

CONTRACT

We have read and agree to and accept the provisions of this handbook.

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

*Please sign and return this page to your
child's teacher.
Thank you.*

ST. PIUS X SCHOOL



**HANDBOOK
2009-2010**

ST. PIUS X SCHOOL

321 Wood Road
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664
Phone: 508-398-6112
Fax: 508-398-6113
www.spxschool.org

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in the after school program. For your child's safety, it is necessary to follow this policy.

All financial responsibilities must be kept up to date.

POLICY STATEMENT

All schools in the Diocese of Fall River are subject to the policies of the Diocese of Fall River. The **policy manuals of the Diocese of Fall River replace and supersede any contrary statement of policy, procedures, programs, or practices, including but not limited to, any such statement contained in any handbook or manual prepared by any school in the Diocese of Fall River.

**These manuals are available to be read at the Catholic Education Center, 423 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720.

The administration retains the right to amend this handbook for just cause. Parents will be given prompt notification if changes are made.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are privileges afforded to students; no student has an absolute right to a field trip. Students will be denied participation, if they fail to meet academic or behavioral requirements.

Field trips sponsored by the school always supplement and enrich the learning process taking place in school. Prior to any field trip, permission forms will be sent home. The form must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned the office before the student will be allowed to participate. Only the permission form sent from the school is considered acceptable in order for a student to attend a trip. Written notes, facsimile copies, or verbal permission are not acceptable.

Additional *School Field Trip Parental Consent/Release Agreement* forms are available through the school office.

SUPERVISION BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Saint Pius X School is opened daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Before School Program is offered from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Any child arriving before 7:45 a.m. will be placed in the Program and the parent will be charged accordingly.

The After School Program is offered from 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Any child on school premises after 2:30 p.m. will be placed in the Program and the parent will be charged accordingly.

Any parent picking up their child after 5:30 p.m. will be accessed a late fee.

A staff member will supervise students participating in after school activities for 15 minutes after the activity's culmination. Any child on school premises after the activity will be placed

GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Pius X School, a Catholic parish school, located on Cape Cod, educates children in Grades PreK - eight according to the teachings of Christ. As a community rooted in the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, we endeavor to educate the whole child through positive spiritual, academic, and social experiences in a nurturing and structured environment. Teachers, families, and the parish community unite to create educational foundations preparing students for the challenges in competitive secondary schools and to create a positive and lasting impact on each child to enrich our church and society.

"Love God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself."

NON DISCRIMINATION

Saint Pius X School does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin.

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

In 1994, Bishop Sean O'Malley, then Bishop of the Fall River Diocese, answered the resurgence of a desire of the people of Cape Cod to have a Catholic High School and Catholic Elementary Schools built on the Cape. A feasibility study was done and the results confirmed the desire of the people of Cape Cod to have Catholic Education returned to the Cape.

In 1998, Bishop O'Malley asked Monsignor John J. Smith if Saint Pius X Parish would build the first new Catholic Elementary School. A goal was set at \$5.5 million for the school, an architect was hired, and a 3 ^{1/2} acre site was chosen on parish property.

In May, 2003, the groundbreaking ceremony occurred. The school was completed in February, 2004. In September,

2004, the school opened wide, its doors. "Through these doors pass our greatest gifts... God's children."

It is fitting that Saint Pius X School opened in 2004, as this was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of Saint Pius X Parish. Our parish was the first parish established by the Fall River Diocese after Pope Pius X was canonized and the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Fall River by Pope Pius X!

Saint Pius X School is dedicated and committed to its students and their families. The education of Saint Pius X School, based on the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, provides academic challenge within an active Catholic setting. The school is structured so as to foster the spiritual, physical, intellectual, psychological, and social development of the child. This aim is supported by the staff through instruction and by their example.

Community, an outgrowth of a Christian education, is a reality to be lived. The varied backgrounds of students at Saint Pius X School enable us to accept and appreciate one another as we strive to grow as members of this Christian community.

