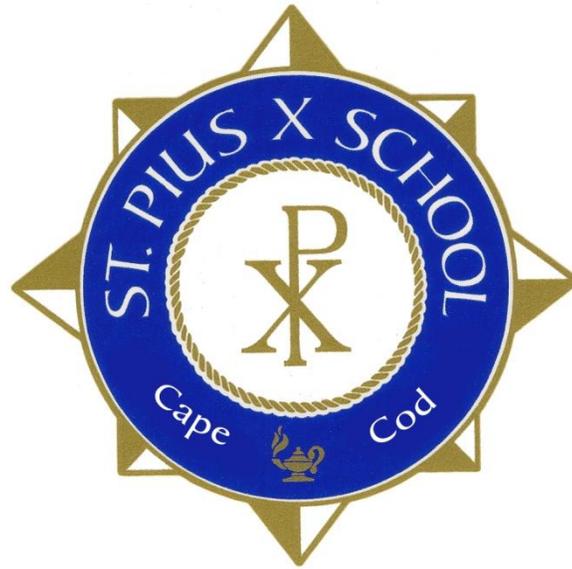


ST. PIUS X SCHOOL



FAMILY HANDBOOK 2020-2021

To learn, to grow, to lead...

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Revised August 2020



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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 live:

- 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 and high expectations 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.
- 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.
- with an understanding of mutual respect for each individual.
- as successful, competent young men and women.



**Please return FAMILY HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT,
to school by Friday, October 2, 2020.**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. MISSION STATEMENT

St. Pius X School educates students:

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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.*
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- *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 who continue their educational path in competitive secondary school.*

2. NON DISCRIMINATION

Diversity

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.

3. 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^{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, 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. 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!

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.

4. 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 St. Pius X School.

Each student entering Grade 4 or 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 an extracurricular athletic activity needs to have a physical examination within 13 months of the start of the activity. A copy of the exam must be on file in the health office.

The school should be notified of any allergies with specific reactions that a student may have. Notification should be submitted prior to the start of the school year.

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

Vision and Hearing Screenings are conducted according to M.G.L c. 71, 57. Postural Screening is performed yearly on students in Grades 5 through 8 only.

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

MEDICATIONS

All prescribed 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:

- Medical order form completed by medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Parental Consent Form

Certain over-the-counter medications can be administered if the required parental consent form is completed.

All medications must 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:

- emergency situations
- field trips
- 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
- Expiration date

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 and obvious cold symptoms with cough, sore throat, fever, rash, acute gastro-intestinal problems or 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.

5. 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.

6. CONFERENCES

School wide Parent– Teacher conferences for all students will be held **after 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 teacher’s personal email.

9. 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 Wed. folder, including all calendars, is 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. Unless it is an emergency, all dismissal changes should be emailed or called in by 1:15. Parents should not be contacting the school on a daily basis with dismissal plans. In Middle School particularly, help develop your child’s independence and sense of responsibility by making certain (s)he knows before leaving school, the plan for dismissal.

7. LUNCHES

Hot and cold lunch options, which follow the Federal Nutritional Guidelines for Schools, are provided each day. **All student lunches are free through Dec. 31, 2020.** Students may choose to purchase 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.**

8. 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. **Due to COVID-19, visitors are not currently permitted in the school.**

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.

9. ORGANIZATIONS/ACTIVITIES

Organizations/activities are currently impacted by COVID-19.

Generally, **ST. PIUS X SCHOOL ACTIVITIES** include:

Basketball	Community Service Projects
Soccer	Quiz Bowl
Cross-Country	Study Hall
Baseball	Drama Club
Softball	Lower School Chorus
Golf	Middle School Chorus
Tennis	Christmas Pageant
Lower School Athletics	Yearbook
Open Gym	Middle School House System
Sports Night	Middle School Dances
Alumni Basketball Game	Lower School Afterschool Enrichment
Parish Brunches	

Students in Grades 5-8 may participate in the many extra activities offered outside regular school hours, provided they meet the academic and behavior expectations required.

If a student's average in a subject or subjects falls below 70 at any point during the term, the student will be put on warning.

