or at any extra-curricular event should demonstrate behavior that reflects the strong Christian values of Catholic education. Extracurricular events include academic and sporting events. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Anyone displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be asked to leave the event.

Springfield Catholic Schools takes bullying and cyberbullying very seriously. Please see Policy 1.39 in the later section for more details on actions taken by the school.

Bullying and cyberbullying should be reported to the student's teacher or a staff member immediately. Supportive action for the victim will be taken. Teachers and administration will investigate the allegations to validate that bullying/cyberbullying did take place by questioning any witnesses and all involved. If bullying/cyberbullying is validated, the student who is doing the bullying/cyberbullying, his/her parents, and the teacher or staff member will meet as soon as possible to discuss the situation and the action plan to be developed as a result.

TOY, FIDGET SPINNERS, ETC. IN THE CLASSROOM

Students are NOT to bring "collections, toys, cards etc. to school unless prior approval has been obtained from the Home Room teacher. These items can be a distraction in the classroom. The school staff retains the right to determine what is or may be a distraction. If your child needs an item to help with ADD or ADHD then the teacher will make the recommendation for an item to be brought to school that will address the concern.

ELECTRONICS

In an effort to promote a healthy, safe environment, to remove distractions from the academic environment, and to protect the integrity of the curriculum, Springfield Catholic Schools prohibit students from using and/or having cell phones or other electronic communication devices during the school day, including carline. ***Cell phones and other electronic devices have the potential to disrupt instruction. They are not to be visible, on, or used during the school day unless instructed by a teacher or administrator.***

To ensure our students are engaged in the learning activities, students will not be allowed to wear

headphones, earbuds, and air pods or have cell phones and any other electronic devices during classes or passing periods. Cell phones and any other electronic device must be kept **OFF** and/or in the student's backpack until the student leaves the school premises unless given permission. This includes the lunch periods, passing periods, the playground, carline, as well as on school sponsored trips. With cell phones, "using," refers to not only the making and receiving of calls, but texting messages and receiving text messages. Smart Devices including watches are not allowed at school.

If a cell phone or smart watch is confiscated during a quiz, test or exam, the student may be subject to more serious disciplinary consequences. *Springfield Catholic Schools is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices. Parents should NOT contact students during the school day on their cell phones.*

Please see school specific appendix for a detailed consequence list for device violations.

Use of devices for emergency purposes or for the accommodation of a disability (ie., ISP, 504 plan) must be authorized by administration.

CLASSROOM PHONES

Only in case of emergency will a teacher be called to the telephone during classroom hours, or a student be called to the telephone during the school day. Necessary messages will be delivered at designated times during the school day.

DRESS AND UNIFORM

Students in grades K-8 are required to wear the school uniform. DeSales and Land's End are our official suppliers. The length of uniform skirts, shorts, and skorts are to be no more than 3 inches above the knee. T-shirts with no visible labels and/or designs worn under uniform shirts may be dark green, navy, or white. Only school-approved fleeces and Home & School sweatshirts may be worn in the classroom or in church during school hours.

- Hair bows must not be oversized and headbands must not extend above the head (no ears/horns/etc) and must be worn in the hair not on the forehead. No large headbands or headgear unless it is our uniform colors. Hair extensions and/or feathers are not permitted. Length of hair on the forehead must be at or above eyebrows. Boys' hair must be above the shirt collar. Hairstyles and cuts must not be dramatic or distracting. If you have a question about headgear, ask the classroom teacher or principal.
- Necklaces may be simple and non-distracting. Girls may wear one pair of stud or small hoop earrings in the main earlobes, if desired. No multiple piercings please. Body piercing and tattoos are not permitted.
- For safety reasons, sandals, flip flops, open toe, and/or open backed shoes are not to be worn at any time. Students must wear tennis shoes to participate in P.E class.
- Unnatural hair colors/highlights are not allowed.
- **Middle school girls may wear make-up (should not be excessive)**

- **Middle school girls may wear nail polish and artificial nails (including dipped/acrylic). Nails must be modest in length to prevent injury during PE and recess.**
- **Middle school students may wear matching colored socks (girls and boys) as long as they do not distract from the educational process.**

Other issues related to cleanliness or neatness of the uniform, hairstyles or color, or general appearance of students, although not specifically addressed in the school dress code, can be judged appropriate or inappropriate by the administration. If the administration determines that a student's appearance is distracting to the educational process or diminishes the reputation of the school, they will request that the student make modifications and will expect that the parents will cooperate with and help to enforce these requests. Exceptions must be pre-approved by the school administration. The detailed SCS uniform code is included in the appendix section of the handbook.

***NON-UNIFORM DAYS** (including uniform buy out) Students are expected to be in modest and appropriate attire on non-uniform days. Shirts, blouses, and tops must be long enough to cover the midriff when arms are extended upward. If wearing leggings, shirts must reach at least to the ends of the student's thumbs and must completely cover the torso. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, and tops with revealing necklines or those that allow undergarments to be visible are not to be worn. Clothing may not be torn or raveled. Skirt, skorts, and shorts must not exceed 2 inches above the knee. For safety reasons, sandals, flip flops, open toe, and/or open backed shoes are not to be worn at any time. At all other times, students are expected to comply with the requirements of the uniform. Students not complying will be asked to change. Special exceptions to this requirement must be arranged with the school administration prior to the non-uniform day.

If the administration determines that a student's appearance is distracting to the educational process at Springfield Catholic Schools or diminishes the reputation of the school, they will request that the student make modifications and will expect that the parents will cooperate with and help to enforce these requests.

PRESCHOOL DRESS CODE

Students should wear comfortable play clothes and socks with their shoes (Please, no shoes that leave black scuff marks). For safety reasons, flip-flops or other open-backed shoes are not permitted.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

(See school calendar for more detail.)

There is no afternoon daycare, Y Academy, or Extended Care on noon dismissal days before holidays/last day of school (Parent/Teacher Conferences, Christmas Break, Holy Thursday and the Last Day of School.).

Lunch will *not* be served on 12:00 dismissal days.

Please check the calendar for early dismissal days & make prior arrangements for pick up.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The school must have an emergency form on file for each student in the school. An Emergency Form should have been completed during the registration process. If any information on the emergency form changes, it is very important that the school be notified immediately. It is also very important that one custodial parent or a designated responsible person be easily and quickly reached during the school day. If you are going to be out of town, we ask that you advise us of the procedure that we should follow in your absence. Please do this in writing so that it can be temporarily attached to the emergency form.

FINANCIALS

Tuition schedules are posted on the Springfield Catholic Schools website. The Central Office manages all finances for the school system so please contact them directly with questions about tuition.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an important part of a child's educational experience. However, field trips are a privilege and no student has an absolute right to participate. Field trips include any event off campus or separate from the regular school day including grade specific retreats and service projects. Students may be denied participation if they fail to meet academic and/or behavioral requirements. Volunteer drivers must follow the specified route to and from the destination without deviation. We request that drivers and chaperones do not bring younger siblings on field trips so that their full attention can be given to those students they are responsible for supervising. No student will be allowed to go on a field trip without returning an official copy of the field trip permission form signed by a custodial parent/guardian.

ANY Chaperone who "REGULARLY" helps in the school, classroom, or attends field trips MUST be VIRTUS trained. This is a requirement by the DIOCESE. Please see your classroom teacher or the office for further information on how to become VIRTUS trained.

