

Wellness Policy

WELLNESS

St Cecilia Catholic School strives to educate the whole person in mind, body and soul. In educating students about the body, they strive to develop a profound reverence for the great gift of life, their own lives and the lives of others, along with readiness to spend themselves in serving all that preserves and enhances life.

The school, governed by the St Cecilia Catholic School Board of Education strives to maintain a learning and working environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

In addition the St. Cecilia Archdiocesan Board of Education Policy #6145

St. Cecilia Catholic School supports and promotes proper dietary habits contributing to students' health status and academic performance. Foods available on school grounds and at school sponsored activities during the instructional day should meet or exceed St. Cecilia Catholic Schools nutrition standards. Foods should be served with consideration toward nutritional integrity, variety, appeal, taste, safety and packaging to ensure high-quality meals.

St. Cecilia Catholic School has developed a local wellness committee composed of representatives of administration, parents, and leaders in food/exercise authority and employees. The local wellness committee has developed a plan to implement and measure the wellness policy and monitor the effectiveness of the policy. The committee will report annually to the St. Cecilia Catholic School Improvement Advisory Committee regarding the effectiveness of this policy.

Specific Wellness Goals:

- Nutrition Education and Promotion
- Nutrition Guidelines for all Foods Available on Campus
- Physical Activity
- Implementation and Evaluation

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

St. Cecilia Catholic School will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program, which is part not only of physical education classes, but also part of classroom instruction in other subject areas;
- includes promotion of enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste-testing, and virtual farm visits;

- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and physical activity;
- links with meal programs, other foods and nutrition-related community services.

NUTRITION GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOODS AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS

General Directives

Food Safety

All foods made available on campus will follow food safety and security guidelines and comply with the state and local food safety and sanitation regulations. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and guidelines will continue to be implemented to prevent food illness in school. For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations should be limited to food service staff and authorized personnel.

Sharing of Foods

St. Cecilia Catholic School discourages students from sharing their food or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Food Service Department

The St. Cecilia Catholic School Food Service Department will

- engage students in selecting food offered through the meal program in order to identify new, healthful and appealing food choices. Parent feedback is welcome;
- share information about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students.

Qualification of Food Service Staff

Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the meal programs. St Cecilia Catholic School will:

- assignments for managers and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.
- provide the USDA established-continuing education hours and training for all food service employees.

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:

- be appealing and attractive to students;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet nutrition requirements established by local, state and federal law;
- include a variety of fruits and vegetables and menu choices.

Free and Reduced-Priced Meals Program

St. Cecilia Catholic School will continue to make every effort in eliminating any social stigma attached to, and in preventing the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Toward this end, St. Cecilia Catholic School will:

provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals;

- provide staff development programs that include appropriate certification and/or training programs
- utilize electronic identification and payment systems;
- promote the availability of meals to all students.

Meal Times and Scheduling

- allow adequate time for students to receive and consume meals and provide a pleasant dining environment;
- schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch periods scheduled between 11AM. and 1PM.;
- not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities
- attempt to schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools);
- provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans (calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber). Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:

Calorie limits:

- ❖ Snack items: ≤ 200 calories
- ❖ Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories

Sodium limits:

- ❖ Snack items: ≤ 200 mg
- ❖ Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg

Fat limits:

- ❖ Total fat: $\leq 35\%$ of calories
- ❖ Saturated fat: $< 10\%$ of calories

Trans fat: zero grams Sugar limit:

- ❖ $\leq 35\%$ of weight from total sugars in foods Beverage and Food

St. Cecilia Catholic School will follow The Smart Snacks in School standards published by the USDA, building on the healthy advancements by ensuring that snack foods and beverages sold to the students in addition to those foods provided through the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program are also tasty and nutritious. Any food and beverage sold during the school day must meet the nutrition standards. As defined by the USDA, the school day is anytime before the first bell until 30 minutes after the last bell.