Our goal as Catholic educators is to give service and excellence through prayer, teaching, and participation. We encourage students to reach out to those who are in need of assistance. Children also participate in the liturgical life of the parish.

In light of our aim, we seek to provide for parental support in the child's life at school in order that the school and home may mutually reinforce the values of Christ in the child.

CONDUCT

The students of Saint Pius X School are expected to be respectful in all their relationships with staff and peers.

Conduct unbecoming a Christian student, such as defiance, constant disturbances during class by talking out, using threatening or violent language, annoying, or harming others may require an automatic detention. If this is a consistent pattern, parents will be notified and decisions for further correction will be made. If deemed necessary, a student will be suspended for a determined number of days or the student may be expelled from Saint Pius X School.

The principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rule for just cause at his discretion.

DETENTION

Students who are given detention will be notified at least one day before the detention is to be served.

After school activities on the day of an assigned detention should be canceled or rescheduled. Detention times are based on the discretion of the teacher only. Parents and students are discouraged from asking for a change. Alternate means of transportation home immediately after the detention is the responsibility of the parents.

DISHONESTY

Any pupil who has been found stealing or cheating may be asked to leave Saint Pius X School if efforts to correct the problem fail.

Sneakers may be worn on gym day; **however**, another pair of sneakers must be carried to the school gym for gym use only. This is to avoid unnecessary damage to the finish of the gymnasium floor by dirt, sand, water, etc. Gym sneakers may be left in the classroom/locker.

Pre-Kindergarten students are not required to wear the school uniform. The following is optional if parents would like to purchase uniform items:

PRE-K		
Boys and Girls	Pants	navy sweatpant with school logo
	Shorts	navy mesh short with school logo
	Sweatshirt	navy sweatshirt with school logo
	Shirt	white polo with school logo

HEALTH INFORMATION

Every student entering Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and new students at any grade level must have the immunizations and physical examination required by law submitted before admission to Saint Pius X School.

Each student entering Grade 4 and 7 is required by law to have a physical examination before admission or one dated no more than one year prior to entry.

Every student engaging in a sport activity needs to have a physical examination within a one year limit. A copy of the exam must be on file in the health office.

Any allergies with specific reactions that a student may have need to be submitted to the school.

The school should be notified of health problems as they arise with any student.

School wide vision, hearing, height and weight screenings are done yearly. Postural screening is performed yearly on students in Grades 5-8 only.

Head checks for lice are done periodically. Students with head lice must remain home until free of lice or nits. Before returning to class the student will be checked to ensure that he/she is free of head lice or nits.

MEDICATIONS

All prescribed and over-the-counter medications taken by a student during school hours need to be accompanied by two forms completed and on file in the health room before medications will be administered:

- 1) medication order form completed by medical doctor or nurse practitioner
- 2) parental consent form

All medications need to be delivered by a responsible adult to a member of the health room personnel. All medications need to be picked up by a responsible adult at the end of the school year. Any medications left will be discarded. All medications will be stored in a locked cabinet and distributed in the school health room. Exceptions: (1) emergency situations (2) field trips (3) student is passed by school nurse with consent of the parent to self-administer in the health room.

A prescription bottle, epi-pen, or inhaler needs to be labeled with the following information:

- Name of child
- Date of prescription
- Name of medication, dosage, and time table
- Name of doctor or nurse practitioner
- Prescription number

A recent change in the Massachusetts State Law prohibits any non-licensed personnel from administering “over the counter” medication, **under any circumstances**. Registered nurses are allowed to train them to administer **prescription medicines only**, such as antibiotics, inhalers, and epi-pens. This policy is in place for when a nurse is not on duty.

Parents should make every effort to administer medications before and after school hours.

If any of these medication rules is not followed, parent and/or guardian must give medication.