For activities that are not athletic:

- The parent will be notified.
- Student participation in extra-curriculars will be limited to one day a week until the grade(s) come up to 70.
- In terms of non-athletic activities, it is assumed the student will participate in Study Hall, seek out extra help, and/or participate in peer tutoring, if available, during this time.

For athletics:

- An addendum will be added to the athletic agreement which athletes and parents sign. It will give permission to the teacher and the Athletic Director (Mr. Corsi) to speak with a coach about a student's grades.
- If a student's average in a class during the term falls below 70, the teacher will contact the coach, AD and the parent, and the student is on warning.
- The AD will contact the coach regarding student participation in the activity.
- Assuming all student work is complete, the student may participate in one practice, or one game a week, until the grade(s) go up to the minimum of 70. Once the grade(s) reach the minimum required, full participation in the sport may resume.
- If work is not complete- the student must first complete the work, then may be eligible to participate once a week. Again, once the average(s) reach 70 or over, full participation resumes.
- It is assumed that any athlete on warning will participate in Study Hall, seek out extra help, and/or participate in peer tutoring, if available, during this time.
- It is the combined responsibility of the student, parent, coach and AD to ensure that the policy related to participation is followed.

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 Gala and Auction in the spring offers a variety of opportunities to participate and assist the school. The Calendar Drive, prior to Christmas, needs 100% participation *Each family is required to sell \$200 worth of calendars, or to purchase the calendars.* They make wonderful Christmas gifts! **The school normally arranges venues for opportunities to sell their calendars. This year, we will investigate an online option.**

II. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

1. 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 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 computers, religion, science, social studies, 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, library, and Spanish 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 5-8

At the Middle School level, the various disciplines are taught by different teachers. Students must meet each teacher's expectations for the course, and 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.

2. GRADING SYSTEM

St. Pius X School operates on a trimester (12-week) system. Electronic Interim Reports were introduced in the 2017-2018 school year. Parent-Teacher conferences are held after Interims are completed, and **are scheduled for October 22, 2020. Report Cards will be issued this school year on Dec. 11, 2020; March 19, 2021; and the last day of school.**

A Report Card is a form of assessment. It indicates a student's academic progress, as well as personal growth 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

GRADE 4-8

The assessment of students in these grades is based on both Academic Achievement and Skills Mastery.

3. REPORT CARDS

GRADES

A numerical scale is used on Report Cards for all students in Grade 4 through Grade 8. All report card grades for these students are based on a weighted numerical scale, including specialists' classes. Student performance in specialists' classes in Gr. 5-8 will be incorporated into consideration for Honor Roll.

Student averages in Gr. 5-8 are calculated with weights assigned in this manner:

All major classes (Religion, Language Arts, Literature, Math, Science and Social Studies) are weighted 1.0

Middle School Spanish is weighted .6

All other specialists are weighted .2.

Students are accountable for their effort, conduct and performance in each class, whether it meets once a week or five times.

HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll is based on overall average for the term. To qualify for "Honors" a student must have completed all subjects with an average of 90 and above, and all grades above 80. To achieve "High Honors" a student's overall average must be 97 or above, with all grades above 90.

As indicated in the attendance policy (Part III, # 2) in this handbook, attendance, tardiness, and dismissals affect eligibility for Honor Roll.

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.

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

Students utilize agenda books 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 Parents' Night.

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 Map Suite 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:

- Early Fall
- Winter
- Spring

Students in Grade 5 and Grade 8 will **not, in 2020-2021**, participate in A.C.R.E testing, as normally prescribed by the Diocese of Fall River. This is a test of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), and it assesses children's religious education. The tests, **when given**, are conducted in October.

6. 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.

7. GRADUATION

A student will be graduated upon satisfactory completion of the Grade Eight elementary curricula.

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.

III. SCHOOL POLICIES

1. SCHOOL HOURS AND YEAR

Grades PreK-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. (2:05 for buses this year, followed by cars)
Extended Day Program	7:30 a.m.—7:45 a.m. 2:15 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.

2. ATTENDANCE

ABSENTEEISM/TARDINESS/DISMISSAL

Ensuring that the child is present at school each day and that (s)he arrives on time is the responsibility of both the student and the parent or guardian. **Attendance is required during remote learning, and student attendance is taken. Students must check in at the start of the day, and the beginning of each class.**

For the safety of your child, you must call the school to notify us of any absence that does occur. **This includes a child absent when (s)he is a remote learner.** 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. 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 policy applies to all students. The 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.