Beverage Nutrition Standards

All schools may sell:

- ❖ Plain water (with or without carbonation)
- ❖ Low fat milk
- ❖ Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP
- ❖ 100% fruit or vegetable juice
- ❖ 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners.
- Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions. There is no portion size limit for plain water. Calories per 8 fluid ounces or ≤ 10 calories per 20 fluid ounces.

Other Requirements

- Fundraisers
 - ❖ The sale of food items that meet nutrition requirements at fundraisers is not limited in any way under the standards by the USDA.
 - ❖ The USDA standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events. The school day as defined by the USDA is after midnight the day before the first bell until 30 minutes after the last bell.
- Accompaniments

Accompaniments such as cream cheese, salad dressing and butter must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item sold.

This helps control the amount of calories, fat, sugar and sodium added to foods by accompaniments, which can be significant.

Food Nutrition Standards

General Standard for Competitive Food must meet all of the proposed competitive food nutrient standards and

1. Be a grain product that contains 50% or more whole grains by weight or have whole grains as the first ingredient* or
2. Have as the first ingredient* one of the non-grain main food groups: fruits, vegetables, dairy, or protein foods (meat, beans, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts, seeds, etc.) or
3. Be a combination food that contains at least $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fruit and/or vegetable or
4. Contain 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of a nutrient of public health concern (i.e., calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber). Effective July 1, 2016, this criterion is obsolete and may not be used to qualify as a competitive food.
5. *If water is the first ingredient, the second ingredient must be one of items 2, 3 or 4 above

Exemptions to the Standard

- Fresh fruits and vegetables with no added ingredients except water are exempt from all nutrient standards.

- Canned and frozen fruits with no added ingredients except water or are packed in 100% juice, extra light syrup, or light syrup is exempt from all nutrient standards.
- Canned vegetables with no added ingredients except water or that contain a small amount of sugar for processing purposes to maintain the quality and structure of the vegetable are exempt from all nutrient standards.

NSLP/SBP Entrée Items Sold A la Carte.

Any entrée item offered as part of the lunch program or the breakfast program is exempt from all competitive food standards if it is sold as a competitive food on the day of service or the day after service in the lunch or breakfast program.

- Sugar-free chewing gum is exempt from all competitive food standards
- Grain Items - Acceptable grain items must include 50% or more whole grains by weight, or have whole grains as the first ingredient.
- Total Fats
 - Acceptable food items must have $\leq 35\%$ calories from total fat as served.
 - Exemptions to the Standard
 - Reduced fat cheese (including part-skim mozzarella) is exempt from the total fat standard.
 - Nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters are exempt from the total fat standard.
 - Products consisting of only dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the total fat standard.
 - Seafood with no added fat is exempt from the total fat standard.
 - Combination products are not exempt and must meet all the nutrient standards.
- Saturated Fats - Acceptable food items must have $< 10\%$ calories from saturated fat as served.
 - Reduced fat cheese (including part-skim mozzarella) is exempt from the saturated fat standard.
 - Nuts and seeds and nut/seed butters are exempt from the saturated fat standard.
 - Products consisting of only dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the saturated fat standard.
 - Combination products are not exempt and must meet all the nutrient standards.
- Trans Fats - Zero grams of trans fat as served (≤ 0.5 g per portion).
 - Sugar - Acceptable food items must have $\leq 35\%$ of weight from total sugar as served.
 - Dried whole fruits or vegetables, dried whole fruit or vegetable pieces and dehydrated fruits or vegetables with no added nutritive sweeteners are exempt from the sugar standard.
 - Dried whole fruits or pieces with nutritive sweeteners that are required for processing and/or palatability purposes (i.e., cranberries, tart cherries or blueberries) are exempt from the sugar standard.
 - Products consisting of only exempt dried fruit with nuts and/or seeds with no added nutritive sweeteners or fats are exempt from the sugar standard.
- Sodium
 - Snack items and side dishes sold a la carte: ≤ 230 mg sodium per item as

served.