INJURY

In the event of injury, the child will be maintained at the school, if at all possible, until parent or emergency person is contacted and arrives. In the event of a 911 emergency, an ambulance will be called and the child will be accompanied by a familiar adult from the school to the hospital specified by the parent or the nearest hospital. Immediate parental notification will be done.

ILLNESS

When a child has exaggerated cold symptoms with cough, sore throat, fever, rash, acute gastro intestinal problems or

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS

GRADE K-4		
Boys and Girls	Pants	navy windpant or sweatpant with school logo
	Shorts	navy mesh short with school logo (to be worn under windpant during class)
	Jacket	navy windjacket with school logo
	Sweatshirt	navy sweatshirt with school logo
	Shirt	white polo with school logo
	Socks	white
Boys and Girls	Shoes	non-marking sneakers

GRADES 5-8		
Boys and Girls	Pants	navy windpant with school logo
	Shorts	navy mesh short with school logo (to be worn under windpant during class)
	Jacket	navy windjacket with school logo
	Shirt	navy polo with school logo
	Socks	white
Boys and Girls	Shoes	non-marking sneakers

WINTER UNIFORM

The Winter Uniform may be worn during the following time period:

From the Monday following Thanksgiving Recess to third Friday in March.

The Winter Uniform consists of the Standard Uniform and the following additions:

GRADES K-4		
Boys	Shirt	white turtleneck or white oxford button down shirt
Girls	Trousers	navy slacks
	Shirt	white turtleneck or standard round collar blouse

GRADES 5-8		
Boys		Same as standard uniform
Girls	Trousers	khaki slacks

other acute complaints, please do not send the child to school. Students should be fever free, without the benefit of medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. If illness symptoms arise at school the nurse or a person acting in her behalf, will evaluate the situation and decide if the child should remain in school or be sent home with parent or person listed on emergency contact card.

LUNCHES

Nutritional lunches are provided at school each day or students may choose to bring their own lunch. Please refrain from bringing lunch from fast food restaurants such as McDonald's®. These lunches are not nutritious and send the wrong message to other students.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Parents have two tuition payment options.

- 1) Payment In Full
- 2) FACTS Monthly Payment Plan. Payments are budgeted over 11 months. Information regarding the FACTS Plan is available through the school office.

Financial Assistance is available through the St. Mary's Education Fund, your Diocesan Parish, and for St. Pius X Church parishioners through St. Pius X Church. Further information is available from the Principal.

It is expected that if the school accepts a child for the coming year and the parents agree to send the child, then the parents should be willing to pay the full tuition for that year. If a parent freely withdraws a child, the school feels that the parents have assumed an obligation to have them complete payment of that year's tuition, if that seat will be left vacant.

If a child is absent for an extended period of time, the school would presume that the parents likewise would have an obligation to continue to make tuition payments.

CONFERENCES

Parents are asked to send/email a note to a teacher or call the office to schedule an appointment. Conferences are scheduled exclusive of class teaching time. Concerns regarding class work or behavior need to be directed to the teacher of your child. Parents are asked to never call a teacher at home.

VISITORS

For the safety of each child attending Saint Pius X School, all visitors, including all parents, are required to report to the school office upon entering the school. At all times, including before and after school, visitors must check in and receive a badge at the office.

ORGANIZATIONACTIVITIES

FRIENDS OF SAINT PIUS X SCHOOL

The purpose of the Association is to promote volunteerism, to fundraise and to weave cooperation between families, the school, and the community.

SAINT PIUS X SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Basketball | Good Citizen of the Week (K-3) |
| Soccer | Newspaper |
| Baseball | Student Council |
| Softball | Study Hall |
| Golf | Drama Club |
| Tennis | Community Service Projects |
| Open Gym | Prayer Group |
| Sports Night | Chess |
| Robotics | Catholic Schools Week |
| Yearbook | Christmas Pageant |
| Quiz Bowl | Choir |

SUMMER UNIFORM

The Summer Uniform may be worn during the following time periods:

From the First Day of school to the Friday before the Columbus Day Holiday

From the Monday following Spring Recess to the Last Day of school.