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.

A family vacation is not an excused absence. The student is expected to make up all work. **The responsibility of missed work is the obligation of the student.** Students, in preparation for a planned absence, should bring all study materials home with them. Homework will be posted online. Work will be due one day after the student's return.

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.

To be eligible for Honor Roll, a student must possess a positive attendance record for the trimester. Any student absent five days or more in a trimester (excluding an identified medical issue or family emergency) or who, during the trimester, has more than two tardies or more than two dismissals (not including a dismissal initiated by the school nurse or school staff member) is ineligible for Honor Roll.

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.

3. 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.

4. 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, **or which causes another to feel physically threatened.**

5. 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 week-end, be a NUT on Friday or Monday. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.**

9. 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. Bus routes are published in local newspapers in late August/early September.

No students may accompany a friend home on the bus this year. Students must be registered for the bus, and sit in seats assigned them according to their pick-up and drop-off stops. Stops may NOT be changed.

CAR LINE

Drop Off

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

PreK, Gr. 1, Gr. 4 and any older siblings- Recess Door

K, Gr. 2, 3, and older siblings- Lobby Door

Gr. 5, 6, 7, and 8- Cafeteria Door.

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 dropped off here between 7:30 and 7:45 are 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, Recess, or Cafeteria Door. **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.

10. DRESS CODE

Students are expected to wear proper and full uniforms at all times. **FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN BY ALL STUDENTS IN GR. 2 AND ABOVE.** Masks are recommended for younger children, and are required for the bus, fire drills, and lockdown drills. Following uniform policy is as important 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 and nail polish are not allowed. Students wearing make-up or nail polish 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. Boys may not wear any earrings. 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.

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

J.B. Pride Uniforms (formerly J.B. Edwards)
1471 Main Street South Weymouth, MA 02190 Telephone: 781-812-2561
<http://www.jbprideuniforms.com/>
Email: weymouth@jbprideuniforms.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. Detentions will be issued to students out of uniform, or in uniforms which do not meet dress code standards.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

ALL YEAR

STANDARD REQUIRED UNIFORM:

GRADES K-4		
Boys	Trousers	navy pants
	Shirts	white oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	navy 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 of a modest style Docksiders© and Merrell© Jungle Moc style acceptable)

**SCHOOL UNIFORM
ALL YEAR
STANDARD REQUIRED UNIFORM**

GRADES 5-8		
Boys	Trousers	khaki
	Shirts	white or light blue, oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	navy V-neck pullover with school logo
	Ties	official school tie
	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 modest length
	Shirts	White or light blue oxford button down, long or short sleeve
	Sweater	navy V-neck pullover with school logo
	Socks	navy knee length
	Tights	navy
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 walking short– no cargo shorts
	Shirt	light blue polo with school logo
	Socks	navy/white crew– no logos
Girls	Skort	navy skort of a modest length
	Shirt	light blue polo with school logo
	Socks	navy/white ankle
GRADES 5-8		
Boys	Trousers	khaki short
	Shirt	navy polo with school logo
	Socks	navy/white crew
Girls	Short	khaki skort of a modest length
	Shirt	navy polo with school logo
	Socks	navy knee-highs

WINTER UNIFORM

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

From the Monday following Thanksgiving Recess to March 5, 2020.

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
	Socks	solid navy, white, or black– no logos
Girls	Trousers	navy slacks
	Shirt	white turtleneck or standard round collar blouse
GRADES 5-8		
Boys	Shirt	white turtleneck
	Socks	solid navy, white, or black– no logos

Girls	Trousers	khaki slacks
	Shirt	white turtleneck
	Socks	navy knee highs or tights

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

GRADE K-4		
Boys and Girls	Pants	navy sweatpants with school logo
	Shorts	navy mesh short with school logo (to be worn under sweatpants during class)
	Jacket	navy wind jacket with school logo
	Sweatshirt	navy sweatshirt with school logo
	Shirt	light blue polo with school logo
	Socks	white
Boys and Girls	Shoes	non-marking sneakers of a modest style/no bright colors or bright laces

GRADES 5-8		
Boys and Girls	Pants	navy gym pant with school logo
	Shorts	navy mesh short with school logo (to be worn under gym pant during class)
	Jacket	navy gym jacket with school logo
	Shirt	navy 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		
Boys and Girls	Pants	Navy pants
	Shorts	Navy shorts
	Shirt	Blue polo with school logo
Girls	Skort	Navy skort
	Jumper	

11. CONDUCT

The students of St. 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 St. Pius X School.

