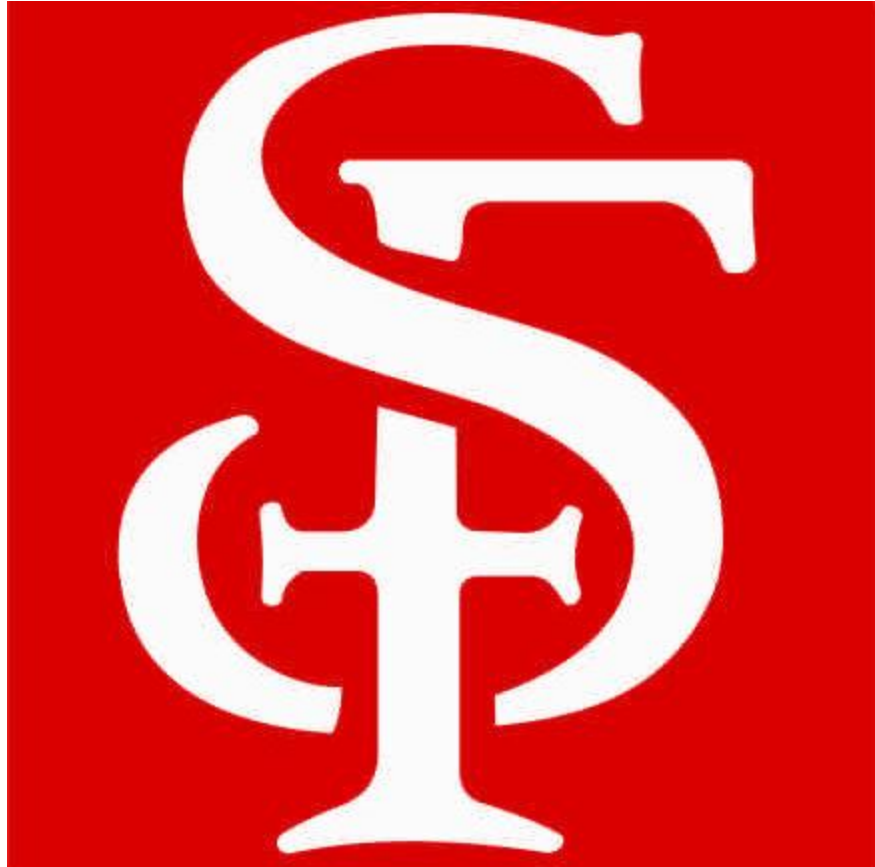


2023-2024

Parent & Student Handbook



St. Francis de Sales
Central Catholic School

We are here to serve; not to be served!

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School
41 Guthrie Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508
Phone: 304-291-5070
Fax: 304-291-5104

Welcome Letter

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2023-24 academic year! On behalf of the faculty and staff at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School (SFdSCCS), we look forward to serving you to the best of our ability and making good things happen for you this year. Dating back to 1915, our school has more than a century of tradition and long-standing success. Many of our alumni have done wonderful things with their gifts and talents in adulthood, and we are proud to have been part of their formation. Likewise, the overwhelming majority of graduates from SFdSCCS excel in their higher education learning opportunities. It is not uncommon to hear of our alumni going on to become Valedictorians/Salutatorians at their high school and/or becoming National Merit/Fulbright/Bucklew Scholars, all of which have prestigious value. However, regardless of the academic and worldly accomplishments that our graduates accumulate, the most important foundational piece that we hope to influence is their faith formation.

At SFdSCCS, our mission statement, “Here to serve, not to be served” is simple, yet profound. Unlike mission statements that other companies/organizations have that are verbose, ours is one that is easily memorized, understood, and ably applied on a day-to-day basis. From preschool to eighth grade, our students can not only recite those seven words, but more importantly they can use them as inspiration to do God’s work, seeking opportunities to help their fellow classmates and neighbors whenever possible. The development of a “serving others” mindset in our students is indicative of the value we place on character. And while we make no claim to be a perfect school, we remain confident in our product and we hope that you feel a sense of belonging in our school community, bringing even greater value to an already positive culture/climate.

This Parent/Student Handbook reflects the policies of SFdSCCS for the 2023-24 academic year. We maintain high expectations for all students and adults on our campus. Students are expected to act responsibly and do their best academically, behaviorally, and socially. We encourage parents to partner with our school in encouraging your children to rise to the expectations of our program and helping them become self-accountable. Our policies are carefully designed to protect our students’ best interests and ensure their safety and success. Both students and parents are responsible for knowing the content of this handbook as it applies to rules and regulations. Parents, please review it with your family so that there is understanding among all.

The faculty and staff of SFdSCCS look forward to working with you this upcoming year, and we commend you for entrusting us with the care and development of your children. We will do our best to uphold that trust. Thank you for choosing SFdSCCS. May God’s blessings rain upon our school community throughout the year ahead.

Yours In Christ,

Arthur Moore
Principal

SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

Safety, security, health and communication are all vital aspects which aid in creating safe spaces for our students and staff. Two major initiatives that will continue for the 2023-24 school year are the GPS Clean Air System and the OptView System.

GPS Clean Air

Global Plasma Systems ionization clean air technology was installed at the end of our 2020-21 school year. These needlepoint bipolar ionization system devices from Global Plasma Solutions (GPS) are the most advanced and sophisticated clean air devices on the market. They are built into our HVAC system and ions circulate throughout our building anytime that hot/cold air is being moved through the duct work.

Notable places that have this particular system in place include: The White House, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital Boston, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Duke Medical, among dozens of others reputable health care and prominent institutions. Our investment in this clean air system establishes SFdSCCS among the safest indoor places in our entire nation. For more information on GPS, please feel free to contact the school office.

OptView

OptView is a technology solution specifically designed to promote a higher level of health, safety, and accountability on our school campus, while improving classroom and administrative efficiency. Using first class hardware combined with world class software engineering, OptView ensures that school administrators have access to the most reliable and accurate reporting in information critical areas. OptView generates data that greatly streamlines everyday processes exponentially increasing administrative efficiency.

This system will vastly improve the efficiency and accuracy of daily attendance, as well as add an additional layer of safety in terms of accountability of individuals on campus. Further, it does have a thermal temperature mechanism (similar to entering UPMC Children's Hospital or other medical facilities) and will be able to identify individuals who may have a detectable fever.

Overall, this system will provide convenient reporting dashboards that will allow school administration to stay constantly informed as to the status of the SFdSCCS student body and staff.

A few other highlights that OptView will provide us in heightening the safety and security of our campus include:

- 24/7 prohibited persons monitoring
- Automatic administrative safety alerting via text & email
- Customizable custody timers / red flag functions & alerts
- Real-time occupancy reporting
- Temperature monitoring and alert systems
- Attendance becomes hands-free and reports are automatically generated for administration
- Expedite the approval of hourly employee time sheets
- Increased staff accountability

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RIGHT TO AMEND

*St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School Administration reserves the right to amend this handbook.
Notice of amendments will be made available to parents.*

2023-2024 ADMINISTRATION & FACULTY

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School

Designated School Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, S.T.D.

Principal: Mr. Arthur L. Moore

Assistant Principal: Mr. Edward Swierkos

| Name | Teaching Area | E-mail |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Mrs. Jennifer Badzek | STEAM PreK-8 | jbadzek@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Shannon Bean | Music PreK-8 | sbean@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Barb Been | Assistant Principal | bbeen@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Brooke Bell | Pre-Kindergarten 4 Aide | bbell@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Mary Ann Boczek | Grade 2 multi-subjects | mboczek@sfccs.org |
| Mr. Daniel Berry, III | Middle School Social Studies | dberry@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Adriane Brown | Kindergarten multi-subjects | abrown@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Blair Colligan | Pre-Kindergarten 3 Aide | bcolligan@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Jennifer Cook | Pre-Kindergarten 2 Aide | jcook@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Beth Corwin | School Accountant | bcorwin@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Hannah Dye | Middle School English | hdye@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Chasity Eddy | Pre-Kindergarten 4 Teacher | ceddy@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Julianna Everly | Grade 1 multi-subjects | jeverly@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Ashley Fallova | Grade 5 multi-subjects | afallova@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Elizabeth Ferrari | Kindergarten multi-subjects | eferrari@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Emily Finomore | School Counselor | efinomore@sfccs.org |
| Ms. MaeBeth Fisher | Pre-Kindergarten 4 Teacher | mfisher@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Dia Fortney | Grade 3 multi-subjects | dfortney@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Jaime Hatcher | Pre-Kindergarten 3 Teacher | jhatcher@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Erin Huggins | Pre-Kindergarten 4 Aide | ehuggins@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Rachel Jones | Development Director | rjones@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Caroline Koval | Middle School Spanish | ckoval@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Sara Lucas | Pre-Kindergarten 2-B Teacher | slucas@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Terri Martin | Physical Education PreK-8 | tmartin@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Faith McCardle | Art PreK-8 | fmccardle@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Megan McClung | Grade 4 multi-subjects | mmclung@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Melissa McDonald | Cafeteria Staff | mmcdonald@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Samantha McLaughlin | Grade 5 multi-subjects | smclaughlin@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Amy Metz | Title I Interventionist | ametz@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Rebecca Middlemas | Kindergarten Aide | rmiddlemas@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Ria Monteleone | School Nurse | rmonteleone@sfccs.org |
| Mr. Arthur Moore | Principal | amoore@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Kelly Moore | Grade 2 multi-subjects | kmoore@sfccs.org |

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Mrs. Natalie Moritz | Middle School Math | nmoritz@sfccs.org |
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| Mrs. Keiah Romeo | Pre-Kindergarten 2 Teacher | kromeo@sfccs.org |
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| Ms. Janet Stone | Office Manager | jstone@sfccs.org |
| Mr. Edward Swierkos | Assistant Principal | eswierkos@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Kathy Switzer | Cafeteria Manager | kswitzer@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Kathy Teagarden | Librarian | kteagarden@sfccs.org |
| Mrs. Kayley Thompson | Grade 1 multi-subjects | kthompson@sfccs.org |
| Mr. Terry Uphold | Custodial / Maintenance | tuphold@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Emma Webb | Keepers Person-in Charge | ewebb@sfccs.org |
| Ms. Megan White | Kindergarten Aide | mwhite@sfccs.org |

PARISH LEADERSHIP

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School serves the Catholic communities found in Monongalia County in the Clarksburg Vicariate of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School cannot exist without the generous support and spiritual leadership of our pastors and the vibrant parish communities they lead.

Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, S.T.D.

Pastor of St. John's University Parish, Morgantown
Reverend Brian Crenwelge

Pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake
Reverend Biju T. Devassy

Pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Star City
Reverend John P. McDonough

ST. FRANCIS de SALES CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is a PreK2 through Grade 8 Catholic Elementary and Middle School under the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Schools' Office.

The curriculum stresses academic achievement within a Christian community where the child feels that he/she is loved and respected by his/her peers as well as the teacher. Vatican II texts are used so that our theology is in compliance with the Bishops of the world. United with each other in meaningful liturgy and prayer, the students can further come to an understanding of the Christian life. At St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, we are attempting to "teach as Jesus did."

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is the lifelong, holistic formation of each person according to the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith community experience, academic excellence, and quality religious education. In collaboration as Christians, we commit ourselves "to serve; not to be served."

PHILOSOPHY

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School exists for the purposes of communicating the "Good News," for building a faith community, and for assisting parents in fulfilling their responsibility to educate children in accordance with Catholic tradition. We believe that parents are their children's primary educators. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School strives for excellence and provides meaningful teaching-learning experiences so that students can grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally in a Christian atmosphere animated by the Gospel values of community, love, faith, hope, truth, reconciliation, courage, justice, and service. We believe that every child is God's unique creation, meriting respect and dignity. Each student has the freedom and responsibility to achieve goals, personal fulfillment, self-esteem, self-discipline, and self-direction.

Christ is the foundation for all of our activities, and His message is the basis of truth, goodness, and life. God's message and love permeates the school curriculum allowing each student to realize his or her full potential as a child in God's Kingdom. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School strives to provide a program enabling students to develop as Christians, to achieve academically, and to live productive lives.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In keeping with the St. Francis philosophy and statement of mission, the following are the general school goals:

- To communicate the "Good News" and to help form Christ in the lives of St. Francis students, thereby developing better people for God and society.
- To provide a quality Catholic educational program for the students entrusted to the care and nurturing of the faculty and staff.
- To assist each student to grow to his/her full potential academically, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually.
- To develop within each student a sense of pride, honesty and self-esteem.
- To develop community, creating in each student the desire to become involved with and to be of service to others.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: INTENTIONAL GROWTH PLAN 2020-2024

We are pleased to share the SFdSCCS Intentional Growth Plan for 2020 -2024. First and foremost, let us pray that God’s light will shine upon our school and be our constant source of strength. It is through His grace that we succeed. Let us put God before others and serve Him in a faithful and humble manner. If we commit ourselves to this then there is no limit as to what we can accomplish.

