



EDUCATION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



2023 - 2024

STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK

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Disponible en español: [Manual para estudiantes y familias de STC 23-24](#)

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Archdiocese of St. Louis - General Information

Archdiocesan Vision Statement

Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis reflect a visible faith community. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus, these schools are enriched by Catholic tradition and lived Gospel values and are enhanced by the celebration of liturgy, sacrament, and prayer. They further the children's knowledge and practice of their faith and guide them to serve others through the use of their gifts and talents. They foster a safe and secure environment in which the children can grow.

Catholic elementary schools are child-centered and are committed to providing strong academic and developmental programs which enable children to meet the challenges of living in an ever changing racially and culturally diverse world. The faculty and staff of these schools are faith-filled, dedicated, knowledgeable and competent in their professions, and strive to meet the individual needs of the children. These schools are sensitive to family issues and encourage parents/guardians to fulfill their role as the first educators of their children.

Archdiocesan Educator Witness Statement

The mission of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is the mission of the Catholic Church: to reveal God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to all people and to teach them about the fullness of His love. "Indeed the primordial mission of the Church is to proclaim God and to be His witness before the world" (General Directory for Catechesis). Catholic education shares in a special way in the Church's mission by proclaiming and witnessing Jesus Christ and His teachings.

Catholic education, which includes education, formation, and transformation, exists in order to evangelize. Two important elements that make up the process of evangelization are proclamation and witness. It is essential, therefore, that those who serve in Catholic education proclaim Jesus Christ, His life and ministry, present the Catholic faith in its fullness and be Christ's witness to the world.

Initially those being evangelized will be attracted to and listen to those who are good witnesses. "The Good News proclaimed by the witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of life" (Evangelii Nuntiandi). Some in Catholic education – religion teachers, PSR catechists, educational and catechetical leaders – are called to be explicit proclaimers of the Word. But all who serve in Catholic education are called to be witnesses to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

All who serve in Catholic education in the parish and school programs of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis will witness by their public behavior, actions, and words a life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Only those persons who can support the Witness Statement are to be employed by pastors, principals, and directors/coordinators of religious education.

All who serve in Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis should be made aware that support of this Witness Statement must be reflected in their public behavior.

All who serve in Catholic education should:

- Believe in God
- Support belief in Jesus Christ
- Engage in prayer
- Respect ecclesiastical authority
- Possess a basic knowledge of the Catholic Church
- Not take a public position contrary to the Catholic Church
- Demonstrate a public life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- If Catholic, have not publicly rejected the Catholic Church
- Be active members of the Catholic Church, or their own Church if not Catholic

The above is a thorough but not all-inclusive listing of the implications of this Witness Statement.

Archdiocesan Parent/Guardian Witness Statement

One of the supreme gifts of marriage is bringing forth new life. God entrusts children to parents/guardians who have a primary right and duty to educate their children in the practice of their faith.

Parents/guardians carry out this responsibility by creating a home full of love, forgiveness, respect, and fidelity. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one honors God and learns moral values. In the rite of the sacrament of baptism, parents/guardians receive the call from God to evangelize their children, as here summarized:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor...You will be the first teachers of your child in the ways of the faith. May you be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No wonder, then, that the Church understands the home to be the domestic church. It is in the intimate environment of the family that parents/guardians are, by word and example, the first heralds of the faith with respect to their children. This environment is enhanced and deepened through the parish Eucharistic community that is the heart of the spiritual life for Christian families.

Catholic schools and parish religious education programs are in partnership with the family in proclaiming and witnessing to the person and life of Jesus Christ. They assist parents/guardians in fulfilling their responsibility as the primary religious educators of their children.

Aware, then, of the dignity of this holy parental call, and with a reverent awe for that responsibility which is mine, I commit myself to be, in word and deed, the first and best teacher of my children in the faith.

Practically, this means I should:

- Regularly participate in the Sunday Eucharist [if not Catholic, regularly participate in worship and prayer] with my family
- Commit to speak more with my child(ren) about God and to include prayer in our daily home life
- Participate in and cooperate with School or Parish School of Religion programs that enable me as a parent to take an active role in the religious education of my children, including sacramental preparation for Catholic children
- Support the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church to ensure consistency between home and school
- Teach my children by word and example to have a love and concern for the needs of others
- Meet my financial responsibilities in supporting the Catholic School

St. Cecilia School and Academy - General Information

Mission

St. Cecilia School and Academy, in partnership with families, provides students an excellent Catholic education where each child can develop spiritually, intellectually, and socially for the glory of God.

Vision

The reason we exist is to educate every student to their full potential as a child of God.

Values

Each of our 5 St. Cecilia Values are rooted in Christ and what kind of person we believe He calls us to be. These values are assessed and show up on our report card as “Habits for Success.”

1. Act with Integrity (Christian Service)
 - a. ability to recognize right from wrong and practice ethical behavior.
2. Embrace Diversity
 - a. ability to recognize and appreciate human differences.
3. Show Empathy
 - a. ability to see the world through others' perspectives and treat others kindly.
4. Practice Self-Discipline
 - a. ability to focus and delay self-gratification.
5. Show Resilience
 - a. ability to persevere in the face of challenges.

St. Cecilia Parent/Guardian Commitment

St. Cecilia School and Academy is in partnership with the family in proclaiming and witnessing to the person and life of Jesus Christ. They assist parents/guardians in fulfilling their responsibility as the primary religious educators of their children. Aware then of this holy calling and responsibility to cooperate with the school, parents/guardians commit to the following:

1. **Praying** with my child and attending Sunday Masses together.
2. Responding to **all communications** from the school—including phone calls, emails, and messages in the app Talking Points— in a timely manner. Read the weekly newsletters from the principal and teachers.
3. Ensure my child has regular **attendance** and is consistently **on time**.
4. Complete 20 service hours including **volunteering for at least one Fish Fry in the Spring**. (The Business Manager will track your hours.)

Failure to cooperate may result in withdrawal from the school or other disciplinary action as determined by the principal.

Governance

St. Cecilia School and Academy is governed by the Archdiocese of St. Louis through the Office of Catholic Education and Formation. The Office of Catholic Education and Formation serves as the chief administrator of the school ensuring the implementation of policies of the Archdiocese pertaining to the academic program, religious education program, and the institutional and financial needs of the school.

St. Cecilia School and Academy has a school-based Development Board that is charged with raising necessary funds to support the spiritual and academic programs of the school.

School/Principal’s Right to Amend the Handbook

St. Cecilia School and Academy or the principal retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause or omitted items at any time. Parents/guardians will be given timely notification when changes are made.