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

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the school. The school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines the partnership is irretrievably broken.

12. 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.”

I. Definitions

The Diocese of Fall River and Name of School prohibits bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation as defined below. Bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation can occur on or off school property, and during or outside of school hours.

“**Bullying**” is 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: causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the school. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 37O)

“Cyber-bullying” is 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: the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or 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 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 included in the definition of bullying. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 37O)

“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. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 37O)

“Hostile Environment” is 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 a student's education. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 37O)

“Aggressor” is a student who engages in bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation.

“Target” is a student against whom bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation has been perpetrated.

“Staff” includes, but is not limited to, educators, administrators, counselors, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities, support staff, or paraprofessionals. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 37O)

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 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, 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. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

II. Formal Procedure for Reporting

Students are to report any and all bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation to teachers or staff. Reporters will need to define the nature and scope of the bullying– i.e. the specific actions or behaviors that occurred.

Staff and teachers are to report any and all bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation to the principal or his or her designee.

Parents, guardians, and others are to report all bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation to the principal or his or her designee. **Again, “bullying” must be defined in terms of specific actions and behaviors. Referencing the definition on page 26 will help in defining the specific nature of the problem.**

It is recommended that the report be done in writing. The report document, “**BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION REPORTING FORM**” can be found on the school website. Any member of the school community may submit the form.

This reporting of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation may be made anonymously; however, no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report. The principal and his or her designee will respond to and investigate all **credible** reports of bullying, and ensure proper documentation. This investigation will provide for the following:

Safety of the target

The principal or designee will take steps to assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidences. Responses to promote safety may include but are not limited to: pre-determining seating arrangements in the classroom, at lunch, or on the bus; identifying a staff member who will act as a “safe person” for the target; and altering the classroom schedule to reduce that aggressor’s access to the target. The principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during or after the investigation, as necessary.

Protection of the reporter, witness, or provider of information during the investigation

The principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies for protecting a student who has reported/witnessed or provided information during an investigation of a bullying situation. These responses may include but are not limited to the same responses noted for the safety of the target.

Notification, including the parents of both the target and the aggressor, as well as notification of law enforcement

Parents/Guardians: Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor of this, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be

circumstances in which the principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00. Notice to another school: If the incident involves students from more than one school, the principal or designee will notify by phone any and all schools so that each may take appropriate action.

Notice to Catholic Education Center: After determining that bullying has taken place, notice should be given immediately to the superintendent or his or her designee.

d. Notice to law enforcement: At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, if the principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the principal or designee will notify the local law enforcement agency. Notice will be consistent with the law and locally established agreements with the local law enforcement agency.

III. Investigation

The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation the principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. The principal or designee (or whoever is conducting the investigation) will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the principal or designee, other staff members as determined by the principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

IV. Determinations

The principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefitting from school activities.

determine what remedial action is required, if any, and determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary.

Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's or aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a "stay away" order or

other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

V. Range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against an aggressor for bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation

Each school in the Diocese of Fall River will include bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation into the age appropriate disciplinary code that is included in the student/parent handbook. These disciplinary codes may include, but are not limited to, suspension and expulsion.

VI. Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

VII. At the discretion of the principal or his or her designee, counseling or referrals to Catholic Social Services will be made available to targets, aggressors, and/or family members.

*****Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent the school administration from taking disciplinary action against a student for conduct that does not meet the definition of bullying, as defined above, but nevertheless is inappropriate for the school environment.***

13. DISCIPLINE

Student behavior should mirror our mission. Each student is expected to learn, grow, and lead with an “understanding of mutual respect for each individual.” As a school, we work to develop self-discipline within each student, leading to responsible behavior within the community. We expect that each student acts in a manner that furthers both the student’s successful education and development and the education and development of fellow students.