SFdSCCS has a rich tradition of instilling spiritual / academic formation, and these two principles remain pillars of our program. Our school strives to develop character in our students and to support them in understanding our mission “here to serve, not to be served.”

At SFdSCCS, we maintain high expectations for all students and adults on our campus. Students are expected to act responsibly and always do their best academically, behaviorally, and socially. We encourage our students to seek additional support whenever they have a problem, need assistance, or have a concern. We also believe that the best way for parents to be aware of their child’s progress is to communicate with their teachers. It is important to listen to your child and support him/her by encouraging each child to do his/her best.

This Intentional Growth Plan was formed by the following committee members:

Monsignor Cincinnati, School Pastor
Arthur Moore, Principal
Eddie Swierkos, Assistant Principal
Rachel Jones, Development Director
Julie Corwin, Former PTO President

The content within this plan reflects the goals of SFdSCCS for the period of 2020 - 2024. This plan has been carefully designed and we are pleased to share it with you to keep you informed of our strategic goals. We sincerely thank you for being a member of the SFdSCCS community. May God bless you and may His favor continue to shine on our beloved school.

Diocesan Pillars for Each School:

- Pillar I: Mission & Catholic Identity
- Pillar II: Governance & Leadership
- Pillar III: Academic Excellence
- Pillar IV: Operational Vitality

SFdSCCS Goals (2020 - 2024):

- Pillar I - Increase the amount of service projects performed by each class level
- Pillar I - Form adult faith formation group
- Pillar II - Continuation of current school governing structure
- Pillar II - Restructure the development director role
- Pillar III - Improve test scores in Language Arts & Reading
- Pillar III - Create position of school counselor
- Pillar III - Upgrade the STEAM program
- Pillar IV - Roof repair
- Pillar IV - Upgrading WiFi

ACCREDITATION

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is a proud part of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and fully accredited through Cognia (AdvancEd).

Cognia works with schools and systems of all types and sizes across the globe to clearly assess the quality of our institution and to help us meet the needs of every student. Cognia provides an explicit set of standards and criteria for accreditation and certification. Meeting and exceeding those standards results in a valuable recognition of excellence.

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School – as well as all elementary schools in the diocese – are to take the necessary steps leading to regional accreditation. Guidelines for accreditation are available through the Office for Catholic Schools. The staff of the school will work together in preparing the forms for the accreditation team visit. The staff of the Office of Catholic Schools will assist in the self-study in the visit if needed.

GENERAL ADMISSIONS

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School has a time-honored tradition of producing graduates that make a difference in the world. The reputation of our school resonates in the Morgantown community and beyond. Our facilities and campus are first class. We believe you will quickly recognize St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School as a premier school.

No child whose parents desire to enroll him/her in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston shall be denied admission on the basis of race, gender, national origin, age (in accordance with the law). Notwithstanding the foregoing, students with disabilities will be considered for admission subject to the discretion of the principal, considering the extent of disabilities and special needs of the student and the resources and accessibility of the school to meet such needs. Catholic schools are exempt from compliance with the public accommodation provisions of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Every local effort shall be made to provide each qualifying Catholic child the opportunity to attend a Catholic school regardless of the financial situation of the family. Families should seek the advice of their Pastor/Designated Pastor if a financial problem exists. Each local Catholic School Consultative Board is encouraged to have a local tuition assistance program to help families that cannot afford all or part of the tuition. The St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School Finance Committee provides this local tuition assistance program.

SFdSCCS is unable to admit any student that has past behavior or disciplinary issues in either a public or private school. All new admissions at any grade level to St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School are probationary, from an academic and behavioral perspective, for a period of one semester. At the end of the semester, probationary status can either be removed or continued for a period of one additional semester. If probationary status is continued, the parents and student(s) will be notified in writing as to why probationary status has been continued and what concrete actions must be taken to remove the probationary status.

All students admitted share equally the rights, privileges, academic and religious programs and activities offered. They and their parents are expected to commit themselves to the philosophy and mission of the school and abide by the policies, rules and regulations of the school.

Admission Selection Procedures

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School admits students of any sex, race, color, nationality and ethnicity to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students in the school.

Admission to SFdSCCS requires that all students must participate in a school tour, intake meeting with the Development Director, previous school records review, and a screening when applicable for kindergarten through 8th grade students. Applicants must complete all necessary registration forms and submit a non-refundable registration fee and application fee to be given full consideration for admission. Eligible students will be selected and admitted into the school based upon the maximum capacity of classrooms as set by Diocesan policy and in accordance with the following categories in order of preference:

1. Currently enrolled students in good standing.
2. Siblings of students currently enrolled.
3. Students currently enrolled and in good standing at another school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.
4. Catholic children of participating parishioners who are siblings or children of a graduate of SFdSCCS.
5. Children of families who are registered, contributing, and active members of one of our four Morgantown parishes.
6. Children or parishioners who are registered, contributing, and active members at another Catholic parish within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.
7. Non-Catholic students.

All decisions regarding admissions shall be subject to the discretion of the Designated Pastor in consultation with school administration.

Admission Selection Procedures (PK2, PK3 Only)

When classroom capacity is met; in the event that a family is registered to enroll in the second, third, or fourth quarter of the school year and another family plans to enroll prior to; the family registered to enroll in the latter quarter will have the opportunity to pay for the full year in order to hold their child's enrollment. Otherwise, the family planning to enroll prior to will be given precedence. In this instance, any payments received **aside from the non-refundable Application & Registration fees** will be refunded.

Opportunity for Students with Special Needs to Receive a Catholic Education

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School collaborates with parents and guardians to provide both spiritual and academic educational development for children. If at all possible, parents/guardians who have a child with a disability should be afforded the opportunity to have a Catholic education for their child.

The Principal shall evaluate on a case-by-case basis whether St. Francis can meet the needs of the student. If the school can make reasonable accommodations to meet the student's needs, then the school will offer the child the opportunity of a Catholic school education.

Students of Other Faith Traditions

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School will provide a truly pastoral setting in which all the participants, students, and adults; Catholics and those of other faith traditions, are renewed and refreshed, challenged and given hope, and brought closer to God. All students seeking enrollment, including those of other faith traditions, must be willing to understand and accept the philosophy, purpose and goals of the Catholic school education, and understand all the requirements for their students in a Catholic school.

Since Catholic religion classes are an integral part of the life of the school, all students, including students of other faith traditions, are required to attend Catholic religion classes. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School participates in the pastoral, educational, evangelizing and catechizing mission of the Church; this means that all students attending religion classes will be expected to understand the teachings of Christ as unfolded in Scripture and Catholic Tradition. Furthermore, regardless of faith, students are required to attend the weekly Mass celebration. To this end, only Catholic religion classes will be taught at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

Mid-Year Student Transfers

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, per the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston policy, only considers applications for students transferring midyear if they are newly moving to the area.

Students enrolled at St. Francis must be willing to:

1. Attend all formal religion classes
2. Understand that the Catholic faith and Gospel values will be integrated into all curricular areas and the overall life of the Catholic school
3. Attend and participate in faith formation opportunities such as retreats
4. Attend school liturgies. (Because of the reality of the divisions which exist within Christian churches, only members of the Roman Catholic Church, either Latin or Eastern rites, can be welcomed to communion.)
5. Participate in service programs which flow from the religious education program and the mission of Catholic school education.

Once a family is formally admitted to the school, that admission is considered final unless the family withdraws or the school discovers that the application was incomplete or falsified. Formal admission is determined by the Principal in consultation with the Development Director, Assistant Principal, and Testing Coordinator.

Tuition assistance and waivers are available to all who are admitted to our school based upon need. Please contact the school office for further information and applications for tuition assistance.

According to West Virginia law, to be eligible to enter first grade a child must be six (6) years of age on or before July 1 of the year of enrollment. Students who have successfully completed Kindergarten in another system, but who have not turned six (6) by July 1, may still be enrolled in first grade.

A child entering Kindergarten must be five (5) years old by July 1 of the year he/she starts school.

A child entering Pre-Kindergarten must be two (2), three (3), or four (4) years old (depending on admission into PK2-PK4) by June 30th of the year he/she starts school.

All children entering school for the first time shall have been immunized against diphtheria, polio, rubeola, rubella, tetanus and whooping cough and shall be given a screening test to determine if they might have a vision or hearing impairment.

Parents of new students initially entering school must present for examination and recording of data the following documents: Additional documents may be required at the discretion of the school's administration.

1. An official copy of the child's birth certificate
2. Proof of recent medical examination
3. A permanent or temporary certificate of immunization

Parents of new students entering from another school will need to present their child's most recent report card and must sign an authorization form for release of the child's school records.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, per the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston policy, only considers dual enrollment to be applicable in high school grades 9th-12th, in accordance with local level Catholic school policies. As such, SFdSCCS will not consider requests for dual enrollment for students in grades PK-8th.

STUDENT SCREENING

Students entering St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School will be given a placement exam to determine the student's age appropriateness. If we deem that we are unable to serve the child's needs, he/she may not be admitted into St. Francis.

It is policy at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School for a screening process to occur with all new incoming students grades kindergarten through 8th grade. The screenings that take place are primarily in Math and Reading. These screenings serve as a measurement tool for us to determine if our school can reasonably serve the incoming student.

This process is in place to ensure the commitment we wish to honor of adequately being able to serve each child. If a student's scores are of concern, a meeting shall take place with the school administration and prospective family to determine whether or not we can accept this student.

REQUESTING TEACHERS

There is a standing Pastor's policy that parents are not allowed to request teachers for their children. All teachers at SFdSCCS are well qualified. The school administration will not honor requests made by parents for their children to have a specific teacher for the school year. Any concerns about a teacher with any individual student will be addressed individually with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the principal.

STUDENT RECORDS

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School will keep a full and accurate record of each student's attendance and academic progress. Cumulative records shall be kept permanently. SFdSCCS will request records for students that have enrolled or who are seeking enrollment at SFdSCCS.

When a student transfers to another school a copy of the transcript of his/her records including attendance, academic progress, test scores and health records shall be forwarded to the school to which the student is transferring. However, the school should be given a reasonable amount of time to comply with such requests.

No data shall be released about pupils without the written consent of the parents. Therefore, in the case of divorce, or other custody proceedings, a copy of that part of the court order which awards custody should be placed in the student's permanent file in order to identify who is the child's custodial parent.

Parents and legal guardians shall have full access to and the right to challenge the accuracy of data on their children. No one but school personnel, parents, and legal guardians should have access to pupil data without either a subpoena or the written permission of the student's parents or guardians.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL / TRANSFER

When a student transfers to another school or school system, or withdraws from SFdSCCS, written documentation of both the withdrawal and enrollment in an approved program is required in order for SFdSCCS to comply with student compulsory attendance law. The following procedures apply:

- The information is to be placed in the permanent record folder and noted
- Once the decision has been made to withdraw a child from SFdSCCS, the parent/guardian must submit their intention to SFdSCCS in writing.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact their local Board of Education within ten (10) business days to inform them of their decision.
- When applicable, a Home-School Consent Form, obtained from the County Board of Education, is to be completed within ten (10) business days and returned to the school.
- SFdSCCS has no further responsibility once the parent/guardian has been advised in writing to contact the local Board of Education.
- If a student withdraws from SFdSCCS and the parents/guardians do not provide information on how the student will be schooled, the principal must document the attempts made to determine the placement of the student and contact the county public school system where the family resides.

CURRICULUM

Catholic Academic Standards of Excellence (CASE)

Roman Catholic theology consists of the teachings of the Catholic Church, which bases its conclusions on Scripture and Sacred Tradition, as interpreted by the Magisterium. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is very proud of its tradition of uniting the strongest of this Catholic theology within our schools with an intense academic rigor. As successful as our schools have been, we refuse to rest on our history of strong Catholic identity and high academic achievement and allow complacency to set into our program. To that end, we introduced the idea of the Catholic Academic Standards of Excellence Initiative within all the schools in our school system.

