



The Spirit of an IHM School calls each person to a life of ...

*Prayer
Love and Service
Courtesy and Hospitality*

*In this school
Jesus is the Center
And
Mary the Model*

**Parent – Student Handbook
2023-2024
Revised August 2023**

September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We welcome you to Saint Laurence Catholic School. It is a delight to have you and your children with us.

We are a school who puts God first in all things and we recognize His unconditional love for each of His creatures.

Saint Laurence School strives for excellence and it is our mission to help each child achieve success. Through steadfast love, prayer and diligent work our students will develop the skills needed to succeed as a 21st century learner.

Our faculty has been entrusted to nourish and fortify our students so that they will become beacons of hope in our world. We are called to build a culture of faith and knowledge which will eventually transform into the gift of wisdom.

We know the sacrifices you make to provide a Christ-centered education for your child(ren) and we thank you for choosing Saint Laurence School.

Sincerely yours,

*Sister Regina Matulka, IHM
Principal*

N.B. St. Laurence School reserves the right at any time to amend or add to the policies, rules, and regulations contained in this handbook, and to make such changes applicable to current and new students when the situation dictates.



Saint Laurence School Mission Statement

Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, Saint Laurence School strives to respectfully recognize, celebrate, and educate its diverse school community. We encourage academic growth through a positive and challenging learning environment. We seek to develop the whole child, integrating the Catholic values of service and respect for all God's people. Saint Laurence School creates and provides an environment for our students to know, love, and serve God.

Beliefs

We believe that:

- Christ is the reason for the existence of our school.
- Prayer is an essential part of the school.
- The teaching of Christian values is vital to personal growth.
- Cultural diversity enriches and strengthens our school community.
- Each child is unique and capable of learning.
- Empathy fosters positive peer relationships which leads to a cohesive classroom environment.

Father Thomas Whittingham, Pastor
Father Anthony Albanese, Assistant Pastor
Sister Regina Matulka, I.H.M., Principal

FACULTY and STAFF

| TEACHER | GRADE | RM.# | TEACHER | GRADE | RM.# |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Mrs. Patricia McPeak | 8 | 210 | | | |
| Mr. Edward Peterson | 7 | 209 | | | |
| Mrs. Tanisha Miller | 7 | 207 | | | |
| Mrs. Taden Welsh | 6 | 203 | | | |
| Mrs. Rachel Hyland | 6 | 206 | | | |
| Mr. Evan Peterson | 5 | 202 | | | |
| Miss Elaine George | 4 | 205 | | | |
| Miss Erin McCormick | 3 | 107 | | | |
| Mrs. Regina Pearse | 2 | 104 | | | |
| Miss Sarah Golda | 1 | 4 | | | |
| Miss Libby Dobryski | K | 2 | | | |
| Miss Christina Alfarano | PreK | | | | |
| Miss Kathleen Carberry | PreK | | | | |
| Mrs. Neomedis Gonzales | Spanish | | | | |
| Ms. Rebecca Eger | Library | | | | |
| Mr. Charles Lohse | Honors Math | | | | |
| Ms. Ellen Lohse | Art | | | | |
| Mrs. Colleen Elia | Computer | | | | |
| Ms. Cynthia Brown | Music/Choir | | | | |
| Mr. Kevin Herlihy | Physical Education | | | | |

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Sister Michele Smith | Administrative Assistant |
| Mrs. Ana Maria Flores | Secretary/Tuition |
| Mrs. Mary Higgins | First in Math/Tutor |
| Mrs. Carolyn Gillespie | Tutor |
| Sister Rosemarie Hagan | Religious Enrichment/Handwriting |
| Sister Barbara Koehler | Religion Coordinator |
| Mrs. Eileen Carberry | Pre K Aide |
| Mrs. Jackie Cavaliere | Kdg. Aide |
| Mr. Ron Sihler | Maintenance |
| Mrs. Eileen Campbell | Development Director |
| Government Staff: Nurse, Counselor, Psychologist, Speech, Reading Specialist, ESL | |

Virtues for the School Year 2023-2024

September's virtue is Hospitality. We encourage the students to welcome all new members of the School Community by showing a welcoming spirit to everyone.

October's virtue is Hope. The virtue of hope expresses itself in our recognition that we are made for Heaven. We encourage the children to pray with reverence and respect in word, posture, and voice.

November's virtue is Love of neighbor. A practical expression of this will be our Thanksgiving food drive. We encourage everyone to participate in feeding the hungry.

December's virtue is Devotion to the Birth of Jesus. One of our Community Patrons, St. Alphonsus, was especially devoted to the Crib which held the Infant Jesus. We encourage the children to do acts of kindness to one another. Each act would be as a piece of straw to soften the manger which held Jesus after his Birth.

January's virtue is Fidelity or Faithfulness to the students' work. We encourage students to complete assignments on time and to the best of their ability.

February's virtue is Devotion to the Cross of Christ. We encourage the students to prepare for Lent and encourage devotion to recognize the love that Jesus has for each of us.

March's virtue is a continuation of February. We encourage good Lenten practices, especially attention at Mass and reverence during the Stations of the Cross.

April's intention is Joy. We encourage and help the students to express Joy at the Resurrection of Jesus and the salvation won by each of us. We encourage the students to pray joyfully to the Risen Lord.

May's intention is Gratitude. Help the students to express their thanks to everyone involved in their education for the past year by praying and encouraging notes of thanks to show their appreciation to someone who helped them this year.