1. Field trips are designed to correlate with teaching units and to achieve curricular goals.

2. Field trips are re-evaluated each year to determine the compatibility of the field trip with curricular goals.
3. There are no “traditional” field trips. Class participation in a particular field trip over consecutive years does not mean that the trip has become a school tradition.
4. All grades do not always have the same number of field trips.
5. Field trips are permissible for all grades when advanced planning, location, and the experience insure a successful learning opportunity.
6. A telephone call will not be accepted in lieu of the proper field trip permission slip.
7. Parents may refuse to permit their child from participating in a field trip by stating so on the proper form. Students who do not attend a field trip will remain at home per parent request with the parent and will be marked absent for the day.
8. Students who are participating in the field trip must ride the bus to and from the field trip with their class. Students not on the bus may not participate in the field trip and will be counted absent for the day.
9. All monies collected for the field trip are non-refundable.
10. Cell phones are not allowed on field trips unless otherwise directed by the teacher and/or administration.
11. Parents who are not “official” chaperones may not drive their car to a field trip destination with the plan of accompanying the class on the field trip. Springfield Catholic Schools, under the Springfield Cape Girardeau Diocese risk management insurance company umbrella, ensures the “official” chaperones and participation by unofficial chaperones jeopardizes the protection for our students and all other “official” adults on the trip.

HEALTH

All Springfield Catholic Schools students must comply with the health requirements determined by the Missouri and U.S. Department of Health with regard to immunizations and the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. The school nurse will coordinate efforts to keep and upgrade health records of students, as well as to coordinate other health-related programs. The nurse has the authority to see that all students are compliant with health department laws and may determine, with the administrators, if action should be taken in cases of non-compliance. The nurse is available for advice related to health issues and will be on the premises daily.

Children should be kept home from school when they are not well enough to actively participate in the school day, both for their sake and the sake of other children in the school. Students returning to school after an illness should be free of flu symptoms, fever and diarrhea for a minimum of 24 hours without medication. If the school office personnel or the nurse calls to request that you pick up your child because of sickness or injury, we would expect the family to make whatever arrangements necessary to pick up the child in a timely manner.

Springfield Catholic Schools has a Medical Advisory Committee who reviews all health related system policies. Please refer to this policy section of the handbook for specific details on wellness policies.

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription medications is prohibited on all school campuses and at all school-related functions. Springfield Catholic School System follows Missouri State law regarding mandatory reporting of possession of drugs. Penalties will be in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

Healthy lunches from home are requested. Please do not bring/send fast food to school for your child as we are encouraging healthy eating habits.

HOME AND SCHOOL

The Home and School Association exists because of the school, church and community. Home and School Association is an organization established to provide activities and volunteer programs that add to the success of our total school program and it works to support and enhance the educational ministry of the school. Fundraising, parent education, and building community are the goals of this association. The Home and School Association is governed by the Diocese of Springfield Cape Girardeau and its appointed persons. All parents are considered members of the Home & School. A Home & School Association is a means to develop mutual understanding between parents and the school staff and to assist parents in achieving their mission with the school as co-educators of their children. The Home & School meetings, which are held as needed throughout the school year, provide parents and staff with opportunities to meet and discuss ways to work together for the benefit of the entire school community. Volunteer signup opportunities are provided at various occasions throughout the year and we encourage all to consider ways that they can become actively involved in their children's educational journey. For the safety of all students, the diocese requires that all regular volunteers have a background check and documentation that they attended the Virtus Safe Environment Training on file with the school.

HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned to prepare students for class and to reinforce material already taught in

the classroom. Parents are encouraged to arrange a specific time and place for their children to do homework in order to develop good study skills. Children should take responsibility for completing assignments and turning them in on time. Teachers will not be expected to provide homework assignments in advance for students who will be gone for reasons other than illness, family emergency, or school activities. Students are responsible for obtaining and completing assignments when they return to school after any absence. Parents are to call the school by 9:00 a.m. if they want to pick up a student's homework. Homework may be picked up at the school office between 3:15 or after the carline has ended. If your child is sick, they are allowed one day for every day they are sick to make up work. Extended illnesses will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. If your child is sick, we recommend they take care of assignments when they return.

On average, 10 minutes per night multiplied by a student's grade level gives parents a somewhat appropriate guide for time spent on homework, although this may vary according to the ability level of the student. Preparation for tests and redoing or fixing previous homework assignments are not included in the 10 minute time estimate. Effort should be put into doing all homework assignments correctly the first time. Doing well results in the overall homework load in the long run. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers if they notice their child is spending an excessive amount of time on homework. Communication with teachers is essential in addressing the situation effectively and promptly.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

It is with the desire to provide an authentic Catholic education that the following policy (policy #5090) on human sexuality were adopted.

- A. All persons have inherent human dignity and are thus deserving of innate respect as a child of God.
- B. Catholic Schools shall provide for sequential and age-appropriate instruction. Sexuality education provides not only the important biological and scientific information, but also incorporates corresponding religious values and moral formation.
- C. Theology of the Body will be incorporated into the religion/theology curriculum.
- D. All instruction will be guided by Catholic teaching.
- E. All persons are called to chastity in accordance with their state in life. For purposes of the school environment, chastity also encompasses modesty in language, appearance, dress and behavior.
- F. Students and staff may not advocate, celebrate, or express same-sex attraction in such a way as to cause confusion or distraction in the context of Catholic school classes, activities, or events.
- G. All students are expected to conduct themselves at school in a manner consistent with

their biological sex. Schools shall consider the gender of all students as being consistent with their biological sex.

- H. No person is permitted to have on-site or distribute any medications for the purpose of gender reassignment.
- I. If an issue cannot be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parents and the school, whose goal must always be to uphold Catholic truths and principles, the school may decide that it is in the best interest of all parties for the student to seek enrollment in an environment that better reflects the family's views on human anthropology.

JUNIOR HIGH SPORTS

The Springfield Catholic Schools organized athletic program at the junior high level consists of cheerleading, basketball, cross country, football, volleyball, softball, and track for 7th and 8th graders. The programs are governed by the Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) guidelines. Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) only allows one F per student per semester in order to be eligible for 7th – 12th grade sports. The prior semester is used to determine eligibility for the following sports season. To keep in line with MSHSAA policy, Springfield Catholic Schools will remove a student from participation in any sport or academic competition for the following grading period/quarter if the student has a failing grade in two or more core subject areas.

The use of tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs will result in dismissal from the activity.

Junior high parents and students who are active in junior high sports/activities will be required to cooperate with the Springfield Catholic School's Code of Conduct. A doctor's physical is required for sports programs.

Students who are absent from school are not permitted to participate in after school sponsored activities on the day they are absent from school. Students who leave school early for unexcused reasons during the school day are not permitted to participate in extracurricular school events.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We at Springfield Catholic Schools consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, it is your right and your duty to become the primary role models for the development of your child's life - physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Your choice of Springfield Catholic Schools involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his/her life.

A good example is the strongest teacher. Your personal relationship with God, with each other, and with the Church community will affect the way your child relates to God and others. Ideals

taught in school are not well rooted in the child unless they are nurtured by the example of good Catholic/Christian morality and by an honest and personal relationship with God in your family life.

Once you have chosen to enter into a partnership with us at Springfield Catholic Schools we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years (Preschool to 8th grade), your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty in order to develop his/her moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical endowment. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest of challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his/her potential. It is vital that both parents and teachers remember that allowing oneself to be caught between the student and the other partner will never have positive results. To divide authority between school and home or within the home will only teach disrespect of all authority. If there is an incident at school, you as parents must make an investigation of the complete story your first step. Evidence of mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good mature behavior and relationships.

Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. However, sometimes in the process of maturation new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, it is boundaries and limits which provide a young person with both guidance and security.

It is essential that a child take responsibility for grades he/she has earned and be accountable for homework, long-term assignments, major tests, service projects, and all other assignments. This responsibility also extends to times of absence.