The United States Department of Education put forth the idea of a Common Core State Standards protocol and it was quickly endorsed by two different groups in the early 2000s. The basic idea was to bring diverse state curricula into alignment with each other by following the principles of standards based educational reform. These two separate groups focused initially on math and the various areas of reading/language arts in the public schools. To date, these are the only two subject areas that have reached a national consensus on implementation.

There has been some controversy over the past few years about the nature, scope and perhaps even fear of the federal government's perceived intrusion into school programming, and as an extension, a child's education and development. Many pundits have expressed concern over certain agendas that might be promoted over existing/established curricula and new ideas. These same pundits claim the Common Core State Standards Initiative is positioning what is being taught in public schools as running contrary to constitutional rights and national ideals; and therefore public schools, and the children that attend, might also be at some sort of risk.

Our Catholic schools have utilized curriculum and standards that have many similarities with those in our public school counterparts for many years...even decades. However, the key element in our programming is how much further we are able to go with our prescribed standards. Perhaps because of the dedication of our staff, the demographics of our student population or a combination therein, our Catholic schools have always had the opportunity of doing more than what was expected in our public schools while being infused with the gift of Jesus Christ. Parents are paying a premium for their children to attend our Catholic schools and therefore have an expectation of receiving more in the process. The Catholic schools have always delivered on that expectation.

So how are Catholic schools defined in light of these sweeping educational reforms? For one, Catholic schools never, ever lose sight of the mission to teach the Gospel values of Jesus Christ that are essential to the Catholic faith and to the development of the next generation of Catholics in West Virginia. Second, Catholic schools must continue to strive for a level of academic rigor that meets the highest of expectations of the Bishop, the parents and the communities served. Lastly, Catholic schools will refuse to allow gaps in the educational program to develop because of inattentive leadership. Catholic schools will work within the framework of the Common Core State Standards, but the standards our schools will adopt will be reflective of our Catholic values and traditions.

There have been many discussion forums where the Common Core State Standards protocol, as it is being delivered in the public school sector, has been dismissed as an opportunistic program of the Federal or state governments to take control over the American school system. There have been claims of "data-mining" public school students' responses, mandated delivery models, common pacing and the removal of teacher creativity in the learning process. These fears have never been put onto the Catholic school program and in good conscience could never be put on our program. Rest assured that the public schools in West Virginia and the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have never assessed, delivered content or governed their schools similarly...and we won't start now.

Our Catholic schools will welcome the research that comes from the strong data that aligns the Common Core State Standards, associated with the math and reading/language arts, necessary for high achievement within our schools. However, our Catholic schools will continue to invest considerable time and educator talent to make sure these standards are reflective of our Catholic identity and rigor for which the Catholic schools have been celebrated. There is no one size fits all model in Catholic education. Our Catholic students are celebrated for their diversity, social awareness and independent thought. Our Catholic school programs will continue to promote Gospel values, academic excellence, social justice and personal fulfillment throughout the State of West Virginia.

At St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, we recognize the need to provide an education that is above and beyond that of a public school. After all, a large portion of paid tuition from families is likely motivated by the desire of providing their children a strong academic foundation that firmly prepares them for higher education. Because of this, our K-8 curriculum not only covers the WV State Standards, but is also supplemented with “plus 1’s”. The term “plus 1” is derived from covering all state standards and in addition, infusing more content/material. “Plus 1’s” are planned by teachers at each grade level and implemented in all subjects. “Plus 1’s” are instructional assignments/units/experiments that are beyond the required state standards. “Plus 1’s” are not only meant to accelerate student learning but also to expand learning to be more authentic. “Plus 1’s” are unique to our program and greatly contribute to the identity of our curriculum.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Academic Standards of Excellence Initiative will make our outstanding program even better. Our Catholic schools have always been a tremendous resource for the faith community. The value added with the Catholic Academic Standards of Excellence Initiative in our schools will guarantee the success of our children as they face the challenges ahead. The Catholic Academic Standards of Excellence Initiative strives to assist our Catholic educators in developing an excellent school-based curriculum that faithfully implements the Common Core State Standards and effectively integrates elements of Catholic Identity with honesty and integrity.

ACADEMICS

The standard day of instruction is from 7:50 am - 2:30 pm, with school office hours from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. These hours vary on non-standard school days.

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School serves diverse learners from early childhood through early adolescence. Recognizing that each child learns differently and that the needs of children evolve as they grow and develop, St. Francis Central provides for four distinctive learning environments designed using a combination of traditional educational best practices and innovative applications of the latest in educational theory and research. These distinctive learning environments are as follows:

Early Childhood

PreK 2, 3, & 4 year old

Primary School

Kindergarten through Second Grade

Intermediate School

Third through Fifth Grade

Middle School

Sixth through Eighth Grade

Recognizing the distinctive nature of each learning environment, school routines and procedures regarding academics and student behavior are differentiated at each level, while all the while remaining rooted in the overall mission, philosophy, and policies of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The scholastic year is divided into four quarters (45 instructional days per quarter). Five school days are counted each week for a total of 180 instructional days a year. Classes are regularly scheduled according to State and Diocesan policies. The schedule, however, is flexible to provide for opportunities of team teaching, combining classes, independent study and use of audiovisual materials.

Students will be assessed per each 9-week period. Parents may always monitor their child's progress via the school's online school management system, Family Portal by Facts SIS, at any time during the academic year. Grades will be posted for daily assignments, quizzes, and tests within five (5) school days by the classroom teacher. Parents have the opportunity to consult with instructors during the scheduled parent-teacher conference, by appointment via the child(ren)'s teacher, through email, and through school phone during business hours. Unscheduled "Drop In" appointments are not permitted. Parents should contact their child(ren)'s teacher to set up an appointment. Quarter term grading reports are available to parents through FACTS Family Portal (www.factsmgt.com). All families have the right to additional face-to-face conferences with their child(ren)'s teacher.

Academic standards are seriously undermined by cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized copying of class work. Plagiarism and unauthorized copying of class work are considered cheating. Any type of cheating, or the strong suspicion of any type of cheating, may result in disciplinary actions by the school, including but not limited to detention, suspension, required withdrawal, expulsion, and/or a reduction in the student's overall quarter grade. With respect to plagiarism, the school reserves the right to use electronic services (i.e. internet services) to evaluate a student's work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic standards are seriously undermined by cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized copying. Plagiarism and unauthorized copying of assignments and assessments are considered cheating. Any type of cheating will result in appropriate disciplinary actions by the school, including but not limited to detention, suspension, required withdrawal, expulsion, and/or a reduction in the student's overall quarter grade. With respect to plagiarism, the school reserves the right to use electronic services (i.e. internet services) to evaluate a student's work.

Offenses are accumulated throughout all courses during the school year. They are not individual offenses to each subject.

In addition to notifying school administration, the following approach will be taken for cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized copying for daily/classwork, projects, tests, final papers, and assessments for students in grades 3-8:

- 1st Offense - Redo the assignment, Automatic 25% reduction, Student Work Detail, parents notified
- 2nd Offense - Redo the assignment, Automatic 50% reduction, Student Detention, parents notified
- 3rd Offense - Automatic 0%, Student Suspension, parents notified
- 4th Offense - Required withdrawal from school

For students in grades K-2, a developmental approach to teaching students about academic integrity will be implemented. Repeat offenses may result in referral to school administration.

PROBATIONARY STATUS

Students are admitted under probation to St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in the following circumstances:

1. All New Admissions;
2. Behavioral misconduct that results in an out-of-school suspension;
3. Academic progress is not meeting the requirements at grade level;
4. Under special circumstances determined by the Principal in consultation with the Designated Pastor and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Probationary status is reviewed at the end of each semester by the administration. At that time, probationary status can either be removed or continued for a period of one semester. Furthermore, if a student does not meet the criteria during the semester in which he or she was on probation, the student may be dismissed from the school. If probationary status is continued, the parents will be notified in writing as to why probationary status has been continued and what concrete actions must be taken to remove the probationary status.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC REASONS

SFdSCCS may require a student to withdraw for serious academic reasons if the school is unable to meet a student's needs. If such a request is made, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- Sufficient advance notice of the request must be given in writing to the parent(s);
- The required progress reports shall have been given to the parent(s);
- The parent(s) shall have been given the opportunity to discuss with the appropriate staff personnel the future school placement of the student; and
- The school must cooperate with any receiving school in matters concerning the placement of the student in an instructional program.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Pre-Kindergarten

PHILOSOPHY

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School Early Childhood programs provide opportunities to help our youngest learners develop a stronger, balanced foundation for spiritual, academic and social skills. With parents and school as partners, it serves as a transition from home to school where young children can develop the fundamental basic skills necessary for success throughout their academic life. A loving and caring atmosphere will prevail at all times.

ACADEMICS

Children in the St. Francis early childhood program will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Social Emotional Skills | Health & Safety | Science |
| Literacy | Math | Religion |
| Music | Art | Fine/Gross Motor Skills |

CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday, 7:50 AM – 2:30 PM

CLASS SIZE

In Pre-kindergarten, class sizes shall be limited to the following:

- PreK2 - 16 students with one teacher and one teacher's assistant per classroom (8:1 student/teacher ratio).
- PreK3 - 20 students with one teacher and one teacher's assistant per classroom (10:1 student/teacher ratio).
- PreK4 - 20 students with one teacher and one teacher's assistant per classroom (10:1 student/teacher ratio).

ILLNESS & CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

Your child should be kept home if any of the following symptoms are present: rash, fever, vomiting, lice, sore throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), diarrhea, severe runny nose or bad cough. If any of these symptoms appear at school, parents may be called to come for the child.

Please notify the teacher if your child will be absent. Please let your child's teacher and/or school nurse know if your child has a communicable disease such as chickenpox or influenza.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are the primary educators of their child(ren). Parental involvement and communication are wholeheartedly encouraged. In Pre-kindergarten, optional conferences will be offered for each family during the school year. All families have the right to additional face-to-face conferences with their child(ren)'s teacher. These conferences should be scheduled through the child(ren)'s teacher to ensure availability and readiness; drop in conferences are not permitted.

SNACKS

Children are permitted to bring simple, nutritious snacks. Appropriate snacks will be communicated through the teacher and homeroom parents.

SUPPLEMENTAL HANDBOOK

Please review the Pre-K Supplemental Handbook for further information regarding the specifics of our PK program's communication, behavior, and program policies.

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Grades K through 2

PHILOSOPHY

The academic program for primary school students at St. Francis meets State and Diocesan requirements in the areas of religion, language arts (reading, phonics, spelling, handwriting and English), mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, music, and art. In addition to being a distinct core academic requirement, religious instruction permeates the entire curriculum. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School provides for the spiritual enrichment of students by stressing the importance of prayer as a means of communicating with and coming closer to God.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Elementary school students at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School must demonstrate basic proficiency in all standard areas of the core curriculum in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In this way, students will be adequately prepared to have success navigating the secondary school curriculum at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

GRADES & GRADING SCALE

Kindergarten: Students in Kindergarten do not receive letter grades. Instead, they are assessed by their teacher in each content and skill standard in the following way:

- M = 90% and above (the student has successfully demonstrated proficiency in the standard)
- S = 80-89% (the student is making adequate progress toward proficiency in the standard)
- NI = 70-79% (the student needs improvement and has either not demonstrated proficiency or is not making adequate progress toward proficiency)
- U = 69% and below

Grades One and Two: Students in first and second grades will receive letter grades. Grade averages will be rounded beginning at the tenth decimal place. (Example: 92.50 = 93 = A-) (Example: 92.49 = 92 = B+) Students will be assessed by their teacher in the following way:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A+ = 100 | B+ = 92 | C+ = 84 | D+ = 76 |
| A = 99-94 | B = 91-86 | C = 83-78 | D = 75-70 |
| A- = 93 | B- = 85 | C- = 77 | D- = 69 |
| F = 68-Below | | | |

Specials, Science & Social Studies courses will be assessed with the following non-core grading scale. These courses will not count towards a student's GPA.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| M (Mastery) = 90+ | S (Satisfactory) = 80-89 |
| NI (Needs Improvement) = 70-79 | U (Unsatisfactory) 69 and below |

Honor Roll:

An honor roll is posted each quarter for those students attaining grades which entitle them to the following:

- Principal's Honor Roll - All A's
- Honor Roll of Achievement - All A's and B's

Failing Grades: Promotion to the next grade level in the Primary School at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is based solely upon a student's ability to demonstrate proficiency in all the standards for the core curriculum.