On the first day of school, each student in Middle School will receive and sign a *Code of Discipline*, which will be reviewed at our Middle School meeting.

Students whose behavior does not meet expected standards, will face consequences. Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, the first consequence is *usually* a warning. A detention would be the consequence of a second infraction.

DETENTION

Students who are given detention will be notified at least one day before the detention is to be served. Detention times are based on the discretion of the teacher /school only. Alternate means of transportation home immediately after the detention is the responsibility of the parent.

Detention consists of a reflection and service component and will be overseen by a different faculty member than our Study Hall supervisor.

If a student receives more than one detention, subsequent detentions will incur a \$10 assessment to the student/family.

14. DISHONESTY

If a student cheats in any manner on an assignment, project, quiz, or test, the student will receive no credit for this work. **This policy includes cheating in the form of plagiarism.**

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

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. SUPERVISION BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

St. 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. The After School Program is offered from 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Any parent picking up their child after 5:30 p.m. will be assessed a late fee. **Attendance in each of these programs for 2020-2021 requires pre-registration, and is limited to fifteen students each.** All financial responsibilities must be kept up to date.

Please refer to the Extended Day Program Guide for more information.

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 in the After School 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.

18. REMOTE LEARNING

All school and diocesan policies related to remote teaching and learning must be followed. The Handbook Appendix from the Diocese of Fall River must be read and the acknowledgement signed, before a student may participate in remote learning.

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 handbook and return **FAMILY HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**, to school, by Friday, October 2, 2020.



**St. Pius X School
Faculty and Staff 2019-2020**

Mrs. Maryann Tremblay	Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Breanna Powell	Pre-Kindergarten Assistant
Mrs. Marie Merrill	Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Debbie Bourque	Kindergarten Co-Teacher
Mrs. Anne Quirk	Grade 1 Teacher
Mrs. Carolyn Hietsch	Grade 1 Assistant
Ms. Pamela Hague	Grade 1 Assistant
Ms. Jennifer Perrault	Grade 2 Teacher
Mrs. Joanna Ryder	Grade 2 Co-Teacher
Ms. Kirsten King	Grade 3 Teacher (3K)
Mrs. Karen Petrie	Grade 3 Teacher (3P), Lower School Coordinator
Mrs. Clara Sullivan	Grade 3 Assistant, Lower School Spanish
Mrs. Marcia Ubertaccio	Grade 4 Teacher (4U)
Mrs. Judith Werner	Grade 4 Teacher (4W)
Mrs. Ellen Goulet	Grade 5 Homeroom (5G)
	Middle School Religion
Mrs. Kara Diver	Grade 5 Homeroom (5D)
	Grade 5-6 LA/Lit, Grade 5D & 6 Social Studies
Ms. Erin Harmon	Grade 6 Homeroom, Grade 5-8 Science
Mrs. Katherine Duvall	Grade 7 Homeroom
	Grade 7-8 LA/Lit Grade 7-8 Social Studies
Mr. Douglas Mason	Grade 8 Homeroom, Middle School Math
Mrs. Carolyn Hietsch	PK-Gr. 4 Art
Ms. Joy Pye	Music
Mrs. Kate Martin	Guidance
Mrs. Amy Abercrombie	Technology PreK-Grade 8, Technology Director
Mr. Nick Corsi	Physical Education, Athletic Director
Mrs. Zeina Merhi	Librarian
Mrs. Ann Agurkis	Nurse
Ms. Katy Keir-Ferguson	Extended Day Coordinator
Mrs. Sharon Gordineer	Extended Day Assistant
Ms. Pamela Hague.	Extended Day Assistant
Ms. Gerry McCarthy	Cafeteria Manager
Mrs. Eleanor Costa	Cafeteria
Mr. Sandro Correa	Custodian
Mrs. Ann-Marie Shaw	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Anne Dailey	Principal, Grade 5G Social Studies
Rev. Christopher Stanibula	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Paul Caron	Pastor

School Handbook Appendix

Academic Year 2020-2021

This school handbook appendix has been developed to help families of the Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools understand how our schools will operate for the foreseeable future following the COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidelines currently in place as a response to the pandemic. There may be additional public health orders (such as reverting back to stay-at-home response phase) or additional guidance from the Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools. Communication from the Catholic Schools Office and the individual schools will be provided to parents in a timely manner.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND REOPENING

We are focused on three major areas in our reopening planning:

1. The health and safety of our school communities.
2. The ability to deliver our mission and educational excellence to our students, and
3. A sustainable reopening and long term sustainability of our schools

UPDATED STUDENT HEALTH POLICY

Each school will provide a School Reopening Plan that will put forth the goal of a **safe** return of as many students as possible to in-person learning.