The Summer Uniform consists of the Standard Uniform and the following additions:

GRADES K-4		
Boys	Trousers	navy walking short
	Shirt	white polo with school logo
Girls	Skort	navy skort
	Shirt	white polo with school logo

GRADES 5-8		
Boys	Trousers	khaki short
	Shirt	navy polo with school logo
Girls	Short	khaki skort
	Shirt	navy polo with school logo

**SCHOOL UNIFORM
ALL YEAR
STANDARD REQUIRED UNIFORM:**

GRADES 5-8		
Boys	Trousers	khaki
	Shirts	white, light blue, blue pinstripe oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	navy or green V-neck pullover with school logo
	Ties	official school tie
Girls	Kilts	navy or black watch plaid
	Shirts	white, yellow, or light blue oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	navy or green V-neck pullover with school logo
	Socks	navy or green knee length
	Tights	navy or green
Boys and Girls	Shoes	navy, black or brown non-marking (Docksidars© and Merrell© Jungle Moc style acceptable)

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

CURRICULUM

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Pre-Kindergarten consists of 5 day program. The program is based on a developmental model of education. The classroom is designed to offer a stimulating supportive environment for the young child. Activities, projects, and play areas are provided to encourage the child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical growth.

GRADES K - 3

The Kindergarten provides a developmental program for the child who is being introduced to the structure of formal school. The atmosphere contributes to the growth of the "whole child" through a variety of activities which include teaching, language arts, introduction to computers, religion, science, math, physical education, music, art, and social activities. Individuality is fostered and character training is important to the process of socialization.

In Grades 1 through 3, language arts and math receive the greatest allotment of time. Religion is taught on a daily basis. Science, social studies, physical education, art, music, phonics, penmanship, technology and library are part of the weekly course of study.

GRADES 3 and 4

All of the above subjects are taught in Grades 3 and 4. The major difference is the time allotment given to each subject. On this level, social studies and science are given more time than on the primary level. Math and Science are departmentalized at this level.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 5-8

At the Middle School level, students must complete each required grade level course in order to advance to the next grade. If a student fails a subject for the year, the student must attend summer school or be professionally tutored during the summer. If an eighth grade student fails a course, he/she will be given a Certificate of Completion of Elementary Studies only upon successful completion of the failed course.

Block scheduling of Science and Language Arts allows students to have longer class periods in order to complete science labs and language arts papers.

GRADING SYSTEM

Saint Pius X School operates on a trimester (12-week) system. Interim reports are sent home with the child in the middle of each trimester. These reports are then signed by the parents and returned the following day. Parents receive the first report card at a parents' conference with the child's home room teacher. Second and third trimester evaluations are mailed to the parents' homes. Report cards are a form of assessment. It indicates a student's academic progress, as well as, personal traits and study habits.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

On-going parent conferences are given

KINDERGARTEN

Written assessments are periodically given

GRADES 1, 2, 3

The assessment of students in these grades is divided into three areas:

1. Overall Christian Attitude
2. Academic Growth
3. Personal Growth

Rubrics are used.

GRADE 4

The assessment of students in Grade 4 and Grade 5 is divided into two areas:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Skills Mastery

Letter grades are given for Academic Achievement and Rubrics are used for Skills Mastery.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 5-8

The assessment of Middle School students is based on Academic Achievement

**SCHOOL UNIFORM
ALL YEAR
STANDARD REQUIRED UNIFORM:**

GRADES		
K-4		
Boys	Trousers	navy pants
	Shirts	white oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	green V-neck pullover with school logo
	Socks	navy
	Ties	official school tie
Girls	Plaid Jumpers	
	Blouses	white round collar, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	navy cardigan with school logo
	Socks	navy knee length or white anklets
	Tights	navy
Boys and Girls	Shoes	navy, black or brown non-marking, tie shoes (Docksiders© and Merrell© Jungle Moc style acceptable)

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to be neat and well groomed at all times. It is expected that the student wear their dress code daily.

