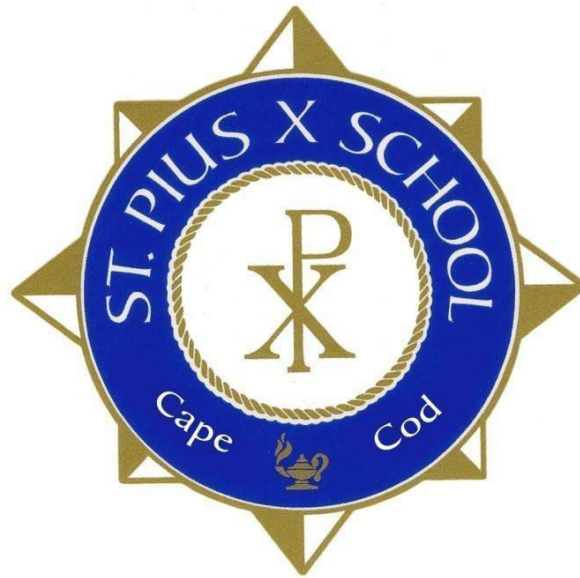


ST. PIUS X SCHOOL



FAMILY HANDBOOK 2025-2026

To learn, to grow, to lead...

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



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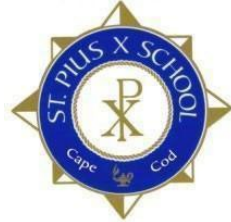
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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT



St. Pius X School educates students:

- **to learn the Catholic faith and follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ**
- **to grow spiritually, academically and socially**
- **to lead a life of faith, service, and integrity**

We prepare our students to learn, to grow, and to lead:

- in a community of teachers, staff, parents, and parish family joined in partnership to educate our children in Catholic faith and values.
- in a setting of academic excellence serving a diverse population of PreK-Grade 8 students on Cape Cod.
- in an environment that inspires the pursuit of knowledge, promotes service, and instills leadership.
- in a school culture that provides opportunities for each student to attain full potential as a caring citizen and person of faith.
- under the guidance and direction of a dedicated and committed faculty who values success for each student.
- with opportunities to explore growth in the arts, in athletics, and in a growing variety of extracurricular experiences.
- with an understanding of mutual respect for each individual.
- as successful, competent young men and women.
- while being respectful, responsible, and safe.



A Escola São Pio X educa para:

- **aprender a fé católica e seguir os passos de Jesus**
- **Cristo. crescer espiritualmente, academicamente e**
- **socialmente. levar uma vida de fé, serviço e integridade.**

Preparamos nossos alunos para aprender, crescer e liderar:

- em uma comunidade de professores, funcionários, pais e família paroquial unidos em parceria para educar nossas crianças na fé e nos valores católicos.
- em um ambiente de excelência acadêmica e altas expectativas, atendendo a uma população diversificada de alunos da pré-escola até a 8ª série no Cape Cod.
- em um ambiente que inspira a busca por conhecimento, promove o serviço e incute liderança.
- em uma cultura escolar que oferece oportunidade para que cada aluno atinja seu pleno potencial como cidadão responsável e pessoa de fé.
- sob a orientação e direção de um corpo docente dedicado e comprometido que valoriza o sucesso de cada aluno.
- com oportunidades para explorar o crescimento nas artes, no atletismo e em uma variedade crescente de experiências extracurriculares.
- com uma compreensão do respeito mútuo por cada indivíduo.
- como jovens competentes e bem-sucedidos.
- ao mesmo tempo que é respeitoso, responsável e seguro.



Escuela San Pío X educa a los estudiantes:

- **aprenda la fe católica y siga los pasos de Jesucristo.**
- **crecer espiritual, académica y socialmente.**
- **lleve una vida de fe, servicio e integridad.**

Preparamos a nuestros estudiantes para aprender, crecer y liderar:

- en una comunidad de maestros, personal, padres y familia parroquial unidos en asociación para educar a nuestros niños en la fe y los valores católicos.
- en un ambiente de excelencia académica y altas expectativas, sirviendo a una población diversa de estudiantes de octavo grado en Cape Cod.
- en un entorno que inspira la búsqueda de conocimientos, promueve el servicio e infunde liderazgo.
- en una cultura escolar que brinda oportunidades para que todos los estudiantes alcancen su máximo potencial como ciudadanos solidarios y personas de fe.
- bajo la guía y dirección de un cuerpo docente dedicado y comprometido que valora el éxito de cada estudiante.
- con oportunidades para explorar el crecimiento en las artes, el atletismo y una variedad creciente de experiencias extracurriculares.
- en un entorno que inspira la búsqueda de conocimientos, promueve el servicio e infunde liderazgo.
- con un entendimiento del respeto mutuo por cada individuo.
- como hombres y mujeres jóvenes competentes y exitosos.
- siendo respetuoso, responsable y seguro

NON-DISCRIMINATION

St. Pius X School recognizes, respects, promotes, and celebrates the value of cultural diversity. The staff is concerned for equity and for the dignity of all human beings. These concerns are derived from the school's mission and core values. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, creed, disability, or socio-economic background, as long as the students' needs can be served by the school's program. Students, in religion class, and staff members, are educated so that they respond sensitively, sympathetically, and justly in our diverse world.

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 a Catholic Elementary School 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 St. 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 ½ 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, its doors, welcoming all with the message, "Through these doors pass our greatest gifts...God's children."

It is fitting that St. Pius X School opened in 2004, as this was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of St. Pius X Parish and the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Diocese of Fall River (March 12, 1904). Our parish was the first parish established by the Fall River Diocese after Pope Pius X was canonized.

St. Pius X School is dedicated and committed to its students and their families. The education of St. 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 diverse backgrounds of students at St. 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 participate actively 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.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools School Health Services

School Nurse

The primary role of the school nurse is to support student health and academic success by providing healthcare assessment, intervention and follow-up for all children within the school setting. The school nurse has many roles within the school community some of which include:

- Link between school, students, families, healthcare and other community providers
- Maintaining school health records, monitoring immunizations, managing communicable diseases, and assessing the school environment to prevent injury and ensure safety
- Assessing student health status and making referrals
- Member of the crisis team
- Administering medications per MDPH guidelines
- Performing classroom teachings on health-related topics
- Providing emergency care
- Implement state mandated health screenings and referrals

The school nurses in the Diocese of Fall River are available daily and only during regular school hours. Therefore, there will not be a nurse during before school morning care, early dismissal days, after school activities, sports, and extended care. In the event of a medical emergency during before or after school activities, 911 services may be activated followed by parent/guardian notification. If a student participating in before or after school activities has specific medical conditions, such as anaphylactic allergies, seizures and diabetes, the school nurse will meet with the parent/guardian to develop an emergency action plan to have in place in the event of an emergency. This plan will also be shared with the appropriate school staff that will be taking care of the student.