Promotion and Retention: For students who do not demonstrate proficiency in all standards for the core curriculum, the school reserves the right to retain the student in the current grade level, or require transfer of the student to another school. SFdSCCS does **not** have a summer remediation program. Retention of students should be based on a consideration of the welfare of the student. Every student shall be placed where he/she could work to their best advantage. Parents must be notified, in writing, by the end of the third quarter if retention is being considered. Parents should be included in the ongoing remediation efforts prior to and after formal notification of the possibility of retention. The ultimate decision in regard to retention is made by the Principal after consultation with the teacher(s) and parents. No student may remain in a grade for more than two years.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Grades 3 through 5

PHILOSOPHY

The academic program for intermediate school students at St. Francis meets State and Diocesan requirements in the areas of religion, language arts (reading, spelling, writing and English), mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, music, and art. In addition to being a distinct core academic requirement, religious instruction permeates the entire curriculum. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School provides for the spiritual enrichment of students by stressing the importance of prayer as a means of communicating with and coming closer to God.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Intermediate school students at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School must demonstrate basic proficiency in all standard areas of the core curriculum in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In this way, students will be adequately prepared to have success navigating the secondary school curriculum at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

GRADES & GRADING SCALE

Students in grades 3 through 5 receive letter grades. Grade averages will be rounded beginning at the tenth decimal place. (Example: 92.50 = 93 = A-) (Example: 92.49 = 92 = B+)

Students will be assessed by their teacher in the following way:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A+ = 100 | B+ = 92 | C+ = 84 | D+ = 76 |
| A = 99-94 | B = 91-86 | C = 83-78 | D = 75-70 |
| A- = 93 | B- = 85 | C- = 77 | D- = 69 |
| F = 68-Below | | | |

Special courses will be assessed with the following non-core grading scale. These courses will not count towards a student's GPA.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| M (Mastery) = 90+ | S (Satisfactory) = 80-89 |
| NI (Needs Improvement) = 70-79 | U (Unsatisfactory) 69 and below |

Honor Roll:

An honor roll is posted each quarter for those students attaining grades which entitle them to the following:

- Principal's Honor Roll - All A's
- Honor Roll of Achievement - All A's and B's

Failing Grades: Promotion to the next grade level in the Intermediate School at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is based solely upon a student's ability to demonstrate proficiency in all the standards for the core curriculum. However, students in grades three through five may still receive a grade of F if they do not meet classroom expectations, such as successfully completing daily homework assignments, projects, and portfolios.

Promotion and Retention: For students who do not demonstrate proficiency in all standards for the core curriculum, the school reserves the right to retain the student in the current grade level, or require transfer of the student to another school. SFdSCCS does **not** have a summer remediation program. Retention of students should be based on a consideration of the welfare of the student. Every student shall be placed where he/she could work to their best advantage. Parents must be notified, in writing, by the end of the third quarter if retention is being considered. Parents should be included in the ongoing remediation efforts prior to and after formal notification of the possibility of retention. The ultimate decision in regard to retention is made by the Principal after consultation with the teacher(s) and parents. No student may remain in a grade for more than two years.

HOMework IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Homework is valuable for reinforcing concepts, skills and creates mental discipline. Homework is required of all students. There is no such thing as “having no homework.” Students are expected to review daily that which was learned in class. They are expected to read the lesson again for reinforcement, and they are expected to practice the skills worked on in class. Homework assignments will be coordinated by teachers to avoid homework overload for students. All homework assigned is to be checked and returned to the student.

Although assignments will ordinarily be given when the student returns, we will make our best effort to coordinate assignments and instructional material for prolonged absences. In the event of a prolonged absence, parents are expected to give sufficient notice to teachers, so they may gather the assignments. It will be the parent’s responsibility to review the skills taught while the student is absent. If an absence is due to illness, a parent may call the school office by 2:00 pm to arrange for homework assignments to be ready for pickup the following day or given to the student upon return. Work not turned in will result in a zero for all incomplete assignments.

Students are responsible for completing all homework assignments by the due dates. Every student is required to have a homework assignment book and parents are asked to check it each evening.

Homework during Vacations/Planned Absences: Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during long weekends and holiday times to eliminate the need to interrupt a child’s learning process. Teachers will make a reasonable effort to accommodate families by providing student work to students prior to the planned absence, understanding that not all assignments may be given in advance due to the pace of instruction during the absence. In addition to student work that is provided, students may check Google Classroom / Teacher Websites for daily assignments to help keep up with their work while they are away. For absences less than five (5) consecutive days, students are allotted the number of days absent to turn in missing assignments that were assigned during their absence. For absences of five (5) consecutive days or more, arrangements must be made with the child’s teacher(s) to create a schedule to complete any missed assignments and/or assessments. To ensure academic integrity, assessments will not be provided nor taken during a student absence. Upon return, scheduled assessments (quizzes, tests, projects) will be delayed one school day unless a student is prepared to take the assessment on that day.

Homework Policy due to Illness/Quarantine: If a student is absent they may receive their assignments when they return to school. If a student is absent for more than one day, a parent may call the school office by 2:00 pm to arrange for homework assignments to be ready for pickup the following day or given to the student upon return. Additionally, students may check Google Classroom / Teacher Websites for daily assignments. For absences less than five (5) consecutive days, students are allotted the number of sick days absent to turn in missing assignments that were assigned during their absence. For absences beyond five (5) consecutive days, arrangements must be made with the child’s teacher(s) to create a schedule to complete any missed assignments and/or assessments. To ensure academic integrity, assessments will not be provided nor taken during a student absence. Upon return, scheduled assessments (quizzes, tests, projects) will be delayed one school day unless a student is prepared to take the assessment on that day.

Late or Missing Homework: If students do not hand in an assignment when it is due, they will receive 10% off the earned grade for the first day it is late, 20% for the second day, 30% for the third day, 40% the fourth day, and 50% for the fifth day. Beyond that, late or missing assignments will result in a zero.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

Students are expected to have their completed assignments upon returning to school. There are no extensions granted for distance learning assignments unless communication has taken place between student (or parent) and teacher. In the event that a student does not have reasonable access to the internet during a snow day, teachers will make other efforts to provide the class work for the student.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Grades 6 through 8

PHILOSOPHY

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School’s middle school academic program provides early adolescent girls and boys in grades six through eight with an engaging and rigorous academic experience grounded in the Catholic liberal arts tradition. Eighth grade graduates of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School meet and exceed state and Diocesan requirements for promotion to ninth grade, and may be eligible for advanced placement courses in high school. This strong academic preparation is supplemented by a broad range of co-curricular and extracurricular programs.

In keeping with the school’s mission “to serve; not to be served,” all St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School middle school students must complete a grade specific total of community service hours that are person-centered and approved by the religion teacher. See table on the next page for a breakdown of service hours.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Yearly Core Curriculum Summary

Sixth Grade Core Curriculum

Old Testament
English I
Carnegie Course 1 / Carnegie Course 2
Science I
World Regions

Seventh Grade Core Curriculum

New Testament
English II
Carnegie Course 2 / Carnegie Course 3
Science II
World History

Eighth Grade Core Curriculum

Church History
English III
Health (one semester)
Math I* / Algebra
Science III
Spanish I* (optional)
West Virginia History
*High school credits

High School Credit Courses

Algebra I, Math I and Spanish I are high school credit courses for students who qualify. The final grade in these three classes is a high school transcribed grade that has a direct impact on the student’s high school grade point average and eligibility for extracurricular activities. The requirements for each class are listed below.

Math I: In order to qualify for Math I in eighth grade, students must finish Carnegie Learning Course 3 with at least a 92.5% class average. Course 3 students who earn 84.5% - 92.4% may enter Math I with a parent waiver form. Course 3 students who earn below 84.5% are automatically enrolled in Algebra. Seventh graders enrolled in Carnegie Learning Course 2 may enroll in Math I by finishing the Carnegie Learning Course 2 with a 92.5% or higher class average and an 80% or higher on the prerequisite skills test administered at the end of the school year.

Additionally, parents of students who enroll in Math I are required to sign a waiver verifying that they and their child understand it is a high school credit course that cannot be dropped.

Spanish I: In order to qualify for Spanish I in eighth grade, students must finish seventh grade English with at least an 85%. Additionally, parents of qualified Spanish I students are required to sign a waiver verifying that they and their child understand it is a high school credit course that cannot be dropped.

Elective Courses

Students must complete one course credit during middle school of music and art. Physical education is a required elective for sixth and seventh grade. In eighth grade, it is a requirement in conjunction with Health. All seventh graders will complete one course credit of Spanish Prep. Additional elective courses are offered on a rotating basis and according to course demand. See Grades & Grading Scale section for more information on elective course evaluations.

Religion Curriculum: The religion curriculum is divided into the following areas: Old Testament (Sixth Grade); New Testament (Seventh Grade); Church History & Doctrine (Eighth Grade). Additionally, the middle school religion curriculum incorporates the Disciples of Christ Virtue Program and Theology of the Body (TOB). In addition to the academic curriculum, students must also complete an all day, grade specific class retreat. Each student must also complete a pre-established number of service hours for each semester. The service hours must be person-centered and approved by the student’s religion teacher. Service completed during the school day (7:50-2:30) cannot be counted towards the required hours of service.

Service Hours per grade level:

| Grade Level | Service Hours Per Quarter | Service Hour Total Year |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8th Grade | 4 hours | 16 hours |
| 7th Grade | 3 hours | 12 hours |
| 6th Grade | 2 hours | 8 hours |

GRADES & GRADING SCALE

Grading System: Students will be assessed on a continual grading system for each subject from the beginning to the end of the school year. A student's GPA will not reset at the end of each quarter. This allows for the most accurate measure of achievement for the student. Grade averages will be rounded beginning at the tenth decimal place. (Example: 92.50 = 93 = A-) (Example: 92.49 = 92 = B+)

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A+ = 100 | B+ = 92 | C+ = 84 | D+ = 76 |
| A = 99-94 | B = 91-86 | C = 83-78 | D = 75-70 |
| A- = 93 | B- = 85 | C- = 77 | D- = 69 |
| F = 68-Below | | | |

Grading for High School eighth grade accredited courses (Algebra, Math I & Spanish I) will be graded on the following 10-point scale, which is consistent with the West Virginia secondary schools grading policy:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| A = 90-100 | B = 80-89 | C = 70-79 | D = 60-69 | F = 59-Below |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|

Elective courses will be assessed with the following non-core grading scale. These courses will not count towards a student's GPA.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| M (Mastery) = 90+ | S (Satisfactory) = 80-89 |
| NI (Needs Improvement) = 70-79 | U (Unsatisfactory) 69 and below |

Grade Point Average: A student's academic progress is expressed by the grade point average for each quarter and final course grade.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A+ = 4.0 | B+ = 3.25 | C+ = 2.25 | D+ = 1.25 |
| A = 4.0 | B = 3.0 | C = 2.0 | D = 1.0 |
| A- = 3.75 | B- = 2.75 | C- = 1.75 | D- = 0.75 |

Honor Roll: An honor roll is posted each quarter for those students attaining grades which entitle them to the following:

- Principal's Honor Roll – All A's
- Honor Roll of Achievement – All A's and B's

Failing Grades: Students will not receive credit for a class they fail. Students who receive a failing grade in a core content area for the entire year may not be allowed to return the next school year.

FACTS SIS / Family Portal Grading Access

Each middle school parent can access the on-line gradebook for their student through the Parent Portal on the school's website. Parents can also create accounts for their child to access the on-line gradebook. The middle school team strongly encourages weekly monitoring of the on-line gradebook.

Teacher Websites

The middle school website can be accessed through the school's faculty website. The middle school website provides an overview of each teacher's class, along with daily assignments and assessments. Distance learning information is also accessed through the middle school website.

Google Classroom

All middle school students have access to a Google Chromebook during the school day. Google Classroom is an important part of their instruction. Students should regularly access Google Classroom for assignments, daily announcements, and homework. Each teacher will explain the Google Classroom expectations for their class.

HOMWORK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Homework is assigned to help students become self-reliant and self-directed. Assignments are designated to reinforce daily lessons, to supplement and enrich class work, and to prepare for certain lessons through various experiences. Every student has the option to use a homework assignment book. If parents have a question, they may check their child's assignment book, the middle school website or Google Classroom.

Since each student has different capabilities and interests, it would be difficult to denote the specific amount of time to be spent on an assignment. If a problem arises, the teacher should be contacted.