ADMISSION

All parents seeking admission of their children to our school must sincerely and actively support our mission statement, the educational, and disciplinary philosophy enunciated in this handbook. No child will be denied admission on the basis of race or ethnic origin. If a child lives in another parish, permission must be granted by both pastors for a child to attend this school. Students who are not Catholic are admitted provided the parents present a birth certificate to verify age and agree to adhere to the philosophy of St. Laurence School, which permits their children to attend Religion classes, Mass, and Prayer Services. Acceptance of students from other parishes or non-Catholic students is contingent upon space available. An accurate daytime home and work telephone number, e-mail, and cell phone numbers of both parents and/or guardians must be provided. These n After acceptance of the above criteria the following procedure is required:

- Pre-Kindergarten students must be **four** years old by **August 31st**.
- Kindergarten students must be **five** years old by **August 31st**.
- Pre-registration form filled out by parent or guardian.
- Presentation of Baptismal certificate, birth certificate and immunization records.
- A statement from the rectory verifying numbers need to be immediately updated as necessary.
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- **ADMISSION TO PRE-KINDERGARTEN and KINDERGARTEN**
- g the registration of parent(s) or guardian(s) in St. Laurence Parish.

ADMISSION TO GRADES ONE TO EIGHT

- Students entering first grade must be **six** years old by **August 31st**.
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) are required to accept all criteria listed under **ADMISSION**.
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) must present a transfer slip from the previous school, a copy of the report card, a Baptismal certificate and immunization records.
- The school must be made aware of any known physical, intellectual or psychological limitations of the student or any prior serious disciplinary problems which resulted either in suspension or expulsion from a previous school. Failure to make this known will result in expulsion. The school in turn will decide whether our program is appropriate for the student.

EVERY NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENT IN ALL GRADES WILL BE ON PROBATION FOR THE YEAR.

Registration begins the last week of January at the Catholic Schools Week Open House.

CUSTODY ISSUES

The school abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the child. A current address must be provided by the non-custodial parent in order to obtain information.

If there is a court order specifying that there is no information given, **it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order dealing with the education/visitation of the child. It is also the parent's responsibility to inform the school of the addresses where the student's records should be sent. Divorced parents must provide the school with a court certified copy of the custody section of the divorce decree. If no such copy is on file, school officials will assume that both parents have custodial rights.**

School officials will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that children are released only to the appropriate parent at the time/days according to the court custody agreements. However, parents must accept the primary responsibility for such arrangements and should instruct their children as to which parent should have physical custody of them on any given day.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is expected of all students in order that they may progress in their studies. Regular attendance is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian(s). If the school should go virtual, daily attendance at the virtual classes is mandatory. Proper conduct is expected at the virtual classes as well as wearing of the school uniform.

ABSENCE

The parent(s) or guardian(s) of **any** student who is going to be absent **must** call the school office between 7:00 and 8:00 A.M. on the morning that your child is absent. There is an answering machine in the office (610-789-1128). This machine will allow your call to be taken immediately. This requirement is made to safeguard your child.. **In compliance to PA State Law and Diocesan Policy, upon returning to school from an absence or from being sent home sick, all students are required to give to the homeroom teacher a note from the parent(s) or guardian(s) stating the reason for the absence. After an absence of 3 or more days, which has resulted from illness, a note from the attending physician is required.** A phone call to the office does not **take the place of an absentee note.** Any student returning without a written explanation must report to the office. It is the responsibility of the student to make up all the work missed during the absence. **When calling to report absence in the morning, also ask for homework assignments. A parent or sibling can pick up books and assignments in the main office at 2:20 PM.**

TRANSFERS

Parent(s) or guardian(s) of students transferring from St. Laurence School must notify the school office of the date the student is leaving, and the school to which the academic and health records are to be sent. Records can be forwarded only if tuition payments and fees are current. The new school will submit a request for the records to be sent to their institution.

EMAIL

In our effort to “go green” all families are requested to provide their email address so communications can go out in a timely manner.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian(s) to inform the homeroom teacher and the school office, in writing, if you have a change of address and/or phone number, cell phone numbers, and emergency numbers. When an emergency arises, the school must be able to contact the parent(s), guardian(s), or emergency contacts immediately.

DAILY SCHEDULE

PreK - Grade 8:

7:50 A.M.- 2:30 P.M.

7:50 A.M. Bell rings for line formation

7:52 A.M. Proceed to classrooms

8:00 A.M. Prayers - **Students not in homeroom for 8:00 A.M. prayers are considered late.**

2:30 P.M. Dismissal

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Orderly arrival and dismissal are signs of a well run school. **All students from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8 who come by car are to be dropped off in the back parking lot. Students in the lower grades will be escorted to their lines by upper grade students. Parents should not be escorting students to their lines.** The back school yard or cafeteria (in bad weather) will be supervised from 7:30 AM until students are taken to their classrooms. Children are brought into the school if the temperature or chill index is 35 degrees. Children are to be dressed for the weather.

Only students designated as car riders are to be picked up in the back parking lot. All other students, bus riders and walkers, will be dismissed in the front parking lot. Please wait at your car until your child comes to the car. For the safety of the students no car may exit the lot until all students are in their cars. No child may leave the school grounds, once they have arrived on the premises.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If it is necessary for a student to leave school before the scheduled dismissal, please send a note to the homeroom teacher informing the teacher of the time and reason for an early dismissal. The parent or guardian must come to the office to sign the child "out" in the checkout book. This sign out is a protection for the parent and the school. The student should know the time he/she will be expected to meet his/her parent or guardian at the office. This should eliminate class interruptions. **Do not call school with changes to your child's dismissal plans unless it is an absolute emergency.**

LUNCH

Lunch is an important time for refreshment and recess from academic pursuits. A pleasant cafeteria is provided for lunch. Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the lunch period. It is always important that students exhibit politeness and respect toward all kitchen and yard volunteers. All grades, Pre- Kindergarten through Grade 8, take recess outdoors, weather permitting. The children are supervised during the recess periods.

