

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Parent/Student Handbook

2026 - 2027

Our Lady Star of the Sea admits students of any race, color, nationality and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in the administration of the educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.

Philosophy and Goals

Our Lady Star of the Sea School endorses the call of the Catholic Bishops of the United States to express its educational ministry through the three objectives of personal spirituality, social justice, and a strong academic program in accord with Christian values. This commitment extends to building Christian community and to fostering Christian service to the whole human family.

It has been stated that every man/woman is endowed with the dignity of a person. He/She has the inalienable right to an education in conjunction with his/her ability. To that end we believe that Catholic education:

- Gives priority to each child's individual needs and values.
- Helps the child to recognize and develop his/her potential fostering creativity and inquisitiveness.
- Fosters within the child the spirit of Christian joy and encourages a wholesome sense of humor.
- Helps to guide the child away from the destructiveness of ignorance, prejudice, and self-centeredness.
- Helps spread the Word of God, paving the way for peace and unity among all people.

The pastor is the ex-officio chief administrator of the school. The principal is the administrative head of the school and is responsible for its effective operation as an educational institution within the guidelines set by the Archdiocese of New York and the New York State Board of Regents. The Assistant Principal and teachers are highly skilled professionals who work closely with the principal and the pastor for the effective fulfillment of the goals of his/her position.

PURPOSE AND USE OF HANDBOOK

This handbook exists to foster efficient operation of Our Lady Star of the Sea School. To meet this goal, the school administration is given flexibility and the ability to exercise discretion. In appropriate circumstances, the Principal and/ or the Assistant Principal have the discretion to take action other than those specified in this handbook. THIS HANDBOOK IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME WHEN DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY BY THE OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA ADMINISTRATION.

ACCREDITATION

Our Lady Star of the Sea School is accredited by Cognia.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Jesus Christ is the Center of Our Lady Star of the Sea School Community. Therefore, we always strive to provide a conscious program of spiritual development to each of our pupils. The school day is opened with a prayer. We celebrate the seasons of the church year with common prayer and we integrate special liturgical celebrations into our school life. Each grade has an opportunity for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

A procession in honor of the Mother of God is traditionally held during the month of May and Rosary devotions during the months of May and October. Stations of the Cross are recited during the season of Lent.

Parents are expected to participate in all parental programs pertaining to their children's preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist as well as the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation dates are suggested and determined by the Bishop and Pastor.

HISTORY OF OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL

In 1959, Our Lady Star of the Sea School opened with approximately five hundred students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade. Our school opened under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Vincent, NY. The first principal was Sister Petronella. The principals who followed Sister Petronella, each of whom contributed much to make Our Lady Star of the Sea the excellent school it is today were: Sister Miriam Ambrose, Sister Irene Mary, Sister Bernadette Marie and Sister Audrey Boylan. In 1984, Sister Audrey Boylan was called to other duties, and Mrs. Kathleen Parascondola became the first lay principal until her retirement in 1987. Mrs. Theresa R. Hayes followed her until her retirement in 1997. Mrs. Irma P. Cummings became assistant principal in 1994 and principal in 1997 until her retirement in 2015. Mrs. Josephine E. Tortorella became assistant principal in 1997 until her retirement in 2015. Mrs. Jeannine Roland and Mrs. Patti Gandelman, were appointed as principal and assistant principal, respectively, in 2015. Mrs. Roland retired in 2024. Currently the Administrators of the school are Patti Gandelman, Principal and Ursula Roman, Assistant Principal. Both were appointed in September, 2024.

SCHOOL COLORS

Blue and White

SCHOOL SONG:

Our Lady Star of the Sea

SCHOOL MASCOT

Dolphin

PRAYERS AND SACRAMENTS

As a Catholic School, we expect our students to participate in the prayer and sacramental life of the school and parish. Every child should attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. With your help and assistance, in cooperation with the school, we expect them to know the correct manner of participating at Mass and the prayers of the Mass.

The children of Grade 2 will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. In keeping with the wishes of the Church, Sacrament of Confirmation is administered when the children are in grade 8. **Parents are required to attend scheduled meetings for all sacraments.**

Grades 1 and 2 *prepare* for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist. Grades 6, 7 and 8 *prepare* for the Sacrament of Confirmation. All children in sacramental programs must attend mass every weekend. Attendance will be closely monitored. Church envelopes must be submitted to the priest at the end of the Mass attended. If attending Mass at another parish, a signed church bulletin with the student's name and grade must be submitted. ***Poor Mass attendance will result in the postponement of the reception of the sacrament.***

Academic Expectations

Our Lady Star of the Sea School expects students to perform to the best of their ability.

Teachers are expected to evaluate student progress on a regular basis. Students will be given quizzes or tests regularly. After the test is graded, it will be sent home for the parent/guardian to review and sign and posted to Educate for parent viewing. A parent/guardian's signature indicates that the parent/guardian is aware of the student's progress.

Graduation

At the discretion of the principal, each school has the right not to certify the student's graduation or provide transcripts of the student's academic record to third parties such as other schools, colleges, or employers, or to issue a diploma to the student if there has been a breach of a material condition of this educational contract (i.e., failure to meet financial obligations, infractions against the school's code of conduct, etc).

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the instructional program, reinforces learning and provides students with opportunities to practice what they have learned. This practice helps students establish good study habits, become independent learners and strong readers, writers and mathematicians. All homework time includes 15 minutes of reading or being read to.

The suggested time allotments for homework (written and study) are as follows:

Grades Pre-K & K	Short homework assignments related to the curriculum
Grades 1 & 2	approximately 30 minutes
Grades 3 & 4	approximately 45 minutes
Grades 5 & 6	approximately 90 minutes
Grades 7 & 8	approximately 120 minutes

Students are required to complete all of their homework.

Grades and Grading

Report cards are distributed four times a year for Grades K to 8. Pre-K report cards are distributed two times a year. The report card is an important part of the ongoing communication between the school and the home. Dates for report cards are indicated on the school calendar.

Academic Achievement

The first part of the Archdiocesan Report Card is used to mark the student's achievement in academic subjects.

The achievement mark in each quarter is based upon the demonstration of mastery of material covered in class such as:

1. Classwork/participation
2. homework
3. quizzes
4. formative assessments
5. summative assessments

There are no grades for Computer Science or Library as these two areas are to be supportive of, and integrated into, the total learning process.

- Foreign Language will be given a letter grade if the class meets for less than 120 minutes per week.
- The Final Report Card Grade is the weighted average of the four previous quarter grades and Final Exams which consists of end-year tests in Religion for grades 3 – 5, and all core subjects, including Religion, for grades 6 – 8. This Final Grade will be recorded on the student's permanent record.
- Numerical marks are recorded on report cards for Grades 1– 8.
- The marks are an average of summative assessments, quizzes, classwork, homework, and formative assessments
- Passing is any mark 70% or above or any mark of D or higher.

The parent/guardian will be informed in a timely manner in the event of a student not satisfactorily performing in a course or activity.

The parent/guardian is encouraged to monitor their child's progress by using the Student Information System (SIS) portal.

Any missed final exam, for students in Grades 3 – 8, requires a doctor's note.

Character Development

The Conduct and General Effort Scale indicate grades for General Effort and Character Development. A single letter grade is used with progress codes indicating improvement needed in any sub-category.

Honor Roll

HONORS CRITERIA FOR GRADES 6-8

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

- 95 or higher final total average in the final column of the report card
- All final subject grades must be 95 or higher
- A in General Effort
- Minimum of B in all other areas

FIRST HONORS

- 90 or higher final total average in the final column of the report card
- All final subject grades must be 90 or higher
- A in General Effort
- Minimum of B in all other areas

SECOND HONORS

- 85 or higher final total average in the final column of the report card
- All final subject grades must be 85 or higher
- B in General Effort
- Minimum of B in all other areas

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- No more than 10 lateness for the year
- No more than 12 days absent for the year-

Principal's List

Criteria

- 90 and above in all academic subjects including total quarterly average
- At least a B in all other areas
- No more than 3 lateness for the quarter

General Information

For Grades 3-5

- Principal's List is for each quarterly report card
- Principal's List will be displayed
- Principal's List does not include Midterm and /or Final exams

For Grades 6-8

- Principal's List is for each quarterly report card
- Honors Criteria will be used for the Final Marking period for Gr 6,7,8
- Principal's List will be published and displayed
- Principal's List does not include Midterm and/ or Final exams

National Junior Honor Society Criteria:

- 93 or above overall average in the first quarter, with no grade less than a 90 in any academic subject. Students must maintain this average for the entire year.
- No more than 6 lateness for the quarter (this includes shadowing days).
- No more than 6 absences for the quarter (this includes shadowing days).
- At least a B in all other areas
- At least a B in conduct
- Demonstrates a willingness to serve others in class, school, and community
- Demonstrates a positive attitude in daily interactions with peers, teachers, other students, and all adults
- Completion of application
- Passing faculty review
- Essay submitted to the faculty council for review

Report Card Distribution

Report cards are available to be viewed via FACTS in November, January/February, March/ April, and June. Report cards will be withheld if financial obligations have not been met and fees are outstanding..**A parent must attend the first Parent / Teacher Conference of the school year, and are encouraged to attend all others throughout the year.**

Promotion/Retention

Very few decisions we make about children are more important than recommendations to promote or to retain a student. When a school accepts a student, that school accepts the responsibility for providing appropriate instruction to help the student achieve the prescribed goals. If the student successfully achieves the program's objectives, the student progresses to the next level.

Testing, diagnosis, and actual performance, however, may indicate that some students cannot follow the school's complete course of study. The principal and school faculty develop for each of these students a special program, based on the school's regular program, which follows the New York State Standards. A copy of the student's modified program is retained in the student's file. Conferences must be held with the parents/guardians periodically to inform them of the specific demands of this program and on-going progress. Therefore, the decision to retain a student presupposes that the school has done everything to help the student achieve success, and the student still has not made satisfactory progress.

If a student is being considered for retention, teachers must begin discussing this possibility early in the school year with the principal. Parent conferences must be held periodically, and notification of the possibility of retention must be made no later than mid-January, with written notation having been made on the report card. Although the teacher consults with the principal, the final decision for retaining a student rests with the principal.

The following are specific criteria that will assist teachers as they consider a recommendation for retention.

The student has failed to pass the major subjects on each grade level.

The following table indicates the specific failures by grade level that might result in retention at that grade level:

LEVEL	ACADEMIC PROGRESS
Kindergarten	Evidence that the child is not meeting academic expectations of the program.
Grade 1	Evidence of insufficient developmental progress and a failure in ELA
Grade 2	Failure in ELA
Grade 3	Failures in ELA and Mathematics
Grade 4, 5, 6	Failures in ELA and Mathematics, <i>or</i> Failures in ELA or Mathematics and failures in two of the following subjects: Religion, Science or Social Studies
Grade 7, 8	Failures in ELA and Mathematics <i>or</i> Failures in ELA or Mathematics and failure in one of the following subjects: Religion, Science or Social Studies

The student has not demonstrated acceptable progress toward mastery of standards. The following types of behavior might indicate unacceptable progress:

- failure to complete assignments
- failures on multiple summative assessments

Generally, a student would be retained only once in the elementary grades (1 - 5), and only once in the upper grades (6 - 8).

If a student completes all requirements for promotion or graduation, a family cannot self-select the student to be retained in their grade.

Assessments

In addition to class and school exams your child will also take part in the Archdiocesan testing program which includes the Archdiocesan religion test, interim assessments, and New York State Education Department assessments. All students enrolled in our school are expected to participate in all exams and assessments. No alternative assignments will be provided. If parents/guardians refuse to allow their child to participate in New York State Education Department assessment, their child will not be permitted to attend school on testing dates.

Archdiocesan Tests

Archdiocesan Test

Religion Final Exam	Grade 3 to 8	June
Core Subject* Final Exams	Grade 6 to 8	June

***In June, the Archdiocesan Religion Exam will be used as the student's End-Year Examination in Religion for Grades 3-8.**

Archdiocesan-approved Standardized Assessment

Interim Assessments

Interim Assessments – Administered 3 Times a Year	
Grades K-8	IReady Inform

NY State Tests

English Language Arts And Mathematics	Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8
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The faculty of Our Lady Star of the Sea School reviews these assessments regularly for the purpose of fostering growth and achievement.

Accidents

Student accident insurance is included in the school's yearly fees. In the event of an accident at school you may obtain a claim form from the office.

Please note that the school accident insurance usually is secondary to the parent/guardian's own medical insurance coverage.

Admission Policies

Roman Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York base their educational purpose and all their activities on the Christian teaching of the essential equality of all persons as rooted in God's love.

Thus, with discrimination so repugnant to their nature and mission, Catholic schools in this Archdiocese do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or gender in administration of educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered policies.

This policy is subscribed to by all Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of New York whether owned or operated by the parishes within the Archdiocese, Catholic school regions, or religious communities within the Archdiocese.

The process for admission to Our Lady Star of the Sea School is: parent/guardian must complete the school application form and provide all required documents (including IESP's and any other formal diagnostic evaluation). Following an interview and evaluation of the materials, the parent will be notified about the status of the child.

While admission is on a first come – first served basis, Our Lady Star of the School endeavors to give preference in admission following these guidelines: first, to siblings of currently enrolled students; second, to Catholic students whose parent/guardian is active members of the parish, third, to Catholic students whose parent/guardian are active in another Catholic parish or, if a regional school, active in a parish outside the region; and fourth, to non-Catholic students.

Pre-Kindergarten: 3 and 4 year olds

- age criteria per New York State regulation
- toilet trained
- attend a tour
- pre admission interview/meeting
- all immunization requirements must be met

Technical Requirements for all Admissions

- Age: an original birth certificate, not stamped, or copied must be submitted for proof of age
- Baptismal certificate: original
- Immunization Requirements: See Immunization Requirements

Class Placement

Class placement is final. At no time will the school honor requests for specific teachers or classes.