Boys and girls should be well groomed and modest in style. Make-up and nail polish are not allowed. Watches and rings are permitted. Girls with pierced ears may wear small stud-type earrings only - one earring only in each ear – traditional placement at the ear lobe. Boys may not wear any earrings. Boys’ hair should be no longer than the collar of their shirts. Girls may wear the headband or scrunchie available through the uniform company or a navy scrunchie, navy headband, navy barrettes or navy ribbons. All hairstyles should be simple and traditional.

In order to keep uniformity in our dress code, it is necessary that all uniform purchases be made through our uniform company:

J.B. Edwards Uniforms
39 Cummings Park
Woburn, MA 01801
800-654-5148
www.jbedwarduniforms.com

The school uniform code is strictly enforced.

LETTER GRADES FOR REPORT CARDS

A+	97 - 100
A	94 - 96
A-	90 - 93
B+	87 - 89
B	84 - 86
B-	80 - 83
C+	77 - 79
C	74 - 76
C-	70 - 73
D	65 - 69
F	Below 65
I	Incomplete

HOMEWORK

Homework assignments are given to students in every grade in proportion to the grade of the child. Homework is assigned weekly or daily, Monday through Thursday. At the discretion of the teacher, homework may be assigned on Friday.

Long-term assignments are also given.

The following are recommended times for homework:

Grade 1	Approximately fifteen (15) minutes
Grade 2	Approximately thirty (30) minutes
Grade 3	Approximately thirty (30) to forty-five (45)minutes
Grade 4	Approximately one (1) hour
Middle School	Approximately 2 1/2 hours

ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Saint Pius X School participates in the standardized program offered by the Diocese of Fall River. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is administered to the students in Grade 2 through Grade 8. The Cognitive Ability Test is administered to the students in Grade 3, Grade 5, and Grade 7.

Parents will receive a home copy of their child's performance and results of the testing by mail.

PROMOTION

Promotion is based on satisfactorily completing the subject matter covered at grade level. Immaturity, failure to receive passing grades in two major academic areas, or failure to complete the subject matter of a particular grade level may warrant retention.

GRADUATION

A student will be graduated upon satisfactory completion of the eight (8) elementary grades' curricula.

Pick Up

Students going home by car will be dismissed at either the Lobby entrance or the Cafeteria entrance. Carline Singles (one student only) will be dismissed at the Cafeteria entrance. Carline Carpools (more than one student in the same vehicle) will be dismissed at the Lobby entrance. All PreK students dismissed at 12:30 will be dismissed at the Playground entrance. Parents are asked to assemble an orderly pick up line. A sign in the front windshield displaying the family or carpool name should be visible. It is not necessary for the driver to exit the vehicle. Staff member(s) will assist students into vehicles.

Please be advised that a note giving permission from the parent must be sent with the student each time a change in transportation arrangements is made and whenever a student is to be picked up by anyone other than the regular driver. Parents may send their child's carpool list to the school at the beginning of the school year.

WALKERS

Students who walk should remain in an orderly line on the sidewalk until they reach home.

PARKING

The front driveway to the school must be kept free of parked cars at all times. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the gymnasium or in the Parish lots. The Playground parking area is reserved for the school staff.

At all times, please use caution and courtesy as you travel in and around the school/parish grounds.

TRANSPORTATION

BUS

Students must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District. Proper behavior on the school bus is essential for the safety of all children riding the bus. Children must remain seated at all times. Heads and hands are to remain in their places not waving out the window. Fighting, yelling, or any behavior which will distract the bus driver or harm others will not be tolerated. After sufficient warning and at the discretion of school administration, the student will lose the privilege of riding the bus and will have to find other means of transportation. Students must be at their bus stop at the designated times. Afternoon dismissal for bus students will be held at the front entrance. Bus routes are published in local newspapers in late August/early September.