Important Numbers and Information

School Office: 314-353-2455

School Fax: 314-353-2114

2023-2024 St. Cecilia School and Academy Staff

Position	Name	Ext.	Email
Principal	Roth, Emily	1210	eroth@stc-stl.org
Office Manager	Chapa, Sahara	1211	schapa@stc-stl.org
Business Manager	Martinez, Elvin	1108	emartinez@stc-stl.org
Dean of Student, Family & Community Engagement	Dunn-Sarmiento, William	1302	wdunn@stc-stl.org
Nurse	Caskey, Sharon	1212	scaskey@stc-stl.org
Counselor	Reis, Martha	1106	mreis@stc-stl.org
Family Resource Advocate (Social Worker)	Naharros, Paula	1106	pnaharros@stc-stl.org
Graduate Support Director	Garcia, Vivian	1303	vgarcia@stc-stl.org
Graduate Support Counselor	Carranza, Naomi	1301	ncarranza@stc-stl.org
Kindergarten	Guard, Natalie	1204	nguard@stc-stl.org

Kindergarten Instructional Aide	Carrillo, Susana		scarrillo@stc-stl.org
1st Grade	Gaulrapp, Lori	1201	lgaulrapp@stc-stl.org
1st Instructional Aide	Sisley, Shannon		ssisley@stc-stl.org
2nd Grade	Abbarno, Kristen	1202	kabbarno@stc-stl.org
2nd Instructional Aide	Martin-Puertas, Gloria		gmartin-puertas@stc-stl.org
3rd Grade	Wallace, Grace	1203	gwallace@stc-stl.org
Gr 3-5 Instructional Aide	Smith, Jenn		jsmith@stc-stl.org
4th Grade	Ames, Heather	1304	hames@stc-stl.org
5th Grade	Beyer, Georgia	1305	gbeyer@stc-stl.org
6th Grade (writing / math)	Cooper, Jasmine	1306	jcooper@stc-stl.org
7th Grade (science)	Olson, Heather	1307	holson@stc-stl.org
8th Grade (ss / rel)	Cox, Stephen	1308	scox@stc-stl.org
Algebra	Loucks, Ted		tloucks@stc-stl.org
Academy Instructional Aides	Winfrey, Mary Johnston, Kristin		mwinfrey@stc-stl.org kjohnston@stc-stl.org
Music	Jones, Carla	1101	cjones@stc-stl.org
PE	Mueth, Tim	1105	tmueth@stc-stl.org
Art	McCall, Caitlin	1101	cmccall@stc-stl.org
Spanish	Meier, Mary		mmeier@stc-stl.org
STEM Coordinator	Baine, Mia	1205	mbaine@stc-stl.org
Reading Specialist	Blanner, Mary	1207	mblanner@stc-stl.org
Learning Consultant	Johnson, Susan	1207	sjohnson@stc-stl.org
Learning Coach	Flores, Jamie		jflores@stc-stl.org

School Office Hours

From 7:15 a.m. until thirty minutes after dismissal.

Visiting Policy

All parents/guardians, visitors and guests are to ring the call button; someone will help you. Any visitor must report to the office.

St. Cecilia's Educational Program

Class Size

Class size is small to ensure that students receive sufficient individual attention. Classes are generally capped at 25 students.

Curriculum

The curriculum prepares students for acceptance into academically challenging public or private college-preparatory high schools. Strong emphasis is placed on Reading, English/Language Arts, and Mathematics. Other subjects include Religion, the Arts, STEM, Physical Education, Health, Spanish, Science, and Social Studies.

Admissions

All Catholic schools of the St. Louis Archdiocese shall admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at these schools. The schools shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

The principal, with proper consultation with the board, will admit students to the school according to the norms set by the Archdiocesan Board of Education and accepted educational procedure. Cooperation of parents/guardians with their church and school may be important criteria in determining the acceptance for admission. *(Administrator's Manual, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Policy 4100)*

The principal will place new students in the class which best satisfies their needs. Grade placement will be determined by the results of screening tests as well as transcripts from the previous school.

Guidelines

The principal, according to the admission policies established by the board, will register students to the school according to the norms set by the Archdiocesan Board of Education and accepted educational procedures.

The following will be used as a guideline for admitting children to St. Cecilia School & Academy:

- A. For kindergarten enrollment, a child must be five years of age before August 1 to be considered. The school administration will consider enrolling a child with an August birthday early into kindergarten if all the following conditions are met:
 1. The child scores in the top quartile of each area in the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

2. The child attended a licensed pre-school program that can provide records of academic and social performance in that environment.
3. The child receives a positive recommendation for kindergarten from the pre-school teacher.
4. The child is observed and assessed during a visit day, in which the child actively participates in the kindergarten's regular schedule. During this visit, the child is evaluated by the kindergarten teacher and additional staff to determine social and behavioral maturity.

The decision to accept the child for early kindergarten enrollment lies with the school administration in consultation with the kindergarten teacher. It is understood that the school reserves the right to retain the student in kindergarten should the child not perform at adequate kindergarten level academically, socially, and behaviorally by the conclusion of the school year.

- A. The following is the order in which children will be considered for admission;
 1. Siblings of students presently enrolled in St. Cecilia School;
 2. Catholic families registered in St. Cecilia Parish;
 3. Catholic families outside the parish; (These students may be admitted upon mutual agreement between the pastor of the outside parish and the principal of St. Cecilia School)
 4. Non-Catholic families upon the mutual agreement of the director and principal of St. Cecilia School.
- B. A baptismal certificate is required of all new students who were baptized outside St. Cecilia Parish.
- C. A birth certificate is required of all unbaptized students.
- D. The registration process includes:
 1. completion of a registration form;
 2. verification of the date of birth by a review of the birth certificate or baptismal certificate;
 3. verification of the dates of other sacramental celebrations;
 4. verification of custody arrangements in cases in which the parents/guardians of the student are divorced. (A copy of the portion of the divorce decree, which verifies custody arrangements, must be provided.)

Registration Probation Policy

Every new student who registers at St. Cecilia School will be on a probationary period for 6 weeks. During this period, the student's behavior and academic progress will be observed. If, at the end of this period the student does not seem to be having his/her academic needs met, if his/her behavior is not suitable to the learning environment here at St. Cecilia, a conference will be held to include administration, the faculty members involved, the parents/guardians, and possibly the student. At this conference it will be determined whether or not the student will remain at St. Cecilia's. The purpose of this policy is to meet the needs of the whole child and school community.

If a student is unable to progress in our school curriculum because of a physical, emotional or learning disability, after a probationary period, a conference will be held with the parents/guardians to explore the educational resources of the school and/or St. Louis area which might better meet the child's individual needs.

Tuition Policy

Prior to final acceptance to St. Cecilia School and Academy for the 2023-2024 school year, all families currently attending St. Cecilia School and Academy need to have their 2022-2023 school year accounts (tuition, cafeteria, aftercare) paid in full.

New families need to have their 2023-2024 registration fees paid in full as well as a completed and approved application file.

Tuition Information

The non-refundable Application Fee for the 2023-2024 is \$50.00 per child.

The tuition rates for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

	Family Rate
One Child	\$4,600
Two Children	\$5,100
Three Children	\$5,600
Four or more Children	\$6,100

Tuition Payments

Monthly tuition payments are due on or before the 20th of each month.

Families can choose from the following options to pay their tuition:

1. Monthly tuition payments are automatically withdrawn from the family bank account on the 20th of each month (ACH).

Families choosing this option will pay tuition over **10 months:**
July 2023 through April 2024

2. Monthly tuition payments using a Credit Card on the 20th of each month.

Families choosing this option will pay tuition over **10 months:**
July 2023 through April 2024

3. Monthly tuition payments through the school office or the rectory office on the 20th of each month.

Families choosing this option will pay tuition over **9 months:**
August 2023 through April 2024

Payments can be made in the form of a Personal Check, Money Order, Credit Card, or Cash.

Tuition payments in the form of cash, credit card, money order, or personal checks may be made in the school office.