Anaphylaxis/Allergy

All parents/guardians of students with a known anaphylactic allergy (food, insect stings, medications, latex, etc.) must notify the school nurse of the child's allergy. A meeting with the nurse will be scheduled to develop an allergy management and prevention plan which will include an anaphylaxis emergency care plan signed by the licensed prescriber. A minimum of two up-to-date epinephrine auto injectors along with a licensed provider order for the epinephrine, a signed parental authorization form and a Food Allergy Action Plan from the physician are also required.

Health and Emergency Form

A Health and Emergency Form must be completed at the beginning of each school year and returned to the school nurse within 2 days. This form gives information on how to reach parents in case of emergency and provides updated health information on your child from year to year. Notify the school nurse of any changes in emergency contact information or state of health during the school year. Remember, in the event of an accident or illness, the school must be able to reach the parent or another person who will assume responsibility for the student.

Health Emergencies

Please notify the school nurse of any medical condition which may cause an emergency situation for your child (e.g. allergic reaction to food, insect bites or medication, asthma, diabetes, seizures). The school nurse will work with you in developing a care plan to meet your child's health care needs.

Illness and Injury in School

If a child becomes ill during school hours, the nurse or main office will call the parent to make arrangements for the child to be dismissed from school. Serious injuries at school will be handled by having an ambulance take the child to the closest emergency room. Parents will be notified immediately if an ambulance is called. It is extremely important that all emergency contact information be up to date.

Illness- When to Keep Your Child Home

Unless otherwise directed by the school nurse, children must remain home if they have any of the following:

- Temperature of 100 degrees or more within the past 24 hours. The child may return to school when fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, Ibuprofen).
- A severe cold with fever, sneezing and thickened nasal discharge.
- A cough that keeps the child awake at night, worsens with increased activity, or is combined with other symptoms.
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea- The child must stay home for 24 hours after the last episode.
- A rash or skin condition that has not been diagnosed by a doctor. Please have these identified and treated for 24 hours before returning to school.
- "Pink Eye" or conjunctivitis - A draining, itchy eye that is red must be treated with antibiotic eye medicine before the child returns to school.
- Drainage from the eyes- Child must be seen and cleared by a physician to return to school.
- A severe or persistent earache.
- Live head lice. The child must receive appropriate treatment before returning to school.
- In addition to the foregoing, children should remain home if directed by the school nurse.

Medication Policies

In order to comply with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 94C, the following are requirements for the administration of medication to students during school hours. The school nurse is responsible for administration of medication in school. Faculty and staff may administer an EpiPen in emergency situations if they have completed the EpiPen training.

- All medications, prescription or over the counter medications, require a physician's order and a completed parental/guardian authorization form or the medication cannot be given. Over the counter medications include, but are not limited to, cough drops, cough medicine, eye drops, Acetaminophen, and Ibuprofen.

- Medication orders must be renewed at the beginning of each school year and expire at the end of the school year.
- Whenever possible, medication administration should be scheduled at times other than during school hours.
- All medications must be delivered to the school nurse by the student's parent/guardian or a designated adult. Students are not permitted to bring medications to school.
- All medications must be delivered in a pharmacy labeled container or in the manufacturer's medication container. Medications in plastic bags, envelopes, etc., will not be accepted. ● The pharmacy labeled container can be used in place of a physician's order **only** in the case of short-term medications such as those medications given for ten days or less (antibiotics). If the school nurse has a question about the medication, she may request a licensed prescriber's order.
- Parents/guardians may retrieve medications from the school nurse at any time. All unused, discontinued or outdated medications must be picked up by a parent/guardian at the end of the school year or it will be destroyed.

When to Contact Your Child's School Nurse

Sharing significant health information with your school nurse is extremely important in keeping all students safe especially during emergency situations. Please feel free to contact your child's school nurse at any time with questions, concerns or health updates, including but not limited to the ones listed below.

- Your child has a **medical condition** which may bring about an emergency situation for your child (e.g. allergic reaction to food, insect bites or medication, asthma, diabetes, seizures).
- Your child requires **medications or treatments** during the school day. Your school nurse will meet with you to discuss a plan of action and provide you with all required medication/ treatment forms that must be completed before any medication/treatment can be administered.
- There has been a **change in your emergency contact information**. Please notify the school nurse right away if there is a change in your phone number or job. If you rely on a cell phone, please provide the school nurse with that number.
- You have concerns about your child's social and emotional wellbeing.
- Your child has received a **new medical diagnosis** or there is a change in their health.
- Your child has **allergies or has developed a new allergy**. All parents/guardians of students with a known anaphylactic allergy (food, insect stings, medications, latex, etc.) must notify the school nurse of the child's allergy. A meeting with the nurse will be scheduled to develop an allergy management and prevention plan which will include an anaphylaxis emergency care plan signed by the licensed prescriber. A minimum of two up-to-date epinephrine auto-injectors along with a licensed provider order for the epinephrine, a signed parental authorization form and a Food Allergy Action Plan from the physician are also required.

- Your child has **health issues** that may affect school performance, e.g., vision or hearing, attention deficit disorder.
- Your child has been **hospitalized**.
- Your child has been treated for a **contagious or communicable disease** such as chicken pox, flu, strep throat, whooping cough, pneumonia, or head lice.
- Your child receives a **head injury/concussion**. If your child has been diagnosed with a concussion, please contact your school nurse as soon as possible. Prior to returning to school, the school nurse should be provided with documentation from the health care provider that includes confirmation of the diagnosis and any necessary accommodations for the school day, including restrictions for physical education classes and participation in athletic activities. The school nurse will discuss details of the support available to your child when you call to discuss the head injury.
- Your child has received a **recent injury** that requires accommodations for gym or in the classroom. Injuries may require written medical clearance from a healthcare provider to return to school or physical activities. Students who return to school with casts, air casts, crutches, splints, arm slings, wheelchairs, canes and/or immobilizers require a doctor's note that includes: (1) clearance for student to return to school; (2) any restrictions from physical education and recess; (3) confirmation from the physician that the student has been properly instructed in the use of the medical equipment provided. Students having stitches/staples or surgical procedures also require a written doctor's note with clearance to attend school and list any restrictions from physical education and recess.
- There has been a recent **change in your family**, such as a birth, loss, or serious illness.
- There has been a change in your child's **health insurance**, or you need help with obtaining health insurance for your child.

Health Screenings

All health screenings are performed by the school nurse in accordance with Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations. Students may also be screened at any time during the year at a teacher or parent's request.

If screening results indicate the need for follow-up care by a physician, parents/guardians will be notified. If necessary, the school nurse can assist with obtaining a follow-up evaluation by a physician.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Early detection of vision and hearing issues is essential because many vision and hearing deficits can be corrected if they are identified early. Vision and hearing issues can impact a child's ability to learn in many ways. Poor vision can affect a child's gross motor development, and hearing issues may affect speech.

According to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, section 57, students require vision screening “in the year of school entry, annually through grade 5, once in grades 6 through 8, and once in grades 9- 12”. Students require hearing screenings “in the year of school entry, annually through grade 3, once in grades 6 through 8, and once in grades 9 through 12”.

If you have any concerns, at any time, about your child’s hearing or vision, please contact your child’s school nurse for assistance.