Student Work during Vacations/Planned Absences: Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during long weekends and holiday times to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process. Teachers will make a reasonable effort to accommodate families by providing work to students prior to the planned absence, understanding that not all assignments may be given in advance due to the pace of instruction during the absence. In addition to student work that is provided, students may check Google Classroom / Teacher Websites for daily assignments to help keep up with their work while they are away. For absences less than five (5) consecutive days, students are allotted the number of days absent to turn in missing assignments that were assigned during their absence. For absences of five (5) consecutive days or more, arrangements must be made with the child's teacher(s) to create a schedule to complete any missed assignments and/or assessments. To ensure academic integrity, assessments will not be provided nor taken during a student absence. Upon return, scheduled assessments (quizzes, tests, projects) will be delayed one school day unless a student is prepared to take the assessment on that day.

Student Work Policy due to Illness/Quarantine: If a student is absent they may receive their assignments when they return to school. If a student will be absent for more than one day, a parent may call the school office by 2:00 pm to arrange for homework assignments to be ready for pickup the following day or given to the student upon return. Additionally, students may check Google Classroom for daily assignments. For absences less than five (5) consecutive days, students are allotted the number of sick days absent to turn in missing assignments that were assigned during their absence. For absences of five (5) consecutive days or more, arrangements must be made with the child's teacher(s) to create a schedule to complete any missed assignments and/or assessments. To ensure academic integrity, assessments will not be provided nor taken during a student absence. Upon return, scheduled assessments (quizzes, tests, projects) will be delayed one school day unless a student is prepared to take the assessment on that day.

Late or Missing Homework: If students do not hand in an assignment when it is due, they will receive 10% off the earned grade for the first day it is late, 20% for the second day, 30% for the third day, 40% the fourth day, and 50% for the fifth day. Beyond that, late or missing assignments will result in a zero.

Academic Integrity: Academic standards are seriously undermined by cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized copying. Plagiarism and unauthorized copying of assignments and assessments are considered cheating. Any type of cheating will result in appropriate disciplinary actions by the school, including but not limited to detention, suspension, required withdrawal, expulsion, and/or a reduction in the student's overall quarter grade. With respect to plagiarism, the school reserves the right to use electronic services (i.e. internet services) to evaluate a student's work.

Offenses are accumulated throughout all courses during the school year. They are not individual offenses to each subject.

In addition to notifying school administration, the following approach will be taken for cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized copying for daily/classwork, projects, tests, final papers, and assessments for students in grades 3-8:

- 1st Offense - Redo the assignment, Automatic 25% reduction, Student Work Detail, parents notified
- 2nd Offense - Redo the assignment, Automatic 50% reduction, Student Detention, parents notified
- 3rd Offense - Automatic 0%, Student Suspension, parents notified
- 4th Offense - Required withdrawal from school

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

All middle school students are to enter the school website (www.sfcss.org) and access the middle school web page found under the “faculty & staff” option on the top menu. From there, they should click on a middle school teachers link to the middle school Google Site and select the distance learning tab. They will find their assignments and scheduled Google Meet times posted there. The students are expected to meet with each core teacher on the distance learning day and have their completed assignments upon returning to school. There are no extensions granted for distance learning assignments unless communication has taken place between student (or parent) and teacher. In the event that a student does not have reasonable access to the internet during a school cancellation, teachers will attempt to provide the class work for the student.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the school year, the Middle School classes will take field trips. These trips are intended to be Plus Ones that go beyond the basic curriculum. Students who are on Behavior Probation may not be eligible to participate in grade level field trips.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY

Each quarter the middle school students will participate in Middle School Advisory (MSA), a team building activity. Middle School Advisory groups are comprised of a mix of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Each MSA group creates a group name and designs a t-shirt with their logo on it. These shirts are worn on MSA days.

DIGITAL DO’S & DON'TS

In conjunction with the Office of Safe Environment, the Diocesan Schools Office created a book entitled “Digital Do’s and Don’ts” to be shared with all students in grades 6-12 in all the Catholic Schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. This booklet is designed to help educate students regarding West Virginia law and how it applies to their use of cell phones and the internet. Many students may not realize which types of actions and communications are illegal and could result in criminal charges. This booklet is designed as a preventive measure and a means to raise awareness on topics such as sexting and bullying among teens.

As mandated by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, your student will receive training on digital "Do's and Don'ts" from the Administrative staff at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School. Before the lesson takes place, parents and guardians will be notified. The lessons are designed to raise awareness on topics such as sexting and bullying among teens, with special regard to cyberbullying. As you know, your children’s safety is our utmost concern. Central to our mission in Catholic schools is a focus on the family. Please take the time to review the information when your child brings home the booklet. A discussion at home about this topic will be just as important as the lesson they will receive at school.

AQUINAS AWARD

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston asks each school to select one student to receive the Aquinas Medal. This student “best embodies the qualities of Catholic School education: excellence in learning, faithful discipleship, leadership, and service to school, parish, and community.” St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School selects an eighth grade student who is an active Catholic to receive this award. The selected student is then required to give a short address at Eighth Grade Graduation.

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION

The quality of instructional time for graduates of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is as important to them as it is for all students. Therefore, the final day for eighth-graders shall not be more than three (3) days prior to the last instructional day for the remainder of the students in the school’s program without the permission of the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Graduation exercises will be held at the conclusion of eighth grade. In order for a student to qualify for graduation, all academic requirements must be met in full.

GRADUATION AWARDS

Subject Area Awards: One eighth grade student is honored in each of the following academic subjects: English, Health/PE, Mathematics, Religion, Science, Spanish, and WV History. The honoree is chosen by the individual teacher’s requirements for the specific subject.

Academic Award: The student with the highest overall GPA in the core Eighth Grade Curriculum (English, Mathematics, Religion, Science, Social Studies, Spanish, Health, and WV History) is presented the Academic Award.

St. Francis de Sales Award: This award recognizes an eighth grade student who embodies the qualities that define the ideal St. Francis graduate. He or she understands the code of respect and responsibility learned and expected at St. Francis and puts this code into practice on a daily basis. This student has a strong, moral character. He or she demonstrates compassion towards others, and shows care, friendship, and a positive attitude towards all around them. The recipient values education and is committed to growing academically. Above all, the de Sales recipient has a positive, faith-based attitude, displays humility, and is committed to service. He or she appreciates the teachings of Jesus and acts accordingly.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

After each sport's season, teams get together to celebrate. At the end of the school year, there will also be an awards' ceremony recognizing all middle school student athletes, as well as specific eighth grade awards. Selection of the wards is based on input from the Athletic Director and all coaches. Teachers may also provide input.

St. Sebastian Award: : This award is given to an eighth grader for being a high-achieving student athlete combined with exhibiting the qualities of sportsmanship, teamwork, academics, and a high respect for school, classmates, teammates, opponents, parish, and the community.

The Trojan Award: This eighth grade award signifies high achievement, leadership, and dedication; that extra trait that helps one rise above in competition, while positively representing St. Francis Trojan Athletics. Does not have to be a three sport athlete, but high level at multiple sports is a plus.

WVSSAC Sportsmanship Awards: The WVSSAC sends all member schools 3 certificates; asking schools to give recognition to students and/or fans at the school or community that have displayed outstanding sportsmanship during the year. This is not specific to eighth graders only.

PROBATIONARY STATUS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students are admitted under probation to the St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School Secondary School in the following circumstances:

1. All new admissions and/or transfers into 6th, 7th, and 8th grade;
2. All students who fail a core content area course during the year and pass it during the summer session or next school year (please see "Failing Grades," above);
3. All students who fail a core content area course during the year, and during either the summer session or next school year, and who successfully appeal to the school administration, designated pastor, and/or Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for continued admission;
4. Behavioral misconduct that results in an out-of-school suspension.

Probationary status is reviewed at the end of each quarter by the administration. At that time, probationary status can either be removed or continued for a period of one quarter. Furthermore, if a student does not meet the criteria during the quarter in which he or she was on probation, the student may be dismissed from the school. If probationary status is continued, the parents and student will be notified in writing as to why probationary status has been continued and what concrete actions must be taken to remove the probationary status.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC REASONS

SFdSCCS may require a student to withdraw for serious academic reasons if the school is unable to meet a student's needs. If such a request is made, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- Sufficient advance notice of the request must be given in writing to the parent(s);
- The required progress reports shall have been given to the parent(s);
- The parent(s) shall have been given the opportunity to discuss with the appropriate staff personnel the future school placement of the student; and
- The school must cooperate with any receiving school in matters concerning the placement of the student in an instructional program.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Behavior is the manner in which one acts. Since the essence of Christian discipline is self-discipline, the student must be free to choose one form of behavior over another. In choosing to behave or to misbehave, the student takes upon himself/herself the consequences of that chosen behavior.

In establishing a code of conduct the school shall:

- Ensure that rules and consequences are understood by students
- Ensure that the discipline is constructive and relative to the misbehavior
- Ensure that work of an academic nature is not used as a form discipline
- Encourage reconciliation with the offended party if applicable

Teachers shall uphold the code of conduct established for the school and follow the expectations, procedures, corrective measures, and penalties regarding the school's rules. Teachers shall also be responsible for establishing a classroom environment in which students receive continuing instruction regarding acceptable behavior.

The Catholic Church respects the dignity of persons of all ages; therefore, corporal punishment in any form is not an acceptable form of punishment for student misbehavior. However, a person employed or engaged as a teacher, principal, or administrator may use a physical response to obtain possession of weapons or dangerous objects.

If the safety of the child or other children's safety become at risk, then the child may be physically restrained.

The principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rule(s) for just cause at his/her discretion.

Code of Public Conduct

Parents are the first educators of their children. The school enters into a partnership with parents in that education. Sometimes, partnerships simply do not work. If, in the opinion of the school administration, the partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require the parents to withdraw their children.

Off-Campus Conduct

The administration of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School reserves the right to discipline its students for off-campus behavior that is not in line with the behavior expectations of its students during the course of the school day. This off campus behavior includes, but is not limited to cyber-bullying through social networking, texting, or any other electronic transmittal.

Refusal of Behavioral Consequences

Refusal to adhere to / complete the required consequence given by and/or supported by school administration will result in recommendation for immediate required withdrawal.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS

The discipline philosophy at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School flows naturally from the philosophy of the school. At St. Francis, faculty and students practice and experience Christian values. Students are encouraged to grow in their understanding of moral and honorable behavior in a manner which promotes genuine respect for one's self, as well as one another's person, property, space, and time. In order to build a community where trust and respect are at the foundation, it is important to strive for the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and responsibility for one's actions. In order to achieve an atmosphere where the Catholic faith, academic excellence, service, leadership, and character can be pursued, students and their parents must support the policies and regulations set forth by St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

While St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School neither claims control over nor accepts responsibility for the behavior of its students outside of school time, activities, and premises; students' out-of-school behavior reflects their personal integrity. Cases of behavior that could influence other students adversely may result in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by school authorities. An all-inclusive listing of various expectations is impossible to outline on these pages. However, activity such as harassing or bullying another student either in person or via the internet, cell phone, or other electronic devices is unacceptable and deserves special mention. The school reserves the right to take appropriate action for any offense which, in the judgment of the faculty, staff or administrators, violates the good behavior expected of a St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School student.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School has earned a reputation based on its tradition of high academic standards, the emphasis on values and morals, and the sense of discipline and order in the school. In such an atmosphere, teaching and learning may occur so that students prosper spiritually, academically, and emotionally. To assure these goals, students are expected to use appropriate behavior not only on school premises, but at any time they are in school uniform or representing the school in any way. Students must realize that they are identified as St. Francis students whether they are in uniform or not. Any action that reflects negatively on the St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School community may result in disciplinary action.

Appropriate school behavior may be summed up in this way: behavior that assures the right of every student to learn, assures the right of every teacher to teach, and demonstrates respect for the personal, civil, and property rights of others. Student behavior will be courteous, attentive, and respectful. Any individual student who does not meet these standards will be disciplined by the classroom teachers and/or school administration. Each classroom teacher will establish specific disciplinary standards that students are expected to follow in the classroom. Students unable to abide by established school behavioral guidelines are subject to dismissal from St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

While representing St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School at school-sponsored activities, either as participants or spectators, students are expected to demonstrate their personal best. Athletic events, school dances, field trips, retreats, etc. offer students the opportunity to experience learning beyond the classroom. However, all school rules apply, whether the event is on school premises or not. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate dancing, horseplay, berating opposing players, spectators, and/or sports officials.