Agreement to abide by the terms of the Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools Health Policy is a condition of enrollment at any Catholic school in the diocese. All schools will provide protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios this fall. In addition, schools will continue to update families as additional protocols are released by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The following link provides Massachusetts Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios as of July 17, 2020. [Coronavirus/COVID-19: Guidance/On the Desktop Messages](#)

RETURN TO LEARN

Understanding the variety of needs and concerns of students, families, teachers and staff, as well as the potential for changing health circumstances, the Catholic Schools Office is requiring schools to prepare a reopening plan that includes three learning models: in-person learning with new safety guidelines, a hybrid of in-person and remote learning, and a comprehensive fully-

remote learning model. These plans will be reviewed and approved by the Catholic Schools Office leadership team. Please refer to your school's website for more information regarding its reopening plan.

Attendance

Schools must take daily attendance whether a student is in person or remote. Schools are also required to differentiate between students attending school in-person or remotely.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their child(ren) attend school every day, whether in-person or remotely. Please refer to your school's regular policies concerning attendance requirements. Parents are expected to report student absences in accordance with the same current school procedures that existed before the pandemic. Schools will continue to investigate extended absences and make and document reasonable efforts to contact the student and determine the reason for nonattendance.

Digital Learning Platforms

All schools within the Diocese of Fall River currently have some form of online platform to support full delivery of remote instruction. Schools will work closely with students and families to implement online platforms and promote safe and effective use throughout the school year.

By signing this appendix, parents are acknowledging that their student(s) will participate in remote instruction in accordance with the guidelines put forth in the school plan and herein.

Remote Learning Student Requirements

1. Students will attend remote learning classes dressed in school uniform or appropriate attire as stated by the individual school. Wearing pajamas to remote classes is strictly prohibited.
2. Students should be prepared to attend remote classes to learn and fully participate. This includes video and audio on, face fully visual on camera, seated at a table or desk, in an area free of background noise, with no eating during instructional time.
3. Students are prohibited from sharing passwords and other digital information with non-members of the school community.

Remote Learning Family Requirements

1. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their students are attending and fully participating in remote learning. This includes that families will ensure that students have properly functioning devices for remote learning as required by the individual school.
2. Any type of recording of remote sessions by students, parents and caregivers is prohibited at all times in order to appropriately protect the privacy of students and teachers.
3. The home environment should not in any way disrupt the learning environment of all students in attendance. For example, other family members, television, pets and other electronic devices should not disrupt the learning environment..

4. Although schools will not record all remote learning or other sessions, the schools reserve the right to do so for security purposes and parents agree that they may do so.
5. Especially for younger children, a parent or caregiver should be nearby during all remote learning and have the ability to monitor such sessions.
6. One on one remote instruction should take place with a second adult present, but if an additional adult cannot be present then the session may be recorded for security purposes.
7. Please refer to your individual school policies for further guidance regarding remote learning.

Grading

All schools will continue to assess and grade student work regardless of the model of instruction. Please refer to your individual school for grading periods.

SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR SCHOOLS

Tuition

Because of the rich and meaningful education program our schools will strive to provide each and every day whether it be in-person, hybrid or remote, **our schools will continue to charge and collect full tuition.**

If a family has been adversely affected financially for any reason, they are encouraged to contact their school's leader. The school and diocese will make every effort to address the tuition challenges.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read and understand the guidelines set forth in this *school handbook appendix* and in the school plan referenced herein and agree to abide by them. I also acknowledge that certain remote learning or other sessions may be recorded for security purposes and agree that the school may do so.

STUDENT NAME (please print): _____

GRADE LEVEL: _____

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (please print name): _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN _____

DATED: _____