Together, let us make a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child to become the best person he/she is capable of becoming.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

As partners in the educational process at Springfield Catholic Schools, we ask parents to set rules, times, and limits so that your child:

- Gets to bed early on school nights
- Arrives at school on time and is picked up on time at the end of the day
- Is dressed per the school uniform code
- Completes assignments on time
- Has lunch money or nutritional sack lunch every day

To: Attend Sunday Mass regularly

To: Participate in the life of the Church by sharing Time, Treasure and Talents

- To: Support the religious and educational goals of the school
- To: Read school notes and newsletters and to show interest in the student's total education
- To: Support and cooperate with the discipline policy of the school
- To: Treat teachers with respect and courtesy in discussing student problems
- To: Actively participate in school activities such as Parent-Teacher Conferences;
- To: See that the student pays for any damage to school books or property due to carelessness or neglect on the part of the student
- To: Notify the school with a written note when the student has been absent or tardy
- To: Notify the school office of any changes of address or important phone numbers
- To: Meet all financial obligations to the school & system
- To: Inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety, and health
- To: Complete and return to school any requested information promptly

POLICIES

The complete Springfield Catholic Schools Policy Manual is available online at <http://www.scspk12.org>. Click on 'School Overview' and then 'Policy Manual'.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CUSTODY

"The Missouri Child Protection and Reformation Act (RSMo 210) requires school personnel having reasonable cause to believe that a child known to them in their professional capacity may be an abused or neglected child must report this information to the Missouri Department of Family Services."

Springfield Catholic Schools "abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the right of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, we will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and other school information regarding his or her child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to provide the school with a court-certified copy of the court order." Be advised that if a teacher is subpoenaed to testify in a child custody case, the parent will need to pay the cost of a substitute teacher and any other costs associated with the

testimony (mileage, parking, food, etc.).

Springfield Catholic Schools School follows the Diocesan policies and the Safe School Act for student behavior and discipline.

Springfield Catholic Schools abide by the Child Protection and Reformation Act (RSMO 210) that requires school personnel having reasonable cause to believe that a child known to them in their professional capacity might be abused or neglected must report to the Missouri Department of Family Services.

CUSTODY AND RELEASE OF MINORS

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to inform the school of custody status and subsequent changes and arrangements. No authorized organization, agency, or person may be allowed to visit or assume custody of any student on school premises during school hours or immediately before or after school unless explicitly authorized in writing by the parents or guardian. In order to cooperate with students and family needs, the school should be informed of custody arrangements. Parents may sign a Durable/Non-Durable Power of Attorney giving the school permission to discuss their child with a grandparent or another designated person. This document will be kept in the child's file for one year. The school cannot intervene in custody matters unless court documents are provided to the Principal and reviewed/advised by the Springfield- Cape Girardeau Diocesan lawyer.

CHILD ABUSE LAWS

Springfield Catholic Schools abides by the Child Abuse laws of the State of Missouri. This law mandates that all cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect be reported to Child Protective Services.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Teachers will keep confidential information entrusted to them so long as no one's life, health or safety is at stake. Parents will be promptly notified of the teacher's concerns. Parents in partnership with the school are expected to uphold these same standards of confidentiality.

MANDATED REPORTING

Reporting Violations

Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of a minor must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738.

Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of an adult must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-0210.

In situations of immediate danger, call 911. Known or suspected abuse may also be reported to law enforcement in addition to making a report to the MO Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline or to the MO Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline. • Failure to Report Abuse or Neglect is a Class A Misdemeanor for any person who is required under the law to report. • No supervisor may interfere with or impede the reporting of suspected abuse. • Filing a False Report is a Class A Misdemeanor.

All diocesan personnel are required to also report violations of The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers of the Diocese, Parishes and Schools to the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org or 417-866-0841, or through the TIPS online reporting system, which is available on the diocesan website www.dioscg.org. Violations involving the Bishop should be reported to the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting System at 800-276-1562 or <https://reportbishopabuse.org/>

SMOKE-FREE POLICY #3.52

All Springfield Catholic Schools are smoke-free buildings. Smoking is not allowed in the building at any time. This includes cigarettes/cigars, e-cigarettes/cigars and vaporizers.

STUDENT RECORDS PRACTICE/GUIDELINES

The principal only, as custodian of the records, is empowered to release personally identifiable information about students. Only the following persons may receive such information:

- A parent/guardian of the student, unless a court order determines otherwise;
- A parent not having custody of a student but having the right of visitation has a right commensurate with the parent having custody of the student to examine the school records of the student. Unless prohibited by court order, the school is required to review the record with the non-custodial parent, as stated. In the event the staff has reason to believe that compliance with the request will be detrimental to the child, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools should be contacted to seek further legal advice concerning the specific case;
- If a parent does not have visitation rights, then s/he should not be given any information that might assist in locating the student;
- Students in foster homes may have been placed by court order and frequently are supervised by a child placement agency. It is advisable to consult with the agency regarding the parent's request for, as well as their legal right to, the student's information;
- A person designated in writing by the custodial parent/guardian of such student;
- Those so authorized in compliance with court order;
- An officer of the United States, the state, the city, or the county seeking information in the

course of duty, with appropriate warrant or subpoena (to be reviewed by Diocesan Counsel)

In the absence of a court order stating the contrary, a school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and other school-related information with regards to the child. If there is a court order specifying that no information is to be given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

NOTE: Student academic records do not include financial records. If tuition is paid by only one parent/guardian, the information relating to the account will be released only to the person who has set up the account, unless there is a court order to provide the information.

VIRTUS SAFE ENVIRONMENT #2.27

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is committed to helping children learn and grow in a healthy and safe environment. Springfield Catholic Schools remain committed to being in compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment Policy and Procedures and other related policies. In accordance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Safe Environment training program, the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children – Teaching Touching Safety (commonly referred to as "VIRTUS") is used in the Diocese.

Students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade participate in two safety lessons each school year; one in the fall and one in the spring.

The Safe Environment Procedures and other related policies of the Diocese include training on how to recognize, prevent and report abuse. All adult employees and volunteers who regularly work or volunteer with minors receive this initial training as well as ongoing training and background screening.

These documents are available at the Diocesan Child and Youth Protection page www.dioscg.org or <https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>. An overview of the children's training is available on the diocesan website and copies of these documents and the children's lessons are available at the office.

We sincerely appreciate all of the efforts and your continued support for this mission and ministry of protecting all of our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

WEBSITE/MULTIMEDIA POLICY

Springfield Catholic Schools reserves the right to use student pictures and names on the school's website and social media accounts. All students must have a media release form on file with the office. Any parents who do not wish his or her child's picture and/or name used in publications, on the website and/or on social media sites controlled by school officials must have made note of this request on the media release form included in the registration packet.

WELLNESS POLICY #3.57

The Springfield Catholic School System promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. Springfield Catholic Schools will adhere to a set of wellness guidelines (see 3.57A, 3.57B, and 3.57C) of the policy manual, which are available online at www.scspk12.org through the Central Office website) which incorporates the following goals:

- Provide a learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors.
- Support and promote proper dietary habits contributing to students and staff health status, job performance and academic performance.
- Provide adequate time for students to engage in physical activity.
- Promote academic success by acknowledging and embracing the critical role that health plays in academic performance.

Birthdays are important and we want to recognize your child's special day. Please refer to each school's specific policies regarding Treats.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS #1.35

In order to provide a safe environment, the possession of firearms and/or weapons, including concealed weapons, by a student or an adult, in a vehicle, on the school's premises or property located, leased, or used by SCS is prohibited. This penalty shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement or security officers. Penalties shall be in accordance with state and local law.

VAPING POLICY #1.33

All students of Springfield Catholic Schools are prohibited from using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol, nicotine products, illegal drugs, or unauthorized prescription medications while on any Springfield Catholic School campus or at any school-related function or activity. Additionally, all students of Springfield Catholic Schools are prohibited from using or possessing tobacco or nicotine products (including vaporizers) while on any Springfield Catholic School campus or at any school-related function or activity. Penalties will be in accordance with Springfield Catholic Schools guidelines.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5500 - DISCIPLINE

Discipline is not a form of punishment. Its purposes are:

- To help each student become more responsible to him or herself and to others.
- To educate and assist students in developing self-control.
- To promote classroom situations conducive to learning.
- To create a harmonious school and classroom atmosphere.