Lunch can be brought from home or purchased in school. Price of a daily lunch is \$5 and includes an entree, snack, and water. Menus will be sent home and money sent into school. Additional information will be sent with the menu. Please be sure your child has a lunch he/she likes to avoid food wasted. We encourage water, juice, and milk. No soft drinks or energy drinks.

LATENESS

Punctuality is important for academic success. Lateness interferes with students' learning and causes disruption for the teacher and the class. Students who are not on time for 8:00 A.M. prayers in homeroom are considered late. A record is kept of all late arrivals by the homeroom teacher. **Students who are late are not eligible for perfect attendance. In grades 4 through 8, five (5) unexcused latenesses will result in an automatic after school detention. Latenesses in the lower grades will be addressed within the individual room. Two (2) detentions for lateness in a trimester will result in a parent/principal conferences to discuss the issues which cause lateness. A late detention is not a conduct detention and will not be reflected in the conduct grade.**

ILLNESS OR INJURY DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If your child has a specific medical problem it must be made known to the principal, teacher and nurse with a note. A student who becomes ill in school will be sent to the nurse or main office after obtaining permission from the classroom teacher. Each child must have an updated Emergency Card on file. These cards contain the following:

- Home, business, and cell numbers of parents or guardians
- Telephone number of a person who has agreed to assume responsibility for your child in the event you cannot be reached.

Please notify the office if any of this information changes at any time.

SCHOOL NURSE

A nurse is at the school 1 day a week. If it is necessary for a student to be sent home, parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified by the nurse or the school office. The student must be picked up at the office by a parent, guardian, or some adult representing the parent(s) or guardian(s).

School nurses are prohibited by law to diagnose injuries or illness. Please do not send your child to school to be diagnosed by the nurse. She can only observe the condition and refer your child for medical advice. We believe that decisions regarding the need for medical care rests finally with the parents. Therefore, parents are always contacted to take their child home or to the doctor as the need arises. **NO CHILD WHO IS SICK SHOULD EVER BE SENT TO SCHOOL.**

At any time during the school year the nurse may inspect any student for head lice. If nits or lice are identified during the check, the following procedure will be implemented:

- Student will be removed from the classroom and parent will be called to pick up the child immediately.
- Parents must take the child to the family physician for verification and treatment.
- Student will be permitted to return to school only after the school nurse checks the student (parent needs to be present) or has a doctor's note stating that the child is clear of any infestation. If any nits are found, the parent will need to take the child home until all nits are removed.

MEDICATION POLICY

When medication, **either prescription or non-prescription**, is to be taken in school, written permission must be obtained from the student's licensed physician. Parental or guardian request and authorization **MUST ACCOMPANY** the physician's written approval/request. Medication must be in the **original labeled pharmacy container** with the student's name, medication dose and time interval written on the label. The physician's name, date of prescription and name and telephone number of the pharmacy must also be on the label.

APPOINTMENTS

The principal and the faculty are eager to discuss the pupil's progress with the parent(s) or guardian(s). The principal is available throughout the school day. Parent(s) or guardian(s) need to schedule an appointment with the principal and/or teacher. Parent(s) or guardian(s)

need to send a note to the teacher to arrange an appointment. Conferences with a teacher will be held before or after school or by telephone at a convenient time for parent and teacher.

**AT NO TIME MAY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS
DISTURB THE TEACHER DURING SCHOOL HOURS.**

All visitors, parents, guardians, salespersons, etc. must report to the school office for a Visitor's Pass before going anywhere in the school building. All visitors MUST wear a Visitor's Pass while in the school building.

SCHOOL BOOKS

Each year the school makes an effort to update and purchase new textbooks in some areas of the curriculum. A monthly inspection will be conducted to ensure that the books are being cared for properly. We ask you, the parents/guardians of our students, to help take care of these books by seeing that at all times books are properly covered and carried in a durable school bag. **Students may not draw or scribble on book covers, pencil cases, copybooks, or other school materials.** To further protect books and other school property, we ask that no child bring white-out or permanent markers to school. Repeated warnings regarding white-out or permanent markers will result in demerits.

DRESS CODE - BOYS

Pre K – Gym uniforms, Sneakers, Socks

Grades K to 3:

- Gray dress pants (no corduroys or jeans)
- White golf shirt - monogrammed
- Tan bucks only
- A religious necklace is permitted
- Plain Dark Belt
- Dark or white socks

Only plain, white t-shirts with no logos or printing are permitted to be worn under the uniform shirt. No turtlenecks may be worn.

No plastic wristbands or bracelets of any type are permitted.

Hair Cuts: No Extremes, No Fad Haircuts (hair is to be above the collar, above the eyebrows, and trimmed around the ears), no completely shaved or partially shaved heads, no ponytails or anything resembling such

Please note that hair coloring, exaggerated haircuts, body piercing, and tattoos are not permitted.

Boys - Grades 4 to 8:

- Gray dress trousers (no corduroys or jeans)
- Light blue short sleeve oxford shirt (Nov. 1 to April 15)
- White golf shirt – monogrammed (before and after above dates)

- Dark Blue Monogrammed Pull-Over Sweater or V-Neck Vest
- Tie
- Tan bucks only
- One pair of earrings, religious necklace or bracelet is permitted
- Plain Dark Belt
- Dark or white socks

Only plain, white t-shirts with no logos or printing are permitted to be worn under the uniform shirt. No turtlenecks may be worn.