Transfer/Policy

A parent must submit a written notification of transfer for any student transferring from Our Lady Star of the Sea School. This is necessary in order to officially remove the student from the register. In addition, all financial obligations must be met before records are released.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in Schools

This policy provides guidance for the responsible, faith-formed, and mission-aligned use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York. It supports the holistic development of students—cognitively, affectively, and spiritually—while upholding Catholic values and the inherent dignity of every person.

AI Ethics

In his May 25, 2026 encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, Pope Leo XIV applies Catholic Social Teaching to artificial intelligence and education, emphasizing that technology must always serve human dignity and the common good rather than replace the human relationships, spiritual formation, and moral development at the heart of learning. As he writes:

“Schools are not called to follow the pace of the digital world, but to offer that which the digital sphere by itself cannot provide, namely a shared time for learning and developing trustworthy relationships.”

Pope Leo XIV reminds educators that technology must be used as a tool to help build the “new Jerusalem” by fostering communion, authentic relationships, and deeper connection with God and one another, rather than becoming a modern Tower of Babel that isolates individuals and diminishes human encounter. While artificial intelligence can support learning and innovation, it can never replace the spirituality, compassion, discernment, and personal interaction that define authentic Catholic education. Conversations between human persons, and between humanity and God, remain sacred and irreplaceable. In this vision, schools are called not only to prepare students

for a technological world, but also to form them as persons of faith, dignity, and relationship.

Antiqua Et Nova is the title of a doctrinal note published in January, 2025 by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education. This document addresses the relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and human intelligence, exploring the anthropological and ethical challenges posed by AI.

Core Principles

- AI is a tool to enhance, not replace, teacher-led instruction and human relationships.
- All AI use must align with Catholic teachings, respect individual privacy, and promote creativity, critical thinking, and moral discernment.
- AI must be used in a faith-formed manner, with transparency, fairness, and reverence for the dignity of each community member.

Acceptable Uses of AI

Students may use AI for formative instructional support, with clear guidelines and teacher oversight. Any AI use must follow the teacher's assignment requirements, including specific directions and rubrics.

Acceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

- Students may use AI under teacher supervision to support learning, such as through instructional support or language tools. AI should enhance, not replace, student engagement and reflection.**
- Brainstorming or outlining ideas, provided the student develops their own original final product.**
- Grammar and spelling suggestions, similar to using spell check tools.**
- AI may be used for academic research and other educational purposes aligned with instructional goals and Catholic moral principles. Any use of AI-generated assistance must be clearly cited, even when modified or adapted. Students should clearly acknowledge AI contributions while demonstrating their own learning and original work.**

o MLA Style Center

- Research support, when used to gather general information or inspiration with proper citation; using AI to summarize a reading, then checking for accuracy and citing it.**

o Example: A student uses an AI tool to summarize an article on the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta, then reads the original to verify accuracy and includes a note like:

“Summary assisted by ChatGPT, June 2025.”

o MLA Style Center

- **Practicing vocabulary or grammar through an AI-powered language tool.**
 - o **Example: A student uses Duolingo’s AI assistant to practice Spanish verbs or sentence structure as extra practice—not for graded work.**
- **Asking an AI chatbot for help understanding a complex topic.**
 - o **Example: A student asks a Catholic AI tutor, “What is the difference between mortal and venial sin?”, and uses the explanation as a starting point for class notes—crediting the tool when appropriate.**

AI use is tailored to the developmental needs of students at different grade levels:

- **Elementary (K–5): AI tools may be used primarily for formative support, such as vocabulary practice, formative spelling and grammar checks, and guided use of AI tutors for faith-based questions under close teacher supervision.**
- **Middle School (6–8): Students may engage with AI for brainstorming, research summaries with teacher guidance, and language learning tools, with explicit instruction on ethical AI use and citation practices.**

Unacceptable Uses of AI

Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

- **Academic Dishonesty: Using AI to complete assignments, assessments, or projects without permission or proper citation constitutes cheating. Students must follow teacher guidelines and cite AI assistance when allowed. Additionally, using AI during tests, quizzes, or timed assessments, unless explicitly allowed, constitutes cheating.**
- **Failing to disclose AI assistance when it has contributed to submitted work.**
- **Inappropriate Content: AI must not be used to generate or share content that violates Catholic values, including offensive, harmful, or misleading material.**
- **Misuse – AI tools may not be used for harassment, bullying, deception, or any behavior prohibited by the Parent/Student Handbook.**
- **Asking AI to generate content that goes against Catholic values.**
 - o **Example: A student asks an AI to write a joke or story that includes offensive language, misinformation, or content that disrespects people or faith.**
- **Using AI tools to message or impersonate others online.**
 - o **Example: A student uses an AI voice or image generator to create a fake message “from” another classmate. This is dishonest and may count as harassment.**

These actions must be addressed according to the school’s Code of Conduct and

Acceptable Use Policy for Computer and Internet Access (under Telecommunications Policy).

In addition to academic dishonesty concerns, AI technologies that manipulate images, audio, or video present serious ethical and safety concerns within school communities.

Use of AI for Image and Voice Manipulation by Students

The Superintendent of Schools Office emphasizes the ethical and responsible use of AI. Students, and other digital users, may have access to artificial intelligence tools capable of manipulating images, video, and audio, including the creation of deepfakes, synthetic media, and voice cloning. Such misuse violates Catholic principles of human dignity, truthfulness, and respect for others.

Students are prohibited from using AI technologies to manipulate images, videos, or voices in a malicious, deceptive, or harmful manner, or in ways that infringe upon the rights and dignity of others.

While these technologies can have appropriate educational applications, they may also be misused to generate deceptive, harmful, or unauthorized content targeting peers, staff, or the school community.

Misuse includes, but is not limited to:

- Creating fake, misleading, or altered photos, videos, or audio recordings of others.
- Using someone's likeness, voice, or identity without permission.
- Producing or sharing content intended to embarrass, harass, or harm another person or the school community.
- Using AI or digital tools in ways that violate school policies on intellectual property or copyright. This includes unauthorized use of school logos, images, or representations of the school in digital media (e.g., social media posts or videos featuring the school building, classrooms, or branding) without permission.

AI Use may have the following negative impacts:

- Violations of privacy through unauthorized use of an individual's image or voice.
- Emotional harm, bullying, or defamation caused by fabricated or misleading media.
- Legal and ethical violations related to consent, harassment, and digital conduct.

These behaviors are considered forms of cyberbullying and digital misconduct if they impact the school environment regardless of whether they occur on or off school grounds.

In accordance with New York State's Jack Reid Law, schools are required to respond to cyberbullying that affects a student's well-being or disrupts the school community, even when such behavior occurs outside of school.

Sample Citations for Student Use

Students should cite AI tools just like any other source. For example:

- *“Assisted by ChatGPT, June 2025, for summary purposes only.”*
- *“Used Grammarly AI to check spelling and grammar.”*
- *“Image generated with Canva AI Art, June 2025.”*
- [MLA Style Center](#)

Inclusion

We promote a consistent message to families about the responsible and faith-formed use of AI. Students with additional learning or social needs may require more support—such as reminders, prompts, or tailored instruction—to help them apply AI use guidelines thoughtfully and safely.

Educators ensure AI-related activities are developmentally appropriate, well-structured, and responsive to students’ individual needs.

Information Sessions

Every Catholic school is encouraged to post the Catholic School in the Archdiocese of New York AI Policy on its website and provide clear access to it for families and staff.

Schools aim to offer periodic information sessions to help stakeholders understand the role, risks, and rewards of AI in education.

Unacceptable Material or Use of AI in a Manner Contrary to Catholic Belief

Accidental exposure to content that is unacceptable or contrary to Catholic beliefs must be reported immediately to the **Principal**. ***Disciplinary measures may be taken locally.***

Accidental exposure includes, but is not limited to:

- Children and young people may interact with AI chatbots that, through ongoing conversation, expose them to inappropriate, dangerous, or highly personal content they did not intend to encounter. This can include advice or information on self-harm, risky behaviors, or details that should not be shared with minors.
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- A student unintentionally accessing inappropriate AI content or using AI without full understanding of citation requirements.
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Deliberate misuse or exposure must be reported to the **Principal and Regional Superintendent and documented**. ***Deliberate misuse or exposure includes, but is not limited to:***

- Intentionally using AI tools like ChatGPT or generative AI models to complete assignments, essays, or exams with the goal of bypassing academic work or learning expectations.
- Using AI-powered platforms to solve complex math or coding problems and submitting those solutions as if they were the result of the student’s own efforts.

- Employing AI to paraphrase or rewrite existing texts in order to evade plagiarism detectors.
 - Using AI chatbots during online or take-home exams to get immediate answers to assessment questions, rather than relying on their understanding of the material.
 - Manipulating AI plagiarism detectors by making subtle changes to AI-generated text, such as altering synonyms or sentence structure.
 - Utilizing AI to generate discussion posts or language assignments, intentionally submitting AI-generated content as personal work.
- Serious offenses must be reported to the Principal and the Regional Superintendent and may result in investigation by the **Office of the Superintendent of Schools** and disciplinary measures taken as outlined in school policies.

Grading

Students are encouraged to use AI responsibly to support their learning. If a student misuses AI, the situation will be handled with care through local disciplinary processes, ensuring that each case is addressed thoughtfully and fairly. Misuse of AI may affect academic and/or Conduct and/or General Effort grades.

Community Engagement

The Office of the Superintendent of Schools, in partnership with schools and Regions, aims to provide parents and caregivers with opportunities to learn about AI tools, their benefits, and potential risks.

Conclusion

This policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains current, faithful, and aligned with the mission of the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York to ensure our schools are Christ-centered, academically excellent, and welcoming communities that teach students to be life-long learners and leaders, energized by fidelity to Christ, the Church, and one another.

Announcements

Informational announcements are handled through the school P.A. system. Courteous attention is expected when any message is presented over the P.A. system, especially when prayers are said. All announcements must be written, brought to the office and

approved by the principal. Schools do not consider parent group social media platforms(ie GroupMe, WhatsApp) as official communication vehicles of the school.

Attendance

In the State of New York, full-time education is compulsory from age six to age 16. Regular attendance is the responsibility of the child(ren)'s parent/guardian.

Excused Absence: A child is legally absent from school for the following reasons: sickness, sickness or death in the family, impassable roads or extreme weather. All other absences are unexcused.

Lateness: A child should come to school even though he/she may be late. All lateness is recorded and marked on the report card. Parents will be consulted about chronic lateness, and the child is required to make up missed work.

When the child returns to school from an absence, an Absent Note must be given to the teacher. There is an absent note form attached in this document.

Doctor or dental appointments should be scheduled for after school or on Saturdays.

Family vacations are not to be planned for those days when school is in session.

The school provides families with an annual calendar to ensure that does not happen. If it is necessary for a child to be dismissed during the school day, the parent or adult (must be 18 years of age or older) chosen by the parent MUST come to the school for the child and sign out the child in accordance with the standard sign out procedure. The school must be informed ahead of time about such occurrences.

Students in kindergarten through grade eight who miss 10 or more days of the school year, whether excused or unexcused, and who have not satisfactorily completed the required work, may be considered for retention. Students with more than 10 absences may be in jeopardy of not successfully completing the school year. Principals will meet with the student's parent/guardian to determine appropriate next steps. Certification of an absence by a physician is an exception to the 10-day limit. However, satisfactory completion of required work is mandatory.

When a child is absent, parents/guardians are required to notify the school by 9:00 A.M. Absence notes are still required upon a student's return to school in addition to the phone call.

Excessive absences and lateness may be considered educational neglect.

Absences and latenesses can affect a students' receiving Principals' List or Honors.

A doctor's note is required for the following

- an absence of three or more consecutive days
- an absence for final exams

Students are responsible to make up for all work missed during their absence. The school will send home the work with a sibling or friend if the school office is notified *no later than 9:00 AM*. **“No request after 9:00am will be honored.”** Children are not permitted to interrupt classes during the school day to obtain homework assignments or books.

Birthday Parties

Birthdays will be celebrated in an OLSS way approved by the school administration. **Snacks and treats are not permitted**. A student may have a Dress Down Day on his or her birthday. Summer birthdays may be celebrated in June or on a child's half birthday.

Books

All resource materials for use in academic courses must be consistent with the religious nature of our schools. Books, videos, or other electronic-based supplementary resources that contain profanity, inappropriate sexual references, and other immoral information would be in violation of this policy.

All books must be properly maintained. Contact paper is NOT to be used to cover any books obtained **under N.Y.S. Textbook Loan**. These books are stamped on the inside front cover. Each child is responsible for keeping his/her books in good condition. Books that are lost or defaced become the liability of the student and his/her parent/guardian. If a book is lost or defaced, the school will bill the parent/guardian for the cost.

1. ASSIGNED TEXTBOOKS: When a textbook is lent to a pupil on a semi-permanent basis, the New York State Department of Education requires that:
 - o the pupil's name be placed in the space provided in each book.
 - o the teacher makes a record of the number of the book.
 - o the teacher makes a record of the condition of the book.
 - o in September, each child will put a clean cover on each textbook received.
 - o in June, all textbooks are collected, extra materials and covers are removed.
 - o all workbooks are collected in June.

NEW YORK STATE TEXTBOOK, LIBRARY AND SOFTWARE LOAN PROGRAM
The NY State Textbook

2. SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKS: When books are handed out to the children for use during a specific period within the classroom, they will be immediately collected after they have been read. If the book is to remain with the children for any length of time, his/her name must appear in the book and the teacher should have a record of this.

BUSES

Busing is provided within a 5 mile limit to students from their residence. **The public school district where the student resides provides and manages this service.** A student is only permitted to ride the bus assigned by the school. *At NO time is a student permitted to ride another bus. If the student is not taking the bus home on a given day, the parent/guardian must inform the school in writing at the beginning of the school day.*

Bus discipline

Students and parents should consider riding on the school bus as a privilege and an extension of the school. Thus, students are to demonstrate a respectful, Christian, and safety-conscious attitude at all times on the bus.

