

FAMILY NAME: _____

2025-2026 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT



Parents as Partners Agreement

We, the faculty and staff of St. Mary's Catholic School, welcome you and your family to our school community. You will find that each of us is firmly committed to the formation of a school community, which will provide a strong academic education within the framework of Catholic beliefs, values and traditions.

Since belonging to our school community demands the commitment and dedication of the staff to the philosophy and goals of the school, it is likewise necessary for each parent to accept the philosophy and goals and to support the efforts of the staff and administration to implement and achieve them.

The Catholic Church and St. Mary's Catholic School recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. The education of students at our school is a partnership between parents and the school. If, in the opinion of the administration, the partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require the parent to withdraw his or her child. This is a very serious decision that is not made lightly.

Similarly, it is necessary for you, the primary educators of your children, to understand fully your part in the formation of the school community. We ask you, therefore, to read the Student and Parent Handbook in its entirety, the following Agreement, and provide your signature at the end to signify that you have read both. This signed form should be returned to the school office by the end of the first week of school.

AGREEMENT

1. We understand that the Catholic school is under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Austin. We accept, therefore, that:

- A. The pastor of the Church is the ex-officio chief administrative officer of the school, who, with the principal and staff, carries out the policies of the Diocesan Office of Education and, on points not covered by Diocesan policy, determines policies, in collaboration with the Local School Board, appropriate to the needs of the school, and;
- B. The principal is responsible for the immediate direction and supervision of the school program.

2. We understand that certain responsibilities require our continuous support if the school is to achieve its goals. We agree, therefore:

- A. To worship with our child, to actively participate in sacramental preparation programs, to make an effort to expand our own knowledge and the practice of our faith in order to help religion be an integral part of our children's lives rather than merely a subject that is taught during one segment of the day;
- B. To encourage our children to learn by providing an environment suitable for home study;
- C. To abide by the decision of the principal regarding suitable grade placement and advancement or retention of our children;
- D. To abide by all school and Diocesan regulations and policies;
- E. To complete and return all forms and records necessary to comply with school, Diocesan or state regulations.
- F. To follow all attendance guidelines and ensure that our child is in regular attendance at school.

3. We understand that tuition covers a very small part of the total cost of educating our children. We agree, therefore:
- A. To support our school through regular tuition payments;
 - B. To assist in making up the deficit by assuming a share of the duties for fund-raising and other support activities sponsored by the school;
 - C. To abide by the decision of the Pastor, Board of Trustees, or principal should circumstances require us to request such help.

Photography/Videography Release

By signing this, I grant St. Mary's Catholic School permission to take my child's photograph and/or videotape me and to use it, and any likeness thereof, for instructional and possible internet and social media publication purposes. The photos and/or video tapes will be used strictly by St. Mary's Catholic School or in advertising for St. Mary's Catholic School. I hereby release St. Mary's Catholic School and the photographer/videographer from any and all claims or liabilities with respect thereto. Parents not wishing to release the use of student images must notify the school in writing by September 1st of the current school year.

Student Directory Information

Within the first month of the school year, a Student Directory listing students' and parents' names, addresses, home telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses is made available. The Student Directory should be used to acquaint parents with the names of their children(s) classmates and parents. These directories should not be **used** or **sold** for other purposes. To opt out of this directory, the parent/guardian must make the request in writing to the school office.

Recognition of St. Mary's School Code of Conduct / Student-Parent Handbook

I have read the 2024-2025 Student-Parent Handbook and agree to follow the school policies and procedures as stated. I understand that St. Mary's Catholic School reserves the right to amend this handbook. Notice of amendments will be sent to parents via students in note or memo form.

I also understand and agree that my child(ren) shall be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in the student code of conduct at school and at school sponsored and related activities, including school sponsored travel, and for any school related misconduct, regardless of time and location. I understand that any student who violates the student code of conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. I understand that I may call and schedule conferences with teachers and the principal to discuss academics and other things.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Student

Date