- Entrée items sold a la carte: ≤ 480 mg sodium per item as served, including any added accompaniments.
- Calories
 - Snack items and side dishes sold a la carte: ≤ 200 calories per item as served, including any added accompaniments.
 - Entrée items sold a la carte: ≤ 350 calories per item as served including any added accompaniments
 - Entrée items served as an NSLP or SBP entrée are exempt on the day of or day after service in the program meal.

Accompaniments

Use of accompaniments is limited when competitive food is sold to students in school. The accompaniment must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item served and meet all proposed standards.

- Caffeine
- Elementary: Foods and beverages must be caffeine-free with the exception of trace amounts of naturally occurring caffeine substances.

Special Events Snacks

Snacks served during the school day should make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and healthy beverages conforming to this policy. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages and other considerations.

Rewards

Schools are encouraged to offer nonfood forms of rewards. If food or beverage rewards are used for academic performance or good behavior, they should conform to this policy. Schools will not withhold beverages or food (including food served through meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations

Schools will evaluate their celebration practices that involve beverage and food during the school day.

Fundraising

To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, in-school fundraising activities should use foods that meet the above nutrition and portion-size standards for beverages and foods. St. Cecilia Catholic School encourages fundraising activities that promote physical activity.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Wellness education is an important and integral part of the education of students at St. Cecilia Catholic School.

Physical Education

St. Cecilia Catholic School will provide wellness education that:

- includes students with disabilities;
- engages students in moderate to vigorous activity during a portion of physical education class time;
- meets regularly for the scheduled period of time it will allow at the elementary school level.

Physical Activity Opportunities after School

To provide opportunities for physical activity outside the regular physical education classes, all St. Cecilia classes:

- offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs;
- offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including students with disabilities and students with special health-care needs;
- offer information about community agencies such as the Ames Parks and Recreation;
- publicize and promote participation in community events and programs that involve physical activity.

Daily Recess

Elementary schools will offer recess for students that are preferably outdoors (criteria should be established for when indoor recess occurs). Recess should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

Elementary schools will discourage extended periods (i.e. periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools will give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Integrating Physical Activity into Classroom Settings

For students to receive the nationally recommended amount of daily physical activity and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond the physical education class. Toward that end, St. Cecilia Catholic School will:

- offer integrated health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities;
- provide opportunities for physical activity to be incorporated into other subject lessons;

- encourage classroom teachers to provide short physical activity breaks during lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Physical Activity and Punishment

Employees will not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or routinely withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g. recess, physical education) as punishment. Physical activity may be used as an accommodation for students demonstrating a specific need for activity.

IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

Communication with Parents

St. Cecilia Catholic School will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. St. Cecilia Catholic School will:

- provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during and after the school day;
- support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school;
- distribute information about physical education and activity via a website, newsletter, other take home materials and special events or physical education homework.

Staff Wellness

St. Cecilia Catholic School values the health and wellbeing of every staff member and encourages activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Monitoring

The Chief Administrator will ensure compliance with established school wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

ST. CECILIA POLICY ON PAST DUE ACCOUNTS

The policy of school will be to serve meals to all students regardless of the balance of the lunch accounts. For students that have past due accounts the office staff will communicate with the parents and work to collect the balance. For families that exceed \$100.00 the principal will work with the family to determine a payment plan to clear the negative balance. If the school is unsuccessful of clearing the account the principal will solicit donations to cover the balance for the family. The school will attempt to clear all accounts by June 15 each year.

St. Cecilia Catholic School:

The principal will ensure compliance with those policies in the school.

Food service staff, at the school level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within food service areas and will report on matter to the Food Service Director, or Principal.

St. Cecilia Catholic School:

- St. Cecilia Catholic School will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If St. Cecilia Catholic School has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, St. Cecilia Catholic School will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible.

Policy Review

The Principal will review the nutrition and physical activity policies and practices and the provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity at the end of the school year. St. Cecilia Catholic School will revise the wellness policies as needed and at a minimum of every 5 years, review the school policies.

Policy Approved: March 2017

Policy revised:

Policy reviewed: January 3, 2023