Families can choose to make one tuition payment to the school. Families choosing to pay tuition **in full** must do so by **August 20, 2023**.

Families will receive monthly tuition statements via US Mail indicating their tuition balance and current amount due. Statements will be mailed by the 10th of each month.

Past Due Tuition

Families may experience a loss of enrollment status at 30 days past due on tuition payments. Children may not be permitted to attend school until the tuition account is current.

Withdrawing from School

Families who transfer from St. Cecilia School and Academy before the conclusion of the school year are responsible for tuition payments for all full months attended (enrollment for at least five school days in a month will count as a full month).

Families who have paid in full at the start of the school year will be refunded for all full months not attended.

All other fees are neither refundable nor prorated.

Special Note:

Parents/Guardians should be aware of the expense in operating a school and in providing their children with a quality, Catholic education.

Families need to accept the financial responsibility that education involves.

In situations where there are unforeseen financial difficulties in the family, it is the parents'/guardians' obligation to notify **Elvin Martinez at (314) 353-2455 X 1108**.

A financial review committee will work with willing families in developing a fair and equitable solution in meeting their responsibilities to the school.

Aftercare

The cost of aftercare is \$250 per student for the 2023-2024 school year.

Attendance

School hours are from 7:45 AM to 3:00 PM. School lets out on half days at 12:00 PM.

Students in St. Cecilia Academy (grades 6-8) are normally dismissed from school at 4:30 PM, Monday to Thursday.

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO ARRIVE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS BEFORE 6:30 AM. BREAKFAST WILL RUN UNTIL 7:30 AM IN THE CENTENNIAL ROOM.

Absence

Students are considered absent whenever they are away from school during school hours except for school sponsored or school sanctioned activities (e.g., field trips, enrichment, and remedial programs, etc.) Students who must be excused for medical, dental, funeral, illness, or other reasons during school hours are considered absent. For these types of absences, the parent/guardian should call or email the school in advance stating the time, length, and reasons for absence.

Chronic or excessive absences without substantial cause can be a factor in determining a student's continued enrollment in the school.

Regular attendance is an asset to a student's academic progress. Only illness or a family emergency should prevent attendance or cause tardiness. A child who is sick with a fever or virus should remain home where special care can be given. Students should not be given medicine and sent to school. In the event of an absence, please notify the school by 8:00 AM. Parents/guardians who do not notify the school will be contacted by the office by 9:00 AM.

Unless there are unusual circumstances, four or more absences in one quarter is considered excessive. The family may be reported to the Division of Family Services (DFS) for the State of Missouri. A doctor's note is required for an extended illness of 3 days out of school. Additional consequences include but are not limited to retention or withdrawal for cause.

If a child becomes ill during the school day, the parents/guardians will be notified and the child is to be picked up. Please call the office if any of the emergency contact numbers change.

Truancy

A student is truant if he/she is absent from school for a day or portion of the day without the knowledge and/or consent of the parent/guardian and school officials. Truancy should be considered a serious offense. Consequences could include conferences with parent/guardian and probationary status. Repeated truanancies could result in dismissal.

Tardiness

A student who arrives after 7:45 AM is considered tardy and must report to the office to record attendance with office staff.

Unless there are unusual circumstances, four or more tardies in one quarter is considered excessive. The family may be reported to the Division of Family Services (DFS) for the State of Missouri. Additional consequences include but are not limited to retention or withdrawal for cause.

Homeroom teachers will communicate with families when tardies and/or absences become a concern. For excessive excused or unexcused tardiness and/or absences, the principal will hold a conference with the family to correct the situation.

Release of Students from School

A written request (email or note) or phone call from a parent/guardian is required for a student to leave school before the time of dismissal. The request must be presented the day before if possible. (In case of an emergency, a telephone call will suffice.)

When the parent/guardian comes to pick up the child he/she must come to the office and sign them out. Parents/family members are never to go to the classroom first. No child will be dismissed early without the signed release from the parent/guardian or a person designated by the parent.

Under normal circumstances a parent/guardian should not arrive at school and request to take the child out of school without contacting the office beforehand.

Release from School Due to Illness

A student is permitted to leave the school premises for illness only after the school has contacted the parent/guardian. Students may not call parents/guardians from their cell phones to have them picked up. They must go to the office and call from there. Records containing the names of persons to contact if a parent/guardian cannot be reached should be kept on file. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation for the student to leave.

The school administration has the responsibility to send home any student who shows signs of carrying a communicable disease. The student may be readmitted upon written verification from a qualified health care professional that the student is not carrying a disease or that the student's presence does not constitute a threat to the health of others.

Children with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater will be sent home. ***We ask that you keep the child home until the fever is gone for 24 hours.***

It is the child's responsibility to make up for missed work. Teachers are not obligated to provide homework ahead of time for students who are going on vacation, etc. We strongly recommend that families ***not*** take vacations during school days. Homework will be made up when the child returns to school.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment is a method of providing courses and programs to a student that the school itself cannot provide due to staffing and/or finances. Missouri state law also allows Catholic school students to be

dually enrolled in public schools in order to participate in specialized programs or to receive special education or remedial reading and mathematics services.

Conduct

The essence of Christian discipline is formation in virtue. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.” (CCC 1803)

St. Cecilia students are expected to learn and practice the following core values:

Resilience	Ability to persevere in the face of challenges.
Diversity	Ability to recognize and appreciate human differences.
Integrity	Ability to recognize right from wrong and practice ethical behavior.
Empathy	Ability to see the world through others' perspectives and treat others kindly.
Self-Discipline	Ability to focus and delay self-gratification.

Some goals for a “Positive School Climate & Culture” at St. Cecilia are to:

- 1. Promote virtuous practices
- 2. Repair and restore relationships

When harm occurs, we seek to restore equity, repair harm to property, and restore relationships to guarantee a better future. There may be times when harm to students, staff, and the community is significant, and restoration is not possible. Such cases require special attention, and solutions may require time away from the school community depending on the gravity of the situation.



St. Cecilia Behavior Guide for a Positive School Climate & Culture

Level 1: Disruptive	Level 2: Disrespectful	Level 3: Dangerous (In school or out of school suspension or expulsion)
Acting out behaviors	Habitual disruptive behavior	Verbal or physical aggression
Out of seat	Profanity, abusive language, obscene gesture	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco
Task avoidance behaviors		
Talking	Defiance, insubordination	Threats of harm/Harassment
Dress code violation	Property damage/Vandalism	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Coming unprepared for class (missing materials, abusing bathroom privilege, etc.)	Theft	Fight
	Inappropriate use of technology	Weapon
Name-calling	Cheating, plagiarism	Racist behavior
Incomplete work	Throwing/Kicking objects	Property damage/Vandalism
Eating/Chewing gum	Public display of affection	Theft
Late for class	Skipping class	
Etc.	Etc.	Etc.

Teacher Responses

Clarify expectations, provide written directions on board	Referral to office (use Google form)	Contact office immediately
Establish routines	For repeated disruptive behavior, referral must include interventions from disruptive column (otherwise, referral will be returned to teacher for appropriate intervention)	Document facts and witnesses in writing (on Teacherease)
Praise appropriate behaviors		
Private conversation, separate individual from audience		
Proximity control		
Change seats		
Move student(s) to another space in room or another room, if possible		
Remove distracting objects		
Parent phone call		
Restoration of harm (teacher facilitates process with students involved)	Restoration of harm	Restoration of harm
Reflection sheet		
Positive notes home (Talking Point messages, actual paper note, etc.)		