Discipline is attained when students in a classroom and school cooperatively work with the principal, teachers and companions toward the attainment of the class and school objectives.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5505 - SOCIAL NETWORKING

Social networking websites and applications, including but not limited to Facebook, Snapchat, and Twitter, are an important and timely means of communication. Violations of these suggested guidelines may be considered inappropriate behavior and may be the basis for disciplinary action:

- Display of vulgar language
- Display of language or photographs that imply disrespect for any individual or group because of age, race, gender, ethnicity, or that would be contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Presentation of personal photographs or photographs of others that may reasonably be interpreted as condoning irresponsible use of alcohol, substance abuse, or sexual promiscuity.
- Posting of potentially inflammatory or unflattering material on another individual's website. Or any entry that would be contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5508 AND 5508.1 - BULLYING/FALSE REPORTING

Springfield Catholic Schools attempts to provide a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made in any manner via any medium against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken very seriously. Students making such threats (seriously, in jest, or online) face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion. The complaint will be investigated in as confidential a manner as possible. More information found in Diocesan policy #5508 and #5508.1.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5535 - HARASSMENT

Any person who believes that he or she has been sexually harassed or subjected to other unlawful harassment should immediately report the matter to his or her supervisor, pastor, principal, or to the Chancellor of the Diocese. Anyone who becomes aware of any possible sexual harassment should immediately advise the supervisor, pastor, principal, or Chancellor. The supervisor, pastor, principal should then report the complaint to the Chancellor of the Diocese, who will

direct the investigation. The complaint will be investigated in the most confidential manner possible. A resolution of the issue will be offered within 60 days of the complaint and appropriate action taken. There will be no retaliation against persons complaining of harassment or against any persons who assist or give information in support of such complaints. If there are any complaints of retaliation, they should be brought to the attention of the Chancellor of the Diocese.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5600 AND #5610 - SUSPENSION

Every effort should be made to avoid suspending a student from school. The principal can suspend a student from school for a justifiable reason, but in so doing judges this to be a course of action that will be preventive and corrective. If, however, a suspension is warranted, parents are to be personally notified of the suspension of their child and also notified by mail.

Possible causes for suspension include, but are not limited to:

- Open defiance of school authority
- Striking a teacher or other school personnel
- Possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage at school or a school-related function
- Possession or use of a controlled substance at school or a school-related functions
- Possession or use of a weapon or anything that would threaten the welfare of anyone present in the school or at a school-related function (immediate suspension)
- Any verbal threat, or physical threat of violence.
- Any violation of Missouri Safe Schools Act or any other state or federal law associated with school safety.

A student may not be suspended from school for the same offense for more than 10 consecutive school days. In a more serious matter, the principal, in consultation with the pastor of the parish school or president of the board in a consolidation, may take another action as they see fit.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5620 AND #5630 - EXPULSION

The expulsion of a student by the principal from a Catholic school is very serious and this action should be evoked only as a last resort. Moral delinquency is a sufficient reason for expulsion if the delinquency is persistent or has a bad influence on the other students in the school. The following are additional causes for expulsion:

- Civil marriage
- Selling of a controlled substance at school or a school related function
- A second offense during the school year of either possession or use of a controlled substance or possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage at school or school-related functions.

- For a violation for which there were two disciplinary suspensions during the school year.
- For any other conduct or activity of a serious nature that is considered harmful to the school's reputation, or is contradictory to Catholic moral teachings and principles.
- Any violation of Missouri Safe Schools Act or any other state or federal law associated with school safety.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5635 - PARENTS

Springfield Catholic Schools recognize parents as the primary educators of their child. The education of students at our school is a partnership between parents, students, teachers, and this school. If, in the opinion of the administration, the partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require the parent to withdraw his or her student from our school.

In addition, the administration reserves the right to deny any future enrollment of a family member's acceptance to the school if a student or parent's behavior is deemed contrary to the expected code of ethics of the school.

DIOCESAN POLICY #5636 - PARENTAL NETWORKING

It is a violation to use the name of a school, its logo, or its initials in any way as a title for a social networking site belonging to a group or organization for an individual goal. The Diocesan office may support the Administration in litigation.

STUDENT BEHAVIORS BULLYING, POLICY #1.39

Bullying, cyber-bullying, or anything that would attack the physical, emotional, or moral character of a student will not be tolerated at Springfield Catholic Schools. Springfield Catholic Schools define bullying as unwanted, aggressive behavior that is targeted and repeated over time. These behaviors must be reported to the teacher or administrator as soon as possible so they can be addressed immediately. Every incident will be dealt with with confidentiality and with the best interest of the students involved. Due to confidentiality and child privacy laws, consequences and actions taken will not be shared. (See Diocesan Policy #5508)

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Suspension means that a student may not be allowed to attend school or any Springfield Catholic Schools in or out of school activity for a certain period of time. This would include any school sponsored sports or extracurricular activities. The student is responsible for the work missed during the suspension. It may also be necessary for students to serve an in-school suspension. This means that the student will not be allowed to enter the classroom and will do class work in the office under the supervision of the principal.

Expulsion may occur after all efforts had been made to resolve the problems and when in the

opinion of the principal, the student's continued presence would be detrimental to the good of the whole.

In all cases, the principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rule for just cause at his or her discretion. Springfield Catholic Schools follow the Diocesan policies and Safe Schools Act for student behavior and discipline.

Rite of Appeal The student or parents have the right of appeal in the disciplinary actions of suspension and expulsion. The first appeal is to be made to the principal of the school. If the parents or student are not satisfied with the principal's decision of appeal, they may then appeal to the school board through the Director of Schools.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to handle school property/equipment with care. Students and/or parents will be held financially responsible for any misuse, damage, or loss of school property/equipment. Students may not use school equipment without proper adult supervision. Administrators and teachers reserve the right to inspect desks, backpacks, gym bags and all items brought to school by a student at any time without notice. Parent's use of school property or equipment must be approved through the school office.

Administration has the authority to inspect all school or personal property. Items considered a hazard or a nuisance in the school or on the playground are subject to immediate confiscation and disciplinary action may be taken.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY/SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

WORSHIP/PRAYER

Our faith is at the core of our school day. Students, faculty, and staff participate in daily prayer and are given opportunities for regular Mass attendance, special prayer services, Stations of the Cross, devotion to the rosary, and special seasonal practices of Catholic Faith. The school staff and children will attend Mass weekly. The weekly Mass is not expected to take the place of your family's Mass times on the weekend. We ask that you add it in as an additional service. Your presence is always welcome and encouraged as a model to our young people. It not only enhances everyone's faith but it allows us to share our time and talent with God and our families in a very meaningful way.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The sacramental life of the children of the Catholic tradition is an important component of the religion program at Springfield Catholic Schools. Preparations for two sacraments, Reconciliation and First Eucharist, form the core of instruction in Grade 2. In accordance with the diocesan guidelines, candidates for First Eucharist will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to First Eucharist. Parents are required to be active partners in the preparation of their children for these sacraments. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are only conferred to students baptized in the Roman Catholic tradition and will be celebrated at the student's home parish.

SCHOOL BOARD

The Springfield Catholic School System School Board is an elected body with general policy-making authority. The School Board establishes and monitors policies regarding the operation of the schools in concurrence with policies of the Springfield - Cape Girardeau Diocesan School Office. The School Board meets every second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at Springfield Catholic High School. Meetings are open and parents are encouraged to attend. Persons wishing to address the Board should contact the Board President or Director of Schools at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting to be included on the agenda.

SECURITY

Our God is a faithful and loving God, a protector, a provider, and a most merciful Father. God, however, does ask us to do our part to provide a safe environment in which to work and learn, and our Springfield Catholic Schools System takes this responsibility very seriously. Our security begins with covering our schools with daily prayer; Please join us in this endeavor. Our security covers a vast array of topics and procedures:

- -spiritual practices – Mass, daily prayers, sacramental instruction, and participation,
- etc...
- -safety drills and trainings
- -wellness and mental health awareness
- -responsible technology use/digital citizenship
- -physical plant safety/security
- -daily routines – carline, entering/leaving school sites, media releases, etc..