- *Students should obey, be courteous and cooperative with the driver and monitors at all times*
- *Observe the same conduct as is expected on school property*
- *DO NOT eat or drink on the bus*
- *DO NOT use profane or vulgar talk*
- *Keep the bus clean*
- *Chewing gum is FORBIDDEN*
- *DO NOT run, push, shove, or climb over seats*
- *Students should do nothing to cause annoyances or distraction to the driver, as this places the safety of all in danger*
- *DO NOT VANDALIZE OR DAMAGE THE BUS*

In cases of extreme or persistent misbehavior, Our Lady Star of the Sea School will work in consultation with the public school district about possible consequences.

The following procedures will be followed when a student violates the above regulations:

- First Offense: Verbal warning and parents will be notified
- Second Offense: The student will be suspended from riding the bus for a period of five days
- Third Offense: The student will be suspended from riding the bus for an indefinite period

The school reserves the right to bypass the above stated policy depending upon the seriousness of the infraction.

Walkers

School students who are walking are required to follow safety and traffic laws. Crossing guards are stationed on Amboy Road. Students are required to cross at those corners only.

Cell Phone/Smart Device Policy

This policy applies to all students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade during school hours, on school property, and at school-sponsored events (including before/after-school activities, weekends, and holidays).

Policy:

Students who bring a cell phone to school must surrender it during homeroom or during their first period class. All collected cell phones will be inventoried and safeguarded in a secured receptacle until school dismissal. Students will be able to retrieve their cell phones at the end of the school day. Cell phones collected by the school will not be accessible to students during the school day. Students needing to contact a parent/guardian during school hours may do so through the school office. Parents/guardians needing to contact their child during school hours should call the school office. In the event of a genuine emergency, school staff will facilitate communication between students and their parents/guardians.

General Rules for All Grades (PreK-8th):

- **No Photography or Recording:** Students are strictly prohibited from taking any pictures, videos, or audio recordings at any time while on school property or a school sponsored event. Unauthorized photography, recording, sending and/or distribution of cell phone/Smart Device content will result in disciplinary action.
- **Violation of Policy:** Any violation of this cell phone policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:
 - Confiscation of the device.
 - Parent/guardian notification and required meeting.
 - Detention.
 - Suspension.
 - Loss of privileges.
 - Expulsion.
- **School Not Responsible for Lost or Damaged Devices:** The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or personal electronic devices brought to school in violation of this policy or for devices collected and safeguarded by the school. Students and parents/guardians assume all risk for devices brought onto school property.
- **Updates to Policy:** This policy may be updated as needed. Parents/guardians will be notified of any changes.

Change of Address, Email, Phone

The office must be informed immediately if there is a change of home address, e-mail address, cell phone number, and telephone number for purposes of mailing and/or emergency. All students must have a residential address on file with the school office. P.O. Box numbers are not sufficient.

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

- All institutions and programs of the Archdiocese of New York will comply with the Safe Environment Policies of the Archdiocese of New York.
- The Department of Education has developed a curriculum for the children in our parishes and schools, entitled “Right, Safe, Good Relationships” which provides age-appropriate instruction in sexual activity. The lessons in this curriculum must be given annually to all children in all grades.
- Parents/Guardian reserve the right to remove their children from the classes. The school administration should take care to cause as little embarrassment to these students as possible.
- If parent/guardian choose not to have their child participate in the safe environment classes, the parent/guardian will be offered training materials, and will be asked to sign a form acknowledging that the materials were made available to them. If the parent/guardian decline to sign such a form, a notation will be made in a record maintained by the school.

Child Abuse Laws

Under NYS law, school officials are *legally obliged to* report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the proper agency. In so reporting, no allegation is made against a parent/guardian or caregiver. Rather, it is a judgment by the school that the child may be presenting signs of abuse or neglect.

Child Custody

At the time of school entry or at any other time when a change in custody status/arrangements occurs, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian(s) to provide the principal with a copy of the legal document from the parent/guardian for any student for which there is a legal custody agreement or for any student not residing with his/her parent/guardian.

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

- A custodial parent/guardian must identify in writing other adults who may have access to information regarding the child.
- Non-custodial parent/guardian may receive information (when requested) regarding the child unless specific documentation to the contrary is provided in the legal custody agreement.
- Non-custodial parent/guardian may pick up a child only if written permission has been granted by the custodial parent.

Communication

Since as parents/guardians you are the child's first teachers, you are our partners in education. Therefore, regular communication with you is an essential part of your child's school experience. Scheduled parent conferences allow teachers and parents/guardians to discuss student achievement as well as to develop means to assist students in areas of difficulty.

Respectful communication fosters a positive home-school relationship. As such, disparaging the school, students, administration, faculty, and staff either verbally or on social media is unacceptable, will harm the relationship between your family and the school, and may jeopardize the continued enrollment of your child in the school.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

In the early part of the school year parents/guardians are invited to attend a meeting to meet the teachers and to understand the expectations of each teacher for the class.

A parent/guardian may request a meeting with a teacher at any time by simply sending a note to the teacher in question and the teacher will arrange for this meeting outside class time at a mutually convenient time. The meeting should take place in the classroom or someplace that ensures privacy; never in a hallway or on the street. A parent/guardian who is refused such a meeting should notify the principal.

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled each year in conjunction with report card distribution to provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion of student growth. Parent-teacher conferences are required at the end of the first marking period. Teachers are expected to be reasonably available to parents/guardians throughout the school year in order to keep open the lines of communication in the best interest of the students.

Respectful communication fosters a positive home-school relationship. As such, disparaging the school, students, administration, faculty, and staff either verbally or on social media is unacceptable, will harm the relationship between your family and the school, and may jeopardize the continued enrollment of your child in the school.

Hierarchy of Concern

It is the policy of Our Lady Star of the Sea School that, if a parent has a concern regarding his/her child, the parent is to write the teacher requesting an appointment or phone call to meet outside of class time. If, after seeing the teacher, the parent is still not satisfied, then an appointment to meet with the Principal or Assistant Principal, teacher(s), and parent(s) can be arranged.

Visits to School

Parents are not permitted in the classroom areas without permission from the administration. When parents come to school, they are to enter the school through the front doors and report to the receptionist. Any items which are to be given to the students are to be left in the office and they will be brought to the classroom.

Confidentiality

There is a professional, legal and moral ethic that requires all persons to safeguard all student information of a privileged nature.

It is imperative that such information be regarded as a sacred trust.

- If there is evidence of knowledge that could impact the health or safety of any person, the teacher has the responsibility to share the information with the principal or assistant principal.
- Under Section 423 of the Child Protective Services Act, school officials are required to report when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child. (See section on Child Abuse)

The rules that govern privileged information apply, as well, to any personal or academic information that is discovered through daily classroom instruction or other social interaction with students, parents/guardians or peers. Always the sense of confidentiality should prevail.

CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA

PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXCLUDE THEIR CHILDREN FROM VIDEOTAPING , AUDIO RECORDING, SCHOOL PICTURES, OTHER PHOTOGRAPHY OR PARTICIPATION INVOLVING PRINTED MATERIALS OR ON THE INTERNET. PARENTS SHOULD PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE: OTHERWISE, THEY MUST FILL OUT THE PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE FORM. **PARENTS ARE NOT TO TAKE PICTURES OF THEIR CHILD(REN), AS WELL AS OTHER STUDENTS, AND/OR TEACHERS AND STAFF WHEN VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL.**

Crisis/Emergency Information

Should a crisis require evacuation from Our Lady Star of the Sea School building, the students will be brought to a safe place located at **Our Lady Star of the Sea Church** and parents can meet them there.

Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York utilize the Immediate Response Information System (IRIS Alert) to notify parents/guardians directly about the crises.

For further information concerning the crisis, parents can refer to the following: Radio Stations, TV Stations or on the Internet.

The following are key points in our Crisis Management Plan. For security reasons, we are unable to reveal our entire plan.

In the event of a LOCKDOWN of any kind, no one will be allowed to enter or exit the school until the authorities have ended the lockdown. All doors of the building will be sealed and we will communicate with parents. NO parents will be allowed into the building at this time.

If it is necessary to use an evacuation site other than anywhere in the school building, we will use one of the following sites:

EVACUATION SITE # 1

OLSS Church, Athletic Center
or rectory grounds

EVACUATION SITE # 2

P.S. 5
Kingdom Avenue
(718) 984-2233

In either of these situations, we will again communicate with parents via an IRIS alert and / or bulk email, text message.

In any event with no lockdown, students will be released to the parents. For the safety of the children, the school has a set procedure for releasing the children. Anyone picking up a child including parents must show a valid ID photo. Children will be released to the parent or to an adult indicated on the child's emergency form. The child will be released to NO OTHER person. The release of your child will be expedited if you know the class of your child.

We urge you to keep this information in a secure place with easy access in case a crisis situation becomes evident.

Daily Schedule

Before 7:50 am (Monday through Friday) and after 2:50pm (Monday through Friday) and after 12:00 pm (on half days), Our Lady Star of the Sea School does not have staff available to watch out for problems on school grounds or to supervise children on school grounds. Only those students enrolled in Our Lady Star of the Sea Early Morning Program are allowed to enter the school building before 7:50 AM. Students must not arrive on the school grounds prior to 7:50 AM. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS PRIOR TO 7:50 AM, PARENTS MUST PROVIDE FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND SUPERVISION. Enrollment in Our Lady Star of the Sea Early Morning/After School Program allows for only those students to be supervised by a staff member on the school property. Parents/Guardian must arrange drop off and pick up at all times.

To avoid interruption during the school day, any messages, forgotten lunches, books etc., must be taken to the OFFICE and not to the classrooms while school is in session.

The school office will see to it that the child receives these items. We ask that parents DO NOT ask for their child(ren) to be dismissed “early” between 2:15 and 2:45, as it is disruptive to class time.

Discipline Code for Student Conduct

The goal of discipline in a Catholic school is for students to learn self-discipline, which strengthens and promotes the values incorporated in our Catholic faith community. As the school builds community, it develops in students the awareness that sensible rules serve to safeguard the individual's freedom and provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. Disciplinary measures should have as an end the development of the human person who respects one's self, other persons and those in authority.

By enrolling a child in this school the parent/guardian agrees to be supportive of the rules and regulations that we deem critical in the spiritual, academic, and behavioral growth of the child.

Teachers discipline students directly for minor classroom disruptions (i.e., not coming prepared to class; not being in the complete school uniform; not completing assigned homework; minor verbal disputes with other classmates; etc.). A parent/guardian is notified of classroom problems by the teacher and are asked to help the teacher to ensure that inappropriate behavior is modified.

Teachers are not permitted to use corporal punishment on any child. Perceived acts of corporal punishment should be reported to the principal of the school immediately by students and/or parents/guardians.

It happens that some classroom discipline issues are referred to the administration of this school. This would include chronic minor problems listed above or major problems (i.e., chronic lateness; verbal or physical abuse of the teacher by a child; signs of disrespect to a teacher or another adult on the staff; fighting; physical, sexual, or verbal harassment or bullying of a fellow student; violent behavior; stealing; smoking (including vaping and e-cigarettes); vandalism; or the possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, marijuana, cigarettes (including vape and e-cigarettes), alcohol, dangerous items, such as lasers, or a weapon). The administration handles such matters in a variety of ways depending on the severity of the incident.

The school employs a progressive discipline system for minor acts of misbehavior in order to encourage students to change inappropriate behavior so that sanctions do not increase in severity. For such acts students are often given conduct referrals or lunch detention. Repeated violation of these rules and regulations may result in suspension from school or the non-reregistration of the child for the next school year.

For more serious acts of misbehavior such as, but not limited to, smoking, fighting, stealing, vandalism, harassment, improper use of technology and social media, the student is immediately suspended for a period of one to five days. In cases of vandalism of school or teacher's property, the parent/guardian must pay the full cost of the repair

or replacement of the item the student has vandalized before the child may return to school. In cases of theft of school or teacher's property, the stolen item is either returned in good condition or the cost of replacement is borne by the parent/guardian before the child can return to school.

In cases where a child engages in a fight which causes injury to another child or adult, the police may be summoned and, then, the parent/guardian will be notified. Likewise, the possession of drugs, marijuana or alcohol by a child may be reported to the police. The school reserves the right to begin the expulsion process and request an expulsion from the Superintendent of Schools for such an offense.

In cases in which a child brings a weapon to school, the police may be summoned, and then the parent/guardian is called. The school reserves the right to begin the expulsion process and request expulsion by the Superintendent of Schools for any serious offense.

Individual-directed threats of violence or harm communicated directly or indirectly by any means, as well as building-directed threats of violence or harm communicated directly or indirectly by any means (e.g., shooting, bomb threats), or to harm students, employees, or visitors are taken seriously. Upon knowledge of the threats, the principal will notify the Regional Superintendent and call the parent/guardian. The Superintendent of Schools will also be notified and, along with administration, will determine the course of action to be taken up to and including calling law enforcement, requiring a mental health referral and/or expulsion.

It is the expectation of this school that student behavior is exemplary both on and off school grounds. A student always represents the entire school community both inside and outside of the school building. Therefore, the school reserves the right to discipline students for acts such as, but not limited to: stealing, fighting, vandalism, bullying or any other type of threatening or inappropriate misconduct (personally, via telephone, or improper use of technology and social media). Such misconduct could result in punishments including the suspension and/or expulsion.

Lastly, a child's arrest for a crime on or off of school grounds, within or beyond the vicinity of the school, at any time could result in the child's suspension or expulsion. A child's conviction of a crime on or off of school grounds, within or beyond the vicinity of the school, will likely result in a child's expulsion.

General Discipline Policy of Our Lady Star of the Sea School

A spirit of Christ-like charity, respect for authority, and mutual cooperation are essential elements of the learning environment at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Students are expected to act with courtesy and respect toward one another, all members of the faculty and staff, and all volunteers. The School and Home need to work together to help students to learn and live the qualities of responsible behavior and corresponding elements of good citizenship.

A student who chooses to disrupt the good order of Our Lady Star of the Sea School or violate a policy or regulation will have to face the consequences of those irresponsible choices. Appropriate discipline is within the discretion of the Principal, Assistant Principal, or designated staff member. Accountability for uncooperative, disruptive or unsafe behavior may take any of the following forms:

1. conduct notices
2. denial of privileges (including class trips)
3. detention (at lunch or recess)
4. suspension (in or out of the school building)

Dress Code

Your school uniform confirms your attendance at Our Lady Star of the Sea School and is a symbol of unity within the school community. It minimizes distractions in the learning process. It is important that you take pride in your appearance by wearing your complete uniform, always remembering that by wearing it inside and outside the classroom and the school you are representing the school and your behavior should be a credit to both yourself and the school community.