Minor Infractions

Examples of minor infractions include but are not limited to:

- Behaviors listed above in the yellow column (Level 1)

Major Violations

Examples of major violations warranting intervention include but are not limited to:

- Bullying
- Dishonesty
- Disrespect to Staff
- Disruptive Conduct or Speech
- Fighting
- Public Display of Affection
- Sexual Harassment/Discrimination

- Technology Misconduct

Definitions:

Bullying- Intimidation, harassment, and attacks on a student or multiple students. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical violence, verbal taunts, name-calling, put-downs, threats, theft, damaging property, cyber-bullying, and exclusion from a peer group.

Dishonesty- Any act of lying, whether verbal or written, including forgery

Disrespect to Staff- Willful or continued willful disobedience of a request by St. Cecilia staff or disrespectful verbal, written, pictorial, or symbolic language or gesture that is directed at a staff member and that is rude, vulgar, defiant, or considered inappropriate in educational settings.

Disruptive Conduct or Speech- Verbal, written, pictorial, or symbolic language or gesture that is directed at any person that is disrespectful, rude, vulgar, defiant, or substantially disrupts classroom work or school activities.

Fighting- Mutual combat in which both parties have contributed to the conflict either verbally or by physical action.

Public Display of Affection- Physical contact that is inappropriate for the school setting including, but not limited to, hand holding, hugging, and kissing.

Sexual Harassment/Discrimination- Use of unwelcome verbal, written, or symbolic language based on gender or of sexual nature as well as unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature. Examples include sexual jokes or comments as well as inappropriate touching of private areas.

Technology Misconduct- Inappropriate electronic conduct, using cellular phones or personal and school owned devices.

Consequences

Examples of consequences include but are not limited to:

- Parent/guardian phone call or note home
- Parent/guardian Conference
- Recess or Lunch Reflection
- Loss of privilege (sports practice, game, field trip, or enrichment class)
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Probation
- Behavior Contract
- Withdrawal for Cause

Suspension

Suspension is the removal of a student from all classes for a specified period of time. The decision to use suspension as a disciplinary action is made by the school principal in consultation with the appropriate supervisors.

In-School Suspension

In-School Suspension requires the student to be present in school, and spend the day under the supervision of a teacher other than the homeroom teacher. The student's grade level teachers will assign schoolwork.

If misbehavior occurs while the student is serving an in-school suspension, the parents/guardians will be called to come get the student for the remainder of the suspension.

The principal will make the final decision in the suspension of a student and will decide the length of time of the suspension. Parents/guardians will be notified at that time. An out of school suspension may be an alternative choice for the principal.

Out-of-School Suspension

There may be times when a student should be removed from the school for a period of time. Suspension is a serious form of discipline and will be used only when other procedures to correct misbehavior fail, or when the action is of a serious nature and warrants immediate removal for a time.

Some of the more serious actions that would warrant out-of- school suspensions are:

- Fighting of a serious nature, that includes hitting and kicking
- Verbal or physical abuse of a staff member

If the principal determines that suspension is necessary, the parents/guardians will be contacted and informed of the decision. The principal may require that professional assistance beyond the resources of the school be sought for the student before readmission.

Probation

Probation is the continued enrollment of a student, but with specified conditions. The decision to use probation as a disciplinary action is made by the school principal in consultation with appropriate supervisors. The student on probation may be asked to enter into a contract to ensure the student's continued success at the school. In addition, the student may be referred to the Student Support Team, school counselor, or another appropriate professional within the school setting for intervention.

Withdrawal for Cause

Withdrawal for cause is the permanent end of enrollment of a student from a school. Ordinarily a student would not be subject to withdrawal for cause unless there has been a period of suspension or formal probation and the consequences of further infractions clearly communicated to both

student and parents/guardians. A student may also be subject to withdrawal for cause as the result of a single, extremely serious conduct violation or action contrary to the mission and purpose of a Catholic school.

The decision of withdrawal for cause is made at the local level by the principal after consultation with appropriate supervisors. This decision should only be considered when withdrawal for cause is appropriate to reflect the serious nature of the conduct, and must be undertaken with the utmost Christian charity, caution and prudence.

Some of the grave actions that could warrant withdrawal for cause are:

- Possession of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or weapon;
- Failure to comply with contractual agreement;
- Verbal and physical threats against the safety of students, staff and school;
- Bringing any object to school that presents a potential danger to the safety of the students, faculty and/or staff

Tobacco

As an educational institution dedicated to the promotion of the growth and well-being of every aspect of a student's life, St. Cecilia prohibits tobacco use at all times.

Drug, Alcohol & Substance Use and Abuse

The use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs poses a threat to the health of young people and creates an obstacle to their full development as Christian persons. In addition, under present federal and state laws, the possession and use of certain un-prescribed drugs including but not limited to electronic cigarettes, narcotics, depressants, stimulants, marijuana, and hallucinogenic drugs are illegal.

Therefore, the possession, use, or transfer of un-prescribed or illegal drugs, or the use, possession of, or being under the influence of alcohol on the school premises or at school sponsored functions are not permitted. Students violating this policy will be subject to suspension and/or withdrawal for cause from school. In addition, civil authorities may become involved.

Violence and Threat of Violence

Catholic schools shall provide a safe learning environment for all members of the school community. The climate of Catholic schools shall reflect Gospel values including an emphasis on the dignity of all persons which is necessary for respect, the interdependence of all persons that is the basis of community, and the rights and responsibilities of all persons which are the foundation of justice.

Violence is inconsistent with the unity and peace which are essential to living the Catholic faith in community. Violence also inhibits human development and successful learning. Therefore, violence is not tolerated in Catholic schools.

Violence consists of words, gestures, and actions that result in or have the potential to result in hurt, fear, or injury. Violence includes threats of injury, harassment; assault, possession, and/or use of a weapon; and theft or vandalism of property.

A weapon is anything used or intended to be used to threaten, intimidate, and/or harm persons. The possession or use of firearms, other weapons, or explosive devices on school/parish premises is not permitted.

All reported or observed instances of threatened or actual violence must be addressed by the school administration. Appropriate actions may include parent/guardian conferences, mandatory counseling, suspension, withdrawal for cause, and police intervention, depending on the severity of the incident.

Harassment

Catholic schools shall maintain a learning environment that is free from all forms of harassment. No student in the school shall be subjected to any type of harassment. Catholic schools forbid harassment because it is not in keeping with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and the standards of its programs.

Harassment is defined as any unwanted and unwelcome behavior that interferes with a student's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. Harassment includes conduct that is verbal, physical or visual.

Each Catholic school investigates every harassment complaint thoroughly and promptly. All investigations will be conducted in a sensitive manner and, to the extent feasible, confidentiality will be honored. The investigations and all actions taken will be shared only with those who have a need to know.

If, after investigation, the school determines that a student has engaged in sexual or other forms of harassment, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and withdrawal for cause, will be taken.

Internet and Electronic Communications Conduct

A safe environment for all members of the school community should be a hallmark of a Catholic school. This is accomplished, in part, by fostering a climate based on Gospel values that emphasize the dignity of and respect for all persons. Words, actions, or depictions which violate the privacy, safety, or good name of others are inconsistent with that goal. Whether occurring within or outside of school, when students jeopardize the safe environment or act contrary to those Gospel values they can be subject to disciplinary action by the school.