For the 2023-24 school year we have hired a security coordinator to assist us in building a greater infrastructure, including safety policies and procedures. We are also employing individuals and agencies to serve our four school sites as school protection officers to provide a heightened level of security for our students, families, faculty, and

staff. Security is always at the forefront of our considerations and will continue to be updated, improved, and altered to meet the needs of our school community.

SNOW DAYS/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

On days when unusual weather conditions exist, school closings will be announced on the school website, text system, SCS App, local radio and television stations. The Director of Springfield Catholic Schools will make the determination if the school will be closed. We do not usually close early during the school day because of weather; however, parents/guardians may pick up their children early if they are concerned about the weather. Please notify the school by phone.

STUDENT SERVICES

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SCS Policy #1.42A The Springfield Catholic School System attempts to address the special learning needs of all students within the parameters of the system's human and financial resources according to guidelines. Students are considered for enrollment when educational resources and programming are available which can address their specific needs and allow them to be successful.

The goal of educating students with special needs-whenver their need is academics or health, physical or emotional concerns-is successful mastery of the regular curriculum in the regular classroom setting.

The Springfield Catholic School System provides for a normal range of learning differences and serves students whose instructional program requires minimal adjustments (modifications and/or accommodations). The system does not offer direct special education instruction. It does, however, provide administrative services to coordinate with resident public schools, the screening and diagnostic evaluation of students and the development of an Individual Service Plan. Direct special education services are provided by the public school district in which the child resides with input and support from the Springfield Catholic Schools System.

Adjustments that allow a student access to the general curriculum, but do not fundamentally lower the standard or expectation of the course, are available to students on an individual basis determined by learning needs and a documented disability. Adjustments do not release students from demonstrating the required knowledge. Rather, adjustments provide students with disabilities the support they need to demonstrate what they know and understand.

Springfield Catholic Schools strive to address and make appropriate adjustments for special

learning needs, but in some cases it may not be feasible. If the system does not have the resources to address the need, if an appropriate education requires more than the minimal adjustments, if the student seriously disrupts other students' learning, or if the student puts the safety of staff or other students at risk, enrollment may be terminated. In such cases, Springfield Catholic Schools will assist families in finding appropriate alternatives so that the student's needs are ultimately met.

SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR 504 PLAN

“The system does not offer direct special education instruction.” (Policy 1.42A) The 504 Plan has been developed to ensure that a child who has a documented disability receives accommodations to the general curriculum, environment, assessment, and/or instruction to provide opportunities for increased achievement within the classroom setting with minimal adjustments. The plan is designed to help students with disabilities learn alongside their peers. Not all students with disabilities require accommodations for success; therefore, a student must have a parental request for the 504 Plan, must have a medical diagnosis to be considered for this plan, AND must be failing to thrive academically after documented interventions and tutoring have been unsuccessful. Once the request and necessary documentation is compiled, the team consisting of the classroom teacher, the student services coordinator, and the school principal will compile all data for review and complete a plan for implementation if criteria are met. The team will meet with the parents to discuss the process and its outcome. If a 504 Plan is implemented, a review of the plan will occur annually involving the parents and the team identified above.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer and electronic information services including the Internet are available to students at our schools. We strongly believe in the educational value of such electronic services and recognize the potential of such to support our curriculum and student learning. Our goal in providing these services is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Springfield Catholic Schools will make every effort to protect students and teachers from any misuses or abuses as a result of their experiences with an information service. All users must be continuously on guard to avoid inappropriate and illegal interaction with the information service. The use of the information system is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The administration will decide what appropriate use is. The administration of Springfield Catholic Schools may deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts at any time it deems necessary.

All users should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources could be

a violation of local, state, and federal laws. Violations can lead to disciplinary action or prosecution. Parents and students in grades K-8 must sign an “**Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)**” to access the internet and use school devices. When signed by you and your guardian/parent, it becomes a legally binding contract. If any user violates these provisions, access to the computer/electronic information services may be denied and you will be subject to disciplinary action. The AUP can be found on the school website, <http://www.springfieldcatholicschools.org/schools/> under the About ~ Technology tab.

The use of computers at Springfield Catholic Schools is a privilege and carries with it, the responsibility for appropriate use. Students will be responsible for using Chromebooks, iPads, Desktop Computers and/or other devices following the instruction of teachers and reporting any accidental “hits” of inappropriate sites to the supervising teacher/staff. Students can and will be suspended from all devices and internet connections while at school if it is found they have violated any policies regarding student technology usage. Parents and students will be responsible to ensure any work that is required to be done via electronic device will be conducted and assumed off campus with parental supervision. Students who do not comply with usage rules will forfeit their usage privileges as follows:

- **1st offense ~ School technology restriction of three (3) school days**
- **2nd offense ~ School technology restriction of five (5) school days**
- **3rd offense ~ School technology restriction of ten (10) school days**

**Administration reserves the right to modify the restriction based on the seriousness of the violation.*

BLOGS/SOCIAL MEDIA

Engagement in online blogs such as, but not limited to Facebook®, Twitter®, etc. may result in disciplinary actions if the content of the student or parent’s blog includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students, or other parents, or the parish even to the point that a “reasonable and prudent person” may infer the school, staff, family or parish that is being referred to in the post.

No parent should open a Facebook® or Twitter®, account under the name of the school, or a particular grade or club/group/organization associated with the school without the explicit permission of the school administration. The principal will be included as a page administrator of each such group. A parent who chooses to create such an account may subject his/her child(ren) to separation from the school and possible legal action.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

All Springfield Catholic Schools employees' email addresses are: first initial, last name @scspk12.org. For example, jdoe@scspk12.org. All students in grades 3-8 have email addresses. They are first name, last name and graduation year @goirish.org.

TELEPHONE

All school telephones are business phones and can be used only with the permission of the teacher, administrator, or office personnel. Only in the case of an emergency will a teacher be called to the telephone during classroom hours, or a student be called to the telephone during the school day. Necessary messages will be delivered at designated times during the school day.

VISITORS

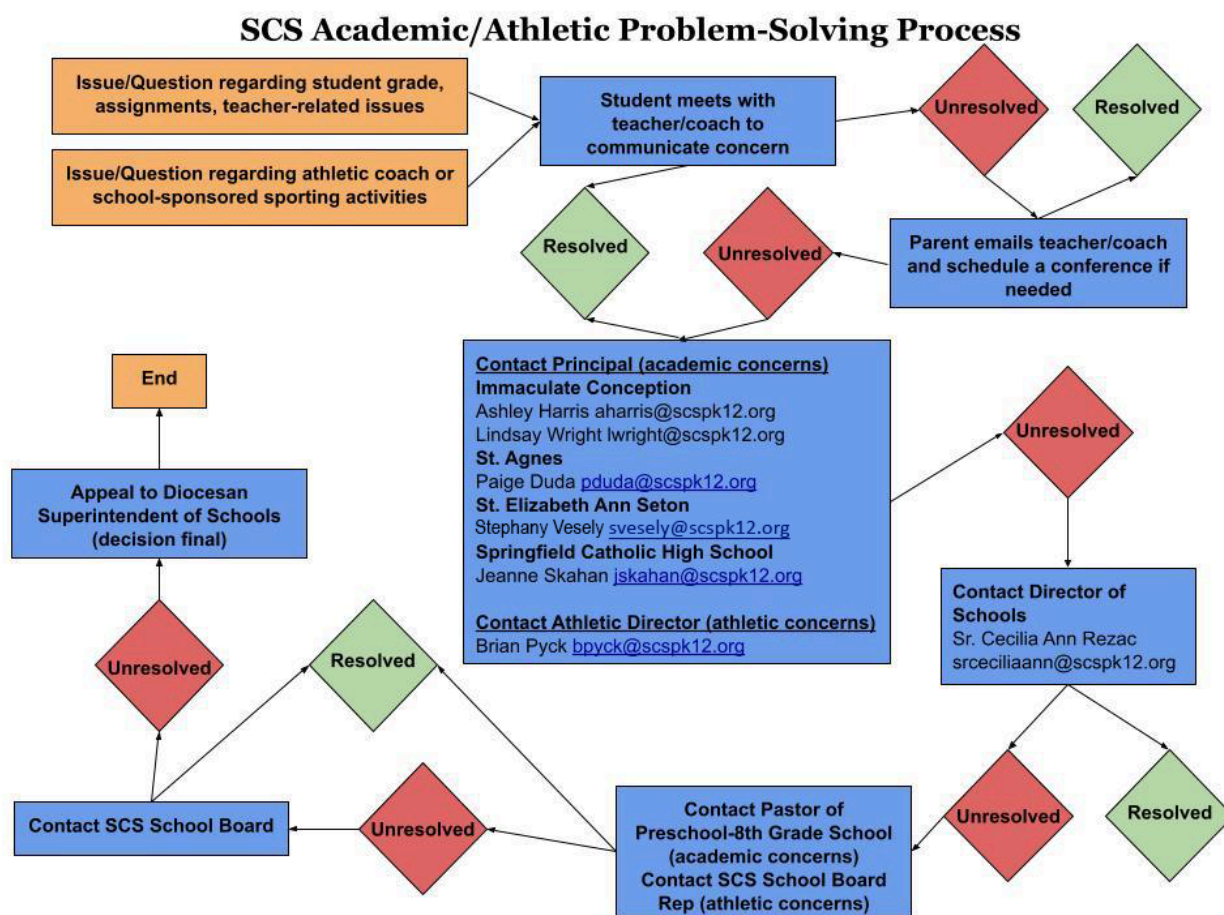
Parents, volunteers, and visitors are welcome to visit the school. All entrances to the school will be locked during the school day. Visitors are asked to enter through the front door and “sign in” at the office upon arrival. All visitors will be given a visitor name tag to be worn while on the premises. Visitors are asked to “sign out” at the office when leaving the building.