No plastic wristbands or bracelets of any type are permitted.
Hair Cuts: No Extremes, No Fad Haircuts (hair is to be above the collar, above the eyebrows, and trimmed around the ears), No completely shaved heads nor partially shaved heads or designs in the hair. No facial hair.

Please note that hair coloring, exaggerated haircuts, exaggerated hair-dos, body piercing, and tattoos are not permitted.

DRESS CODE - GIRLS

PreK – Gym uniforms, Sneakers, Socks

Grades K to 3:

- Red plaid jumper(1 inch above knee)
- White Peter Pan collar blouse short sleeve
- Red cardigan monogrammed sweater (if needed)
- Navy knee socks, leotards, or tights (no leggings)
- Tan bucks only
- Only one pair of earrings (**SMALL POST TYPE – NO DANGLING OR HOOP EARRINGS,or NOSE RINGS**) and watch may be worn. (**NO SMART WATCHES IN SCHOOL**)
- Moderate use of hair beads. No head coverings.

Only plain, white t-shirts with no logos or printing are permitted to be worn under the uniform shirt. No turtlenecks may be worn.

No plastic wristbands or bracelets of any type are permitted.

Please note that clear natural natural colored nail polish is allowed with short nails. French nails, long nails, makeup, hair coloring, exaggerated haircuts, fake eye lashes, and tattoos are not permitted.

.Girls - Grades 4 to 8:

- Red plaid kilt (1 inch above knee)
- White oxford shirt (short sleeve)
- Red monogrammed Pull-Over Sweater or V-Neck vest (Nov. 1 - April 15)

- Navy knee socks, white banded golf shirt with SLS logo - Sept. to Nov. 1, April 15 to June
- Navy leotards, knee socks or tights (no leggings)
- Tan bucks only
- Only one pair of earrings (**SMALL POST TYPE – NO DANGLING OR HOOP EARRINGS OR NOSE RINGS**) and watch may be worn. (**NO SMART WATCHES IN SCHOOL**).
- Moderate use of hair beads. No head coverings.

Only plain, white t-shirts with no logos or printing are permitted to be worn under the uniform shirt. No turtlenecks may be worn.

No plastic wristbands or bracelets of any type are permitted.

Please note that clear natural natural colored nail polish is allowed with short nails. French nails, long nails, makeup, hair coloring, exaggerated haircuts, fake eye lashes, and tattoos are not permitted.

GYM UNIFORMS

The gym uniform must be purchased from the company that services our school. The following is the only acceptable gym attire:

- Regulation navy blue sweatpants, navy blue sweatshirt, tied sneakers, white socks
- Navy blue shorts, navy T-shirts, tied sneakers,
- White socks - entire ankle must be covered. Fad socks are not acceptable, no leggings
- Jewelry of any type is not to be worn on gym day.

ALL INFRINGEMENTS OF THE DRESS CODE CAN OCCASION A DEMERIT. FOR MORE SERIOUS OR REPEATED INFRACTIONS, PARENTS WILL BE CALLED AND WILL BE EXPECTED TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD.

N.B. If the school goes virtual for education, the school uniform must be worn during the virtual classes. Students must conduct themselves appropriately during virtual classes.

SCHOOL NOTICES

In an effort to “Go Green” monthly calendars and weekly memos are sent via email. Please be sure that email addresses are current.

HOMEWORK

Because education is a lifetime process, which extends beyond the school, it is important that students recognize that learning occurs in the home and community. Homework is one means of teaching the necessary skills of independent study and learning outside of the school. A broad definition of homework is considered here to include not only written work

but also related activities such as studying, reviewing, news reporting, recreational reading, and other activities which are related to classroom work. According to Archdiocesan Guidelines, the approximate amount of time spent on written and study homework is

Grade 1 - 30 minutes

Grade 2 - 45 minutes

Grade 3 - 60 minutes

Grade 4 - 75 minutes

Grade 5 - 90 minutes

Grades 6, 7, 8 - 2 hours

Rationale for Homework

- To complete work explained and started in class
- To expand and/or enrich regular class work
- To develop skills in reading, writing, thinking, listening, and speaking
- To make up work missed due to absence
- To encourage parents' awareness of student learning
- To provide an opportunity to pursue special interests and abilities
- To increase learning time
- To establish independent study skills
- To increase critical thinking skills
- To practice, review, reinforce, and maintain basic skills
- To utilize community resources for learning (libraries, etc.)

Parents are requested to:

- Provide a place and time to study
- Check to see if work has been completed and signed when necessary
- Oversee the neatness of written assignments
- Contact the teacher if a question arises concerning homework by means of a written note or email
- Allow their child to be accountable for their actions if they forget a book or do not complete assignments
- Keep a close check on Option C for updates from school/teacher

St. Laurence School supports the assignment

+of homework appropriate for grade level. Students need to prioritize their time and to balance their school responsibilities with extracurricular activities. In order to help them learn this responsibility, we have developed a school-wide policy for homework:

REPORT CARDS

The report card of each student is an official communication from St. Laurence School to the parent(s) or guardians. The purpose is to give an accurate picture of the student's progress. Report cards are distributed 3 times a year - December, March, and June. First grade students receive their first report card in December. Kindergarten students receive progress reports in December, March, and June. Parental conferences are conducted after the progress report. Second trimester will be at the request of the teacher and at any time requested by parents, guardians, or teacher. Students are to be present at the conferences.

Progress reports and report cards are issued through Option C. Parents must refer to this for marks.