Students can still have disciplinary action from school administration even though the incident may not occur at school. Students enrolled at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School are always representing the school; behavior in and out of school can result in consequences outlined by this handbook. Students and parents need to understand the importance of making good decisions overall in life and not just in the school setting. Even while off-campus, families are always representing our school community.

POLICY & PROCEDURES ON BULLYING

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School shall not tolerate any bullying on school grounds or at any school activity on or off campus whether actions are committed in person, written, or electronically transmitted.

Bullying is defined as the repeated intimidation of students by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse; or through attacks on the property of another. It may include, but is not limited to, such actions as verbal taunts, name-calling, put-downs, and extortion of money or possessions. Such conduct is not compatible with the values and religious character of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School. As such, bullying is unacceptable behavior at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

This policy shall apply to all actions on school property, at other school-sponsored events that may occur away from the school, or that otherwise have an adverse impact upon student life and learning at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School. The following components are part of this policy:

1. The ability for pupils to confidentially report to school officials incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
2. The ability for parents and guardians of pupils to submit written reports to school officials of suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying;
3. A requirement that teachers and staff report suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying;
4. Documentation and record trail of reported incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying;
5. Investigation by the appropriate school officials of suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
6. Disciplinary action for pupils who have admitted or been found to have committed incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
7. Disciplinary action for submitting false reports of incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying;

BULLYING REPORTING PROCEDURES

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School expects faculty and staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If the faculty or staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report to the Assistant Principal for further investigation.

Parents or students who observe or become aware of an act of bullying on school grounds or at any school activity on or off campus are expected to report it to the school Assistant Principal for further investigation. The Assistant Principal will contact the parents of the aggressor and the victim. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents, teachers, school staff, and reviewing records.

Additional procedures are as follows:

1. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School encourages any student who believes they have been the victim of bullying or any student who has witnessed bullying to report the incident(s) at once to any teacher, staff or administrator of the school. Students or parents may report these incidents in person or via email.
2. Verbal complaints should be documented by the adult receiving the complaint.
3. Verbal or written reports should be made available to the administrator as soon as possible.
4. Verbal reports must be followed up within a timely manner by administration.
5. Bullying reports are treated as confidential data and should not be disclosed. The privacy of the complainant, accused, and witnesses will be protected as much as possible within the framework of the school's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

Investigative Procedure

Upon receipt of a verbal or written complaint the administrator (or designee) will:

**interviews will be conducted in a manner to protect the privacy of all involved.*

1. Interview the reporter (parent, student, faculty, or staff member)
2. Interview the victim
3. Interview accused
4. Interview any witnesses (if necessary)

Disciplinary Procedure

Bullying is a serious form of misbehavior outside and involves a pronounced imbalance of personal power between aggressor and victim as well as an element of repetition. For this reason, incidents of bullying will be treated in a more formalized manner.

For proof of incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, parents of the victim and the aggressor will be contacted and informed of the incident. The victim will receive verbal support and assurance; the aggressor will receive a consequence corresponding to the level of bullying that took place. Consequences for the aggressor may range from verbal warning to expulsion. Further offenses will result in progressive consequences.

PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School aims to provide all students with a safe school environment that facilitates learning. Any form or type of aggressive behavior that has the potential to do physical or psychological harm to someone else, disrupts the learning environment, or urges students to engage in such conduct is prohibited. The school seeks to prevent such incidents and will investigate and take corrective actions for violations of this policy. Further, retaliation against those who report behavior is prohibited.

Incidents of physical aggression from a student may result in the following progressive discipline:

- 1st Offense - 1-3 day out of school suspension
- 2nd Offense - 3 day out of school suspension
- 3rd Offense - recommendation for required withdrawal from school

When investigating physically aggressive situations, administration considers the entire scope before applying consequences. Factors such as what led to the incident, what took place during the incident, whether others played a role in the incident, whether the incident was horseplay, a student inciting the retaliatory action of another, etc. will be taken into consideration.

STUDENT WORK DETAIL

When routine consequences such as walking laps, taking away screen time, etc. are not correcting misbehavior with students; especially those repeat offenders, teachers and/or school administration may elect to have students complete student work detail in service of the school. Unless otherwise noted, this will take place during the students recess time, keeping them active but away from normal play time. Students will be expected to keep quiet and get the work done. Additionally, students cannot use work detail time for service hours and will not be rewarded after completing the work detail duties.

DETENTIONS

Accumulation of minor offenses or repeated infractions from the behavior code, general rules and regulations could warrant suspension, required withdrawal or expulsion. Detentions are ordinarily reserved for actions that disrupt the school's academic program and mission but do not pose a serious and immediate threat to other members of the St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School community. Teachers may elect to have students serve detention during lunch/recess or after school. Administration reserves the right to determine any assigned discipline.

SUSPENSIONS

Serious misconduct is that which disrupts the academic atmosphere of the school; endangers fellow students, teachers, or school officials, damages property; or flagrantly or repeatedly violates regulations or policies of the school. Grounds for suspension may occur on or off of school property or at any school-sponsored activity. Students enrolled at SFdSCCS are always representing the school and may be held accountable for off-campus behaviors. For such serious misconduct, school administration may immediately suspend the student from school. The length of the suspension is left to the discretion of the school administration. Parents will be notified of any suspension verbally, followed by written notice. A conference with the parent, student, and appropriate school personnel will be arranged. Parents and students should understand that repeated misconduct could result in required withdrawal or expulsion.

EXPULSIONS

A student may be expelled from school for misconduct of a very serious nature calling for immediate dismissal without suspension. Expulsion is the termination of the student's enrollment in school. Expulsion is a serious matter and should be invoked only as a last resort, or in cases of serious misconduct or violation of school policy. The decision to recommend expulsion is made by the Principal, and may have the approval of the Designated Pastor. Parents will be notified of any expulsion verbally, followed by written notice. A conference with the parents, students, and appropriate school personnel will be arranged. The reasons for the expulsion will be discussed at that time. The superintendent of Catholic Schools will be notified prior to the student's expulsion.

REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL

Required Withdrawal is the dismissal of the student from the school by the Principal. Reasons for required withdrawal may include inappropriate placement in the school based on insufficient academic performance, behavior problems, or social adjustment issues. Parents will ordinarily be given the opportunity to withdraw the student from the school. If the parent does not withdraw the student, the Principal may follow the steps to expel the student.

BEHAVIOR PROBATION

Students will be placed on behavior probation when behavioral misconduct results in an out-of-school suspension or at the discretion of school administration in response to continued misbehavior or elevated behavior cases.

Behavior Probationary status is reviewed at the end of each quarter by the administration. At that time, probationary status can either be removed or continued for a period of one quarter. Furthermore, if a student does not meet the criteria during the quarter in which he or she was on probation, the student may be dismissed from the school. If probationary status is continued, the parents will be notified in writing as to why probationary status has been continued and what concrete actions must be taken to remove the probationary status.

APPEAL & REVIEW OF DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

Parents may appeal to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools to review an expulsion. In the event of such an appeal, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools will solicit from the parents, the Principal, and , when appropriate, the Pastor/Designated Pastor the following:

1. A written summary of the issues
2. Any supporting documentation, such as correspondence, local handbooks, etc.

After reviewing the documentation and, if the Superintendent of Catholic Schools deems necessary, conferring with the parties to the disputed action, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools will determine whether the schools action is in accord with applicable diocesan and local policies and within the authority and discretion of the local administration.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The possession, use, delivery, transfer, or sale of tobacco, alcoholic liquor, beer or controlled substances by students at school, at school sponsored events, on school sanctioned transportation, or on school property is expressly forbidden and will be subject to appropriate legal and administrative sanctions and/or discretion.

Under all circumstances, the student's parents or guardians will be notified. If necessary, emergency medical personnel will also be notified.

THREATS TO WELFARE AND SAFETY

No student shall use, possess, handle, transmit or conceal any object which is, or can be considered a weapon or instrument of violence. Any object determined to be a threat to the safety or security of any person, are prohibited on school premises, and at school-related functions.

If a student is found to be in violation of this policy, disciplinary actions will be imposed by the administrator, depending on the severity of the offense.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The Principal and/or Assistant Principal may search student desks, lockers and personal belongings, including, but not limited to, handbags, briefcases, purses, backpacks, clothing and other items in a student's possession. Two adults must be present during the search.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

School administration works to maintain a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors. This also includes the protection of our facilities and school property from theft and vandalism. Persons identified on security cameras in violation of policies may be subject to disciplinary and/or legal actions. To help ensure the safety of students, staff, visitors and facilities, school administration authorizes the use of security cameras both outside and inside school buildings.

Only authorized personnel or their designee, including the superintendent, school pastor, school administration and law enforcement, will have privileges involving viewing, disclosure, retention, disposal, and security of video recordings or photographs from security cameras in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A video recording used for security purposes in the school buildings and/or on school property shall be the sole property of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School. All video recordings will be stored in their original format and secured to avoid tampering and to ensure confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Law enforcement and emergency response officials shall be granted access to video recordings as approved by the school administration in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

To ensure the privacy and legally ensured rights of staff and students, neither parents nor members of the public at large may request a viewing of surveillance footage. Still photos, or “screenshots,” from the feed may at times be shared with a parent or legal representative outside the prescribed legal process to provide evidence for or against a disciplinary dispute that does not rise to the level of police involvement. Such an event will require a request in writing by the parent or legal representative.

UNIFORM POLICY

St. Francis continues to nurture and educate its students in faith, academics, and service to others. We also encourage students to appreciate and respect their uniform. Fostering improved self-image and modesty, school unity, and a “dress-for-success” attitude, the uniform helps to support our mission. Boys and girls adhere to a dress code designed to distinguish themselves by their accomplishments rather than by their appearance. The uniform policy also strives to eliminate label competition, while offering a simplified economic selection of uniform items.

As St. Francis parents, teachers and administrators we believe that students work best at school when they come dressed uniformly, neatly and modestly. Uniformity of dress identifies our students and reminds them and others of the values and expectations associated with being a student at St. Francis. Additionally, uniformity promotes our belief that the pursuit of status and style at school distracts children from the learning process. Requiring neatness reinforces that school is a place where high expectations lead to optimal performance. Children of all ages can take personal responsibility for keeping themselves neat. Modesty in dress makes it easier for students to focus on their academic and spiritual growth.

St. Francis’ Uniform Policy must begin at home. Parents are responsible for purchasing clothing that complies with the policy and for sending their children out the door each morning in uniform. To that end we have tried to make the policy clear and easy for parents to follow. Parents should be able to purchase uniforms conveniently and at a reasonable price. Uniforms should be safe and comfortable for students of all sizes and shapes and in a variety of activities and weather conditions. Teachers and administrators should not act as “uniform police.” They should work with parents and students to ensure that school expectations are clear and students follow through with appropriate dress at school. Although we hope that this policy addresses the needs of the entire St. Francis community, we recognize that on rare occasions individual needs will require individual attention. Please contact the school administration in these instances.

The following vendors are approved for adding the school logo to uniform items. By using these approved vendors, you will be able to have items logoed at your convenience, as you need them.