To provide for the safety of all students and to limit classroom interruptions, any communication during the school day between parents and their children (such as dropping off books, homework, lunches, etc.,) must be conducted at the school office rather than the classroom door. School personnel will arrange for messages or deliveries to be made to classrooms at appropriate times. An adult must accompany children visiting the school who are not enrolled in the school.

It is imperative in today's world that we remain vigilant regarding the safety of all our children and staff. We welcome volunteers and visitors but we simply ask that you stop in at the secretary's office immediately upon entering the building. All “regular” volunteers must be VIRTUS trained in order to continue to volunteer on a “regular” basis. “Regular” basis is deemed more than once a month. Visitors should not be using any electronics that are owned and operated by the school or church without prior permission.

APPENDIX A:

SCS PROBLEM SOLVING CHART



Uniform Code Springfield Catholic Elementary/Middle Schools

Effective August 2024- May 2025

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS:

DeSales Catholic Store, 210 E. Sunshine St., Suite #J, Springfield, MO 65807

Hours: 9:30am-5:30pm Tues. thru Sat, Open Wednesdays till 7pm

Lands' End, www.landsend.com, Use your Preferred School Number:

Immaculate Conception 900143934

St. Agnes 900142597

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 900143926

SCRIP is available for both retailers!

SHOES

All students must have athletic shoes on the days they have P.E. class.

PLEASE, at all times, no black or red soled shoes that leave scuff marks!

For safety reasons, sandals, flip-flops, open toe, or open backed shoes are not permitted including out-of-uniform days.

Only school approved sweatshirts and fleece jackets may be worn in the classroom or in church during school hours. Please remember turtleneck shirts or clothing with any type of visible labels are not part of the code. Wearing a t-shirt under the uniform shirt for warmth is acceptable as long as it is not visible. T-shirts must be white, navy, or green.

Springfield Catholic School uniform suppliers are ONLY Lands' End and DeSales Catholic Store. The listed items are in compliance with the uniform policy. You are not required to purchase every option, but should order the items that best fit your child's needs.

BOYS GRADES K-5

- Navy pants or shorts (shorts may be worn year-round). Two styles: flat or pleated front
- White oxford cloth shirt – short or long sleeve
- White or hunter green interlock knit shirt – short or long sleeve (No Logos)
- Dark solid color belt (optional)
- Green or navy sweatshirts, purchased through Home & School
- **Solid white, black, or navy socks**
- **Green** SCS Logo fleece (Hoodies may be worn on spirit or buy-out days)

BOYS GRADES 6-8

- Navy or Khaki pants or shorts (shorts may be worn year-round). Two styles: Flat or pleated front
- White oxford cloth shirt – short or long sleeve
- White, hunter green or navy interlock knit shirts – short or long sleeve (No Logos)
- Dark solid color belt
- Green or navy sweatshirts, purchased through Home & School
- **Matching socks of any color that do not cause a distraction**
- **Navy SCS Logo fleece** (Hoodies may be worn on spirit or buy-out days)
- **Approved Irish Team Store Jacket (8th Only)**



8th Grade Only

Navy/Charcoal/Charcoal Gray Performance Pullover (½ zip or full zip)

Navy/Charcoal Full Zip Fleece

GIRLS GRADES K-3

All skirts and shorts should be no shorter than 3” above knee

- Navy Pants/Shorts (shorts may be worn year-round). Two styles: flat/pleated front
- Plaid drop waist Bib Jumper
- Plaid side kick pleated skirt & 2 pleat skirt
- White Peter Pan collar blouses – short or long sleeve
- White or hunter green interlock knit shirts-short or long sleeve (No logos)
- Navy cardigan sweater (logo optional)
- Dark solid color belt (optional)
- Green or navy sweatshirts, purchased through Home and School.
- **Solid white, black, or navy socks;** navy or white footed tights; or navy or white plain, hemmed, ankle length leggings
- Shorts, knit tights, or black or navy leggings must be worn under jumpers or skirts without built- in short.
- **Green SCS Logo fleece** (Hoodies may be worn on spirit or buy-out days)



GIRLS GRADES 4 & 5

All skirts and shorts should be no shorter than 3” above knee

- Navy Pants or Shorts (shorts may be worn year-round). Two styles: flat or pleated front
- Plaid drop waist Bib Jumper
- Plaid 2 pleat skirt, Plaid Full pleat skirt, Plaid Stitch down pleat skirt (khaki pictured)
- White Peter Pan collar blouses – short or long sleeve
- White or hunter green interlock knit shirts – short or long sleeve (No logos)
- Navy cardigan sweater (logo optional)
- Dark solid color belt (optional)
- Green or navy sweatshirts, purchased through Home and School.
- **Solid white, black, or navy socks;** navy or white footed tights; or navy or white plain, hemmed, ankle length leggings
- Shorts, knit tights, or black or navy leggings must be worn under jumpers/skirts without built-in short
- **Green SCS Logo fleece** (Hoodies may be worn on spirit or buy-out days)



GIRLS GRADES 6-8

All skirts and shorts should be no shorter than 3" above knee

- Navy or Khaki Pants or Shorts (shorts may be worn year-round). Two styles: flat or pleated front
- Plaid, Khaki, or Navy 2 pleat skirt, Full pleat skirt, Khaki Stitch down box pleat skirt, Khaki Double tab skirt
- White oxford cloth shirt, short or long sleeve
- White, hunter green, or navy interlock knit shirts – short or long sleeve (No logos)
- Navy cardigan sweater (logo optional)
- Dark solid color belt
- Green or navy sweatshirts, purchased through Home and School.
- **Matching colored socks**, navy or white footed tights; or navy or white plain, hemmed, ankle length leggings
- Shorts, knit tights, or black or navy leggings must be worn under jumpers/skirts without built-in short
- **Navy SCS Logo fleece (6-8)** (Hoodies may be worn on spirit or buy-out days)
- **Approved Irish Team Store Jacket (8th Only)**
 - Navy/Charcoal/White Performance Pullover (½ or full zip)
 - Navy/Charcoal Full Zip Fleece



8th Grade Only

APPENDIX C: ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON



ST. ELIZABETH
ANN SETON
—SCHOOL—

Welcome to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School,

As we begin a new school year of learning, growing, and walking in faith, we are filled with hope for the blessings to come. Our theme for the year, *Pilgrims of Hope*, highlights our call to see ourselves as travelers on a sacred journey, moving forward with purpose and with our eyes fixed on the eternal joy of life with Christ. As pilgrims, we walk side by side in faith, trusting in God's promises and encouraging one another along the way.