The school reserves the right to regulate improper dress at school. All students must be in complete uniform unless otherwise excused. All clothing must be labeled. A note from a parent is necessary if a child is not in uniform.

COMPLETE UNIFORM

BOYS

- navy blue full length pants
- black belt*
- white knit shirt or turtleneck** (grades K – 4)
- white dress shirt and tie (grades 5 – 8)
- Our Lady Star of the Sea School sweater ONLY
- uniform school shoes with dark socks
- school belts must be worn with *either* pants or shorts
- **Grade 8 only - OLSS Collegiate Sweater**

**AT ALL TIMES, boys must wear a black belt with uniform short and/or uniform pants.*

***AT ALL TIMES, boys' shirts MUST be tucked in neatly into their shorts or pants.*

GIRLS

- uniform jumper (grades K-4), uniform skirt (grades 5-8)
- skirts must be an appropriate length and NEVER rolled
- navy blue pants in place of jumper or skirt in cold weather is permitted
- white knit shirt or turtleneck (grades K – 4)
- white blouse and sweater (grades 5 – 8)
- navy blue opaque tights or navy blue knee socks
- uniform school shoes
- Our Lady Star of the Sea School sweater ONLY
- **Grade 8 only - OLSS Collegiate Sweater**

SUMMER UNIFORM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The following summer uniform can be worn May 1 (approx.)– October 31

- white short sleeve knit shirt
- navy blue uniform shorts (boys) or skort (girls)
- girls may wear full length khaki pants
- white socks visible above the sneakers (quarter socks or longer)
- **only all white sneakers are permitted**

GYM UNIFORMS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The gym uniform that is to be worn on gym days (only) is the navy blue sweat suit which includes a pair of long pants and a crew neck shirt. There are also gym shorts and an OLSS sweatshirt which can be worn on gym days. Students may also wear the official OLSS school track suit (NOT team track suits) on gym days. Grade 8 students may wear their 8th grade sweatshirt (purchased through the school) on gym days. It is only acceptable for the students to wear the official Our Lady Star of the Sea School cotton crew tee shirt. All gym attire is ordered directly from the official school uniform company.

Girls and Boys: The presence of anything that proclaims a current fad is not permitted. Uniform notices will be issued to any student not in compliance with the school dress code.

Pre-K students must wear the OLSS gym uniform with white sneakers.

School Spirit Days are celebrated on the 15th of the month. Students **MUST** wear official OLSS gear, their gym uniform or dress in the school colors of blue and white. If a student is not dressed appropriately on school spirit days, the parents will be called.

Personal Appearance

A good personal hygiene routine should be followed daily: ears, neck, and fingernails should be given special attention. When appropriate, children should be instructed in the use of deodorant. Parents will be notified if a child comes to school consistently in an unkempt manner. If no improvement is noticed within a reasonable amount of time, an appointment with the parents and with the guidance office will be made by school officials. Uniforms should be neat and clean.

Hair Styles

Boys and girls are required to keep their hair well groomed and clean. **No dyed, bleached, highlighted, colored, or beaded hair is permitted.** Bangs should not be so long that they impede vision. The boys' hair should not touch or be below the shirt collar. Hair should be cut above *the eyebrows and around the ears. Should the haircut not be acceptable to the school's administration, it MUST be corrected. Lunch detention will be served until it is corrected.*

Jewelry

Girls are permitted to wear **one** earring in each earlobe. Earrings placed along the entire length of the ear or at the top of the earlobe are not permitted and the students will have to remove the earring if it is worn in school or on any sponsored school outing. **Boys** are not permitted to wear an earring. Thick, heavy chains are not permitted at any time; small religious medals may be worn. No other jewelry will be allowed.

Make-up/Nail Polish

Make-up of any kind may not be worn in school. Girls in all grades may wear light colored nail polish. Nails are to be kept trimmed and be short in length. As a special privilege for 8th grade girls, **moderate length** nail enhancers are permitted. Nail colors must be appropriate. Failure to follow the rules will result in a loss of privileges.

Drug and Alcohol Policies

In recognition of the seriousness of drug and alcohol problems to which the children are exposed, Our Lady Star of the Sea School will follow the policy as stated below:

- If a teacher suspects that a child is under the influence of either drugs or alcohol, the matter will be referred to the principal immediately;
- The principal will verify the teacher's observation and will notify parents/guardians.
- If the student confirms suspicion or appears unstable, student should be brought to the attention of the School Nurse (as per the Emergency Guidelines)
- If necessary, the principal will call 911 (as per the Emergency Guidelines)
- The police may be called if the student is in possession of an illegal substance (as per the Emergency Guidelines),
- The parent/guardian must pick up the child immediately should it be determined that the suspicion is founded. The parent/guardian will be expected to follow the recommendations of the school principal if the child is to continue in the school; and
- Any student who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any drug, and appears at a school function in questionable condition, will be barred from attending or participating in that ceremony, party, dance, or school outing. The parents/guardian will be notified and appropriate action will be taken, which may include suspension or expulsion from the school.

Early Morning/After School Program

An early morning program and an after-school program is available to the parent/guardian of a student. As long as a student is engaged in school sponsored programs or activities, the student is expected to follow school policy. Directors of individual activities may also issue rules of behavior, which recognize the special nature of non-classroom activities. In instances where students are picked up, the parent/guardian is expected to make arrangements to pick up his or her children at the end of the program or activity. Students will be released only to a parent/ guardian, or a person previously specified IN WRITING by the parent/guardian. Program fees are expected to be paid in full upon being invoiced. Past due balances will result in your child not being allowed to participate in the program until their accounts are brought up to date.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices may be dynamic tools in the 21st century school environment, but only when used appropriately by faculty, administration, staff, and students.

The use of electronic devices by faculty, administration, staff, and students must be appropriate to the educational setting, and may not distract the student, other students, or the class as a whole during the course of the school day and after school (i.e. cell phones, iPads, iPhones, Smart Watches and other personal electronic devices). In the event an electronic device, including a student cell phone, is believed to contain evidence of a violation of school policy and/or a threat to the school community, the individual possessing the electronic device is obliged to grant the administration of the school access to the device and the information on the device to ensure compliance with policy and the safety of the school.

Please see the section on the cell phones policy for full guidelines. If it is necessary for a child to have a cell phone, the child must give the cell phone before classes begin. It is the student's responsibility to retrieve the cell phone from the teacher at the end of the school day (after the last period). The school will not be responsible for lost or damaged cell phones. If a student does not follow these guidelines, the school will confiscate the cell phone or electronic device and it will be returned to the student at the end of the school year.

Smart watches are **NOT** permitted to be worn during the school day.

Inappropriate use of any electronic device may result in serious consequences as stated in the school's Technology Use Policy.

Telecommunications Policy/Internet User Policy

Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet for Our Lady Star of the Sea School

As a computer user, I agree to follow the rules and code of ethics in all of my work with computers while attending Our Lady Star of the Sea School.

1. I recognize that all computer users have the same right to use the equipment; therefore I will not use the computer resources for non- academic purposes. I will not waste or take supplies such as paper, printer cartridges, and diskettes that are provided by the school. When I am in the computer lab, I will talk softly and work in ways that will not disturb other users. I will keep my computer work area clean and will not eat or drink in the computer lab.
2. I recognize that software is protected by copyright laws; therefore, I will not make unauthorized copies of software and I will not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others. I understand I will not be allowed to bring software applications, games, from home to be used on school equipment without proof of licensure and prior approval of appropriate school personnel.

3. I recognize that the work of all users is valuable; therefore, I will protect the privacy of theirs by not trying to learn their password; I will not copy, change, read or use files from another user without prior permission from that user; I will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs for computer equipment; I will not use computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users or use inappropriate language in my communications.
4. Each student who received Internet access will be instructed in the proper use of the network. The use of the Internet must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of the school. Students using network or computer resources must comply with the appropriate rules for that network or resource.

As a user of a network, I will not use bulletin boards or social media platforms for personal use. In addition, I will not reveal my personal information, home address or personal phone number or those of students, teachers or other staff members. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. The use of school computers and networking resources for commercial activities is not permitted. Their use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

5. Parents/Guardian must realize that their students may encounter material on a network/bulletin board that they do not consider appropriate (vulgar jokes, statements of belief that some might consider immoral, etc.). The student is responsible for not pursuing material that could be considered offensive.
6. The use of the computer is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of these privileges. Vandalism or intentional modification of system settings will result in cancellation of privileges and/or school disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to seek financial restitution for any damage caused by a student or other user. The system administrators will deem what is appropriate use, and their decision is final. The administration, faculty, and staff of the school may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific privileges. Violation of the rules and code of ethics described above will be dealt with seriously.

Telecommunications Policy

Student Expectations in Use of the Internet

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use or violation of any of the following standards will result in serious consequences and could result in expulsion from the school.

1. Use of the computer at school is limited to school related activities. Internet users are expected to behave responsibly in accessing and viewing information that is pertinent to the mission of the school.
2. Vandalism and other infractions of school policy while using the Internet will result in immediate cancellation of privileges along with disciplinary action.
3. After School/Home Access requires students to follow the same student expectations as stated in the "Discipline Code for Student Conduct" and "Harassment Policies" in the student handbook.
4. Students must abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette both inside and outside school.
5. Students are responsible for their explorations on the Internet and are subject to the consequences of the school's discipline policy.
6. Students must sign a contract indicating their understanding and acceptance of the school's guidelines (see parent/student handbook).

Standards of Behavior

- Be courteous and respectful in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not use vulgar, harassing, obscene, threatening, bullying, abusive, or sexually offensive language, or make any statements that are slanderous or disparaging of any students or adults.
- Never visit inappropriate or offensive websites.
- Never download materials from inappropriate or offensive websites.
- Never expose yourself in an inappropriate, vulgar, or sexually offensive manner on any website or via email, either in pictures or videos.
- Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Do not reveal your home address or phone number, or that of other students or staff.
- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages related to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Proofread your message before you send it.
- Never agree to get together with someone you "meet" on-line.
- Only public domain software ("shareware") can be downloaded.
- Copyright laws must be respected. Do not make-unauthorized copies of software and do not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others.
- Do not use the Network/Internet for illegal activities.
- Software applications, games, or CD-ROMS from home may not be used on school equipment without proof of licensure and prior approval of appropriate school personnel.
- Do not reveal personal passwords, use or try to learn others' passwords. Do not copy, change, read or use another user's files without prior permission from that user. Do not attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs for computer equipment.
- Do not post personal messages on bulletin boards or "list servers." Send personal messages directly to the person to whom you want to write.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network for other users.

- Do not waste or take supplies such as paper, printer cartridges, and diskettes that are provided by the school.
- Talk softly and work in ways that will not disturb other users. Keep computer work areas clean and do not eat or drink in the computer lab.
- If students encounter material on a network/bulletin board that is not appropriate (vulgar jokes, statements of belief that some might consider immoral, etc.) **the student** is responsible for not pursuing this material and reporting the matter to appropriate school personnel.
- The use of cell phones, camera phones or other digital media is prohibited during the school day. Cell phones, camera phones, or other personal electronic devices will be confiscated if students use them during the school day without permission. In addition, any student who uses a camera, camera phone or other personal electronic devices in school or in the classroom for any reason will be suspended. Further disciplinary measures including expulsion, will be considered depending on the nature of the camera, camera phone, or personal electronic device use.
- Technology use outside normal academic hours and/or off school grounds (including but not limited to cell phones, e-mail, text messages, camera-phones, cameras, Ipads, Iphones, smart phones, etc.), are subject to the same guidelines as previously cited in the **“Discipline Code for Student Conduct,” “Harassment Policies,” and the “Summary Statement.”**
- The school reserves the right to seek financial restitution for any damage caused by a student or other user. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. The administration, faculty, and staff of the school may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific privileges. Violation of the rules and code of ethics described above will be dealt with seriously.
- ***Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited.*** This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. The use of school computers and networking resources for commercial activities is not permitted. Their use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

Emergency Closings/Delayed Openings

- The Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York follow the policy of local public schools when closing due to inclement weather, loss of power or other issues.
- In addition to following the lead of New York City public schools, Catholic schools in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, may need to close based on local situations. That said, all closure decisions must be approved by the Superintendent of Schools. Schools in Westchester, Putnam and the Upper Counties that rely on public school districts for bus transportation will follow the delayed opening and/or closing policy of the local district.
- Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York utilize the Immediate Response Information System (IRIS Alert) to notify a parent/guardian directly about delayed openings and closures due to

weather. The school will also post schedule changes on our website, social Media Pages and may send information via email or text message.

- When a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of New York is closed for the day due to inclement weather or other unforeseen situation, the following will apply:
- All school-related extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices and field trips will be canceled.
- After School and/or extended day care programs will be closed all day.

Expectations and Responsibilities for Students

Students attend Our Lady Star of the Sea School in order to develop fully their God-given talents and capabilities. To accomplish this, students are asked to:

- Try to do their best work at all times.
- Treat all members of the school community (i.e., teachers, staff, priests, parents/guardians and students) with respect. This includes respecting the work of others by not cheating.
- Obey all school rules and regulations, including those forbidding the use of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, including vapes and e-cigarettes, weapons, disruptive behavior and improper use of technology and social media.
- Develop personal standards of conduct that reflect Christian morals and behavior, and refrain from use of inappropriate language, verbal threats, and sexual behavior (including touching, gestures, writing, and dress).
- Speak in a well-modulated tone of voice.
- Observe the school dress code, including standards on no-uniform days (ie dress down or dress up days).
- Help care for school property and keep the school free from damage and defacement.
- report concerns to an adult, especially if they witness what they know to be a violation of school conduct policy, violent or criminal act or become aware of a potentially violent or criminal act in school or at a school function.

Extracurricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in the extracurricular activities of the school. Participation in these activities is a privilege. Students are expected to fulfill their obligations in the classroom (class work and homework). In order to participate in extracurricular activities, students must pass each subject on their report card and model acceptable behavior both on and off school grounds and during the selected

activity. Failure to meet academic or behavioral requirements will result in the student's suspension or dismissal from the activity. Participation in these activities requires a commitment of both student and parent/guardian. Attendance will be taken at each activity to determine a student's participation. In individual cases regarding participation in extracurricular activities, the principal holds the final determination.

Faculty Meetings

The school will schedule early dismissal days to accommodate faculty meetings and professional development throughout the school year. The dates and times for these early dismissal days are provided on the school calendar.

Field Trips

Field trips must serve an educational purpose and their value should be an integral part of the school's instructional program. They broaden the students' educational experiences. Field trips are privileges given to students; no student has an absolute right to a field trip.

It is the policy of the schools within the Archdiocese that overnight trips, trips to water parks, amusement parks, dude ranches, beaches/pools, and ski slopes are strictly prohibited.

- Field trips are designed to correlate with teaching units and to achieve curricular goals.
- Field trips vary for each grade level.
- Field trips are permissible when advanced planning, location, and the experience ensure a successful learning opportunity.
- Individual teachers in consultation with the administration reserve the right to restrict or deny student participation on any field trip due to, but not limited to, poor academic performance and/or poor conduct or behavior.
- A written official permission slip, signed by the parent/guardian, is required before a child will be permitted to attend a field trip. *Verbal or faxed permission cannot be accepted.* Permission slips are due in the office 48 hours before the day of the trip.
- Since field trips are arranged by the teacher to complement and enhance the student's education, attendance is not optional. If a student does not attend the field trip, **full payment for the trip is mandatory.**
- Students participating in field trips must leave and return to school with their class. For insurance purposes, no private transportation will be permitted.

FIELD/CLASS TRIP GUIDELINES FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent/Guardian volunteers will be responsible for all the children in their assigned group and must remain with those same children at all times from the time the students

leave the classroom until the time that they are returned to the classroom, parent volunteers will:

All parent/guardian volunteers must be compliant with Safe Environment and have a current background check on file.

1. Be accountable for all of the children in the group for the duration of the trip
2. Take care of the bathroom needs of the students.
3. Help keep track of the students' lunches and other belongings.
4. Immediately inform the teacher of any problems (ex. health or behavior) that should arise.
5. Immediately inform the teacher if a child needs to leave the group in an emergency situation.
6. Help safely transport the students from one location to another, including carefully watching the students on walking trips and keeping the group seated and seat belts on bus trips.
7. Help keep control of the group by not permitting the students to shout, run, or leave the group for any reason.
8. Report directly to the teacher and not contradict the teacher's directions to the students.
9. Not purchase or distribute candy or gifts to the children in their group.
10. Never bring siblings of students or any other child who is not part of the class on any class trip – if a situation arises where the parent volunteer is unable to be without a child who is not in the class, the parent must withdraw from the trip in advance so a replacement can be made.
11. Each group must work independently of each other, parent volunteers must not take it upon themselves to combine two groups together for the purpose of socializing by either the students or the parents.

Financial Policies

We make every effort to keep tuition and fees as affordable as possible. We also understand the financial sacrifice that parents make to send their children to Catholic school. The majority of the School's funding is derived from tuition and fees. The school must operate in a financially sound manner in order to provide a top quality Catholic education for each and every one of our students.

Failure to meet financial obligations will result in the withholding of report cards; not being able to take final exams; and/or your child(ren) not being able to attend class and/or be invited to return to Our Lady Star of the Sea School for the next school year.

TUITION Schedule: Grades Pre-K - 8

The school's policy at the time of registration is that all tuition and fees will be paid on time. Tuition is an annual fee that may be paid in monthly installments. Tuition must be paid directly to Blackbaud Tuition Management by the designated due date.

Tuition Delinquency

Failure to keep current with your tuition obligation jeopardizes your child(ren)'s placement in school. If tuition and fees cannot be paid on time, families must communicate with school administration in writing to prevent enforcement of delinquent tuition procedures.

- Families whose tuition payment is delinquent (late) will receive a letter from Blackbaud Tuition Management immediately following the due date.
- Families whose tuition payment is delinquent 60 days will receive a second letter; this letter will come from their principal. If a parent/guardian does not contact the principal within two weeks of receiving this letter, the child(ren) may not be permitted to attend classes.
- Failure to address the delinquent tuition payment/s as agreed with the principal may result in the child(ren)'s suspension.
- Records and report cards cannot be transmitted for students with delinquent tuition payments, and financial aid/scholarships provided will be at risk and may be rescinded.
- Families with delinquent tuition payments may be ineligible to re-register.:
A family is considered delinquent if a billed amount -- whether part of the tuition and fees billed in the Payment Plan or incidental fees billed in addition to the Payment Plan -- remains unpaid in whole or in part after the invoiced due date.
- Failure to keep current jeopardizes a student's placement in school.
- If tuition and fees cannot be paid on time, families must communicate with school administration in writing to prevent enforcement of delinquency procedures.
- • If the family does meet with the principal and agrees to a payment plan for any outstanding balances, failure to address the delinquent balance(s) as outlined in the payment plan may result in financial suspension.
- • Records and report cards cannot be transmitted to students with delinquent balances, and financial aid/scholarships provided will be at risk and may be rescinded.
- • Families with delinquent balances may be ineligible to re-register or apply for financial aid for the following school year.
- • Delinquency also prevents students from participating in school activities and graduation ceremonies.

FAILED PAYMENTS

- Failed payments made within the FACTS Financial Management system undergo scrutiny by our Treasury and Tuition Management Offices. Instances of multiple failed payments are considered unusual activity, and, in those instances, the following policies apply:
- Three or more failed payments within an academic school year may result in a change of payment terms. Additionally, an email notification will be sent from the Tuition Management Office to the family, informing them that the associated payment method has been deactivated.
- • Five failed payments within an academic school year will result in a final warning regarding potential dismissal from school.
- • Seven or more failed payments will result in dismissal from the school without

- the ability for reinstatement, and the outstanding balance at the time of dismissal will be owed to the school.
-
- • For families on an automatic plan, FACTS will only attempt one collection of payment per scheduled monthly payment. In the instance of a failed attempt, you, the family, are responsible for logging in and resolving an uncollected past due balance.
- • Families whose outstanding balance is delinquent 60 days will receive another correspondence from FACTS, as well as a letter from their principal. If a parent/guardian does not contact the principal within two weeks of receiving this following school year.
- Students with delinquent tuition payments may not participate in school activities and graduation ceremonies.
- Three or more failed payments within a month will result in a change of payment terms.

FEES:

- Families are charged an annual \$40 Blackbaud Tuition Management administrative fee upon activation of their account.
- Accounts with late payments will be assessed a late fee of \$40 for each late payment.
- Checks and electronic payments that fail (i.e., do not clear the bank) will result in a \$30 fee per occurrence.
- Families may be charged for other fees in addition to tuition (i.e., after school programs,
- graduation, technology, or other general fees
- Fees are not refundable. This includes the Registration Fee.
- Families with accounts requiring collection action will be responsible for paying all associated collection fees, attorney's fees, and costs.

TUITION IS DUE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH (Aug. – May) . Tuition is an annual amount paid in 10 monthly installments for grades Pre-K through 8. If a parent chooses to pay their annual tuition in one payment on or before August 15th, the annual tuition (only) that they are paying is discounted 3%. Fees must be paid in full at the time of tuition payment for the 3% discount to apply to the tuition being paid. If a family chooses to withdraw their child(ren) from the school, partial or full month tuition refunds will not be granted if the child(ren) attended one or more days that month.

Parents and children who are registered members of Our Lady Star of the Sea parish are expected to attend Sunday Mass, and contribute to the support of the parish. Parents must contribute a minimum of \$400 annually in each Sunday envelope. There will be a review of the Mass attendance and contributions of all families. Those families who do not meet the \$400 minimum will have the shortfall amount charged to their tuition.

Your participation in ongoing religious, educational, and voluntary programs of our school is vital to our school and to our children. We thank you for your cooperation and support that you give to Our Lady Star of the Sea School.

WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

Considerable effort and expense are expended throughout the registration period and continues during the summer months as we plan and prepare for your child's inclusion in our school community. We understand that plans and circumstances sometimes change. Should you decide to withdraw your child, the following policy applies:

If completion of the withdrawal form is completed on or before August 15, the entire tuition obligation will be waived, and any payments made will be refunded upon written request to the school.

If completion of the withdrawal form is completed after August 15 and the student does NOT attend, 90% of the annual tuition will be forgiven. You, the family, are obligated to pay the remaining balance of 10% of the annual tuition as billed. If payments were made in excess of 10% of the annual tuition, a refund for that amount will be issued upon written request to the school.

In the case where a school requires a deposit to complete enrollment, that deposit is not refundable, regardless of withdrawal date.

If you, the family, choose to withdraw your child(ren) from the school once they begin attending, the family tuition obligation will be calculated as follows:

Withdrawal Date Annual Tuition Obligation:

September 80% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 20%
October 70% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 30%
November 60% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 40%
December 50% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 50%
January 40% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 60%
February 30% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 70%
March 20% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 80%
April 10% of tuition forgiven; family obligation 90%
May No adjustment; family obligation 100%
June No adjustment; family obligation 100%

Calculations will be based on the last month in which the child(ren) attended one or more days of school. If payment has been made in excess of the family obligation, a refund will be granted upon written request to the school.

Student records can only be provided to the child's new school upon satisfaction of the tuition obligation.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES (MANDATORY)

.CANDY SALE

Each family must participate in the annual fall candy fundraiser. Families PreK – 8 are required to sell \$80 worth of candy

Fire & Emergency Drills/Lockdown Drills

Fire & emergency drills/lockdown drills at regular intervals are required by the law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the fire signal is given, everyone obeys promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. Students are not permitted to talk during a fire drill and are to remain outside the building until a signal is given to return inside. Teachers will direct the students. For other emergency drills (e.g. lockdown drills), students are expected to remain quiet and follow teacher directions. Fire drills and emergency/lockdown drills may take place on any given day and at any time regardless of weather conditions.

Guidance

A guidance program is a resource available to Our Lady Star of the Sea School students. Service may include counseling, psychological intervention and support for families experiencing change. ADAPP, an agency sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York, oversees the program.

Guidelines for the Education of Non-Catholics

Parents/Guardians must be made aware of the intentional Catholic witness in our schools. Our Lady Star of the Sea School as a Catholic school within the Archdiocese. All persons have a right to be treated with dignity. In a Catholic school environment all demeaning behavior is unacceptable. Students, parents/guardians, and staff who become aware of acts of bullying or harassment involving any student must report these incidents to the principal. School staff who receive reports of or witness bullying must report this to the school principal in a timely manner who will investigate in accordance with the Jack Reid Law.

The school provides a safe environment for all and participates in the Archdiocese of New York's Drug Abuse Prevention Program's (ADAPP) anti-bullying curriculum annually. Verbal, internet (including social media), telephone, or written threats (including text messages and group chats) made against the physical or emotional wellbeing of any individual are taken seriously. The Archdiocese of New York has as its primary mission the formation of children in the Catholic faith.

All children will participate in the total academic life of our school, including religious education. According to the norms of our Church, it is expected that non-Catholics participate as fully as they can in the liturgical and prayer life of the school.

The religious educators of our schools are committed to teaching the fullness of revelation as it is taught by the Roman Catholic Church and as the life and doctrine are

set forth in the Religious Education Guidelines of the Archdiocese of New York. While our teachers value ecumenical education, and respect the traditions of other ecclesiastical communities, they always teach within the context of fidelity to the doctrine and traditions of our teaching church.

Harassment Policies

All persons have a right to be treated with dignity. In a Catholic school environment all demeaning behavior is unacceptable. Students, parents/guardians who become aware of acts of bullying or harassment involving any student must report these incidents to the principal. School staff who receive reports of or witness bullying must report this to the school principal in a timely manner who will investigate with the Jack Reid Law.

The school provides a safe environment for all and participates in the Archdiocese of New York's Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) anti-bullying curriculum annually. Verbal, internet (including social media), telephone, or written threats, including text messages and group chats, made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken seriously. Students making such threats, even in jest, face appropriate disciplinary action including detention, suspension, or expulsion. The principal investigates all complaints of harassment and bullying. Students determined to have been involved in harassing and/or bullying behavior are subject to detention, suspension, or expulsion and, where appropriate, will be referred for counseling services and/or reported to the local authorities.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying includes, but is not limited to, written, verbal, or physical acts, which physically harm a student or staff member or damages a student's or staff member's property or has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education or is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment or has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, pranks, gestures, exclusion or other forms of relational aggression, or physical attacks, actions or threats. Actions may take any form including written, oral, physical or electronic.

These behaviors, listed above, which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, are prohibited in all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York and will not be tolerated regardless of time or place.

No student shall be subjected to bullying and harassment on the basis of actual or perceived traits or characteristics i.e., age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, gender, physical attributes, physical or mental ability, ancestry, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

Parental Cooperation

Parent conduct will adhere to all school procedures and demonstrate acceptable conduct at all times in dealing with school administration, faculty and staff. The following is unacceptable conduct by parents:

1. Assaulting any staff member
2. Making threats upon any staff member
3. Verbally abusing any staff member
4. Harassing any staff member or any other parent(s) or student(s)
5. Engaging in any behavior related to the above

Any behavior listed above, or behavior that the administration deems inappropriate, will be cause for the family to immediately withdraw all children from the school. In some cases, the parent who has violated the above code will not be permitted on school premises for a period of time designated by the school administration.

Illness

If a child has an illness or chronic medical condition, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the school and to provide necessary documentation and medication. The school reserves the right to call 911 in any case of a medical emergency. In the event that a child exhibits symptoms related to infectious disease or communicable diseases, the parent/guardian is obligated to notify the school and to keep the child home until properly tested and cleared by a physician or appropriate licensed medical professional.