This policy applies to communications or depictions through e-mail, text messages, or web site postings, whether they occur through the school's equipment or connectivity resources or through private communications, which: (1) are of a sexual nature; (2) threaten, libel, slander, malign, disparage, harass or embarrass members of the school community or (3) in the principal's

discretion, cause harm to the school, or the school community (collectively referred to as “Inappropriate Electronic Conduct”). **Inappropriate Electronic Conduct shall be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences, including withdrawal for cause.**

Cell Phones

Students in grades kindergarten through grade 5 may NOT bring a cell phone to school.

Students in grades 6-8 may use their phones only during certain times: arrival (before going to classrooms at 7:30), lunch & recess, and dismissal. At all other times, cell phones must remain in their backpacks. If students are using or displaying cell phones during the school day, their phone will be taken from them, and a parent/guardian must pick up the phone from the school office the next day.

There is zero-tolerance for cell phones being brought into the bathrooms. If a phone is brought into the bathroom, the grade 6-8 student will not be able to bring their phone to school anymore.

Sadly, cell phones and text messaging are sometimes used for the teasing or bullying of other students. If a cell phone is confiscated from a student or if the administration is investigating an incident of cyber bullying, we may require access to a student’s call log, text messaging inbox, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or other social networking accounts. In this case, students are required to comply with administrator’s requests.

We encourage all families to set healthy limits on their children’s cell phone use.

Student Personal Items

Personal items (toys, video games, etc) should not be brought to school unless requested by the teacher.

Search and Seizure

Lockers, desks, etc. are school property provided to students for their use and are subject to search by school officials with proper and sufficient reason.

With good reason, school officials could request that a student empty the contents of pockets, purse or backpack. If the student refuses, disciplinary action such as suspension could be taken based on that refusal.

The school may use this method of search and may employ it without prior notice to students or parents/guardians.

Dress and Grooming

Students are expected to dress and present an appearance consistent with standards of good taste and appropriate for school and school events. Any dress or wearing of insignia which conveys the image of gang membership, supports the beliefs of hate groups, makes sexual innuendos, or promotes drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is inappropriate for school and will not be allowed. In

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addition, immodest dress such as tight, short, or skimpy apparel should not be worn. Students dressed immodestly will be asked to change clothes and parents/guardians notified.

Uniforms and Dress Code

The clothes worn to school are to be neat and clean at all times. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to see that a child is in the proper uniform. If, due to an emergency, the uniform is not wearable, a written note must be given to the teacher and the child can look in the used uniform closet to see if they can borrow something for the day.

We work with St. Louis Sportswear and their representative Dan W. Eagan www.stlsportswear.com; if you need to order something, please use the blue form located in the office.

Please remember that students from K-5 and Academy (6-8) have different uniforms.

<p><u>K-5 Boys</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khaki or navy blue pants ● Khaki or navy blue shorts ● Light blue, navy blue, or white polo shirt ● Any St. Cecilia t-shirt or sweatshirt ● All-navy blue sweater or sweatshirt ● St. Cecilia shorts or sweatpants ● White oxford shirt 	<p><u>6-8 Boys</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khaki or navy blue pants ● Khaki or navy blue shorts ● Navy blue polo shirt with logo ● Light blue, navy blue, or white polo shirt ● Any St. Cecilia t-shirt or sweatshirt, including the maroon Academy sweatshirt ● All-navy blue sweater or sweatshirt ● St. Cecilia shorts or sweatpants ● White oxford shirt
<p><u>K-5 Girls</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Cecilia plaid jumper ● St. Cecilia plaid, navy, or khaki skirt ● Khaki or navy blue pants ● Khaki or navy blue shorts ● Light blue, navy blue, or white polo shirt ● Any St. Cecilia t-shirt or sweatshirt ● All-navy blue sweater or sweatshirt ● St. Cecilia shorts or sweatpants ● White oxford shirt or blouse 	<p><u>6-8 Girls</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Cecilia plaid, navy, or khaki skirt ● Khaki or Navy blue pants ● Khaki or Navy blue shorts ● Navy blue polo shirt with logo ● Light blue, navy blue, or white polo shirt ● Any St. Cecilia t-shirt or sweatshirt, including the maroon Academy sweatshirt ● All-navy blue sweater or sweatshirt ● St. Cecilia shorts or sweatpants ● White oxford shirt or blouse

Jumpers and Skirts

All jumpers and skirts should be hemmed no more than 2 inches above the knee. Rolling of the waistband is not allowed.

Yoga Pants and Sweatpants

No yoga pants are allowed. Only sweatpants with the St. Cecilia logo are allowed. It is strongly encouraged that sweatpants are not worn on Mass days.

Shirts/Blouses

Shirts/blouses should be clean. Plain white t-shirts can be worn under the school shirts. No colors or print/logos can show through.

Tights/Leggings

Girls may wear navy, black or white tights or leggings under their skirt during colder weather. No prints or other color leggings or tights are allowed. ***Leggings should not be worn as pants on dress down days.***

Shoes

Students may wear the following:

- Black or brown dress shoes
- Tennis shoes (*must* be worn on P.E. days)

The following shoes are NOT permitted:

- Shoes with wheels
- Crocs
- Flip-flops, sandals, and open-toed shoes
- Shoes with no backs
- Slippers
- Boots (unless it is snowing or raining)

Sweaters/Sweatshirts

Students may wear navy blue sweaters or sweatshirts with the St. Cecilia school logo or a plain navy sweater. No other sweaters or sweatshirts are allowed. Academy (grades 6-8) students have the option to wear a sweatshirt with a high school or college name.

Cosmetics

Girls are to have clean, unadorned skin. No cosmetics are permitted. This includes, but is not exclusive to makeup, glitter or sparkles, lipstick. Artificial nails are not allowed. Painted nails are permitted.

PE Uniform

There is not a PE uniform. Girls may remove their jumpers if they have shorts on underneath for PE class. Students in grades 5-8 may bring an extra uniform shirt to change into after PE. Tennis shoes must be worn on PE days.

Dress Down Days

From time to time, students are allowed to dress out of uniform. Yoga pants are still not allowed, nor are jeans that have holes above the knee. Modest clothing must be worn.

These days may include:

- “Golden Harp” Class Recipients
- Birthdays
Students may dress out of uniform on their birthday. If their birthday falls on a weekend, they may dress out on the Monday following their birthday.

Health

Our health program is under the supervision of the St. Louis Department of Health. We employ a school nurse.

Physical Examination of Students

A complete physical examination is required when entering kindergarten (within 6 months), grade 3, grade 6, and when enrolling in the school for the first time. Established health records from a previous school are accepted when a student enters St. Cecilia School. The physical examination may be performed by your family practitioner or by a local medical clinic. Forms for this purpose are available in the office. Students may be held out of school until the exam is completed and the form turned into the office.

The following health programs are offered at St. Cecilia:

- Immunization Survey of Missouri State Health Department
- Establishment of Health Records
- Visual screening - first grade on teacher recommendation and grades 2-8
- Height and weight check - all grades
- Audiometric screening - all grades

By law, children may not be admitted to school if their immunizations are not up to date.