HONORS PROGRAM

St. Laurence School provides achievement awards that encourage all students to work to their potential. Achievement awards set rigorous standards for students. Students in grades 4 through 8 who meet the standards will receive certificates at the end of the year. The following Honors Criteria for Grades 4-8 is: First Honors – Students must have a general average of 93.0 or above, with nothing below a 90 in a major subject. Anything below a 93.0 will NOT be rounded up. Art, Music, Phys.Ed., Languages, Technology require 3 or 4 to achieve honors. 3 or 4 is required in Personal and Social Growth and Effort and Study Skills. Students must also have a good conduct record. Second Honors – Students must have a general average of 88.0 or above, with nothing below an 85 in a major subject. Anything below an 88.0 will NOT be rounded up. Art, Music, Phys.Ed., Languages, Technology require a 3 or 4. 3 or 4 is required in Personal and Social Growth and Effort and Study Skills. Students must also have a good conduct record.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum at St. Laurence School combines academic learning with religious values. The curriculum is developed and taught sequentially, according to Archdiocesan guidelines. We envision our teaching to be child-centered emphasizing the student over the subject.

MODIFIED CURRICULUM

In an effort to enable students with certain diagnosed, mild, special needs to participate in parish elementary school classrooms, and to fairly assess their competence, effort, and progress, it is necessary to make certain adaptations in the curriculum and provisions for grading these students. These measures are taken according to specific circumstances so that high expectations are maintained for all students. The school will review the status on a year-to-year basis to ensure that these accommodations and placement continue to be appropriate for the individual student.

ACADEMIC FAILURE

In order to assure the best education for our students and to make sure all students perform to their ability, St. Laurence School is committed to excellence and positive student achievement in all subject areas. It is also important that all students come to school with the disposition to learn and the attitude that school is valuable and necessary for future life as an adult. Therefore, St. Laurence School will hold the following policies regarding failing grades, lack of cooperation, and missing or no work:

1. Tutoring will be required during the school year with documentation and passing grades from the tutor which will be given to the student's teacher and reviewed by the principal...

2. Students will be required to attend summer school and bring proper documentation and passing grades from the summer program to St. Laurence School for readmission in the fall of the following year...
3. Students will repeat the grade for the following year if none of the above conditions have been met...
4. Transfer to another school will be issued at the end of the second trimester or at the end of the school year if no effort is shown on the part of the student.

NON-PROMOTION

It is the policy of the school that if a student is unable to learn the curriculum of a specific grade due to the inability or failure to evidence effort in learning the curriculum, that student will repeat the grade. [A student is required to attend summer school if he/she has received a failure in any of these subject areas: Religion, Mathematics, Language Arts, Reading, Social Studies, or Science. In September, the parent/guardian must provide written documentation from the summer school which the child attended.](#) At times, St. Laurence School may not be able to meet the educational and/or psychological needs of a student. In this case, an alternative learning environment may be in the best interest of the student.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

During the school year, students take the Terra Nova Standardized Test which is published and computer-scored by a testing service. The results show how St. Laurence School compares to national norms, diocesan norms and other Catholic schools in Delaware County. These tests can be used as a guide in determining students eligible for special help in Reading and Math. They also identify academically talented students for enrichment purposes.

REMEDIAL SERVICES

Under Act 89 of the Pennsylvania Legislature, remedial services are provided in the area of Reading for those students who are eligible. Guidance services are also provided by this act and these are available to all students. Many significant advances have been made in the field of professional psychology and therapy. There may be times when counseling of a student may be recommended or other occasions when counseling may be required for the student's continued participation in our program. The various options will be explored with the parents and the principal orally, in writing, or both. Through the Guidance Counselor, referrals are made for additional testing and evaluation of students with special needs. If parents or guardians feel their child should be tested, these concerns should be discussed with the teacher. Speech services are also available.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The students in grades 1 through 8 receive a periodic progress report, via Option C, during the marking period to keep parents and students informed about academic and/or behavioral progress.

BUS SERVICE

Bus transportation is provided by the Upper Darby, Haverford, William Penn, Philadelphia, Southeast Delco, and Interboro. Students who ride the bus are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and to be respectful to the bus drivers. Students are to remain in their seats at all times and remain in the schoolyard while waiting for the afternoon bus. A violation of bus rules will result in detention or denial of use of bus service. **STUDENTS ASSIGNED TO A BUS MUST RIDE THAT BUS ONLY. NO CHILD MAY RIDE ANOTHER BUS TO VISIT ANOTHER CHILD AFTER SCHOOL.** These regulations of the school districts' transportation companies were made for safety and insurance reasons. In case of an emergency, the bus company must be contacted for permission to make adjustments and that information must be sent to the school in writing.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

A computerized, telephone broadcast system will be used to notify parents of any weather or non-weather related emergency. All households and parents will be notified by phone and/or text within minutes of any emergency or unplanned event which might cause early dismissal, school cancellation, or late start. **FOR THIS PROGRAM TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU KEEP US UP TO DATE ON ANY CHANGES TO YOUR HOME, WORK, OR CELL NUMBERS.** You can also listen to the **radio: KYW -1060 and KYWTV for information.** Upper Darby residents can tune into Comcast Channel 11 or RCN Channel 51. **OUR SCHOOL FOLLOWS THE SAME PROCEDURE AS UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

We believe that discipline is fundamental to life. Discipline is a necessary reflection of the Philosophy of a Catholic School, which attempts to develop a fully committed Christian - a Christian committed to the observance of just rules and regulations, which will assist the individual in responding to his/her responsibilities and obligations to himself/herself and others.