Immunizations

Students are required to have all vaccinations as required by the Department of Health before admission to and for continued attendance at the school. Students will not be permitted to enter school unless all appropriate inoculations are documented on or before the first day. See appendix for most current information published by NYC and NYS Departments of Health. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and their personal physician to ensure that, as immunization requirements change, students are kept current in their schedule.

Lateness

Student lateness interrupts the learning process for your child and all other children in that classroom.

Any student arriving at school after the published opening time is considered late. If late, the student may be admitted to class only with a late pass, obtainable in the main office.

- A student who incurs 10 or more lateness will be ineligible for honors in June.
- Repeated lateness may lead to disciplinary action and could impede your child's re-registration for the coming year.
- Excessive absences and lateness may be considered educational neglect.

Liturgy/Religious Education

All Catholic elementary schools will follow and adhere to current Archdiocesan policies and curriculum guidelines in religion.

All students in Grade K to 8 will attend Mass on the first Friday of each month and at other times as indicated in the school calendar. Respectful participation of every child is required at school liturgies.

Students in grades 3 to 8 are required to take the Archdiocesan Final Religion Examination.

Non-Catholic students are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the school, including, but not limited to, liturgies, religious functions, and religion classes.

Parents/Guardians of non-Catholic students must be willing to accept the standards, values, and regulations of the school. They must understand and agree to the religious education of the school at the time of enrollment.

Lunchroom

- Each child is assigned a seat in the lunchroom and is expected to remain in their seat until dismissed.
- It is the responsibility of the individual child to keep the area clean.
- Respect and obedience are to be shown at all times to those who work in the lunchroom.
- In good weather, the children will have outside recess.
- During inclement weather, recess will be in his/her homeroom.
- Cans, soda, glass bottles and outside lunches are not permitted.
- Lunch must be brought in a brown bag with the student's name on the bag or you may purchase the official OLSS lunch bag.
- All plastic bottles must be disposed of correctly before leaving the lunchroom.
- No food of any kind is allowed outside the lunchroom.

Maternity/Paternity Policies

As members of the Church committed to the preservation of life at all levels, the Catholic school must act in ways consistent with that commitment. Catholic schools, elementary as well as secondary, are faced sometimes with the situations of unwed mothers and fathers. The issue is certainly an emotionally charged one. School officials will consider carefully the consequences of any policies that are adopted. At the very minimum, students will be encouraged to finish their work and to receive grades and diplomas. The decision concerning a student's continued school attendance is made by the principal after consultation with his/her parents/guardians, and in

consideration of the best interest of the student, the unborn child and the school's educational expectations.

Medications

If a student needs any kind of medication during the school day, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility that the medication is to be brought to the school nurse's office and kept there. A written statement from the parent/guardian requesting administration of the medication in school as ordered by the licensed prescriber is required.

Medication must be presented in a properly labeled container. Prescription medication must be in the original container. On the prescription medication the pharmacy label should display:

- student name
- name and phone number of the pharmacy
- licensed prescriber name
- date and number of refills
- name of the medication and dosage
- frequency of administration

Medication should not be transported daily to and from school. Parents/guardians are advised to ask the pharmacist for two containers – one for home and one for school.

The school may receive a written request from a parent/guardian or physician to permit a student to carry and self-administer his or her own medication. Under certain circumstances it may be necessary to do so. Such a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and will reflect the age and maturity of the child, as well as :

- Severity of health care problems, particularly asthmatic or allergic conditions.
- Prescriber order directing the student to be allowed to carry his/her medication.
- Written statement from parent/guardian requesting compliance with prescriber order.
- Student has been instructed in the procedure for self-administration and can assume this responsibility.
- Parent/guardian contact is made to clarify parent/guardian responsibility in monitoring the child on an ongoing basis to ensure the child is carrying and taking the medication as ordered.
- Under no circumstances will anyone in the school dispense medication other than the nurse. In the absence of the nurse, parents are responsible for dispensing medication to their children.

Money

Bringing cash to school as a payment is discouraged – except for well-founded and specific situations in which payment cannot be made in any other way. Money that is brought to school for a specific purpose (class trip, book fair, snack, etc.) must be put

into an envelope with the child's name, grade and amount. Since snacks are sold on a daily basis students may choose to bring in small amounts of money for such purchases. If a student does bring money to school the money should be kept on the student's person and not left in the school bag, coat pocket, lunch bag, or desk. The school cannot be responsible for lost money.

Parents/Guardians as Partners

Just as the parents/guardians look to the school to provide the facilities and the trained personnel that are essential to their child's proper development, so the school looks to the parents/guardians to assume active responsibilities that cannot be delegated to others.

No school can be wholly effective in teaching the values of religion and the virtues of honesty, respect for authority, consideration for the rights and property of others, and standards of personal morality and integrity unless these principles have been established, upheld, and valued in the home. If parents/guardians cooperate with the school, instill respect for the integrity of its teachers and administration, and actively support their authority in the home, this is likely to be reflected in the positive attitudes of their children. The Parents/guardians are invited and encouraged to participate in the spiritual and academic programs developed for the education of their children. The wide spectrum of this involvement includes participation in school celebrations of prayer and liturgy, volunteer work, participation in parent/guardian-teacher conferences, attendance at meetings and seminars designed to help the parent/guardian assist their children at home, and active involvement in the school's school behavior code.

- advise teachers/school administration of an emerging issue that may be causing their child emotional distress as soon as they become aware of it to avoid the issue from escalating
- sharing concerns that are directly related to your child. Parents should refrain from sharing the collective concerns of other parents when communicating their concerns to school leaders. Refrain from acting as spokesperson for any group.
- be transparent about your identity when sending email communication to school administrators/pastors. Anonymous emails will not be responded to.
- recognizing their child's talents and interests so they may be developed through parent/guardian/teacher organization.

Parents/Guardians are asked to take an active role in their child's education by:

- Assisting their child in his/her academic and moral development by carefully reviewing class work, test results, progress reports, and report cards; supervising home study; and reinforcing school policies.
-
- Explaining and reviewing periodically the school behavior code with their child. Parents/guardians should discuss school disciplinary episodes in relation to the school behavior code.
- Recognizing their child's talents and interests so they may be developed in cooperation with the classroom teachers.

- Seeing that the dress code, including gym uniform, is enforced, and insisting that children dress according to Christian virtue.
- Insisting on their child's regular school attendance and punctuality and on complying with attendance rules and procedures.
- Making all tuition and fee payments on time, and participating in fund- raising activities. If tuition payments are not made on time, parents are encouraged to reach out to the school to establish a payment plan.
- Providing proper supervision at home, and not tolerating harassment, inappropriate or violent behavior, or viewing of such in videos, movies, song lyrics, and through the use of technology and on social media.
- Teaching their child respect for law, for authority, for the rights of others, and for public and private property. This includes showing respect for the work of others by not tolerating cheating in any circumstance.
- Arranging for a time and place for their child to complete homework assignments.
- Working with the school in a cooperative effort to carry out recommendations made in the best interest of their child, including those related to educational evaluations and counseling.
- Attending all Parent-Teacher Conferences and Parents' Association meetings.
- By always interacting in a respectful manner when speaking with or about the administration, teachers and staff of the school. Verbal *abuse*, improper use of technology and social media or physical harassment may result in your child being *required to withdraw from* the school immediately or not being allowed to re-register for the following year.

This policy applies to the interaction between a child's parents/guardians and members of the Our Lady Star of the Sea School community.

The education of a student is a partnership between the parent/guardian and the school. Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irreparably broken at any given time during the course of the school year..

PARENT/GUARDIAN ORGANIZATION

The Parents' Association provides an effective channel of communication between parents and teachers for the benefit of the students and the whole community. Its main purposes are:

- to create mutual support and understanding between home and school, and thus bring about a total learning environment for students.
- to provide a means for keeping parents/guardians informed of school activities, programs, etc., and if any, parent service requirement.
- to assist the school in meeting its financial obligations, primarily through fund-raising activities.
- to provide adult education programs.
- All parent activities must be done in collaboration with the school principal and all communication must be approved by the principal before they are shared with the school community.

Philosophy and Goals

The school endorses the call of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to express its educational ministry through three objectives: personal spirituality, social justice and a strong academic program in accord with Christian Values. This commitment extends to building Christian community and to foster Christian service to the whole human family.

Pregnancy Policy

Rationale:

In accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, Our Lady Star of the Sea School, holds that all life is sacred and welcomes the gift of new life regardless of the circumstances. While not condoning sexual activity outside of marriage and being sensitive to victims of sexual crimes, it is the policy of the school to assist any student who becomes pregnant or fathers a child to meet this new responsibility. Students will receive support and encouragement from the school community during a time when they may feel overwhelmed or scared. Teachers and administrators will make reasonable accommodations necessary for the health of the mother and her unborn child and to help the student achieve both his or her educational goals and fulfill his or her responsibilities as a parent.

Policies:

1. When a teacher, guidance counselor, principal or other staff member is made aware that a student has become pregnant or has fathered a child, the student will be encouraged to meet with the Sisters of Life (212-737-0221) for support and encouragement during this challenging time. If he or she is willing, the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York (646-689-2613) may facilitate an introductory meeting with the Sisters of Life at the school. Other efforts of assistance may include helping the student inform his or her parents or guardians (if this has not already been done) and providing referral for appropriate medical evaluation and prenatal care.
2. If the student shares that the pregnancy is a result of a crime of a sexual nature involving a minor, we will follow the reporting policies outlined by the Safe Environment Office (646-794-2810).
3. While responding with compassion and understanding to a crisis pregnancy, under no circumstances will any staff member advise, encourage, assist, facilitate, or cooperate in any way with a student obtaining an abortion. Violation of this policy may result in adverse employment action for that staff member. Any student who assists a pregnant student to obtain an abortion may also be subject to disciplinary action. If a student is being pressured or forced into an abortion by a family member or other person, we will support the student's legal right to freely continue the pregnancy. The Sisters of Life can help to inform family members of the rights of minors in the case of pregnancy.
4. In the tragic event that a student, or the mother of a student's child, suffers an abortion or a miscarriage, and the school becomes aware, if appropriate, we will encourage him or her to meet with the Sisters of Life for support and healing from this trauma.

5. Our Lady Star of the Sea School does not consider pregnancy in and of itself reason for the dismissal of any student. We will work with the student and her parents to determine how she can best continue her education during her pregnancy and after the birth of her child.

6. This information is intended to cover most cases of student pregnancy, but it also recognizes the circumstances in a particular student's situation may necessitate a deviation from the policy.

7. Guidelines During Pregnancy

a. The student must submit a letter from her physician which informs the school of her condition, together with any necessary accommodations that the physician recommends for her health and that of her unborn child.

b. The decision concerning a student's continued school attendance is made by the principal after consultation with her parents or guardians, and in consideration of the best interest of the student, the unborn child, and the school's educational expectations. The principal or guidance counselor should discuss other options open to a pregnant student for educational plans during and after the pregnancy:

- Transfer to a special school for pregnant and/or parenting students
- Enroll in a special program for housing and education at The New York Foundling, etc.
- Participating in regular coursework through online portals
- Independent study or online home-schooling program
- Home instruction (provided by the public school district)

Before these options are approved, a conference with the principal, parents, guidance counselors, and other administrators is necessary. The Sisters of Life can assist with exploring the available options.

c. After receipt of a physician's letter concerning a student's pregnancy, the school nurse (if available), the student's guidance counselor (if available, ordinarily excluding Title I personnel), and other administrators (if necessary), should be notified immediately. Any adjustments to the student's schedule (e.g. physical education class, etc.) should be made after consultation with the parents or guardians, school nurse, and guidance counselor.

d. If the student continues regular studies at the school during her pregnancy, special accommodation may need to be provided especially during the 1st trimester in case of pregnancy-related illness, in the later months of pregnancy, and following delivery. These may include approved absences, extensions on assignments, and postponement or exemption from tests and exams. The guidance counselor, school nurse and/or principal should meet with all the student's teachers to develop a consistent and unified policy in the best interests of the student's health and educational goals.

8. Procedures After the Birth of the Child

a. The student who chooses to resume regular studies at the school must present a letter from her physician stating that she is able to resume a full educational program.

- b. Consultation with all parties concerned should take place prior to the student's return to school. In all cases, the best interests of the mother and child should remain a priority.
- c. If needed, continuing assistance for the care and nurturing of the mother and child can be provided through the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

Re-Registration

At the time of re-registration parents/guardians will be notified if their child is being invited to return to the school in September or if the child is not being invited back. The school reserves the right to nullify the re-registration application.

Release of Students *(during school day)*

No student will be dismissed within the last half hour of the school day in order to avoid unnecessary disruption to the teaching / learning process.

The school has a sign-out book located in the main office.

Occasions for the use of a sign-out book are:

- For liturgies and services when altar servers leave school; the students will sign out and in.
- In the event of a student illness the parent/guardian or an adult (age 18 or older) designated by the parent/guardian on the school Emergency Contact form must come to the school and take the child. It is against the law to dismiss a child during school hours except in the direct custody of a parent/guardian, or an adult designated by the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the secretary will contact the name listed on the child's emergency contact slip.
- Emergency slips will be completed in September and must be updated as necessary.
- When a student is released to a parent/guardian, that adult (must be 18 years of age or older) must sign the book
- For a pre arranged appointment when the student is released, the parent/guardian or approved adult must sign the book. *[Please note: only the Principal may approve the release of a student for a pre-arranged appointment.]*

Safer Spaces/Safe Environment

The safety and well-being of all our children in our parish and school communities are our highest priorities. Towards that end, every year in our schools and religious education programs, students receive classroom lessons in personal safety. These lessons are required by the *Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the policies of the Archdiocese of New York.

Under the *Charter*, we are required to provide training to everyone who interacts with minors in any church institution or program. Our training programs include the Code of Conduct for working with minors, important policies on issues like electronic communication and social media, the identification of abuse, how to report suspected abuse, and effective measures for preventing abuse.

We are also required by the *Charter* to provide training to the students in our programs and schools. To accomplish that, we have developed lessons that are designed for each grade level. The content is age-appropriate, user-friendly, and fully consistent with the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. The lessons promote respect for the God-given dignity of every human person and they seek to help the children grow in virtue.