- **Land's End** - landsend.com (School # 9000 48968)
- **Schoolbelles** - schoolbelles.com (School Code S0283)

You may also purchase your items elsewhere and have them logoed locally:

- **Blue and Gold Graphics** - Local #304-376-1888; blueandgoldgraphics@yahoo.com
Michelle Umble, Owner

2023-2024 UNIFORM CODE

Pre-K through 5th Grade

Uniform combinations include:

| Top (<i>PreK students are not required to have logos</i>) | Bottom |
|---|---|
| red SFdSCCS polo | khaki pants/shorts/skort OR black pants/shorts/skort |
| white SFdSCCS polo | khaki pants/shorts/skort OR black pants/shorts/skort |
| black SFdSCCS polo | khaki pants/shorts/skort |
| red & black plaid jumper / skort | white socks/tights OR black socks/tights white blouse (no logo required) OR red/white/black polo (polos worn under must have SFCC logo) |
| black jumper | white socks/tights white blouse (no logo required) OR red/white/black polo (polos worn under must have SFCC logo) |
| khaki jumper | black socks/tights OR white socks/tights white blouse (no logo required) OR red/white/black polo (polos worn under must have SFCC logo) |

***- Dates for wearing shorts will be announced at a later date -
- Pre-K students are not required to have a SFdSCCS logoed shirt -***

Every uniform combination also includes:

- solid black or white socks/tights only (must be visible above the shoe) (no logos or emblems)
- solid black shoes (including soles, stitching, logos, etc.)
- black belt with a simple buckle (excluding jumpers)

Additional items may include:

- sweaters or sweater vests with SFdSCCS logo (red, black or white), no hoods
- red, black, or white hair accessories: plain headbands, barrettes, clips, small bows
- watch
- religious medal
- Girls: post earrings

To complete the look:

- shorts/skirts/skortis must be within 2" of the knees
- shirts must be tucked in at all times
- hairstyles need to be clean neatly styled, and out of the student's eyes
 - Boys: hair must be above the uniform shirt collar and out of eyes
 - Hair can't be of unnatural hair color (unnatural would be pink, blue, other loud colors)
 - Any hairstyle that is deemed disruptive to the learning environment is prohibited

Prohibited items include:

- nail polish and make-up
- clothing with non-SFdSCCS logos
- boots

2023-2024 UNIFORM CODE

Middle School

Uniform combinations include

| Top | Bottom |
|--------------------|--|
| red SFdSCCS polo | khaki pants/shorts/skort OR black pants/shorts/skort |
| white SFdSCCS polo | khaki pants/shorts/skort OR black pants/shorts/skort |
| black SFdSCCS polo | khaki pants/shorts/skort |

*dates for wearing shorts will be announced at a later date

Every uniform combination also includes:

- solid black or solid white socks/tights only (must be visible above the shoe) (no logos or emblems)
- solid black shoes (including soles, stitching, logos, etc.)
- black belt with a simple buckle
- shirts must be tucked in at all times

Additional items may include:

- sweaters or sweater vests with SFCC logo (red, black or white), no hoods
- red, black, or white hair accessories: plain headbands, barrettes, clips, small bows
- watch
- religious medal or bracelet
- Girls: post earrings or nickel size or smaller hoop earrings
- Girls: light make-up and light nail polish (polish must be cleanly manicured and not peeling)
- Girls: please wear proper white or neutral undergarments with white shirts

To complete the look:

- shorts/skirts/skort must be within 2" of the knees
- shirts must be tucked in at all times
- hairstyles need to be clean neatly styled, and out of the student's eyes
 - Boys: hair must be above the uniform shirt collar and out of eyes
 - Hair can't be of unnatural hair color (unnatural would be pink, blue, other loud colors)
 - Any hairstyle that is deemed disruptive to the learning environment is prohibited

Prohibited items include:

- clothing with non-SFdSCCS logos
- boots, open toe shoes, backless shoes, slipper style shoes

2023-2024 SPECIAL UNIFORM POLICIES

Grades Pre-K through 8

On all non-uniform days, students are expected to wear modest and appropriate clothing choices that are not revealing and uphold the dress standards of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School. Families can purchase St. Francis Spirit Wear through the various school stores that are sent out via email throughout the school year, as well as at Blue and Gold Graphics on Greenbag Road, Morgantown.

DRESS DOWN

For SCRIP, spirit days, picture day, etc.

Students must choose their outfits using these guidelines:

- shorts/skirts/skorts must be within 2” of the knees
- tops that are modest and appropriate (no tight, low cut, see through, etc)
- shoes that are not backless, open toe, or excessive heels (no slippers, slides, sandals)

Prohibited items include:

- sleeveless shirts tank tops (without covered shoulders)
- beach-style/swim shorts
- jeans that have holes ripped or are tight-fitting
- clothing/face masks of inappropriate nature or language

DRESS UP

Concerts, 8th grade graduation

Students must choose clothing that follows these guidelines:

- shorts/skirts/skorts must be within 2” of the knees
- tops that are modest and appropriate (no tight, low cut, see through, etc.)
- shoes that are not backless, open toe, or excessive heels
- no slipper styles, no “uggs” or similar styled boots

Prohibited items include:

- sleeveless shirts/ tank tops
- athletic wear
- denim
- t-shirts

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY

- Middle School MSA t-shirt
- jeans, sweatpants, or khaki pants

SCHOOL VISITORS

All visitors must sign in and out at the main office, receive a visitor's badge, and be accompanied and/or directed to and from their intended destination. Visitors must wait outside of the main office as we limit the number of visitors inside the main office area. Any parent who wishes to visit a classroom needs permission and/or an invitation by the teacher. To minimize classroom disruptions, backpacks, lunches, and other forgotten items ordinarily must be left in the front office, who will make sure they are delivered to the appropriate student.

Parents who volunteer to serve in the school may not enter or peek into a classroom to see their child during the day. This is an interruption to the teacher and to the educational process.

When an appointment with an instructor has been scheduled (after school or during the instructor's conference period), the following procedures should be followed:

1. Meetings with instructors must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance and reported to the office manager
2. Upon arrival at the school, parents must sign in at the office
3. The office will notify the teacher of the parents' arrival
4. Parents and teachers are expected to maintain a civil attitude during the conference
5. The conference should not exceed 45 minutes.

Meetings with the School Principal may be scheduled through the Office Manager. When an appointment with the Principal has been scheduled, the following procedures must be followed:

1. In instances regarding academic, disciplinary, or other disputes with school staff, the meeting will not be granted until the parents have met with all other appropriate personnel (please see "Procedures for the Pursuance of Complaints" below);
2. Upon arrival at the school, parents must sign in at the office
3. The Principal or another member of the school's staff may attend meetings of the Principal and may take notes at the discretion of the Principal
4. All parties are expected to maintain a civil attitude during the conference
5. The conference should not exceed 30 minutes

"Drop In" meetings – that is impromptu, unscheduled meetings – will only be permitted pending Principal's availability.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND OTHER GUESTS TO THE SCHOOL

The school administration must be consulted in advance of any special programs that would involve special guests visiting the classrooms or the school in general. This procedure will permit orderly scheduling of events and the opportunity to make proper arrangements. No guest speaker will be permitted in the building without the permission of the school administration. All guests that will be around any school children must complete the volunteer Safe Environment program documentation online.

FIELD TRIPS

A field trip is a privilege, not a right. St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School recognizes the importance and value of trips for field study and approves of these visits to places of cultural, educational, spiritual or co-curricular significance to further enrich the lessons of the classroom. Only trips of this nature are permitted.

It is the responsibility of the Principal to approve all field trips taken by students in the school. Monies raised in the name of the school may be used to defray costs of trips only if those trips have the approval of the Principal, and when such trips are permitted by the Catholic School Consultative Board policy.

Overnight trips are not permitted at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, only on a case by case basis and with permission of the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

The following should be taken into consideration when any field trips are planned:

1. Adequate adult supervision must be provided, including at least one employee of the school.
2. Bus transportation is the most desirable method to be used for any field trip. The use of private passenger vehicles is discouraged and should be avoided if possible.
3. Permission slips must be completed by all chaperones and all parents/guardians of students participating in any field trip, holding harmless the Diocese and the school for injury, accident, illness or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip.
4. Chaperones and volunteers must be 100% Safe Environment "Protecting God's Children/Virtus" compliant.
5. Individual teachers, in consultation with Administration, reserve the right to restrict or deny student participation on any field trip.
6. All grades do not always have the same number of field trips.
7. Field trips are permissible for all grades when advance planning, location, and the experience ensure a successful learning opportunity.
8. A written official permission slip, signed by the parent, is required before a child will be permitted to attend a field trip activity. **Verbal permission cannot be accepted.** Permission slips are due before the field trip.
9. A telephone call will not be accepted in lieu of the proper field trip permission slip.
10. Parents may refuse to permit their child from participating in a field trip by noting so on the "Permission Slip for Field Trip Participation" form. Students not going on the field trip should not be sent to school that day, unless otherwise approved by the school. This will be considered an unexcused absence unless approved by administration.
11. All monies collected for the field trip are non-refundable.
12. Cell phones are not allowed on field trips unless otherwise directed by the teacher and/or administration.

If a private passenger vehicle must be used, the following information must be supplied and certified by the driver in question:

1. The driver must be at least 21 years of age.
2. The driver must have a valid, non-probationary driver's license and no physical disability that could in any way impair his/her ability to drive the vehicle safely.
3. The vehicle must have a valid and current registration and a valid and current license plate.
4. Written permission must be provided by each student's parent or legal guardian prior to the trip. This information should be provided on the field trip permission slip.
5. All drivers and chaperones must be Safe Environment (Virtus) trained.
6. Students must wear seat belts at all times.
7. Cell phone calls, both incoming and outgoing, are not permitted at any time while driving a vehicle for diocesan business. This applies to handheld and hands-free devices.
8. Parent drives should not deviate from the itinerary unless there is an emergency; such emergencies should be called into the supervising teacher as soon as safely possible.

PARENTS AND FAMILIES AT ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, it is your right and your duty to become the primary role models for the development of your child's life; physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Your choice of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his/her life.

Good example is the strongest teacher. Your personal relationship with God, with each other, and with the Church community will affect the way your child relates to God and others. Ideals taught in school are not well rooted in the child unless these are nurtured by the example of good Catholic morality and by an honest personal relationship with God in your family life.

Once you have chosen to enter a relationship with St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years of Pre-K to 8, your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty in order to develop moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical endowment. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest of challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his or her potential. It is vital that both parents and teachers remember that allowing oneself to be caught between the student and the other partner will never have positive results. To divide authority between school and home or within the home will only teach disrespect of all authority. If there is an incident at school, parents may follow up with the teacher first, then, if needed, administration may be brought in to help resolve any issue. Families are discouraged from performing their own investigation. Individuals who take it upon themselves to collect information from other families or students without first reaching out to school officials (Faculty, Extended Care Director, Administration, etc.) shall not expect their gathered information to direct a school's decision. Mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good mature behavior and relationships.

Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. However, sometimes in the process of maturation new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, it has boundaries and limits which provide a young person with both guidance and security.

It is essential that a child takes responsibility for grades he or she earned and be accountable for homework, long-term assignments, major tests, service projects, and all other assignments. This responsibility also extends to times of absence.

Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child to become the best person he or she is capable of becoming.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

As partners in the educational process at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, we ask parents:

1. To set rules, times, and limits so that your child;
 - a. Gets to bed early on school nights
 - b. Arrives at school on time and is picked up on time at the end of the day
 - c. Is dressed accordingly to the school dress code
 - d. Completes assignments on time
 - e. Has a nutritional sack lunch each day of not receiving the school hot lunch
2. To actively participate in school activities when opportunities arise
3. To see that the student pays for any damage to school books, iPads, Chromebooks, or property due to carelessness or neglect on the part of the student
4. To notify the school with a written note when the student has been absent or tardy
5. Notify the school office of any address or important phone numbers
6. To meet all financial obligations to the school
7. To inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety, and health
8. To complete and return to school any requested information or documentation promptly
9. To read school notes, newsletters, and emails and to show interest in the student's total education
10. To support the religious and educational goals of the school
11. To attend Mass and teach the Catholic faith by word and example
12. To support and cooperate with the discipline policy of the school
13. To treat teachers with respect and courtesy in discussing student issues

GIFTS

Students should not exchange individual gifts at school. This gesture may create hurt feelings among other students. Invitations for slumber parties or birthday parties should be sent to the homes of the students via U.S. mail or email unless an invitation is being given to every student in the entire class.

PARENTAL COVENANT

1. See that children attend regularly and are punctual to school. All classes begin promptly at 7:50 a.m. School doors are opened at 7:00 a.m. Students not present in their classroom by 7:50 a.m. will be marked tardy.
2. Ensure child/ren's immunization records are up to date and comply with the CDC recommended Immunization Schedule for all students enrolled at SFCCS. Kindergarten and 7th grade students will have additional requirements before entry.
3. Ensure the child has lunch each day either from home or from the school lunch program. If a student does not have lunch, every effort will be made to notify the parent. If no contact is made with the parent, the school will provide a bagged lunch from the school's lunch program if there is additional food left. Parents will be assessed a \$5 charge for each lunch provided.
4. Keep the child home when ill. If the child has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, keep home for 24 hours after the fever breaks or the last incident occurs. If exposed to Covid, follow the Health Department guidelines which may be a 14 day quarantine at home.

5. Notify the school of any serious illness (asthma, allergies, etc.) and ensure all information is documented on the child's medical forms accompanied by an official letter from the doctor indicating diagnoses. Send in a written explanation including a doctor's note where applicable:

- following any absences;
- if a child is to be late due to an appointment;
- if a child must be excused from school before dismissal time;
- if child is not to take part in physical education or outside recess
- parents must sign a medical release form in the office prior to administering any medication.
- all medication must be in the original container with the child's name clearly indicated.