Postural Screening

The State of Massachusetts mandates that all students in grades 5 through 9 be screened for scoliosis. The purpose of postural screening is to identify early signs of spinal problems. Most scoliosis and other spinal issues can be easily treated if they are detected early. Parents are notified before screening so that students are dressed appropriately. Girls and boys are screened separately, and privacy is respected at all times. It is requested that girls wear a bathing suit top, halter top or a sports bra, under their clothes on the day of the school screening, as this type of clothing facilitates better examination of the back.

SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment)

This health screening is required by Massachusetts law and is to be done once in middle school and once in high school. Students in grades 7 and 10 in the Diocese of Fall River will be screened. SBIRT is intended to identify substance use risk behaviors and to improve health safety, resilience and success in students. SBIRT screening requires a structured, 1:1 conversation between a trained school professional and a student to build trusting relationships around education, behavior and support related to substance use. Parents and students will be given the opportunity to opt-out of the screening.

Growth and Development Screenings

Following Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, section 57, students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 will be screened for growth-related issues and their BMI is calculated. This information is kept confidential.

Other Screenings

School nurses may also conduct periodic dental screenings to assess for dental decay in children and head checks on an as-needed basis for head lice.

**Parents/guardians may request, in writing, that their child not participate in a screening program. This request must be submitted in writing each year and be specific to which screening you do not wish your child to participate. Please contact your school nurse with any questions.*

Physical Examination Requirements

All students entering grades PreK, K, 4, 7 and 11 are required by law to provide the school nurse a physical examination form with age appropriate immunizations documented by the physician. Additionally, any new or transferring students must provide this documentation as well and the physicals must be dated within 12 months of school admission. Updated physical examinations are required every 3-4 years.

For students entering Kindergarten, the physical exam must show documentation of a passed vision screening (done within the previous 12 months). Evidence of a comprehensive eye examination is required for those students who have failed the screening and for students diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay.

Students entering kindergarten must also present documentation of lead poisoning screening.

Tuberculosis Assessment

Per MDPH guidelines for Tuberculosis monitoring and prevention, a TB Risk Assessment should be performed by a health care provider in order to determine TB risk and if further testing is necessary. MDPH advises that each school-aged child have a TB Risk Assessment completed and documented on the physical exam form. In addition, a school nurse may request a TB risk assessment by a medical provider and documentation of risk level and follow up testing (if applicable) under these listed circumstances:

- Birth, travel to or residency in a high-risk world region including Africa, Asia (except Japan), Pacific Islands, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Mexico, Central or South America, the Caribbean
- Exposure to an individual with diagnosed or suspected TB disease
- Household contact to individual with positive TB test (TST or IGRA)
- Parent and/or guardian or household member from a high-risk world region
- History of immunosuppressive disease or medications that might cause immunosuppression

Immunization Requirements

Students entering all grades must meet current Massachusetts Department of Public Health immunization requirements. School health records are reviewed periodically to determine the immunization status of each student. If it is found that immunization updates are needed, school nurses will telephone parents/legal guardians or send notices home.

School Immunization Law, Chapter 76, Section 15 of the General Laws of the State of Massachusetts, requires that all immunizations must be up to date for children to attend school. Massachusetts General Law allows for the school to exclude any child from school whose immunizations are not up to date.

Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program.

6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Parents have two tuition payment options.

- Payment In Full
- 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 FACE (Foundation to Advance Catholic Education), 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 parents assume the obligation to 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 parents have an obligation to continue to make tuition payments.

7. CONFERENCES

School wide Parent– Teacher conferences for all students will be held **after the first Interim Report**. Refer to the school's yearly calendar for dates. A second conference may be scheduled, at the request of the parent or teacher, after the second Interim Report.

In addition, parents may schedule a conference at other times of the year, with a teacher. 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 never call a teacher at home, or email the teacher's personal email.

8. CONTACTING THE SCHOOL OR SCHOOL STAFF

Any staff member may be contacted through school email. Each person's email consists of *first initial* and *last name*, followed by @spxschool.org. Phone messages for teachers may be left through the school office.

Email or call the school if you have questions or concerns, or to update your child's dismissal. Sometimes people call with questions that can easily be answered through the website. Each Wednesday schoolwide newsletter and calendars are listed under Parent Resources. When you have a question, please check the website first, before contacting the office. Obviously, if it is a question related to a personal concern, contact the school directly.

Please be advised that a phone call, note or email giving permission from the parent must be received each time a change in transportation arrangement 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. Dismissal changes may be called in to the school office or by emailing Mrs. Shaw at ashaw@spxschool.org. Please call the office by 1:00pm.

To best serve the needs of your child within the school, follow the guidelines below if there is a concern or question. These guidelines will help direct you to the “expert” for each situation and the individual immediately connected to the concern or question.

A child’s teacher is the initial point of contact for most school questions. A student or parent/guardian should reach out to the class teacher with a question or concern around:

- student progress
- grade level or subject area curriculum
- classroom practices or expectations
- homework, student assessment
- student discipline
- social situations between students
- recess concern
- a family concern that might impact the students
- other matters related to the specific classroom and interactions among the group of students

A child’s coach or the person overseeing an after-school activity should be the initial point of contact when a student or parent/guardian has a question or concern about specific issues such as:

- participation
- team rules
- schedule conflicts or other matters related directly to the sport, team, or activity.

If parents have athletic questions or concerns that cannot be answered by a coach, the athletic director would be the next point of contact, followed by the school principal.

The nurse is the initial point of contact for:

The nurse is the initial point of contact for health concerns. The classroom teacher should also be contacted.

The school principal is the appropriate point of contact when a question or concern exists relative to:

- school rules or regulations
- other matters related to school-wide activities or organization
- any building-specific issues.

Also, contact with the principal would be appropriate if parental concerns that have been directed to the classroom teacher, guidance counselor, coach, or athletic director have not been addressed.

Contact the school office when you have a question related to anything listed below if it cannot be answered by the website, handbook, monthly calendar, or weekly notes.

- calendar
- school events
- any changes to schedule, school day
- clarification related to procedures, etc.
- email for school personnel

Contact the business manager with questions related to
tuition
bills
FACT
S
financial aid

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Hot and cold lunch options, which follow the Federal Nutritional Guidelines for Schools, are provided each day. All student lunches are free. Students may choose to eat school lunch or bring their own lunch. **Lunch or food items from fast food restaurants such as McDonald's are not permitted. Drinks such as water, juice, or milk may be sent from home. Caffeinated drinks, soda, or beverages in bottles are not allowed.**

Breakfast is also available to students free of charge. Breakfast is provided through the Dennis-Yarmouth Food Services and items are made available in the cafeteria during Before/Early Care from 7:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

VISITORS/STUDENT SAFETY

For the safety of each child attending St. 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.