Administration of Medication

Ideally, all medication should be given at home. However, some students are able to attend school because of the effectiveness of medication in the treatment of chronic illnesses or disabilities. If a student requires prescribed medication during the school day, the following must be in place:

1. The direct order/consent of a licensed physician, licensed physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner (Appendix 8: Physician Consent for Medication Administration), signed and properly filed with the school. (The current prescription label on the container may serve as a physician’s order and physician’s orders may be faxed or mailed to the school.);

2. Written consent of the parent/guardian for school personnel to administer the medication (Appendix 9: Parental Consent for Medication Administration to their Child);
3. the medication in the original container;
4. Proper training of personnel on medication administration.

All medication sent to the school must be secured in a locked cabinet under the supervision of the administration. Students may not carry medication on their person. A trained staff member must be assigned to administer medication. Proper documentation must be kept on every dose given.

Students with Significant Medical Conditions

A student enrolled in a Catholic school who has a significant or potentially life threatening medical condition may require special consideration. Schools should take steps to obtain the information necessary to understand the condition, its manifestations in the school setting, and any specific adjustments or plans for an emergency response which may be necessary in order to provide the student with a healthy and safe environment.

Supervision

Various factors determine the standard of supervision required of students, including their age, mental and physical functioning level, and the setting. Schools have the responsibility for providing appropriate supervision of students before and after school, as well as throughout the school day at school or on school-sponsored events off campus. Schools can be found negligent if they do not take proper measures and have failed to provide appropriate supervision of students in various settings on school property and at school functions. Proper measures to provide appropriate supervision include:

Aftercare

After school care is provided from 3:00PM to 6:00PM in the school building. In addition, Aftercare is provided from 12:00PM-6:00PM on half days. The purpose of Aftercare is to provide St. Cecilia students with continued enriching education after school hours. Aftercare takes place in the Centennial Room on the first floor of the school building and other rooms as determined by the Aftercare staff. Any students not picked up before 3:10PM will be admitted to Aftercare and must be signed out by a parent/guardian. Aftercare is an additional cost of \$250 per child for the year. The same disciplinary policies and procedures during the school day apply to Aftercare. Students who create disruptions to this enriching opportunity may be placed on a probationary leave. To ensure the safety of students and maintain the proper adult to child ratio, only students who have registered for aftercare may stay.

Dismissal Procedures

Regular Dismissals

Parents/guardians may line up around the parking lot circle beginning at 2:55PM (4:30PM for Academy dismissal). Parents/guardians may also park on adjacent streets. Students will only be released to a parent/guardian parked on the circle or to a parent/guardian who comes to retrieve

his/her child from the teacher. Children in grades k-5 will not be allowed to cross the street without a parent/guardian. Students in grades 6-8 may walk home if there is a written note on file from the parent/guardian.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Parents/guardians must abide by drop off and pick-up times. Failure to do so may result in reasonable action as determined by school officials. This may include, but is not limited to: fines, meetings, or request for transfer of students.

Questioning of Students

Except at the direction of a caseworker from the Division of Family Services, no minor student should be questioned by law enforcement authorities or officials of other public agencies unless a school administrator is present. Every effort should be made to contact parents/guardians and provide them the opportunity to be present.

Media and the School

Members of the media should be on school property only as invited guests, and should not be allowed to interview students on matters unrelated to the purpose for which they were invited.

School and Parent/Guardian Communication

A school will not distribute information to parents/guardians or students in any form about programs, products, or services which are available from sources other than the school, parish, or other Catholic agency, or with whom the school has a formal contract. This includes programs which are offered by individual parents/guardians or parishioners, but are not formally sanctioned by the parish or school.

Thursday e-Newsletters Home

The principal will send a weekly newsletter home by email on Thursdays with important information for the community.

Padrinos Group

The Padrinos group is a Parent/Guardian organization that holds meetings and other activities during the school year; your support and attendance are greatly appreciated! The purpose of the parent group is to support the students and the school in any way they can. Meetings are typically held on the last Thursday of every month from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Staff Lounge and will be determined by the group. Interested parents/guardians may contact the office for more information.

Parent/Guardian Community Hours

In an effort to build community among parents/guardians, teachers, and students, parents/guardians must complete 20 hours of service. Hours of service will be tracked by the Office Manager. Opportunities to serve the community include: working at school fundraisers such as the Fish Fries, helping in the kitchen during breakfast or lunch, attending educational

evening events, and more. **All families are expected to volunteer for at least one Fish Fry in the Spring.**

Inclement Weather Notifications

When it is necessary to close school because of inclement weather conditions, it will be announced on the following radio/TV stations:

- KSDK-CHANNEL 5 TV
- KMOV- CHANNEL 4 TV

Phone & Text Blasts

Parents/guardians will be reminded and notified of important dates and information via an automated calling and texting system. On inclement weather days, families will receive a phone call and text message. Please keep updated contact information in the office so you can receive these important messages.

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences

Parent/Guardian-Teacher conferences occur twice a year. These are valuable check-in times for families and allow an opportunity to discuss your child's progress. These meetings are mandatory for all families. Conferences will take place in September and March.

Mailing Lists

Names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of students and their parents/guardians should not be released to any unauthorized persons or agencies, especially to salespersons or commercial enterprises. Elementary schools should not provide lists of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of students and/or their parents/guardians to other schools, including Catholic high schools.

Schools should not make available on the school website any information that enables students to be identified individually by names and photographs. This includes information about students that appears in school newsletters which are posted on the school's web site.

Student Progress

Grade Classification

The normal progression through elementary school is nine years; with a student being classified in grades kindergarten through grade eight in successive years.

Grades Kindergarten through 5

These grade levels have self-contained classes with the exception of STEM, Art, Music, Health, Spanish, and Physical Education.

Grades 6 through 8: St. Cecilia Academy

Middle school students participate in a mandatory extended school day and school year provided by Access Academy. On Mondays-Thursdays for the majority of the year, students are in session

from 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM. During this time they receive an intense high school preparatory curriculum that readies them for the rigors of secondary education. Their school year includes a mandatory summer program during the month of June. St. Cecilia's goal is for all students to gain acceptance to the best high schools in St. Louis, graduate and pursue a college education.

In addition, graduates of St. Cecilia Academy receive academic and financial support throughout high school. Students are expected to have completed all of their work to receive a grade [no Insufficient Evidence (IE) can be on the report card], attend mandatory meetings, and perform hours of service for St. Cecilia each year. In return, students and their families receive guidance and financial aid during their high school years. This includes scholarship money, ACT preparation classes, regular visits, homework help, college visits, and more.

Assessment

Assessments provide an evaluation of the progress of individual students in learning the curriculum. The results of assessments provide valuable information that should be used in the evaluation and redesign of the curriculum and in making adjustments to instructional planning in order to achieve the school's educational mission and to enable students to learn to the maximum extent possible.

Grade Reports

Grade reports are issued at the end of each grading period to inform students and parents/guardians of progress. Ordinarily the academic year is divided into three trimester grading periods. The report is a teacher tool for communicating to parents/guardians how the child is performing in different subject areas. Progress reports are sent home during the middle of each trimester. These will be sent home for all students. These reports are not intended to be an additional report card but merely a check-in to know if there are any areas of concern for your child.