At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, our mission is rooted deeply in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Every lesson we teach and every interaction we share is an opportunity to form young hearts for Christ. Our ultimate goal is not just academic success, but the formation of disciples who know, love, and serve Jesus, and who are preparing their hearts for Heaven.

We believe that education is most fruitful when it is a shared effort between school and home. Your child's faith and academic journey thrive when we work together in mutual trust, open communication, and prayerful support. Your role as the primary educator of your child in faith is irreplaceable, and we are honored to partner with you in this holy mission.

I am grateful for your decision to entrust your child's education to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. This handbook contains important policies and procedures that help ensure our school remains a place where we can share the Gospel and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. It is important that you and your child read and discuss its contents. Please also make it a priority to read weekly communications from your child's teacher and from me. By maintaining strong communication between home and school, we can build a partnership that is essential to your child's growth and success.

The faculty, staff, and I are filled with excitement for the year ahead. We are here to support your child and nurture his or her unique talents and interests. We strive to provide a safe, welcoming environment where Christ's love is modeled in all aspects of our school life. We welcome your thoughts, questions, and collaboration as we walk this journey of faith together for the 2025–2026 school year!

Sincerely,
Stephany Vesely
Principal
svesely@scspk12.org

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School is accredited by the National Federation of Nonpublic Schools State Accrediting Association*

St Elizabeth Ann Seton School Statement

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School faculty and staff along with family, parish and community are committed to providing a Christ-centered education for our students. In the teachings of Christ and His Church, students will be invited to know, love and serve God.

We, the faculty and staff of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, are dedicated to preparing our students to meet the challenges of the future based on the values and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

St Elizabeth Ann Seton School Philosophy

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, an integral arm of the Catholic Church's ministry, promotes spiritual and intellectual growth by instilling Christian attitudes and morals through Catholic doctrine, values and practices. Students have opportunities to become caring, giving people, recognizing that each individual has gifts from God to share with others in their community while acquiring wholesome attitudes, reverence toward God, all people and creation. Our students are prepared to fully participate in the world in which they learn to love Christ, live Christ and be Christ to all.

School Prayer

*Lord God,
You blessed Elizabeth Seton with gifts of grace;
As wife and mother, educator and foundress,
So that she might spend her life in service to your people.
Through her example and prayers
May we learn to express our love for you
In love for our fellow men and women.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

School Schedule

Hours

- Office Hours 7:30-3:30 PM
- Building Opens 7:30 AM
- School starts at 8:00 AM
- Dismissal begins at 3:05 PM
 - Carline/Pick-up is between 3:05- 3:30 PM
 - Y Academy 3:00-6:00 PM (YMCA 417-862-7456)
- Pre-School Hours 8:00-11:15 AM
 - Daycare 11:15-3:00 PM
 - Extended Care (Pre/PK) 3:00-6:00 PM
- Early Dismissal 12:00-12:15 PM
 - Lunch will NOT be served on noon dismissals.
 - See school calendar for available Y Academy/Ext. Care on early dismissal days
- Office doors lock and office closes at 3:30 p.m. (12:15 on Noon Dismissal days).

After School Care Options

SEAS Extended Care (*Pre-3, Pre-K, and Kindergarten*)

- Available for Pre-3, Pre-K, and Kindergarten students.
- Kindergarten spots are available only if: all Pre-3 and Pre-K families' needs are met, or the student has a sibling already enrolled in SEAS Extended Care.
- Payments: Fees are paid directly to SEAS School. They are not included in FACTS Grant and Aid payments.

Y Academy (YMCA After-School Program) (*Kindergarten–8th Grade*)

- Located on the SEAS campus and available for Kindergarten–8th grade students.
- Contact & Registration: Call YMCA: (417) 881-1599 Website: orymca.org/y-academy
- Registration opens June 17 and payment fees are handled through the YMCA.

Attendance

Attendance & Tardy Policy

- Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. are considered tardy.
- Half-Day Absence: Absent more than 1.5 hours but less than 3.5 hours.
- Full-Day Absence: Absent more than 3.5 hours, including time spent in the nurse's office

Reporting an Absence

- Email: seasoffice@scspk12.org or Phone: (417) 887-6056
- Please include your child's name, grade, and reason for the absence.

Make-Up Work

- Students who are absent, tardy, or leave early are responsible for all missed assignments.
- Students should contact their teacher for make-up work and deadlines.

Carline Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

General Safety Rules

- No cell phone use during carline to ensure student and staff safety.
- Pull forward as far as possible in the loading zone before stopping.
- Do not pass other vehicles during arrival or dismissal.
- If you need to park, use the east parking lot and enter the building.
- For liability reasons, booster/car seats may not be left at school for installation by anyone other than a parent/guardian.

Arrival

- Doors open at 7:30 a.m. with Preschool–6th Grade reporting to the cafeteria until released at 7:55.
- 7th & 8th Grade report directly to classrooms.
- Carline Route (*see photo below*):
 1. Proceed around the west side of the gym.
 2. Turn left (heading east) and pull up to the school entrance.
 3. Come to a complete stop and put your car in PARK before allowing students to exit.
 4. Exit out the east driveway.
- Do not drop off in the parking lot during carline — this creates a hazard for pedestrians.
- At 8:05 a.m., barriers will block the east and west sides of the south parking lot to keep the playground area car-free.
- Students are tardy and must be checked in by a parent/guardian after 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal: Carline Route

1. Proceed around the west side of the gym forming two lines.
 2. Turn left (heading east) toward the school entrance.
 3. One line of cars will move at a time and stop when directed by staff.
 4. Put your car in PARK while students load.
 5. Staff will direct one lane of cars to exit out the east driveway..
- Follow the directions of school personnel at all times. DO NOT PASS other cars.
 - Provided yellow car signs should be displayed and easily visible for the entire duration of carline. Additional signs available upon request.
 - Parents must remain in vehicles and students will be called from classrooms.
 - Early pick-ups must occur before 2:45 p.m. at the office. Walk-ups are not permitted during carline.
 - Students should arrive on time and be picked up promptly at dismissal.
 - Chronic late arrival may result in an attendance contract.
 - For late pick-ups after 3:30, parents must park and pick up their child(ren) in the school office.
 - After three infractions of picking up children late, parents will be asked to register for Prime Time or make other child care arrangements.
 - Teachers' supervision ends at 3:30 p.m. Parents who do not pick-up on time place a hardship on staff.

SEAS Carline Route



Emergency Reunification Route at Ridgecrest Church (West of SEAS)

This route will be used if students and staff are required to relocate. A Reunification Drill will be conducted yearly with carline dismissal taking place at Ridgecrest Church to ensure students, staff and parents are prepared in the event of an emergency.



Communication

Primary Communication Channels

- Email & Website: Check your email and the [SEAS website](#) regularly. These are our main forms of home-school communication.
- Weekly Newsletter: A link is emailed weekly by the principal.
- Teacher Updates: Teachers will email information weekly and update grades regularly.
- Progress Reports & Grade Cards: Posted throughout the year; the final grade report is mailed home.

Text Alerts

- Flocknote System: Used to send important reminders via text.

Teacher & School Contact Guidelines

- Teachers respond to emails within 24 hours (school days only).
- For emergencies during the school day, call the School Office: (417) 887-6056. For after-hours emergencies, call the Parish Office: (417) 887-6472.
- Phones roll over to voicemail after 3:30 p.m. and during holidays — please leave a message.