A registered sex offender who is the parent/guardian of a student may come onto his/her child's diocesan school campus in order to transport his/her own child to and/or from school; attend Open House Nights/Back to School Nights; attend Parent-Teacher Conferences; attend school sporting events; attend school performances (i.e., school drama or musical performances) or any other school events that are listed specifically on the school's calendar of events. If a registered sex offender who is the parent/guardian of a student receives a notification from a school teacher or school administrator to attend a meeting regarding his or her child, he/she must follow the protocol set forth in the next paragraph concerning, in general, the presence of registered sex offenders on a diocesan school campus.

In general, a registered sex offender who is the parent/guardian of a student is not allowed to come to campus for any other reason unless they have scheduled a specific appointment directly with the school's administrator/head of school. When an appointment is scheduled with and confirmed by the school's administrator, the parent/guardian must report directly to the Main Office of the school for that appointment and will be escorted by the administrator or his/her designee to the location of the meeting. The parent will be escorted back to the Main Office at the conclusion of the scheduled meeting and must leave the school premises immediately after the scheduled meeting.

STUDENT and SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

ST. PIUS X SCHOOL ACTIVITIES have included:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cross-Country
- Baseball
- Golf
- Tennis
- Intramural Athletics
- Drama

FRIENDS OF ST. PIUS X SCHOOL

This is the SPXS organization for the parents and guardians of our students. The purpose of the Association is to promote volunteerism, to fundraise, and to weave cooperation between the families, the school, and the community.

As is typical of most Catholic schools, fundraising is essential to the viability of SPXS. Our tuition and fees cover about 80% of the total cost of educating each child. The 20% difference is made up for by: The St. Pius X Parish subsidy, our Giving Program, donations, and fundraising. Families are expected to participate actively in our two major school-wide fundraisers. Our Spring Fling offers a variety of opportunities to participate and assist the school. The Christmas Cash Raffle during the months of November and December encourages 100% participation. Each family is required to sell/purchase \$200 worth of Christmas Cash Raffle tickets.

II. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

CURRICULUM

The diocesan curriculum, presented in each content area, is drawn from Massachusetts standards as defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Office for Children.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Pre-Kindergarten consists of a 5 day program or a 3 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, spiritual, and physical growth.

GRADES K - 2

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: language arts, introduction to technology, religion, science, social studies, math, physical education, music, art, Spanish, 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, library, and Spanish are part of the weekly course of study.

GRADES 3, 4 and 5

All of the above subjects are taught in Grades 3, 4 and 5. 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.

GRADING SYSTEM

St. Pius X School operates on a trimester (12-week) system. Electronic Interim Reports and Report Cards are posted for parents/guardians.

Parent-Teacher conferences are held after Interims are completed:

October 16 and 17, 2025

February 5, 2026

Interims:

October 15, 2025

January 28, 2026

May 13, 2026

Report Cards (indicates academic progress, personal growth and study habits):

December 5, 2026

March 20, 2026

Last Day of School

PRE-K 3 & 4

On-going parent conferences are given.

KINDERGARTEN

Written assessments are periodically given.

GRADES 1, 2, 3, 4

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

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

3. REPORT CARDS

GRADES

A numerical scale is used on Report Cards for all students in Grade 4 & 5. All report card grades for these students are based on a weighted numerical scale, including specialists' classes.

4. 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.

Students utilize planners in Grades 3-5 to track all homework, projects, and long-term assignments. The parent/guardian should review this with students regularly.

Additionally, homework will be posted online; information regarding this is shared by individual classroom teachers at **Parent/Teacher Curriculum Night on September 11, 2026**.

5. STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT

The elementary/middle schools in the Diocese of Fall River utilize the MAP Suite Assessment system as their standardized assessment tool. The implementation of the NWEA MAP Growth assessments is part of a Diocesan-wide initiative on data driven instruction, designed to gain a deeper understanding of our students' learning needs. The data derived from these assessments will allow administrators and teachers to:

- measure student growth and proficiency

- identify strengths and weaknesses at the school, class, and individual student levels

- target instruction and

- personalize learning

Data driven instruction provides school leaders and teachers with the information needed to make decisions in real time about teaching and learning so that all children can succeed.

The time periods during which we will test are:

Fall	September 8-26, 2025
Winter	January 6-27, 2026
Spring	May 4-22, 2026

6. PROMOTION

Promotion is based on satisfactorily completing the subject matter covered at grade level and attendance requirements. 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.

III. SCHOOL POLICIES

SCHOOL HOURS AND YEAR

Grades PreK-8	8:00 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.
Enter Building	7:45 a.m.
Classes Begin	8:00 a.m.
Dismissal	2:10 p.m. (2:09 for buses this year, followed by cars)
Extended Day Program	7:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. 2:10 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

A yearly calendar and monthly calendars listing events, holidays, and “no school” dates will be distributed to parents. Please read these calendars for any important changes, updates, or additions.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENTEEISM/TARDINESS/DISMISSAL

Ensuring that the child is present at school each day and that the child arrives on time is the responsibility of both the student and the parent or guardian.

All students are expected onsite each day. Students must be in attendance for at least half of the school day to participate in extracurricular activities after school.

For the safety of your child, you must call the school to notify us of any absence that does occur. Upon return to school, a note must accompany the student with the reason for the absence. The school is required to receive and keep these notes.

Excessive absenteeism impacts educational performance and is a major concern. “Excessive” absenteeism is defined at SPXS as more than fifteen (15) unexcused absences. A student who misses more than fifteen days may be considered “Habitually Truant” and possibly be retained unless a doctor’s certificate bears witness to the need for the excessive absenteeism. **Any student who has been absent for five days or more consecutively must provide a signed doctor’s note upon return to school.**

Punctuality is a positive lifelong habit we want to instill in our students. Tardiness interferes with the educational culture of the school. It disrupts the start of your child’s day and impacts the momentum within the classroom for all students.

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.

THE SCHOOL STRONGLY DISAPPROVES OF VACATIONS PLANNED DURING SCHOOL TIME.

Such interruptions may impact the student’s performance, can affect future learning success, and may affect Honor Roll status. 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. Teachers need to be notified of

dates that the child will be away.

A family vacation is not an excused absence. The student is expected to make up all the work. ***The responsibility of missed work is the obligation of the student.*** Students should bring all study materials home with them. Homework may be posted in Google Classroom. Work will be due one day after the student's return. **The Planned Family Vacation Form should be submitted to the office as early as possible.**

Written assignments and class notes cannot duplicate class participation and discussions. Completing the work does not equal the value of instruction, and student grades will most likely suffer.

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.

CANCELLATIONS/NOTIFICATIONS

Cancellation of school for inclement weather or emergencies will be announced through our Alert-Now System.

If the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District cancels school, St. Pius X School will also be closed.

St. 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 St. 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 material that may cause bodily harm.

BIRTHDAYS

A child's birthday is recognized- announced in the morning, the singing of "Happy Birthday," birthday crown in the classroom for the special child, and the like. Each birthday child gets an automatic "N.U.T. Day" on his/her birthday. "N.U.T." means "No Uniform Today" If your birthday is on the weekend, the NUT Day can occur on a Friday or Monday. All schoolwide Summer Birthdays will have a designated NUT Day, announced by the school.