Conferences

There will be parent/guardian conferences with teachers twice a year. We require all families to attend these conferences, as this partnership with home allows us to share your child's progress and allow for more success.

Grading

Standards-Based Grading Report Card Indicators

Academic Achievement Indicators:	Habits for Success Indicators:
4: Exemplary 3: Proficient 2: Developing 1: Emerging IE: Insufficient Evidence NG: No Grade (this standard was not taught or assessed during that trimester)	C: Consistently (most of the time) O: Occasionally (sometimes) R: Rarely

Habits for Success

I am empathetic	I am self-disciplined	I act with integrity	I embrace diversity	I am resilient
-Listens actively -Communicates positively with other students and adults	-Uses time effectively -Participates in class discussions -Follows rules & expectations -Makes proactive choices	-Accepts responsibility for actions -Acts with respect for others	-Demonstrates acceptance of multiple perspectives -Respects the individuality of others	-Resolves conflicts and/or problems in an appropriate manner -Willingness to keep trying and persevere -Asks questions or seeks help when needed

Outstanding Achievement

Students in grades 6-8 can be recognized with the following growth in their iReady test scores (as calculated from baseline score in iReady) every trimester:

- Trimester 1: has met 33% of their Typical Annual Growth Goal
- Trimester 2: has met 66% of their Typical Annual Growth Goal
- Trimester 3: has met 100% of their Typical Annual Growth Goal

Students who meet their Annual Stretch Growth Goal will be recognized at the end of the school year.

Reporting Student Conduct

Teachers communicate regularly with parents/guardians regarding student conduct through the Talking Points app, phone calls, and/or emails. In addition, conduct grades (“Habits for Success”) are included with report cards and progress reports.

Withholding Report of Student Progress

The school may withhold reports of student progress if obligations (financial or otherwise) of the parents/guardians have not been fulfilled. This includes payment of tuition or completion of service hours.

Promotion

Students are promoted to the next grade upon satisfactory completion of the required academic work for the current grade level.

Any students with an “Insufficient Evidence” (IE) on their report card at the end of the year will be required to complete a summer school class, approved by the school. Decisions of promotion and retention are made by the principal in collaboration with appropriate teaching staff.

Retention

Students may be retained in the current grade level if they have not shown sufficient progress in the concepts and skills to be successful at the next grade level.

Graduation

To graduate from a Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a student must have successfully completed the minimum academic and religious requirements of the school; maintained a satisfactory attendance record as defined by the school; demonstrated satisfactory conduct; and completed all financial obligations.

In order to graduate, students in 8th grade must have no Insufficient Evidence (IE) grades for the school year. If they do, students will not be allowed to participate in graduation activities, and must make up the work through a program approved by the principal in order to receive their diploma.

Financial Requirements

Payment in full must be made for all financial obligations to the school before the day of graduation. Within the 10 days prior to graduation, the local administration has the right to require a specific method of payment.

If a student at the time of graduation has a balance due to his/her account, the certificate of graduation, report cards, and cumulative record will not be issued until the account has been settled.

St. Cecilia will not release student records to other schools, institutions, agencies, or individuals if there is an unpaid tuition balance.

Student Records

The school administration shall maintain and supervise the active and inactive files of the students ensuring that all records are accurate, complete, and available.

Access by Parents

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect and review the official active file of their children. A copy of report cards is available to all parents/guardians at any time. In order to view the permanent record, the parent/guardian must make an appointment with appropriate school personnel.

Access by Others

The right of school personnel to access the records of students is limited to those who have a legitimate purpose for the information the record contains. In addition, the person must also have a professional responsibility for a specific individual student or a clearly identified group of students. This includes teachers, guidance counselors, administrators, and special education personnel.

Transfer of Records

There is no release of student records to other schools, institutions, agencies, or individuals without the prior written consent of a parent/guardian, or the former student if age eighteen years or older. Records are not released to parents/guardians or students but are transferred directly from the school to the institution designated to receive them.

Guidance Information

School guidance counselors have the need to obtain information and record anecdotal notes about individual students with whom they meet, and to maintain that information during the period of the student's enrollment at the school. These are kept in a professional manner, and in a format which allows the information and the date obtained to be readily identified and understood.

Release of Student Discipline Information

Some student discipline information is not part of a student's cumulative or permanent record file, and as such, is not included when parents/guardians authorize information to be provided to another school or agency. Severe behaviors are required to be part of the permanent record but minor incidents are at the discretion of the principal.

Instruction

The curriculum of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of St. Louis consists of what the schools intend for the students to learn and the teachers to teach. Curriculum documents describe what students should know, be able to do, believe, and value. The curriculum engages students in

acquiring the key concepts and skills of the major domains of human knowledge appropriate to the age-levels of the students. The curriculum of the Catholic schools gives prominence to the six fundamental tasks presented in the General Directory for Catechesis (1997): promoting knowledge of the faith, liturgical education, moral formation, teaching to pray, education for community life, and missionary initiation.

Curriculum

Subject Areas

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Religion | 6. Music |
| 2. English Language Arts - Reading & Writing | 7. Physical Education & Health* |
| 3. Math | 8. STEM |
| 4. Social Studies | 9. Art |
| 5. Science | 10. Spanish |

*Human sexuality and drug education are incorporated in the Health curriculum.

Extracurricular Activities

All extracurricular activities (outside of school hours) must be approved by the principal. These activities must have an evident educational purpose. The purpose of the activity and the requirements for participation must be clearly defined. A member of the faculty or a qualified/responsible adult should act as moderator of the activity and should be present at all times during the activity. Parents/guardians permission must be obtained for a student to participate in extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular Activities: Student Publications

Student publications must be the work of students under the leadership and careful supervision of faculty. These publications (print and electronic) should meet the requirements of good journalism and should reflect the Catholic philosophy and mission of the school.

Extracurricular Activities: Sportsmanship

Catholic schools should strive to be exemplary models of Christian behavior and sportsmanship in all athletic events. Administrators, coaches, and moderators should consistently model and emphasize the importance of Christian behavior & sportsmanship and should frequently emphasize its importance to participants and spectators, including parents/guardians and other fans.

Interscholastic activities should foster good relationships between schools. Students represent their school when participating in or attending interscholastic events. Breaches of Christian behavior and sportsmanship should be addressed promptly and appropriately.

Field Trips

Field trips are planned by the faculty and are of an educational nature. They are privileges afforded to the students and can be denied if the student fails to meet academic or behavioral requirements. Parental/guardian permission is required before a student may participate in a field

trip; a physical form will be sent home for a parent/guardian signature and must be on file at least 24 hours before the field trip. A phone call from a parent/guardian may not be substituted.

Homework

K-5

Student homework in grades k-5 will consist of what is not completed in class and assigned on an individual basis from the teacher. It is a schoolwide expectation that students read every night for at least 20 minutes.

Parents/guardians looking for additional homework can reach out to the teacher for suggested resources.

Academy (6-8)

Student homework in grades 6-8 will consist of what is not completed in class and assigned on an individual basis from the teacher. It is a schoolwide expectation that students read every night for at least 20 minutes.

Parents/guardians looking for additional homework can reach out to the teacher for suggested resources.