These lessons teach important principles and tools that can be applied anywhere in a child's life to keep them safe – at home, with friends and relatives, in sports or other programs, etc.

At each grade level, we teach the students a practical and easy-to-remember “NO, GO, TELL” safety plan for when they feel unsafe or uncomfortable – saying “no” assertively, going to a safe place, and telling a trusted adult what happened. There are handouts and worksheets for the students that will help them to understand and apply the principles they have learned. The lessons reinforce and build on each other as the students go through the various grade levels. We have also produced a short summary of each grade level lesson for parents.

In addition to the NO, GO, TELL action plan and the importance of their God-given dignity, which we include in every lesson, here is a quick overview of some of the other subjects the lessons cover:

- Identifying trusted adults they can turn to in time of need.
- The difference between good and bad touches.
- How to respond to situations that make them feel uncomfortable.
- The buddy system and stranger danger awareness.
- Safety on the internet.
- Common tricks used by predators.
- The difference between assertive and aggressive behavior.

- Showing respect for their bodies and the bodies of others.
- Bullying and cyberbullying.
- Establishing and maintaining good boundaries and respecting the boundaries of others.
- How to live the virtues of temperance and chastity.
- Other ways to protect themselves from sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse.

If you have any questions about the material presented in your child's safe environment lesson, please feel free to contact your principal or director of religious education.

School Calendar

- Please refer to the published school calendar on our website. Addendums to the school calendar will be updated as needed.
- The End-Year Examination schedule will be made available when testing dates are finalized.

School Publications

All student and parent/guardian publications are subject to review and approved by the school administration prior to publication. The principal must have on file all current log-in information for any digital publication, email or social media accounts that represent or use the school name. Parents/guardians, volunteers and external consultants must submit any and all postings for approval in advance. Maintaining a positive public image for the school is the responsibility of the principal and superintendent's staff

School's Right to Amend

Our Lady Star of the Sea School reserves the right to amend this handbook without prior notice. Notice of amendments will be sent as necessary.

Security

To assure the security of the building and the safety of each child, all exterior doors will be locked during the school day. Our Lady Star of the Sea School strongly enforces its policy of requiring all visitors, even parents/guardians, to report to the office.

To avoid interruption of the learning process, no one may enter a classroom without permission from the principal/assistant principal. When parents come to school, they are to enter the school through the front doors and report to the receptionist and / or school security guard. Parents are expected to visit the part of the building that they

have been authorized to visit. Any items which are to be given to the students are to be left in the office and they will be brought to the classroom by a representative of the school.

Failure to comply with the above policy may result in the visitor being asked to leave school property.

The school has a crisis management manual and it is reviewed regularly with the faculty and staff.

Sex Offender Policy

This notice is to remind you of the importance of taking steps to keep your child safe when he or she is involved in outdoor activities, including traveling to and from school. The following are some safety tips that we hope you will share with your children:

- Students should never go home with strangers.
- Students should never talk to strangers.
- Students should never take things from strangers.
- If students are approached by strangers and are still near the school, they should be encouraged to return to the school and immediately inform a staff member.
- Young students should be escorted to and from school.
- Older children should be encouraged to walk/travel to school in groups whenever possible.

The teachers at our school will also remind students of the importance of not responding to strangers and actions each child should take if approached by a stranger, including reporting it to responsible adults.

In addition, over the course of the school year, we may receive from the New York City Police Department notification under the New York State Sex Offender Registration Act that a registered sex offender has moved into the region where our school is located. Copies of all the notifications we receive will be kept accessible to parents/guardians in the principal's office. You can also find information about registered sex offenders on the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services website, located at <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/> -- or by calling 1-800-262-3257.

Finally, if our school is notified during the school year that a registered sex offender has moved within the vicinity of our school, further notice will be sent to you.

These procedures are part of our continuing effort to provide a safe environment for all children in this school.

Smoking

New York State Law prohibits smoking in school buildings and on school property. Smoking is prohibited at all times in the school building, on its parking lot and playing fields. This prohibition applies to faculty, staff, parents/guardians, and all visitors to the

school. Smoking 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 system**

Special Learning Needs

Students with learning differences are children of God and members of the Church. Our Lady Star of the Sea School makes every effort to meet individual student needs by providing accommodations. Sometimes, however, a student may have needs that do not permit him or her to benefit fully from the program. In those cases your child's teacher and/or principal may schedule a meeting with you to discuss having an evaluation of your child's learning needs. If you suspect your child has a disability and you wish to have your child evaluated to determine if special education services are needed, you must contact the public school district Committees on Special Education (CSE) in the school district where the Catholic school is located. The Public-school district CSE for OLSS is District 31. The CSE will arrange for and provide the recommended services for your child, including conducting special education individual evaluations, CSE meetings and developing and Individualized Education Service Plan (IESP). The IESP is the document for nonpublic school children with special education services. It is your right as a parent to ask the public-school district CSE to evaluate your child at no cost to you. You also have the option as the parent to have your child evaluated privately, at your own expense.

Once the results of the evaluation are available, the parent is obligated to share the educational/psychological testing results and any resulting plan with the school. The parent must make an appointment to meet with the Principal to discuss the results of the evaluation and the recommendations and provide a copy of the IESP. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the IESP is kept current. Parents understand they voluntarily enroll their child in a catholic school. While it is our intention to meet the learning needs of all our students, the school may not be able to provide ALL accommodations included on a student's IESP.

If a student transfers from a public school with an IEP, the parent must contact the public school district CSE where the Catholic school is located, to have the IEP converted to an IESP.

When a student qualifies for a 504 Plan, the principal will meet with the parent to review and discuss the 504 Plan and will then notify the parent of any reasonable accommodations/modifications that can or cannot be made at the school. If reasonable accommodations can be made, a Student Assistance Plan will be written by the Office of Teaching & Learning and a copy of the plan will be placed in the student's confidential file at the school. The accommodations/modifications will be reviewed yearly.

If the school cannot make reasonable accommodations, the school reserves the right to negate the enrollment of the student.

Summer School

Since most summer schools offer reading, mathematics, and language arts, a student who has failed in one or more of these subjects in three marking periods of the report card will be required to take a remedial course during the summer. Summer school also may be recommended due to poor performance on standardized tests or in the classroom.

The summer school Report Card must be submitted to the office in September. Failure to attend summer school will result in retention. It is the parent's responsibility to provide documentation that summer school has been successfully completed. In cases in which tutoring is allowed for the remediation, it must be undertaken by a qualified teacher.

Telecommunications Policy

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

The principal of the school is responsible for maintaining all administrative logins for all social media outlets, blogs or any school-branded media outlets in existence now or in the future that contain the school name. Principals must be mindful that their school's social media may be linked to the Superintendent of Schools Office and the Archdiocese of New York media accounts.

All domain names and access must be owned, secured and maintained by the school principal. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES are these administrative logins, permissions or oversight to be delegated to any parent/guardian, volunteer or external vendor separate and exclusive from the principal.

In addition to the login and administrative rights to the school website and all current or future social media outlets (Facebook, X formerly known as Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat etc.) the principal is also responsible for reviewing and approving the content on such sites.

All social media content must follow the Standards of Behavior for student internet use and must reflect the standards and mission of the school.

Student Expectations in Use of the Internet

(please see below for complete policy requiring student's signature)

Use of School Grounds

Unless the students are formally registered for before or after school programs, Our Lady Star of the Sea School does not have staff available to supervise students present on the school grounds (See Daily Schedule for times). Students should not arrive on the school grounds prior to 7:50 AM and parents must arrange to pick up at dismissal times. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS PRIOR TO 7:50 AM, PARENTS MUST PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILD'S PROTECTION AND SUPERVISION. Arrangements must be made in advance, monthly, when a parent/guardian will use the Early Morning/After School Care Program.

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

The volunteer program is an essential part of Our Lady Star of the Sea School. Although the volunteer is not employed by Our Lady Star of the Sea School, he/she is a valued member of the school community. Therefore, it is necessary for every volunteer to understand and support the philosophy and policies of the school. This is important for the general welfare and security of all Our Lady Star of the Sea students. In order to be part of the Our Lady Star of the Sea School volunteer program, a volunteer must agree to abide by the following guidelines:

1. The school philosophy and all policies as stated in the Our Lady Star of the Sea School Student/Parent handbook must be fully supported and followed by the volunteer.
2. A volunteer must support the teachings of the Catholic Church and cannot express opinions that vary from the official teachings of the Church.
3. All guidelines and directives established by the administration and/or teachers must be followed by the volunteer.
4. In the course of one's volunteer work, confidential information may be learned about students, and/or teachers. This includes any information about behavior, performance or problems. This information must be kept confidential in any setting inside or outside the school.
5. Any suspicions of abuse must be shared with the principal and/or the assistant principal. Any information that may save someone from harm must be shared with the administration and/or the teacher.
6. A volunteer may not search a child's desk or personal belongings. If there is a problem, contact the administration or teacher immediately.
7. All property on and/or in a teacher's desk or work area is strictly confidential and is to be accessed by only the teacher and/or administration.
8. Any touching of a student that can be construed as punitive, including shaking, pushing, hair pulling, etc. is strictly forbidden.
9. A volunteer is expected to speak in a professional manner. Sarcasm, an angry tone of voice, inappropriate language or aggressively verbal threats contradicts the philosophy of the school.
10. Supervision is both mental and physical. A volunteer has a duty to intervene in a situation which might cause physical injury to the child or others. If the volunteer

fails to intervene, and a student is injured, the volunteer's inaction is the proximate cause of the student's injury.

11. A proper dress code is necessary to enhance a positive school climate. A volunteer must dress in a school appropriate style which is not suggestive or offensive to any member of the school community.
12. The principal and the assistant principal are responsible for the total school; thus, the principal and the assistant principal supervise all who serve in any capacity in the school. Therefore, all questions and concerns with volunteer guidelines should be discussed with the administration.
13. *ALL VOLUNTEERS, as directed by the Archdiocese of NY, must complete a background check. All approved volunteers will need to attend a Safe Environment workshop called, "Protecting God's Children". The time and date for the workshop class will be announced.*
14. Any volunteer, who has already attended this workshop class, needs to provide Our Lady Star of the Sea School with the date and location of the previously attended workshop.

Withdrawals and Transfers

When a student transfers from one school to another, enters high school or is withdrawn for any reason, the parent must notify the school of the student's new learning institution within 5 days, or the appropriate authorities will be contacted. The child's absence will be marked as unexcused until the day the school receives this notification or a request for records from the receiving school. The new school may request a copy of the permanent record and health card from the former school. Permanent records will not be released directly to parents/guardians. Such requests for records should come directly from the receiving school. An Authorization to Release Records request form must be obtained from the school secretary. (Please see the appendix.) All books must be returned. All bills must be paid before the records are transferred to another school.

Schools may disclose a student's cumulative record (i.e., permanent record, attendance record, test results) to another school with legitimate educational interest if a written request is made and when a custodial parent/guardian has given written permission for the release of the child's records. The parent's or guardian's signature is required for release of a student's confidential file (i.e., special education records, psychological reports, disciplinary records, anecdotal information, or reports by the school counselor).

At the discretion of the principal, each school has the right not to certify the student's graduation or provide transcripts of the student's academic record to third parties such as other schools, colleges, or employers, or to issue a diploma to the student, if there has been a breach of a material condition of the educational contract (i.e., failure to meet financial obligations, infractions against the school's code of conduct, etc.).

The school reserves the right to request the parent/guardian withdraw his/her child from the school due to serious disciplinary issues and/or unpaid financial obligations.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Once students have met the necessary admission requirements and have been accepted in the school, the school warmly welcomes these students for the coming school year and will strive to provide them with a solid Catholic spiritual and academic education in a supportive learning environment. Students and the parent/guardian must always be mindful that attendance at the school is by invitation. It is not a “right” because this is a private school. Admission to and continued enrollment in this school include responsibilities regarding conduct, both inside and outside the classroom and school, and students are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to be a credit both to themselves and to their school.

In order to protect its standards of scholarship, discipline and character, the school reserves the right, and students and the parent/guardian concede to the school the right to require the withdrawal of any student at any time, for any reason deemed sufficient in the sole discretion of the school and its administrators. By the student's attendance at the school, a student and his or her parent/guardian acknowledge the important obligations and restrictions contained in this handbook and agree to be bound by the terms of this handbook.

Students attending the school relinquish certain rights they might otherwise be entitled to if they were attending a public school. For example, a student's freedom of speech is limited in many important respects here at our school. Speech, either written or oral, contrary to the Roman Catholic faith, the teachings of the Church or the directives of the local Bishop or Ordinary is prohibited, as is any other speech which is contrary or disruptive to the philosophy and purposes of our school. Another important right all students at the school surrender involves searches and seizures. School administrators may search a student's person and belongings if there is a reasonable belief, in the sole opinion of the school administrator, that contraband, illegal substances or inappropriate objects are being concealed. Any unauthorized items found may be seized. Additionally, student desks and lockers, which are at all times under the joint control of the school and the student to whom the desk or locker has been assigned, may be searched by school administrators at any time, for any reason or for no reason at all. Students should have absolutely no expectation of privacy with regard to any item in their desks or lockers.

Another important right that a student and his or her parent/guardian give up when they decide to have a student attend this school is the right to sue the school, the parish, the Catholic School Region Corporation, or the Archdiocese of New York, and/or any individuals acting on behalf of the school, such as the school administrators, teachers, staff or any of their agents for any matter relating to academic or disciplinary decisions or other matters covered within this handbook. Each student and his or her parent/guardian, by their acceptance of enrollment at the school, agree to and accept the school's rule and policy that students, a parent/guardian may not bring any civil action in any local, state or federal court or in any administrative agency or body to challenge any school decision on academic or disciplinary matters, including any decision relating to the rules, regulations, procedures or programs covered within this handbook. Students and the parent/guardian agree that any challenge to any school

academic or disciplinary action or relating to the rules, regulations, procedures, or programs covered in this handbook may only be challenged or appealed within the hierarchy of the school, subject to the limitations contained in this handbook. This includes any decision relating to a student's enrollment at the school or termination of that enrollment.