Students will not receive a NUT Card but may just "dress down" (appropriately) for the special day. *If we have Mass, no dress-downs are allowed.* Another day should be chosen. In addition, if parents want to send in a non-food item for the class (like birthday

pencils or stickers), they are most welcome.

Cupcakes or sugary treats are not part of the school birthday recognition. The increasing number of students with varied allergies and other health concerns precludes serving food items. Any goody bags that are distributed should be done modestly.

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, and will result in detention or suspension, at a minimum.

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. Parents will complete an Exit Survey for any student transferring to another school prior to Gr.8. 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 office is sufficient. If contact information changes over the course of the school year, please inform the office. Legal documents are required in custody situations to enable the school to adhere to a court's jurisdiction.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents should ensure that children know the manner in which they will be going home on a given day, to eliminate the necessity of contacting the school. Calls to the office regarding dismissal should be made only if there is an unexpected change. All cars arriving for morning drop-off or dismissal, enter the school campus by way of Wood Rd., and exit by Barbara St.

BUS

Students must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District and St. Pius X School. **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.

Students must be registered for the bus and sit in the assigned seat/area. Students need to be 5 years old in order to ride the bus.

CAR LINE

Drop Off

Students arriving by car are to be dropped off at either the front entrance (Lobby Door) or the side door (Recess Door). Students will be assigned doors according to their grade level. Use the following doors for drop off and pick up:

PreK3 and PreK4 - Back classroom doors

K, 1, & 2 and older siblings - Front Lobby Doors

Gr. 3, 4 and 5 - Side Recess Doors

The exception to the above is Early Drop-Off, when all students are dropped at the Cafeteria entrance. A staff member will be on duty at 7:30. Students may be dropped off between 7:30 and 7:45AM and will be directed to the Hallway outside the Cafeteria. They remain here until 7:45.

A staff member will be at the Lobby and Recess Doors at 7:45; students enter the building, use their assigned staircase, and go directly to class. 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.

Pick Up

Students going home by car will be dismissed at either the Lobby or Recess Door. Always use the same doors as for Drop-Off. A sign in the front windshield of all cars, displaying the family or carpool name should be visible. Drivers do not exit the vehicle, as staff member(s) assist students into the cars.

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 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.

CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION

Send a note regarding a change in transportation and make certain your child is aware of this change. Students should know their after-school plans before they arrive at school in the morning. While *occasionally* changes must be made after the school day has begun, phone calls to the office regarding transportation changes should *not* be made on a regular basis. Office assistance with transportation should be for unexpected circumstances or emergencies only, and these phone calls must be made as early as possible.

PARKING

The front driveway to the school must be kept free of parked cars at all times. Parking is available in the Parish lots. The upper parking lot by the school is restricted to Staff Parking.

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

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to wear proper and full uniforms at all times. Following uniform policy is as important on the last day of school, as the first!

Students must remember that proper dress and good personal hygiene are important and expected. Uniforms must be clean, fit properly, and be in good condition with no holes. Make-up is not allowed. Muted (soft, pastel colors) nail polish may be worn on short, natural nails. Students wearing make-up or nail polish that is not approved will be required to remove it before class. Jewelry must be simple, conservative, and modest. 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. Students wearing accessories that are distracting to others may be asked to remove the accessories.

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 and hair accessories should be simple, traditional, and must not be distracting in any way. Hair color must be natural– no hair color allowed. No type of boots may be worn during the school day. Students should bring a change of shoes if boots are worn to school.

On days when students do not wear uniforms, for example a student uses a NUT card or we have a Dress Down Day for a fundraiser, student dress must be appropriate, acceptable, and modest.

In order to keep uniformity in our dress code, it is necessary that all uniform purchases be made through our uniform company, School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger globalschoolwear.com

The “All Year Standard Uniform” (see following pages) is worn for each school Mass unless a change is announced due to anticipated warm weather conditions.

Gently used uniforms are available at the St. Pius X Clothesline.

The school uniform code is strictly enforced.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM ALL YEAR
STANDARD UNIFORM:**

GRADES K-4		
Boys	Trousers	Navy blue pants
	Shirts	White oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	Navy V-neck pullover with school logo
	Socks	Navy blue
	Ties	Navy blue
Girls	Plaid Jumper	
	Blouses	White Short sleeve or $\frac{3}{4}$ length blouse
	Sweater	Navy cardigan with school logo
	Socks	Navy knee length or white anklets
	Tights	Navy blue
Boys and Girls	Shoes	Navy, black or brown non-marking of a modest style Docksiders© and Merrell© Jungle Moc style acceptable)

**SCHOOL UNIFORM ALL YEAR
STANDARD UNIFORM**

GRADE 5		
Boys	Trousers	Khaki or Navy
	Shirts	Light blue or white, oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover with school logo
	Ties	Navy blue
	Socks	Solid white, navy, or black crew/ankle socks (<i>not low cut, no- show, or basketball/athletic socks of other colors</i>)
Girls	Kilts	Navy or black watch plaid of mid-thigh length or plaid jumper
	Shirts	Light blue oxford button down long or short sleeve or white blouse long or short sleeve

	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover or navy cardigan with school logo
	Socks	Navy blue knee length
	Tights	Navy blue
Boys and Girls	Shoes	Navy, black or brown non-marking of a modest style (Docksiders© and Merrell© Jungle Moc style acceptable)

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 blue shorts– no cargo shorts
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)
	Socks	Navy/white crew– no logos
Girls	Skort	Plaid or navy skort
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)
	Socks	Navy blue knee length or white ankle
GRADE 5		
Boys	Trousers	Khaki or navy shorts- no cargo shorts
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)
	Socks	Navy blue/white crew
Girls	Skort	Khaki or plaid skort
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)
	Socks	Navy blue knee length

WINTER UNIFORM

The Winter Uniform may be worn during the following time period:
From the Monday following Thanksgiving Recess to **March 27, 2026**.

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

GRADES K-4		
Boys	Shirt	Plain white turtleneck (*not allowed on Mass days) or white oxford button down shirt
	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover with school logo
	Socks	Solid navy, white, or black– no logos
Girls	Trousers	Navy blue slacks
	Shirt	Plain white turtleneck or standard round collar blouse
	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover with school logo
GRADE 5		
Boys	Shirt	Plain white turtleneck (*not allowed on Mass days)
	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover with school logo
	Socks	Solid navy, white, or black– no logos
Girls	Trousers	Khaki or navy slacks (*not allowed on Mass days)
	Shirt	plain white turtleneck or light blue oxford button down, long or short sleeved
	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover or navy carigan with school logo
	Socks	Navy blue knee length or tights

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

GRADE PK4-4		Heat stamped all gym pieces
Boys and Girls	Pants	Navy blue sweatpants with school logo
	Shorts	Navy blue mesh shorts with school logo (to be worn under sweatpants during class)
	Sweatshirt	Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)
	Socks	white
Boys and Girls	Shoes	non-marking sneakers of a modest style/no bright colors or bright laces