Correct training in discipline means that a child learns to accept rules and regulations presented by lawful authority. Students are expected to act in such fashion that their behavior will reflect favorably on themselves and the school. They are expected to show consideration and respect for their fellow students, teachers, thus creating a harmonious atmosphere within the school. All students must recognize their individual responsibilities and obligations and discharge them in accordance with school regulations. Children who fail to comply with school policies and regulations must accept the consequences.

The discipline code applies to students and parents/guardians in school and at school-sponsored events, as well as in the school/parish community and outside the school/parish community where behavior is contrary to Catholic teachings or could bring disrepute or embarrassment to the school. Parents/Guardians are expected to comply with school policies. Adult behavior is expected to be respectful and supportive of school personnel. Any infraction or expression of non-support of the code of conduct, or of faculty/staff, or of school or classroom policy on the part of a parent/guardian will warrant a suspension/dismissal of the child/family from the school. School reserves the right to search anyone or anything on school property.

HARASSMENT

The school follows the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Policy prohibiting harassment including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment refers to any unwelcome sexual attention, sexual advances, and requests for sexual favors or other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual harassment is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated. Any student or parent/guardian who is determined to have violated this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal of the student. A complete copy of the policy is maintained by the Principal and is available upon request.

VIOLENT/THREATENING/HARASSING AND INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT

It is the intent of the school to provide an educational environment free from all forms of improper threats, intimidation, hostility and offensive and inappropriate behavior. Such improper conduct may take the form of unwanted verbal or physical conduct, verbal or written derogatory or discriminatory statements, and behavior not otherwise conducive to the educational and religious mission of the school. Unacceptable conduct – either by a student or a parent/guardian – includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Disrespectful behavior of any kind toward or about any staff, student, volunteer or parent;
2. Insubordination;
3. Fighting;
4. Bomb scares or triggering other false alarms;
5. Cheating or plagiarism;
6. Use or possession of drugs or alcohol;
7. Smoking;
8. Stealing;
9. Intimidation, harassment or threats of any kind
10. Bullying or cyberbullying
11. Possession of any weapon.

These categories do not cover every possible situation. The school will determine which behavior is inappropriate.

This policy applies both in and out of the classroom, in the school community generally and outside the school community, where the behavior is contrary to Catholic teachings or could bring disrepute or embarrassment to the School.

Conduct by student or parents/guardians, or anyone acting on their behalf, incompatible with the educational and religious mission of the school is grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to the immediate dismissal of the student, as well as reporting the incident to the appropriate legal authorities where appropriate.

In addition, in the case of threats of violence or harassment, in any form, including oral, written or electronic, by a student against any member of the school community, the student, if suspended but not dismissed, may also be required to have psychological or psychiatric clearance before returning to school.

DETENTIONS

The following chart is only a guideline for the classroom teacher in the issuance of demerits/detentions. It is not an all-inclusive list of conduct that violates the Discipline Code. The number of demerits may be adjusted accordingly by the teacher and principal. **Five (5)** demerits warrant a detention. Parent conferences may be required.

The following infractions may warrant a demerit, demerits, or an immediate detention depending on the gravity of the incident:

- **Not prepared for class** – not having proper supplies or books for class repeatedly. Demerit will be issued after the first warning.
- **Improper Behavior** – including, but not limited to disturbances in class/playground/lunchroom, bus; i.e. note passing, slamming books, unnecessary noises, talking to self or others, throwing food, loud, boisterous sounds, any disruption deemed by the classroom teacher to interrupt the educational process.
- **Lying** – deliberate intention to deceive, including plagiarism, will merit a detention.
- **Cheating** – the taking or giving of schoolwork that is not one's own – or if the teacher has probable cause to suspect such an action; plagiarism
- **Disrespect** – any improper attitude displayed towards any teacher, staff member, volunteer parent, and administrator or fellow student.
- **Abusive Language** – any inappropriate language used on school premises.
- **Forgery** – any school paper or handing in any paper signed by anyone other than a parent or guardian or handing in a paper written by someone else.
- **Invading the Privacy of Another's Desk** – teacher or student
- **Gum Chewing/Eating in Class** – gum is not permitted on campus, including the school/church/parking lot; snacks may be eaten only at the designated time.
- **Dress Code Violations** – any infraction of the uniform dress code.
- **Damaging Any School, Church or Personal Property.**

- **Failure to Return a Signed Detention Slip** – detentions must be returned the next school day.
- **Unsigned Test Papers/Conduct Calendars** – tests and conduct calendars must be returned the next school day.
- **Out of Bounds** – any student who is in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- **Five Incidences of Late Arrival to School**, Grades 4-8
- **Other** – any other behavior that warrants attention not specified on the above list, including such acts as plagiarism/being on a website not approved by SLS will warrant a detention.

SERIOUS INFRACTIONS

Serious infractions may result in an immediate suspension or dismissal and apply when students are on campus, on a bus, or at a school-sponsored function. Examples of serious infractions include the following.