While any student and his or her parent/guardian are of course free to consult with legal counsel regarding any school decision taken with respect to a student, the school emphasizes that students and the parent/guardian are not permitted to have legal counsel present during any meetings with school administrators. School administrators are not obligated to meet with legal counsel at any time.

There are several grounds for disciplinary action or expulsion set forth in the "Discipline Codes" section of this handbook. It should be noted, however, that any listing of prohibited conduct is set forth by way of example only and to provide guidance to the student and his or her parent/guardian. It is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of improper conduct or resultant disciplinary action.

Telecommunications Policy

Student Expectations in Use of the Internet

The use of the internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use or violation of any of the following standards will result in serious consequences and could result in expulsion from the school.

1. Use of the computer at school is limited to school-related activities. Internet users are expected to behave responsibly in accessing and viewing information that is pertinent to the mission of the school.
2. Vandalism and other infractions of school policy while using the internet will result in immediate cancellation of privileges along with disciplinary action.
3. After School/Home Access requires students to follow the same student expectations as stated in the "Discipline Code for Student Conduct" and "Harassment Policies" in the student handbook.
4. Students must abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette both inside and outside school.
5. Students are responsible for their explorations on the internet and are subject to the consequences of the school's discipline policy.
6. Students must sign a contract indicating their understanding and acceptance of the school's guidelines.
7. A Parent/Guardian must give their permission for their child to use the internet for educational purposes as an individual by signing the Contract Form once conditions are clearly understood. A parent/guardian also has the option of denying permission for their child to use the internet independently at school.

Standards of Behavior for Internet Use:

- Be courteous and respectful in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not use vulgar, harassing, obscene, threatening, bullying, abusive, or sexually offensive language, or make any statements that are slanderous or disparaging of any students or adults, including teachers and staff.
- Never visit inappropriate or offensive websites.
- Never download materials from inappropriate or offensive websites.
- Never expose yourself in an inappropriate, vulgar, or sexually offensive manner on any website or via email, either in pictures or videos.
- Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Do not reveal your home address or phone number, or that of other students or staff.
- Note that electronic mail (school e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail/school domains. Messages related to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Proofread your message before you send it.
- Never agree to get together with someone you “meet” online.
- Only public domain software (“shareware”) can be downloaded.
- Copyright laws must be respected. Do not make unauthorized copies of software and do not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others.
- Do not use the network/internet for illegal activities.
- Software applications and games from home may not be used on school equipment without proof of licensure and prior approval of appropriate school personnel.
- Do not reveal personal passwords, use or try to learn others’ passwords. Do not copy, change, read or use another user’s files without prior permission from that user. Do not attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs for computer equipment.
- Do not post personal messages on bulletin boards, list servers or social media platforms. Send personal messages directly to the person to whom you want to write.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network for other users.
- Do not waste or take supplies such as paper or printer cartridges, that are provided by the school.
- Talk softly and work in ways that will not disturb other users. Keep computer work areas clean and do not eat or drink in the computer lab.
- If students encounter material on a network/bulletin board that is not appropriate (vulgar jokes, statements of belief that some might consider immoral, etc.) the student is responsible for not pursuing this material and reporting the matter to appropriate school personnel.
- The use of cell phones, camera phones, smart watches or other digital media is prohibited during the school day. Cell phones, camera phones, or other personal electronic devices will be confiscated if students use them during the school day without permission. In addition, any student who uses a camera, camera phone or other personal electronic devices in school or in the classroom for any reason will be suspended. Further disciplinary measures, including expulsion, will be

considered depending on the nature of the camera, camera phone, or personal electronic device use.

- Technology use outside normal academic hours and/or off school grounds (including, but not limited to, cell phones, e-mail, text messages, camera-phones, cameras, iPads, iPhones, etc.,) are subject to the same guidelines as previously cited in the "Discipline Code for Student Conduct," "Harassment Policies," and the "Summary Statement."
- The school reserves the right to seek financial restitution for any damage caused by a student or other user. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. The administration, faculty, and staff of the school may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific privileges. Violation of the rules and code of ethics described above will be dealt with seriously, which may include contacting law enforcement..
- *Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited.* This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. The use of school computers and networking resources for commercial activities is not permitted. Their use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

Student Name: _____ Grade _____
Student Signature: _____ Date _____

APPENDIX

Our Lady Star of the Sea School

**Parent/Guardian Signature Page – Return Due Date:
September 18, 2026**

We have received a copy of the school handbook and have read it.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Grade 2 and above Student's signature)

(Grade 2 and above Student's signature)

(Grade 2 and above Student's signature)

(Grade 2 and above Student's signature)

MEDIA AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

I hereby consent to the taking of photographs, movies, videos, and images capable of reproduction in any medium of me or my children or children of whom I am the designated guardian.

Names of Children, Parent/Guardian

by the Department of Education, Archdiocese of New York and/or the Catholic School Region and their parent/guardian, affiliates, trustees, directors, members, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, and contractors (the "School").

I hereby grant to School the right to edit, reproduce, use, and reuse images for any and all purposes including, but not limited to, advertising, promotion and display, and I hereby consent to the editing, reproduction, use and re-use of said images in any and all media in existence and all media yet in existence including, but not limited to, video, print, television, internet, and podcasts.

I forever grant, assign, and transfer to School any right, title, and interest that I and/or my child/children may have in any images, including negatives, taken of me and/or my children by School. I hereby agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless School from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of actions, loss, liability, damage, or cost arising from this authorization.

Print Name

Name of Child/Children [if applicable]

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

SIGNED Form Due by September 18, 2026.

**Technology Use/Telecommunications Policy
Agreement for 2026-2027 School Year
for Our Lady Star of the Sea School
Signed form due September 18, 2026**

adapted from NCEA's From the Chalkboard to the Chatroom . . . 1997.

User

I understand and agree to abide by the Telecommunications Policy/Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet agreement. I further understand that any violation of these regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

User's name (please print): _____

User Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the technology use agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I am aware that it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired in use. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use of school's technology resources is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my child to use the school's technology resources and certify that I have reviewed this information with my child.

Parent/Guardian's name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Textbook/Software/Hardware Request Form

Our Lady Star of the Sea School

5411 Amboy Rd.

Staten Island, NY 10312

NEW YORK STATE TEXTBOOK LAW (NYSTL), SOFTWARE
LAW (NYSSL), LIBRARY LAW (NYSLIB),
AND COMPUTER HARDWARE (NYS CH)

PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUEST FORM FOR SCHOOL YEAR
2026-2027

I hereby authorize the school to obtain state-loaned textbooks, software, library materials, and computer hardware for my child _____ who is in grade _____ pursuant to the New York State Textbook, Software, Library, and Computer Hardware Laws.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Address

Date

Title I Participation Notice

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may be eligible to participate in the New York City Department of Education's Office of Nonpublic Schools Title I Program for the 2025-2026 school year, a federal program that provides supplemental educational services to eligible students at no cost to you, the parent/guardian. The Title I program is designed to enable all students to obtain a high-quality education. Your child's school is working with a third-party vendor to provide supplemental educational services.

Your child may be enrolled in one or more of the Title I programs listed below.

1. Literacy Instruction Services 2. Mentoring Services

3. Math Instruction Services 4. Tutoring Services

5. Distance Learning Services 6. Academic Counseling Services

7. Additional services not listed above as determined in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools Office, Regional Superintendent and Principal.

Title I Literacy Instruction Services: Your child will receive direct instruction aimed at improving literacy skills, including but not limited to, comprehension, fluency, and writing across content areas. This service is provided in a separate location from their regularly scheduled class, other than English Language Arts, during the school day.

Title I Math Instruction Services: Your child will receive direct instruction aimed at improving math concepts and skills. This service is provided in a separate location from their regularly scheduled class, other than Math, during the school day.

Title I Mentoring Services: Your child will receive support aimed at improving academic skills, including but not limited to, communication and organizational skills. This service is provided before and after school or during non-core instructional periods.

Title I Tutoring Services: Your child will receive support aimed at improving student learning across a variety of subjects. This service is provided before and after school or during non-core instructional periods.

Title I Academic Counseling Services: Your child will receive academic counseling support during the school day to assist with mitigating any barriers to learning. This service is provided in a separate location from their regularly scheduled instructional periods.

Parent/guardian may be invited to attend a parent/guardian orientation meeting to further explain the Title I-funded Program. You may also be invited to attend additional workshops to assist you in supporting your child at home.

2026-2027 New York State Immunization and Medical Forms

DATA PRIVACY CONSENT FORM

for Our Lady Star of the Sea School

Our Lady Star of the Sea puts premium value to the privacy and security of personal data entrusted by its students and parent/guardian for legitimate purposes in connection with the Technology Use/Telecommunications Policy and any hardware and software used in connection therewith.

When we speak of “personal data,” the term includes the concepts of personal information, sensitive personal information, and privileged information. The first two are typically used to distinctly identify you.

Processing of Personal Data

A. Collection of Information. We collect your personal data that you provide to us during your application for admission, information we acquire or generate upon enrollment, and during the course of your education with us in order to carry out the purposes associated with our Technology Use/Telecommunications Policy.

- 1.** Information you provide us during your application for admission. Upon application for admission, we collect information about personal circumstances and contact information, including, but not limited to, name, address, email address, telephone number and other contact details, family history, previous schools attended, academic performance, disciplinary record, medical record, etc.
- 2.** Information we acquire or generate upon enrollment and during the course of your education with us. Upon enrollment and during the course of your education with us, we collect information on your academic or curricular undertakings, the classes you enroll in and scholastic performance, attendance record, medical record, etc. We will also collect information for and in relation to co- curricular matters, such as outreach activities, as well as extra-curricular activities, such as membership in student organizations, leadership positions and participation and attendance in seminars, competitions, and programs. We will also collect information in connection with any disciplinary incident, including accompanying sanctions that you may be involved in. We will also collect information in connection with your use of hardware and software provided to you during the course of your education with us, including, but not limited to, address, telephone number, email address, other unique identifier, passwords or PINs, and account credentials (e.g., username and password).

B. Access to Information. Your personal information is accessed and used by us. We use and share your information as permitted or required by law to pursue our

legitimate interests as an educational institution, including a variety of academic, administrative, historical, and statistical purposes. Some examples of situations when we may use your information to pursue our legitimate interests as an educational institution are as follows:

1. evaluating applications for admission.
2. processing confirmation of incoming students and transfer students in preparation for enrollment.
3. recording, generating, and maintaining student records of academic, co-curricular and extra- curricular progress.
4. establishing and maintaining student information systems.
5. maintaining directories and records.
6. compiling and generating reports for statistical and research purposes.
7. providing services such as health, counseling, information technology, library, sports/recreation, transportation, safety, and security.
8. managing and controlling access to campus facilities and equipment.
9. communicating official school announcements; sharing marketing and promotional materials regarding school-related functions, events, projects, and activities; and
10. soliciting your participation in research and non-commercial surveys.

C. Sharing of Information. Some examples of when we may share or disclose your personal information to others include:

1. sharing information to persons, including parent/guardian, or next of kin, as required by law or on a need-to-know basis as determined by the school to promote your best interests, or protect your health, safety, and security, or that of others.
2. providing academic institutions, companies, government agencies, private or public corporations, or the like, upon their request, with scholastic ranking information or certification of good moral character for purposes of admission.
3. reporting and/or disclosing information to government bodies or agencies (e.g., Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education); and
4. conducting research or surveys for purposes of institutional development; and

- 5.** sharing of information to various third-party vendors who provide services associated with our Technology Use / Telecommunications Policy and any hardware and software used in connection therewith.

Data Protection

We shall implement reasonable and appropriate organizational, physical, and technical security measures for the protection of personal data which we collected. The security measures shall aim to maintain the availability, integrity, and confidentiality of personal data and are intended for the protection of personal data against any accidental or unlawful destruction, alteration, and disclosure, as well as against any other unlawful processing. We only permit your data to be accessed or processed by authorized personnel who hold such information under strict confidentiality, including all third-party vendors.

Any data security incident or breach that comes to the knowledge of us will be recorded and reported as required by law. We will take all necessary and reasonable steps to address such incident or breach and mitigate any negative effect of such incident or breach. If there is strong suspicion that an incident affects your personal information, we will notify you of such incident in an appropriate manner.

Consent

I have read this form, understood its contents and consent to (a) the collection, use, processing and transfer by [SCHOOL] of certain personal information about you (the "Data"); (b) any transfer of Data by any such authorized person for the purposes of implementing, administering and managing the purposes outlined above; (c) the use of such Data by any such authorized person for such purposes; and (d) the transfer to and retention of such Data by third parties in connection with such purposes. I further agree and acknowledge that while [SCHOOL] has taken all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that all third parties protect such Data, [SCHOOL] has no control over how the third party will use or disseminate my information. I agree to release and hold harmless [SCHOOL], its representatives, officers, employees, contractors, agents, and assignees, from any and all claims of action or damages of any kind arising from, or in any way connected to, the release or use of any information or records by any third party pursuant to this form and as allowed by all applicable laws.

Complete Name of Student/Child/Ward: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Date: _____

If below 18 years old,

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the data privacy consent form, understood its contents, and provide consent to use the personal information collected as outlined and in accordance with this form. I hereby give permission to use the personal information collected as outlined and in accordance with this form and certify that I have reviewed this information with my child.

Parent/Guardian's name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Due: September 18, 2026



Our Lady Star of the Sea School Absent Note

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S CLASS _____

DATE(S) OF ABSENCE _____

REASON FOR ABSENCE _____

Doctor's note is attached. Yes _____ No _____



Authorization to Release Records

Parent/Guardian: A separate form must be filled out for each of your children.

I, _____, the
parent(s)/guardian(s) of

_____ (Student's Name),

Our Lady Star of the Sea School to release my child's records to the following school:

_____ (Receiving
School Name)

_____ (Receiving
School Address)

I understand that once the records are released, I am responsible for any changes thereafter.

Parent/Guardian

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE BE ADVISED NO RECORDS WILL BE SENT TO THE RECEIVING SCHOOL
UNTIL ALL TUITION AND FEES ARE PAID IN FULL.

ADDENDUMS

All addendum pages are to be signed and returned to your child's teacher no later than September 18, 2026.