GRADE 5		Heat stamped all gym pieces
Boys and Girls	Pants	Navy blue sweatpants with school logo
	Shorts	Navy blue mesh shorts with school logo (to be worn under sweatpants during class)
	Sweatshirt	Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo
	Socks	Solid white– no logos
Boys and Girls	Shoes	Non-marking sneakers of a modest style

Pre-Kindergarten students are **not required** to wear the traditional school uniform. Pre-Kindergarten students must wear the following items:

PRE-K 4		
Boys and Girls	Pants	Navy blue pants
	Shorts	Navy blue shorts
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)
	Sweater	Navy blue V-neck pullover with school logo
Girls	Skort	Plaid or navy skort
	Dress	Navy blue short sleeve interlock polo dress
	Jumper	Plaid
	Blouses	White short sleeve or ¾ length blouse
	Sweater	Navy blue cardigan with school logo

PRE-K 3		
Boys and Girls	Pants	Navy blue sweatpants with school logo
	Shorts	Navy blue mesh shorts with school logo (to be worn under sweatpants during class)
	Sweatshirt	Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo
	Shirt	Navy blue polo with school logo (pique or performance)

INFORMATION ABOUT UNIFORM CHANGES

- Turtlenecks will be allowed for boys and girls during the Winter Uniform time period from the Monday after Thanksgiving Recess through the last Monday in March (except on Mass days).
- Turtlenecks do not need to be embroidered. Tommy Hifiger does not embroider turtlenecks.
- For Mass, girls are **NOT** permitted to wear pants and boys/girls are both not allowed to wear turtlenecks.
- Long-sleeve navy polos are allowed as another option on gym days as well as the summer uniform. Students may want to consider this option in the spring when we transition to the option of summer uniform. They are not required.

CELL PHONE USE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Parents may call the school at any time to relay important messages to their children. It is not necessary for students to bring electronic devices, such as (but not exclusive of) cell phones, smartwatches or other communication devices to school, however, we understand that you may want your child to have his/her phone before or after school for safety reasons.

If your child needs to bring his/her phone, smartwatch, iPod (or similar device) to school for some reason, he/she is to turn it off and turn it in to their homeroom teacher at the start of school. They will be stored in a cell phone box on the homeroom teacher's desk. If one of these devices is not turned in and is taken out in school, teachers and the principal reserve the right to confiscate and hold such items until a parent retrieves the device. Also, these electronic items are not permitted on school field trips unless authorized by the principal.

CONDUCT

Discipline Definition

The term "discipline" comes from the word "disciple," meaning "one who learns." The primary goal of this discipline policy is to change behavior by strengthening the school community through reconciliation and the formation of Christian disciples who exercise the virtues of self-discipline, love, mercy, and respect.

St. Pius X School reserves the right, at any time, to interpret school rules and regulations in a manner that preserves the mission of the school and to withhold the privilege of attendance of classes and school sponsored events.

Discipline Philosophy

All discipline is built upon the virtue of self-discipline. The SPXS Discipline Policy encourages self-discipline, to safeguard the rights of all, and to foster virtuous living by each member of the school community. In order for students to grow in virtue, they need to take responsibility for what they have done and make amends with whom their actions have affected and then be involved in the solution process. Thus, each person in the school community bears a responsibility for the success of this discipline policy by ensuring that his or her actions are in accord with the highest standards of behavior.

Throughout the curriculum and all school activities, SPXS incorporates faith-based Social Emotional Learning principles and age-appropriate consequences to promote positive behaviors. This transformative

environment enables students to fully develop in all areas of growth, including spiritual, cultural, intellectual, social, and physical. As students grow in faith, they cultivate a Christian life in the Catholic Church and in the community at large.

The implementation of the Student Discipline Policy will reflect these values. The faculty of the school are committed to creating an atmosphere conducive to learning and faith development for all children. Rules will be fair and reasonably applied. St. Pius X School affirms the notion that disciplinary action in the school is designed to teach, not to punish. Therefore, students will be held accountable for inappropriate conduct in ways designed to prevent a recurrence of the behavior and to teach appropriate behaviors. We emphasize a relational approach to building a positive school climate and addressing student behavior while fostering a sense of belonging, social engagement, and meaningful accountability.

Teachers and administrators hold both the authority and the responsibility to implement the mission and policies of St. Pius X School. When a student fails to exercise self-discipline, it is the school's responsibility to respond with appropriate, corrective actions that will support the values of the school, teach the student the appropriate way to act, and safeguard the rights of other members of the school community.

Discipline Objectives:

1. Clearly communicate behavioral expectations
2. Encourage appropriate behavioral choices
3. Effectively respond to inappropriate actions through restorative conversations
4. Reinforce positive behavior expectations through age-appropriate and just consequences
5. Foster communication among students, parents, and teachers in regard to the expectations and goals of student behavior

Leveled Discipline System

The following is a list of possible behaviors that fall outside of what is expected of an SPXS student based on a Leveled System. This list is not exhaustive. Administration retains the right to determine the severity of behavior and discipline.

Level I

Misconduct

Violation of Dress Code
Disruption of class or school activities
Pushing or shoving another student
Violation of safety rules
Name-calling behavior
Habitual tardiness
Littering on the property
Misuse of lockers

Potential Consequences

Parent phone call/email notification
Rediker Plus Portals notification
Removal from classroom or location
Loss of Class/Student privileges
Behavioral conferences
Other consequences deemed appropriate

Level II

Misconduct

Recurrences or escalation of Level I infractions
Disrespect or verbal abuse
Unauthorized use of school technology
Use of cursing, profanity, or obscene gestures
Injury to another member of the community
Action harmful to the school's reputation
Damage to school property
Misuse of personal electronic devices (e.g. smartphone/smartwatch)
Skipping class or any required school activities
Copying homework or classwork
Trespassing/student pranks

Level III

Misconduct

Recurrences or escalation of Level I and/or II infractions
Academic dishonesty with major assessments
Insubordination to school personnel
Bullying behavior, cyberbullying, or harassment
Being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or any drug/controlled substance
Possession of weapons at school or at school activities
Vandalism
Fighting, assault, and/or battery
Stealing
Possession of pornographic material
Extortion, coercion, or blackmail
Unauthorized forced entry into any school building

Potential Consequences

Parent phone call/email notification
Referral to the Administration
Rediker Plus Portals notification
Parent phone call/notification
Loss of privileges
Lunch/After school detention
ISS or OSS
Restitution
Other consequences deemed appropriate

The principal's decision will stand in all matters of student discipline.

Attendance and Impact on Extracurricular Activities

To be counted present, a student must be in attendance at school for a minimum of four hours during the instructional day, excluding lunch. If the student attends any amount less than the required four hours, he/she will be counted absent for a half-day.

If a student is absent for more than half a day, he or she may not participate in extracurricular school-related activities that afternoon or evening. This policy excludes absences due to medical appointments with appropriate documentation provided.

Tardiness

The school day begins at 8:00 am. Students arriving after the bell need to report to the front office to receive a tardy pass for admittance to their class.