CAR LINE

Drop Off

Students arriving by car are to be dropped off at either the Front entrance or the Cafeteria entrance. Carline Singles (one student only) are dropped off at the Cafeteria entrance. Carline Carpools (more than one student exiting the same vehicle) are to be dropped off at the Front entrance. Staff member(s) will be on duty at the entrances to direct students into the building. It is not necessary for the driver to exit the vehicle and walk the student into the building. The staff on duty will assist students exiting the vehicle. The only exception to this is for PreK students. Parents of PreK students can park in the Playground lot and a staff member will be on duty at the entrance to assist students exiting the vehicle.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Pre-Kindergarten	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Pre- Kindergarten Extended Program	12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Grades K-8	8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Enter Building	7:45 a.m.
Classes Begin	8:00 a.m.
Dismissal	2:15 p.m.
Extended Day Program	2:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

SCHOOL HOURS AND YEAR

A monthly calendar of events, holidays, and “no school” dates will be distributed to parents.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENTEEISM/TARDINESS/DISMISSAL

For the safety of your child please call the school to notify of the absence. Upon return to school, a note shall accompany the student with the reason for absence.

Excessive absenteeism is a major concern. A student who falls below the minimum requirement may possibly be retained unless a doctor's certificate bears witness to the need for excessive absenteeism.

Tardiness is a terrible habit that interferes with the educational culture of the school. Any student who is tardy must report to the office before going to class. During each trimester, after the 3rd unexcused tardy, a detention will be assigned on the 4th tardy and each subsequent tardy. This process will start over each trimester.

While the unexpected may occur occasionally, the school calendar is set well in advance to allow parents time to plan vacations accordingly. Except in case of illness, students are expected to attend school regularly and to observe stated school hours. The school asks that all outside appointments, such as doctor, dentist, music lessons, etc., be arranged for out of school hours so that early dismissal is unnecessary. If for reasons of convenience the family decides to take the student out of school, the school recognizes the authority of the parents to do so. **THE SCHOOL STRONGLY DISAPPROVES OF THIS ACTION. Written assignments and class notes cannot duplicate class participation and discussions.** The student is expected to make up the work. Since the school was not involved in the decision-making process, the faculty is not obliged to help the student make up the work missed. Parents must submit a note to the Principal explaining the reason for any foreseen absence. Students should inform each teacher when they will be absent from school.

Parents must report to the office to meet their child for early dismissal.

Special notification in writing must be made to the school office to dismiss a child to someone other than a parent.

CANCELLATION

Cancellation of school for inclement weather or emergencies will be aired on local radio stations, WBZ AM1030, WCOD FM106, and WQRC FM99.9. It is advisable to listen to one of these stations each morning. In case of delay for public or parochial schools, there will be no Pre-Kindergarten. If the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District cancels school, Saint Pius X School will also be closed.

Saint Pius X School utilizes the Alert Now Notification System which allows the school to send a telephone or e-mail message providing important information about school events or emergencies. Parents provide pertinent contact information at the beginning of the school year.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS/WEAPONS

A student may be expelled from Saint Pius X School should he/she be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or if drugs, alcohol or a weapon are found on the pupil's person, in the desk, or locker.

A weapon is defined as inappropriate materials that may cause bodily harm.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY AND BOOKS

Students must replace or pay for any damage done to school property and books.

Vandalism will not be tolerated.

TRANSFERS

A release of records form must be signed by the parent in order to have information sent to the school that the student will attend. Records are sent directly from school to school.

All financial obligations must be met before records are released.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Parents are required to complete an emergency contact card at the beginning of each academic year. In case of an emergency, the school must know where to locate parents. Parents are asked to update this information whenever there is a change of work or address.

If a child's ordinary means of transportation must be changed, the school needs to be notified in writing. If there is an emergency, a phone call to the school is sufficient.