- **Truancy** – unexcused absences
- **Violent Behavior** – any fighting or behavior that causes or could cause physical injury
- **Blatant Disrespect for Authority** – to any adult in or out of the building
- **Possession and/or Use of Drugs, Narcotics, Tobacco/VAPE, or Alcoholic Beverages on Campus or on the Bus**
- **Irreverence**
- **Bullying or Cyberbullying**
- **Vandalism** – destruction or defacing of parish or school property or any property
- **Profane/Obscene Language or Gesture**
- **Spreading false rumors, lies, slander**
- **Engaging in Immoral Conduct**
- **Possession of Weapons** – any item which may present a danger to others in school or out; any sort of weapon or sharp instrument
- **Cutting Class**
- **Leaving the campus without permission from a school authority.**
- **Use of Cell Phone on School Property or such places as on the school bus. Any postings on social media will merit an immediate suspension/dismissal.**

PROCEDURE FOR DETENTION

When a student receives a detention, the parent/guardian must sign it on the night issued. It must be returned the following day to the issuing school official. [Detentions for students in grades 1 through 8 are on Wednesdays until 3:30 PM.](#) You will serve a Saturday detention if you can't do Wednesday. The principal or teacher may alter this usual procedure as they deem necessary. **A parent/guardian's signature indicates that the parent/guardian has seen the detention. It does not indicate the parent/guardian's permission for the student to receive the detention. The teacher issuing the detention and the principal already have made that decision. A student not serving a detention or serving only**

part of it incurs a suspension. A student/parent may not decide to serve detention at another time. It is to be served on the date designated.

SUSPENSIONS

Just and appropriate disciplinary policies are essential educational processes. These include procedures that are more remedial than punitive, yet include the necessary provisions that protect the common good of the school community.

Suspensions may lead to dismissal. The Principal will inform the parents/guardians of the seriousness of suspension and seek their immediate cooperation in a corrective program designed to resolve the student's problem, if possible.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT SUSPENSIONS

1. Infractions of a serious nature, including bullying or cyberbullying, as determined by the School, may warrant a suspension.
2. Four (4) detentions for conduct will warrant a suspension warning. Five (5) detentions for conduct warrant a suspension.
3. Parents/Guardians of the student will be informed. A conference will be held. The suspension papers will be signed.
4. Suspensions will be implemented (in-school or out of school), at the discretion of the Principal.
5. Following suspension, parents or guardians may be interviewed by the appropriate school official. Students removed from the school community will not be readmitted before all conditions for re-admittance have been satisfied.
6. When necessary, a student may be referred for counseling.
7. A written report of the suspension will be filed in the student's record.
8. Suspension records are not a part of the student's permanent or cumulative record. Ordinarily, suspension records will only be made available to authorized school personnel and parents.

Students may be placed on probation if their behavior/academics are concerning/not changing

DISMISSAL/EXPULSION

1. After two (2) formal suspensions, a student may be dismissed.
2. Students who are dismissed may apply for readmission after one (1) full year. The School will determine whether re-admittance is appropriate.
3. In certain instances, the infraction may warrant immediate dismissal. The School reserves the right to dismiss any student at any time where the School considers the conduct of the student or parent/guardian to be inconsistent with School policy, the good of the community or Catholic teachings.
4. Parents/Guardians of the student will be informed in writing of the dismissal.

LAVATORY

The lavatories in our school have recently been remodeled and are kept in good condition. Keeping them neat and clean depends on the care of each person using them. These are not places for loitering, talking, rough housing, etc. Food and drink may never be taken into the lavatories. Destruction of any kind or violation of lavatory rules will lead to disciplinary action, including possible suspension/dismissal. Classroom teachers will use a sign-out book in their classrooms

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE POLICY

No student may use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor use or possess paraphernalia for the purpose of illicit/inappropriate drug use on school grounds or at school sponsored events. The term "alcohol, drugs, and other substances" shall be construed throughout this policy to refer to the use of all substances including, but not limited to: alcohol, all forms of tobacco, inhalable substances, marijuana, depressant drugs, stimulants, hallucinogenic drugs, and steroids. The inappropriate and/or illegal use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall be prohibited. Prescription medication for personal use shall be allowed only under the supervision of school medical personnel, **with written orders from a physician.**

GENERAL POLICIES

- Gum chewing is never permitted in school, including all before and after-school activities, and on school-sponsored field trips.
- Students may not enter the school building without permission before and after regular school hours. This includes returning to classrooms before or after school for forgotten items.
- Students may not write on, damage or destroy school uniforms, student's clothing or their personal property, textbooks, or school property. A student marking or destroying textbooks, clothing, or school property will be required to contact his/her parent and inform the parent of the cost of the damages in order to make restitution.
- Students may not bring laser pointers, skateboards, I-Pods, Air-pods, Smart Watches, toy smart watches, or headsets to school.
- Cameras may only be brought to school and used in conjunction with a school or class project. The camera must be kept with the teacher when not in use for the project.
- ***All articles belonging to a student should be properly identified.*** Many lost and found articles are brought to the office daily, but they are infrequently sought after or claimed. Please remind your children to look for their lost objects immediately. These are located in the cafeteria. Unmarked clothing turned into the school office will be given to the poor.

- *Parents are expected to support the fund-raising efforts of the school.*

COMPUTER USE POLICY

Computers are a valuable tool for education and one of our school's purposes is to encourage the proper use of computer related technology including the Internet. Parent(s), guardian(s), and students have been advised of the Archdiocesan Computer Acceptable Use Policy and also of our specific St. Laurence School Computer Use Policy. Contracts have been signed by the students and are on file in the school office. Students violating signed computer contracts will be excluded from the computer lab for one month but will still be responsible for the work assigned. Any damage to a computer must be paid for by the family.

Online bullying through instant messaging, email, or personal web pages will not be tolerated and proper disciplinary actions will be taken.