Excused Tardy - Late to school due to extreme road conditions, including accidents or other unusual occurrences, will be communicated to the teachers by the school administration. Students will receive an excused tardy only if dental, medical, or other documentation from a professional is presented.

Unexcused Tardy - A student is late to school for a reason other than extreme road conditions, including accidents or other unusual occurrences.

Students are *required* to attend a monthly school Mass. Student arrival after Mass will be counted as an Unexcused Tardy unless dental, medical or other documentation from a professional is presented.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

If a student cheats in any manner on an assignment, project, quiz, or test, the student will receive no credit for this work. A student assisting- for example, the student provides answers, will also receive no credit. A student will not receive the opportunity to complete extra credit to alleviate this 0.

DISCIPLINARY/ACADEMIC PROBATION

Disciplinary/Academic Probation Academic or disciplinary probation is a status issued by the Administration to a student who has repeatedly violated school academic or disciplinary policies and/or regulations. A probationary contract will be required to be signed by the student in question and his parent/guardian. The Administration will closely monitor a student's conduct or academic performance while on disciplinary or academic probation. If the student on probation does not show a significant improvement in his or her academic standing or behavior, he or she may be suspended or required to withdraw from Saint Pius X School.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If a student is issued an in-school suspension, the family of the student is responsible for paying for a substitute teacher (\$120-140/day depending on the qualifications of the substitute teacher hired to monitor the student).

SEXTING

Sexting is defined by the State of Massachusetts as “sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer, or other digital devices.” This can include sending intimate pictures or video via text message or through apps such as Snapchat and Instagram.

The electronic transmission or receipt from one minor to another of any photograph or video that depicts nudity may constitute illegal sexting. Students engaged in sexting will be subject to serious disciplinary consequences which may include expulsion from school. In addition, the school administration may report instances of sexting to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) or local law enforcement for appropriate investigation as to violations of law.

SMOKING/VAPING

Massachusetts State Law prohibits smoking or vaping in a school building and on school property. Smoking or vaping is prohibited at all times in the school building, in its parking lot, playing fields and other property. This prohibition applies to faculty, staff, parents, students, and all visitors to the school. Smoking or vaping on the sidewalk in front of the school building is not allowed. This policy includes cigarettes, cigars, pipe or any other matter or substance containing tobacco, as well as the use of electronic cigarettes (e cigarettes), personal vaporizers, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookah, vaping devices, mod systems, pod systems or any similar systems.

It is a violation of Massachusetts law for any minor to knowingly possess any tobacco product, nicotine product, or nicotine dispensing device. In addition, the use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and vaping carry known health risks that can be very serious. The use of any tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and/or vaping in any form is prohibited on school property and at any school events. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary consequences which may include expulsion from school.

BULLYING AND CYBER-BULLYING

Please read and review this section especially carefully with your child(ren).

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PLAN

“Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.”

Section 37O. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meaning: -

"Approved private day or residential school", a school that accepts, through agreement with a school committee, a child requiring special education pursuant to section 10 of chapter 71B.

"Bullying", the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyber-bullying.

"Cyber-bullying", bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

"Hostile environment", a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the student's education.

"Plan", a bullying prevention and intervention plan established pursuant to subsection (d).

"Perpetrator", a student or a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional who engages in bullying or retaliation.

"School grounds", property on which a school building or facility is located or property that is owned, leased, or used by a school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school, or collaborative school for a school-sponsored activity, function, program, instruction or training.

"Victim", a student against whom bullying or retaliation has been perpetrated.

(b) Bullying shall be prohibited: (i) on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a school district or school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school district or school and (ii) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the

victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Nothing contained herein shall require schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or programs.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited.

(c) Each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall provide age-appropriate instruction on bullying prevention in each grade that is incorporated into the curriculum of the school district or school. The curriculum shall be evidence-based.

(d)(1) Each school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall develop, adhere to, and update a plan to address bullying prevention and intervention in consultation with teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians. The plan shall apply to students and members of a school staff, including, but not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to an extracurricular activity and paraprofessionals. The consultation shall include, but not be limited to, notice and a public comment period; provided, however, that a non-public school shall only be required to give notice to and provide a comment period for families that have a child attending the school. **The plan shall be updated at least biennially.**

(2) Each plan shall include, but not be limited to: **(i) descriptions of and statements prohibiting bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation, including procedures for collecting, maintaining and reporting bullying incident data required under subsection (k); (ii) clear procedures for students, staff, parents, guardians and others to report bullying or retaliation; (iii) a provision that reports of bullying or retaliation may be made anonymously; provided, however, that no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report; (iv) clear procedures for promptly responding to and investigating reports of bullying or retaliation; (v) the range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a perpetrator for bullying or retaliation; provided, however, that the disciplinary actions shall balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior;**

(vi) clear procedures for restoring a sense of safety for a victim and assessing that victim's needs for protection; (vii) strategies for protecting from bullying or retaliation a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying or witnesses or has reliable information about an act of bullying; (viii) procedures consistent with state and federal law for promptly notifying the parents or guardians of a victim and a perpetrator; provided, that the parents or guardians of a victim shall also be notified of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation; and provided, further, that the procedures shall provide for immediate notification pursuant to regulations promulgated under this subsection by the principal or person who holds a comparable role to the local law enforcement agency when criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator; (ix) a provision that a student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action; and (x) a strategy for providing counseling or referral to appropriate services for perpetrators and victims and for appropriate family members of said students. The plan shall afford all students the same protection regardless of their status under the law.

(3) Each plan shall recognize that certain students may be more vulnerable to becoming a target of bullying or harassment based on actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, including race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, socioeconomic status, homelessness, academic status, gender identity or expression, physical appearance, pregnant or parenting status, sexual orientation, mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability or by association with a person who has or is perceived to have 1 or more of these characteristics. The plan shall include the specific steps that each school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall take to **support vulnerable students and to provide all students with the skills, knowledge and strategies needed to prevent or respond to bullying or harassment. A school district, charter**

school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school may establish separate discrimination or harassment policies that include additional categories of students. Nothing in this section shall alter the obligations of a school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school to remediate any discrimination or harassment based on a person's membership in a legally protected category under local, state, or federal law.

(4) The plan for a school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall include a provision for ongoing professional development to build the skills of all staff members, including, but not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities and paraprofessionals, to prevent, identify and respond to bullying. The content of such professional development shall include, but not be limited to: **(i) developmentally appropriate strategies to prevent bullying incidents; (ii) developmentally appropriate strategies for immediate, effective interventions to stop bullying incidents; (iii) information regarding the complex interaction and power differential that can take place between and among a perpetrator, victim and witnesses to the bullying; (iv) research findings on bullying, including information about students who have been shown to be particularly at risk for bullying in the school environment; (v) information on the incidence and nature of cyber-bullying; and (vi) internet safety issues as they relate to cyber-bullying.** The department shall identify and offer information on alternative methods for fulfilling the professional development requirements of this section, at least 1 of these alternative methods shall be available at no cost to school districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools and collaborative schools.