Telephone Use During the School Day

- All school phones are for school business only. Students needing to call parents are required to have permission from a teacher, administrator, or office staff.
- Teachers will only be called to the phone during class in emergencies.
- Students may be called to the office phone only in emergencies.

- Non-urgent messages will be delivered at designated times during the day.

Social Media

- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and celebrations.

Electronic Devices

Cell Phones & Smart Devices

- If cell phones are brought to school, they must be turned off and kept in the student's backpack during the school day, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
- Smart watches or other devices with texting and/or internet capability are **NOT** allowed at school.
- This Includes all extracurricular activities during this time frame.
- Cell phones are not allowed on field trips unless otherwise directed by the teacher and/or administration.

Consequences for Unauthorized Use

If a phone or device is turned on, used, or removed from a backpack without permission:

1. First Offense: Device is confiscated and given to the principal; returned at the end of one school day.
2. Second Offense: Device is confiscated and returned at the end of three school days.
3. Third Offense: Device is confiscated and returned at the end of five school days.

Note: If the consequence period includes a weekend, the device will be returned to the parent over the weekend and the remaining days of the consequence will resume the next school day.

Food Services: Irish Eats

Breakfast and Lunch Program

- All students must eat lunch (either purchased or brought from home) in the cafeteria.
- Fast food lunches are **not** allowed, as they disrupt lunch procedures.
- To promote student health and well-being, sugary drinks (**including sodas, coffee drinks, and energy drinks**) are **prohibited on school grounds during school hours.**
- Menus are published monthly and sent in the principal's newsletter, posted on the SCS website, and sent home in your child's folder.
- Meal Prices
 - Breakfast with milk: \$3.00 *Reduced: \$0.40*
 - Lunch with milk: \$4.00 *Reduced: \$0.50*
 - Extra Entrée (*Jumbo*): \$1.75
 - Milk (*extra or with a home lunch*): \$0.60

Free & Reduced Meals

- Offered to qualifying families by Irish Eats
- Application forms available on the SCS website: [Free & Reduced Meal Application](#)
 - Complete and return to your child's teacher or the school office.

A la Carte Items

- Extra items vary in cost and are not included in the free or reduced meal plan.
- Available only to students in grades 3–5 with a signed [A la Carte Permission Form](#) found on the SCS website. Return completed form to your child's teacher.
- Only available for students with a positive lunch balance.
- May **ONLY** be purchased after the main lunch meal is finished.

Method of Payment

Pay online via Infinite Campus or send cash or check to school in a sealed envelope.

- Make checks payable to ***SEAS Cafeteria***. Envelopes can be given to your child's teacher or left in the school office.
- On the front of an envelope note the following information:
 - STUDENT'S NAME/GRADE (Families with multiple children please note all names/grades)
 - AMOUNT ENCLOSED
 - PURPOSE
- If your child's balance falls below \$5.00 you will receive a notification email from the school office.
- Please monitor your child's account regularly to avoid deficient funds. Parents can check balances online through the Infinite Campus parent portal.

Home and School Association

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Home and School Association is an organization of all SEAS school families which is established to provide activities and family events that add to the success of our school. Some events are Back to School Bash, Book Fair, Pastries with Parents. The executive board meets monthly with administration. All parents/guardians are members of this organization and encouraged to participate in its meetings and activities.

The Goals of Home & School

- Strengthen the relationships among families and the school community
- School and campus beautification
- Improve communication between the whole school community for the betterment of the school
- Financially supplement the school based on the current needs and requests as defined by teachers, parents and parish partners
- Provide parent education on supporting our school through participation in both school-specific and system-wide events.

Specials Classes

Specials classes consist of art, band, music, physical education, and technology. Students are enrolled in elective classes for the entirety of the school year. The second Friday of the school year is the final day for middle school students to change their band/music option.

Student Behavior

Our mission is to cultivate an environment where Catholic virtues are not just taught, but lived every day. We believe in fostering a community where the teachings of Christ are reflected in our actions and interactions. We encourage our staff and students to embody all virtues inspired by the life of Christ, particularly: Gratitude, Respect, Sincerity, Self-Control, Industriousness, Forgiveness, Kindness, Perseverance, Loyalty and Trustworthiness. By integrating these virtues into our daily lives, we strive to create a nurturing environment where students and staff alike can grow spiritually, academically, and personally.

- Students and staff will treat each other with respect and live each day with prayerful decision-making and a holistic worldview.

- School and family work together to provide students the skills to behave and solve problems using spiritual guidance and understanding that impacts their lives and the lives of others.
- Always check with the classroom teacher FIRST before contacting the principal (*Refer to the chain of command chart*)
- Each classroom teacher will have age-appropriate, clear classroom procedures and routines and behavior expectations for all students. These expectations are shared with students on the first days of school and with parents at the beginning of the school year at Parent Information Night.
- In all cases, the principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rule for just cause at his/her discretion. The Diocesan policies and Safe Schools Act for student behavior and discipline will be followed.
- Student and Parent will submit a copy of the Handbook and AUP stating they have read and understand all that is included within those documents.
- Disciplinary incidents will be handled with confidentiality and in the best interest of the students involved. Due to confidentiality and child privacy laws, consequences and disciplinary actions will not be shared with any parents/guardians other than the child's own.
- Behavior, attendance, and academic agreement plans created by administration may be implemented for students on an individual basis due to continued issues.
- Office referrals are used for repeated, inappropriate, and/or dangerous behaviors. Parents will be notified by an administrator or teacher, if an office referral/visit is deemed necessary.

Uniform Dress Code

See System Dress Code above in Appendix A for uniform and out of uniform policy.

Uniform Suppliers (*Script is available for both retailers*)

- DeSales Catholic Bookstore: (417) 831-4630 210 W Sunshine St, Springfield, MO 65807
- Lands' End www.landsend.com Preferred School Number: **SEAS 900143926**

Hair & Headgear

- Hair bows must be modest in size. Headbands must not extend above the head (no ears, horns, etc.) and must be worn in the hair, not on the forehead. Must be school uniform colors only.
- Hair extensions, feathers, unnatural colors, or highlights are not permitted.
- Hair must not cover the eyebrows; boys' hair must be above the shirt collar.
- Hairstyles and cuts must not be dramatic or distracting.
- Questions about headgear should be directed to the classroom teacher or principal.

Jewelry & Accessories

- Necklaces must be simple and non-distracting. Students may wear one ring per hand.
- Girls may wear one pair of stud or small hoop earrings in the main earlobes; no multiple piercings.
- Body piercings and tattoos are not permitted.

Shoes & Socks

- Sandals, flip-flops, open-toe, and open-back shoes are not allowed.
- Tennis shoes are required for P.E.
- Middle school students may wear matching colored socks as long as they are not distracting.

Make-Up & Nails

- Middle school girls may wear modest make-up, nail polish, and artificial nails (including dipped/acrylic) with nails kept at a safe length for P.E. and recess.
- Elementary students may wear nail polish (no artificial nails).

Dress Code Violations Consequences

- 1st Violation: Warning from Principal. *(If it's a Mass Day, students may be asked to change into a uniform from the used uniform closet)*
- 2nd Violation: Phone call home to parent. Students will be required to change into a uniform from the used uniform closet or the parent will need to bring a uniform.
- 3rd Violation: Parents will be asked to come and pick up their child for the rest of the day. This will be considered defiance and will be given the due consequences ranging from ISS to OSS.

VIRTUS/Safe Environment Compliance

Volunteer/Chaperone/Helper opportunities include: Home and School events, homeroom parents, field trip chaperones, library/classroom readers, cafeteria helpers, and AM/PM carline helpers are just a few examples of ways to get involved.

- VIRTUS/Safe Environment Requirements - **NO EXCEPTIONS**
 - All adult volunteers and anyone helping during the school day or at school/parish sponsored events must complete the VIRTUS training course and initial background check.
 - A yearly Code of Conduct must be signed and on file.
 - Background checks will be repeated every three years.
- Should be completed by **October 1st** if you plan on volunteering later in the year.
- Must be completed prior to any event happening before October 1st.