Religious Activities

In carrying out the philosophy of St. Cecilia School as stated earlier in this handbook, "... St. Cecilia School is a Catholic Elementary School helping to prepare its students to proclaim the Good News which Jesus taught and to translate it into action..." the faculty and students participate in the following religious activities:

- Weekly attendance at Mass
- Daily religious instruction and daily prayer (required of non-Catholics also)
- Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist in Grade 2
- Stations of the Cross and Benediction during Lent
- All-school prayer services
- Special sacrifices and prayers for the Missions
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade
- Teaching of designated prayers at each grade level
- Devotions to the Blessed Mother

Testing Program

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten eligible students participate in a screening program (1/2 hour) prior to their entering kindergarten. This measurement (usually administered in May) enables the teacher to identify each child's strengths and weaknesses before school begins, thus being able to better meet individual needs.

Students in grades K-8 take the iReady Reading & Math diagnostic tests four times a year. This year, only students in grades 4, 6, and 8 will take the Iowa Standardized Test. Please check the school calendar for dates.

These tests help identify each student's strengths and opportunities for growth. Again, this helps the teacher to meet the student's needs better. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to keep the test results they receive. This will enable them to chart their child's progress from year to year and/or identify trends and needs.

Counseling, Remedial Services, and Other Tests

Title One remedial services for Math and Reading are available. Students qualify for these services through test scores or teacher recommendation as well as residency. Admittance to this program is based on space.

Testing for academic and behavioral needs is also available. Emotional Disorders, Learning Disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) testing is available through agencies outside of St. Cecilia.

A counselor and social worker are available to the students and their families.

Extended counseling services are available to students and their families through Catholic Family Services as well as other agencies.

Students with Additional Educational Needs

Catholic schools attempt to address the individual learning needs of students to the greatest possible extent within the parameters of the school's financial and human resources. It is important that schools fairly evaluate both students' additional needs and their own capabilities of addressing those needs. The goal of all efforts to address students' additional learning needs should be successful mastery of the typical curriculum in the typical setting.

Federal legislation prohibits schools from excluding otherwise qualified students who have disabilities, solely on the basis of their disability, if, with minor adjustments, the school could provide that student with an appropriate education. In the event that a school cannot meet a particular student's additional learning needs with minor adjustments, the school should assist the family in finding appropriate alternatives so that the student's needs are ultimately met.

Transportation of Students

St. Cecilia will take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of students when they are being transported for educational field trips, athletic events, and other off-campus school activities.

Whenever possible, St. Cecilia will use bus transportation by an insured carrier for off-campus school sanctioned events. There are circumstances for which a school administrator may determine that transportation in private passenger vehicles is appropriate. These could include the small number of students involved in an activity and the cost of commercial transportation. If a private passenger vehicle must be used, the following criteria are recommended:

1. Drivers must have a valid, non-probationary driver's license and no physical disability that may impair the ability to drive safely;
2. The vehicle should have a valid registration and meet state safety requirements;

3. The vehicle must be insured for minimum limits of \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per occurrence;
4. Drivers should be experienced drivers and demonstrate the maturity necessary to provide for the safety of those they are transporting;
5. Every person in the private vehicle must wear a seat belt or use an appropriate passenger restraint system;
6. Adults are not permitted to smoke in the vehicle.

Use of Copyrighted Materials

All Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of St. Louis should adhere to the current copyright laws governing printed material, videotape, computer software, music, multimedia presentations, and Internet web sites and resources.

No unauthorized copies of copyrighted materials in any form should be made or used on equipment owned by or borrowed or leased from a school. No school staff, students, or others should use any form of unauthorized copies of copyright materials for any purpose within the school's instructional programs. "Fair use" of copyrighted materials is allowed for specific instructional purposes within the constraints of the "fair use" limitations.

Students and teachers should be made aware of the seriousness of the ethical and legal issues relating to unauthorized copying and software piracy. Individuals or schools that knowingly violate copyright laws are liable to prosecution and fines up to \$150,000.00. Insurance protection of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will not be extended to staff, students, and others who violate copyright laws.

The primary purpose of copyright is to protect the right of authors or artists to benefit and profit from their work and to control how their work is used. Literary works, musical works and lyrics, dramatic works and music, pantomimes and choreographic works, pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, motion pictures and other audiovisual works, sound recordings, and architectural works are protected by copyright. Under current law, almost everything created privately and originally after April 1, 1989 is considered copyrighted. Copyright protection extends to both published and unpublished works in any print, audio, electronic, or digital format, including material on the Internet.

Use of copyright materials, known as "fair use", is allowed for educators. It permits a limited amount of copyrighted material to be used for a specific educational purpose without obtaining the prior permission of the copyright holder. It is considered "fair use" when:

1. The copyright material is used by a teacher for research or class preparation;
2. To achieve a specific educational purpose;
3. With direct instruction of students in the school setting;
4. Only portions of the work relevant to the educational objectives are used.

The law requires educators to obtain permission of the copyright owner, if there is repeated use of the same copyrighted material.

When using copyrighted material of any nature, students and teachers should credit the sources and include the copyright ownership information that is shown in the original work.

Making copies of copyrighted material can never be used to:

1. Substitute for the purchase of books or materials, or to create anthologies;
2. Replace consumable materials, such as worksheets, standardized tests, or answer sheets.

Operation of the Physical Plant

The health, safety, and security of students, faculty and staff, and others visiting or using the school facilities are given the highest priority. The school makes every effort to maintain the physical plant and grounds, keep them secure, and in compliance with safety standards. The school engages in both long term and short term planning to ensure that maintenance, security, and safety needs are addressed effectively.

Weapons Prohibition

In order to provide a safe environment, the carrying or possession of any type of firearm or other dangerous weapons on the premises of St. Cecilia School & Academy is strictly prohibited. This prohibition expressly includes those persons licensed to carry concealed firearms.

Buildings and the Political Process

The following concepts should be adhered to in making decisions related to the use of school buildings in the political process:

1. School facilities, assets, materials, equipment, mailing lists, or personnel should not be made available for partisan political activity.
2. Schools should not distribute or post materials that support or oppose or exhibit bias for or against any candidate or party on school property, in school organization publications or activities, or on school websites.
3. Schools should not allow school representatives or employees to endorse or oppose candidates during official school duties, activities, or functions.
4. Schools should not allow school representatives, employees, or others to endorse or oppose political candidates by using school or parish equipment or services such as telephones, copiers, fax machines, computers, Internet access, and e-mail.
5. School facilities should not be made available to candidates seeking election except for participation by a panel of all legally qualified candidates for a particular office. Further, the program must include discussion of a broad range of issues; must allow each candidate to present his/her views; must ensure that questions are posed in a non-partisan manner; and must not allow the moderator to comment in a way that implies approval or disapproval of any candidate's response.

Note: “Town Hall” meetings requested by already elected officials may be held on school/parish property as a service to the community. Further guidance regarding the involvement of schools with the political process in light of the church’s tax-exempt status is available through the Catholic Education Office.



EDUCATION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



Parent/Guardian Agreement

In signing this agreement, parents/guardians acknowledge they have received and reviewed the handbook. They agree to follow the rules outlined in this handbook. Parents/Guardians agree to support and follow the rules of St. Cecilia School and Academy and respect the school's right to amend the handbook at any time.

In signing this agreement, parents/guardians also take responsibility for their children's adherence to the handbook guidelines. It is the parents' responsibility to share the contents of this handbook with their children.

Family Name(s)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Child(ren)'s name(s)

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date