(5) The plan shall include provisions for informing parents and guardians about the bullying prevention curriculum of the school district or school and shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) how parents and guardians can reinforce the curriculum at home and support the school district or school plan; (ii) the dynamics of bullying; and (iii) online safety and cyber-bullying.

(6) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations on the requirements related to a principal's duties under clause (viii) of the second paragraph of this subsection; provided, however, that school districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools and collaborative schools shall be subject to the regulations. **A non-public school shall develop procedures for immediate notification by the principal or person who holds a comparable role to the local law enforcement agency when criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator.**

(e)(1) Each school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall provide to students and parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms and in the languages which are most prevalent among the students, parents or guardians, annual written notice of the relevant student-related sections of the plan.

(2) Each school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative **school shall provide to all school staff annual written notice of the plan. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the plan applicable to the school. Relevant sections of the plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in a school district or school employee handbook.**

(3) The plan shall be posted on the website of each school district, charter school, **non-public school**, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school.

(f) Each school principal or the person who holds a comparable position shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the plan at his school.

(g) A member of a school staff, including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional, shall immediately report any instance of bullying or retaliation the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the principal or to the school official identified in the plan as responsible for receiving such reports or both. **Upon receipt of such a report, the school principal or a designee shall promptly conduct an investigation. If the school principal or a designee**

determines that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the school principal or designee shall (i) notify the local law enforcement agency if the school principal or designee believes that criminal charges may be pursued against a perpetrator; (ii) take appropriate disciplinary action; (iii) notify the parents or guardians of a perpetrator; (iv) notify the parents or guardians of the victim, and to the extent consistent with state and federal law, notify them of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation; and (v) inform the parents or guardians of the victim about the department's problem resolution system and the process for seeking assistance or filing a claim through the problem resolution system.

(h) If an incident of bullying or retaliation involves students from more than one school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school, the school district or school first informed of the bullying or retaliation shall, consistent with state and federal law, **promptly notify the appropriate administrator of the other school district or school so that both may take appropriate action. If an incident of bullying or retaliation occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in a local school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school, the school district or school informed of the bullying or retaliation shall contact law enforcement consistent with the provisions of clause (viii) of the second paragraph of subsection (d).**

(i) Nothing in this section shall supersede or replace existing rights or remedies under any other general or special law, nor shall this section create a private right of action.

(j) The department, after consultation with the department of public health, the department of mental health, the attorney general, the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association and experts on bullying shall: (i) publish a model plan for school districts and schools to consider when creating their plans; and (ii) compile a list of bullying prevention and intervention resources, evidence-based curricula, best practices and academic-based research that shall be made available to schools. The model plan shall be consistent with the behavioral health and public school's framework developed by the department in accordance with section 19 of chapter 321 of the acts of 2008. The resources may include, but shall not be limited to, print, audio, video, or digital media; subscription based online services; and on-site or technology-enabled professional development and training sessions. The department shall biennially update the model plan and the list of the resources, curricula, best practices, and research and shall post them on its website.

Each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall annually report bullying incident data to the department. The data shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of reported allegations of bullying or retaliation; (ii) the number and nature of substantiated incidents of bullying or retaliation; (iii) the number of students disciplined for engaging in bullying or retaliation; and (iv) any other information required by the department. Said incident data shall be reported in the form and manner established by the department, in consultation with the attorney general; provided, that the department shall minimize the costs and resources needed to comply with said reporting requirements; and provided further, that the department may use existing data collection and reporting mechanisms to collect the information from school districts. The department shall analyze the bullying incident data and shall publish an annual report containing aggregate statewide information on the frequency and nature of bullying in schools. The department shall file the annual report with the attorney general and with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on education, the joint committee on the judiciary and the house and senate committees on ways and means.

(k) The department shall develop a student survey to assess school climate and the prevalence, nature, and severity of bullying in schools. The survey shall be administered by each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school at least once every 4 years. The survey shall be designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation by students.

The school official identified in the plan as responsible for receiving reports of bullying or retaliation shall verify the completion of the student surveys. All completed surveys shall be forwarded to the department. The department shall use the survey results to help assess the effectiveness of bullying

prevention curricula and instruction developed and administered under subsection (c). The department shall collect and analyze the student survey data in order to: compare the survey results with the bullying incident data reported under subsection (k); identify long-term trends and areas of improvement; and monitor bullying prevention efforts in schools over time. The department shall make its findings available to the school official.

(l) Each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school may adopt an anti-bullying seal to represent the district or school's commitment to bullying prevention and intervention.

(m) The department may investigate certain alleged incidents of bullying. If, upon completion of investigation by the department, a school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school is found to not have properly implemented its prevention plan as outlined in subsection (d), the department may require that school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school or collaborative school to properly implement the plan or take other actions to address the findings of the investigation

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are privileges afforded to students in K-8; no student has an absolute right to a field trip. Students will be denied participation if they fail to meet academic or behavioral requirements. Students in PreK do not attend field trips because they are not old enough to ride a bus.

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 to 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.

17. FUNDRAISING POLICY

A fundraiser is defined as a practice that results in the accepting of solicited or unsolicited cash, goods, or services that are made on a voluntary basis for the purpose of supporting a project, program, or the school.

1. All fundraisers must be approved by the principal.
2. The principal must be notified and give approval before any planning, booking of dates, and solicitation of volunteers commences.
3. The fundraising year is July 1 through June 30.
4. Each fundraiser cannot conflict with the dates and plans of other classes, teams, clubs, or St. Pius X School Friends, and must stay within the originally anticipated timeframe or seek additional approval.
5. There can be no direct fund solicitation of individuals or businesses for a particular project without approval of the school office.
6. All raffles must have approval at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
7. Items to be purchased with fundraiser profits must have prior administrative approval or will be held unspent until such approval is given.
8. All funds raised by any fundraiser must be turned into the Business Office within

- three days of the conclusion of the fundraiser event.
9. "Services-rendered" fundraisers, such as bake sales, car washes and pasta dinners are encouraged.
 10. Expenses related to any fundraiser must be supported by appropriate (original) receipts or invoices. Expenses will be reimbursed by check from the Business Office.
 11. Fundraisers that use the name of St. Pius X School cannot be for the benefit of, or on behalf of, any individual person.
 12. The school principal and pastor have the final say regarding spending.

18. SUPERVISION BEFORE/AFTER CARE

St. Pius X School is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Before Care 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. The After Care program is offered from 2:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Any parent picking up their child after 5:30 p.m. will be assessed a late fee. All financial responsibilities must be kept up to date.

A staff member, coaches, volunteers 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 in the After School Care Program. For your child's safety, it is necessary to follow this policy.

CHILD ABUSE LAWS/MANDATED REPORTING

St. Pius X School abides by Massachusetts General Law chapter 119, section 51A. This law mandates that all cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect be reported to the Department of Families and Children (DCF). The administration, faculty, and staff of St. Pius X School are mandated reporters.

19. 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.

Please review the Family Handbook and sign the digital [Family Handbook Acknowledgement Form](#) within a week of receiving the document.