CELL PHONES and OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT POLICY

If parents/guardians feel it necessary for students to bring a cell phone to school the following procedures will be enforced:

- Students' cell phones/any electronic devices will be collected each day and kept in bins in the classroom.
- They must be signed in at the start of the day and signed out at the end of the day.
- Once the walkers are no longer on school property the school is no longer responsible.
- If a cell phone/electronic device is taken away from a student for any violation of this policy, a parent must come to the office to claim the phone.
- A student may not use, lend, display or borrow a cell phone/ED on school property and/or bus.
- Any infraction of the above, a detention or other consequence, depending on the gravity of the situation, will occur.

FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips are permitted. These trips are arranged by the teachers in consultation with the principal. Written permission slips must be presented by each child, signed by his/her parents in order to go on the trip. Only students who are current with tuition and have earned the privilege by proper behavior will participate.

**IN ORDER FOR A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIELD TRIP,
FEES and TUITION MUST BE UP TO DATE AT THE TIME OF FIELD TRIP.**

LIBRARY

Classes visit the library every week. Books taken out must be returned to the library on the class due date; otherwise, a fine is charged for every day, including weekends, that the book is late. Any student who has lost or severely damaged a library book is responsible to pay

the replacement cost of the book. Fines and lost book fees must be paid before another book may be borrowed.

SCIENCE LAB

We are fortunate to have a completely furnished science lab. Because of the nature of equipment and furnishings, students are instructed in the proper use of materials and the proper code of conduct. Regulations are put in place for safety and to create an optimum learning environment. Infractions of any regulations will be handled as necessary.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

To ensure the continual smooth functioning of St. Laurence School, we ask your help in many and varied ways. We ask you to volunteer for one or more of the following: Cafeteria, Library, and Lunch recess.

All volunteers must submit

Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance and Criminal Record Check forms to the main office.

TUITION

Our school provides quality Catholic education through the efforts of our parish priests, faculty, staff, Home and School Association, volunteers, parish community, and most of all, through the many sacrifices made by the parents/guardians of the children enrolled here.

In justice to all parents and the parish community, parents are expected to keep tuition payments up to date. Both parents are jointly responsible for tuition and other fees charged by the school. The Pastor and Administration review the tuition records monthly. Diocesan policy states that when a tuition account falls into arrears, the student will not be admitted to class until the account is brought up to date and paid in full. Parents are asked to pay in a timely manner. No phone calls will be made to remind parents that balances are due. In addition, the school reserves the right to take further action, up to and including dismissal and withholding of school records, if tuition payments are not made in a timely manner. Parents are asked to register on FACTS regarding tuition.

If there is an outstanding balance at the end of the school year, no report card will be available to the student via Option C. Once payment is made, all records will be released. If there is an outstanding balance at the end of the school year, and we are at capacity for that classroom, the student will be put on a waitlist after the balance has been paid.

RELIGION

The basic purpose of our school is religious and modeled on the teachings of Christ and His Church. Opportunities are, therefore, provided so that the children may participate in expressions of their faith life. These coincide with daily class lessons in Religion. Each grade attends Mass on a school day. Students participate in Penance Services as well as other paraliturgical celebrations, which foster the sense of the Church's Liturgical Seasons. Children are prepared for the reception of the Sacraments through parental and classroom

instruction and example. Reception of a sacrament is not an automatic process but one that requires time and involvement of both children and their parents. Group preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist take place in the third grade; Confirmation preparation takes place in the seventh grade. Reception of these Sacraments may vary with individual circumstances. According to Archdiocesan policy, children must receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation at their home parish even though they may be attending a neighboring Catholic school.

END OF YEAR TESTING

End of year testing will take place in the end of May/June. There will be no mid-year testing. The content of the tests reflects the materials covered at each grade level. They are used as a test average toward a report card mark.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The purpose of student council is to instill leadership qualities in the students, promote school spirit, and provide a forum where students can express their ideas. The student council consists of an executive board (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, commissioner of school spirit) and individual classroom representatives from grades 5 through 8. The qualifications for each office are posted and explained in the classrooms prior to election time. If a student's conduct is deemed unacceptable by the faculty or if a student receives a suspension, that student does not qualify to be a member of the Student Council.

HONORS/ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

The Elementary Mathematics Program functions as an integral part of the Mathematics curriculum. It provides for the acceleration of the existing curriculum for students from fifth to eighth grades who qualify academically and whose maturity indicates that they are able to manage the fast pace of instruction. By continuing in the accelerated program, the students should be able to complete Algebra I by the end of eighth grade and, upon entering high school, participate in an accelerated or advanced placement program at the diocesan secondary school. Those students who enter the program after fifth grade are considered advanced students. Their participation should ensure a smooth transition between elementary and secondary mathematics courses.

CLUBS

In the fall and in the spring, clubs will be offered after school - 2:30 to 3:30. Our teachers will monitor the clubs. Information will be sent home to parents with the details each year. Clubs vary depending on teacher availability and student interest.

MUSIC

A certified music teacher instructs students from Grade 1 through Grade 8 in general classroom music. There is also a choir for interested students. Choir practice takes place after school or at the lunchtime recess.

ART

A certified Art teacher instructs students from K through Grade 8.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO)

St. Laurence Parish has an active Catholic Youth Organization which sponsors various activities that can be found on our website: www.saintlaurence.org under the parent information.

PLEASE NOTE:

ST. LAURENCE SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT ANYTIME TO AMEND OR ADD TO THE POLICIES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS HANDBOOK, AND MAKE SUCH CHANGES APPLICABLE TO CURRENT AND NEW STUDENTS WHEN THE SITUATION DICTATES.

The sign off sheet sent home to you indicates that both parents and children have read and discussed the policies of Saint Laurence School.

Signing the page also indicates that the family is aware of the Student Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity as explained.

Please return the paper sent home signed- on or before September 9th.

Thank you.