6. Parental Concerns

a. If the concern results from some problem or misunderstanding in the classroom, the parent should first directly contact the teacher involved. Parents must schedule a conference with the teacher. Conferences can be scheduled before or after school hours, or during a teacher's planning period during the school day if availability is determined. Drop Ins are not permitted.

b. After consultation with the teacher, if the parent believes the issue has not been resolved, the next step is to request an appointment with the principal.

c. If the issue is not settled after consultation with the principal, parents are invited to meet with the school pastor.

7. Notify the school of any change of address, telephone number or emergency information in a timely fashion.

8. Provide all legal documentation ordered by the court regarding custody and visitation rights of each parent. Documents must contain the court's stamp.

9. See that the child is always dressed in complete school uniform for school activities.

10. Support the school in its activities, and when possible offer your gift of time and talent in support of the teachers and school.

11. Monitor and supervise study at home, regularly monitor teacher web pages and FACTS Family Portal (RenWeb) for grades, homework assignments etc., and discuss grades.

12. Monitor regularly child's progress on FACTS Family Portal (RenWeb). Parents/guardians are asked to complete a FACTS Family Portal (RenWeb) account.

13. Monitor regularly the school website for forms, calendar information and upcoming events etc.

14. Refrain from texting/calling a child on his/her cell phone during school hours. Do not text your child during dismissal to tell him/her you are in the drive thru.

15. Ensure prompt payment of all fees including, but not limited to, tuition, lunches, after school and child care services. Failure to do so may result in loss of child/ren's place in the school.

16. Ensure all monthly funds are available for tuition and fee payments.

17. Changes and amendments to financial obligations and payments must be made in writing. Changes and amendments will be in effect ten working days from the date received.

18. Ensure a financial contract is signed prior to enrollment.
19. Ensure the handbook contract is signed and returned to the school office upon enrollment.
20. Ensure all forms such as 'Acceptable Technology Use Policy', 'Student Work Form', 'Permission to Photograph Student', and WebForms forms are completed.
22. Acknowledge that social network sites are not the correct forum for discussing school issues, faculty, staff or students. Any forms of inappropriate postings on social websites by parents, grandparents or other family members may result in immediate termination of child/ren's placement at SFCCS at the Principal's and Pastor's discretion.
23. Any behavior deemed negative and inappropriate may result in the termination of a child/ren's place at SFCCS at the discretion of the principal and school pastor.

ADVANCEMENT

The Advancement Department at St. Francis is focused on raising funds for various projects around our campus and planning for the future of our school. Within this department is alumni relations, fundraising, the school newsletter and Annual Report, the Community Partner program, the Annual Fund, the St. Francis School Foundation, and donations, whether they are for general purposes or made in memory of a passed St. Francis supporter. The success of the Advancement Department depends on the generosity of our current families, alumni, and community supporters.

One of the most important components of Advancement at St. Francis is our two annual mandatory fundraisers. Each fundraiser is mandatory for every St. Francis family to participate in, no matter the grade of child, or how many students the family has. Each family pays by the family as a whole and not by each student they have enrolled at our school. At the beginning of the school year, we give each family the choice to do a \$225 general school fundraiser buyout in lieu of the school fundraisers. If they do not choose the buy-out, they will need to participate in the fall Pepperoni Roll Sale and the spring Walk-a-Thon.

Another important Advancement program is the One Day of Giving. The goal is to raise a set amount of money in a 24-hour period. This is NOT a mandatory fundraiser for our families; however, we strongly encourage all current families, alumni, and community supporters who would like to help us reach our goal to participate.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

First Aid procedures will be kept at the School Nurse Office. A written form authorizing emergency medical treatment signed by a parent or guardian will be on file for each student.

INSURANCE – STUDENT/SCHOOL

School accident insurance through the Diocese is mandatory for every child enrolled in a school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Parents are called immediately if any child is involved in an accident that requires further medical treatment. For minor accidents such as minor scrapes and cuts, parents may be notified via the “Accident Report,” which will be sent home with the child. When a child becomes ill at school, the office will call the parent and ask that the child be taken home. Children with a temperature of $\geq 100.5^{\circ}$ or, who have vomited, must be sent home immediately.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School shall report all known or suspected cases of reportable communicable disease immediately to the local health department and the Principal, and follow all requirements of the health department.

A student infected with HIV/AIDS shall be allowed to attend school and other classes as long as the student poses no reasonable risk to himself/herself or to other persons in the school.

The right to privacy of the infected student or employee shall be respected at all times.

STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is neglected or abused, or observes a child being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse or neglect, is required by West Virginia Law to report it. A “child” is defined as any person under eighteen years of age. It is the responsibility of the teacher, staff member, coach, tutor, or activity coordinator to report such suspicion to the principal. It is the responsibility of the principal to make a report to Child Protective Services in accordance with State Law. Any person acting in good faith under this law is immune from civil and criminal liability for making this report.

STUDENT ALLERGIES

The school recognizes that an allergy is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with allergies. The school encourages children with allergies to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils. Teachers and new staff are also made aware of this policy. All staff who come into contact with children with allergies are provided with training on allergies from the school nurse. Training is updated as needed.

For more information on the school food allergy efforts, refer to page 60 of this handbook.

DISPENSING MEDICATION

1. Giving medication is the primary responsibility of the parent/guardian. Therefore, medications should, as much as possible, be given before and/or after school. If a medication must be given during school hours, school personnel will assist in the administration of the medication. However, school personnel are not responsible for giving missed or late home doses of medicine.
2. If a child requires any medication during school hours, the parent/guardian must bring or have the child bring medication to the nurse or designee before the school day begins along with a note signed by the parent/guardian, and the child's physician.
3. **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION:**
 - a. Medication will only be given when the school has received the Medication Form signed by the physician and parent/guardian.
 - b. The medication must be in the original container from the pharmacy
 - c. The dosage must be the same on the container and the permission slip
 - d. Medication for 30 days is the maximum supply students may bring to school
 - e. If a child's medication or dosage changes it is important that the parent/guardian send a new Medication Form signed by the physician and parent/guardian, and in the original container from the pharmacy. Additional forms are available at the school
4. **NONPRESCRIPTION MEDICATION:**
 - a. Medication will only be given when the school has received the Medication Form signed by the parent/guardian and the primary physician.
 - b. The medication must be in the original container and labeled with the child's name.
 - c. The dosage must be age appropriate, unless otherwise indicated by a physician.
 - d. If the child's medication or dosage changes, it is important to send a new Medication Form or signed note by the parent/guardian. Additional forms are available at the school
5. **DO NOT:**
 - a. Do not send medication with the child in boxes, baggies, or envelopes. School personnel will not give medication that is not in the original container and labeled.
 - b. Do not send any medication with a child to school unless there is also a written permission slip. This guideline includes Tylenol, cough drops, nose sprays, cold medications, skin creams, sore throat gum, drops or sprays.
6. **CALL THE SCHOOL NURSE OR DESIGNEE AT SCHOOL REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:**
 - a. Injectable Medications- A dose must remain at school at all times.
 - b. Inhaled Medications- If a child must carry; a written physician's order must be sent stating the need.
 - c. Medication that must be taken all year (Ritalin, Dexedrin, etc.)-Please provide a maximum supply of 30 days.
 - d. Medication with aspirin or aspirin products-The Medication Form must be signed by the physician and parent/guardian, because of the possibility of Reye's syndrome. It is recommended that aspirin-free products be considered.
7. The school accepts no responsibility for accidental or unexplained "self-medication" by a child, or for loss or misuse of medication carried by a child.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please call the school nurse or office manager.

ATTENDANCE

Accounting for Attendance

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School will keep an updated and accurate record of absences and tardiness and such information is to be recorded on the student's permanent record. When classes are in session, students are expected to be prompt and present. Class attendance cannot be overemphasized. While missed work may be made up in most cases, missed instruction cannot be duplicated. Good attendance and academic performance are positively and directly related.

Unless already communicated to the school and prior approval given, a student who is absent must, upon his/her return to school, present a note containing the reason for the absence, the date(s) of absence, and the signature of a parent or legal guardian. Failure to present a note upon return will result in an unexcused absence.

Repeated absences, delays, or early pick-ups from school for outside of school activities (i.e. individual or team sports, other activities) is not permitted.

Teachers and school staff keep an accurate account of attendance via the school's student information system. Parents are requested to call the school office by 8:30 AM when a student is absent. A student coming to school late must report to the office before he/she is admitted to class. Students who arrive at school after 11:00 AM are considered absent for a half day and may not participate in secondary school athletics events (unless a physician's note allows for their participation).

If it is necessary to have your child excused during the school hours, a note and/or phone call must be sent to the School Office stating the reason for the early dismissal. Assignments, depending on the situation, may or may not be able to be given in advance for time missed by students. Assignments will ordinarily be given when the student returns. It will be the parent's responsibility to review the skills taught while the student is absent. Work not turned in will result in a zero for all incomplete assignments.

Student Work during Vacations/Planned Absences: Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during long weekends and holiday times to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process. Teachers will make a reasonable effort to accommodate families by providing student work to students prior to the planned absence, understanding that not all assignments may be given in advance due to the pace of instruction during the absence. In addition to student work that is provided, students may check Google Classroom / Teacher Websites for daily assignments to help keep up with their work while they are away. For absences less than five (5) consecutive days, students are allotted the number of days absent to turn in missing assignments that were assigned during their absence. For absences of five (5) consecutive days or more, arrangements must be made with the child's teacher(s) to create a schedule to complete any missed assignments and/or assessments. To ensure academic integrity, assessments will not be provided nor taken during a student absence. Upon return, scheduled assessments (quizzes, tests, projects) will be delayed one school day unless a student is prepared to take the assessment on that day.

Student Work Policy due to Illness: If a student is absent they may receive their assignments when they return to school. If a student is absent for more than one day, a parent may call the school office by 2:00 pm to arrange for homework assignments to be ready for pickup the following day or given to the student upon return. Additionally, students may check Google Classroom for daily assignments. For absences less than five (5) consecutive days, students are allotted the number of sick days absent to turn in missing assignments that were assigned during their absence. For absences of five (5) consecutive days or more, arrangements must be made with the child's teacher(s) to create a schedule to complete any missed assignments and/or assessments. To ensure academic integrity, assessments will not be provided nor taken during a student absence. Upon return, scheduled assessments (quizzes, tests, projects) will be delayed one school day unless a student is prepared to take the assessment on that day.

Parents may pick up students starting at 2:30 PM following the procedures defined on the following pages. At this time, all K-8 students must be picked up by 3:00 pm with few exceptions such as Middle School Athletics when practicing right after school or if staying in the Extended Care Keepers Program.

TARDINESS

Diocesan policy requires a minimum school year of 180 days of class instruction. Regular and punctual attendance facilitates learning and parents are encouraged to commit themselves to seeing that students are present and on time daily. Students who are absent or tardy frequently miss important instruction and may experience difficulty in meeting grade and/or subject requirements.

Students may be dropped off at school beginning at 7:00 AM where they will be supervised in the gym (K-8), or PreK wing (PreK students).

School begins at 7:50 AM daily. Students are considered tardy when the tardy bell rings at 7:50 AM and morning pledge and announcements begin.

Tardiness Consequence

A student who is tardy must, upon his/her entrance to school, present a note containing the reason for the tardiness and the signature of a parent or legal guardian. Failure to present a note upon entry will result in an unexcused tardy. The student will be given one (1) unexcused absence for each 5 accumulated unexcused tardies.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDIES

Excessive absences and tardiness are to be considered serious educational hindrances; therefore excessive absences may result in retention for the following school year. If a student will be absent for an extended period of time, parents/guardians must seek approval from school administration for the absences to be considered excused. The following consequences will result in regards to unexcused absences:

- After five (5) unexcused absences, parents will be notified via email
- After ten (10) unexcused absences, parents will receive a phone call from school administration to discuss the amount of unexcused absences and
- After fifteen (15) unexcused absences, parents will meet face-to-face with the school principal to further discuss
- After twenty (20) unexcused absences, the student will be recommended for required withdrawal from the school.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Drop-Off Procedures K-8 (7:00 – 7:50 AM)

Option One

1. Circle around the back school parking lot following the yellow arrows.
2. Pull all the way up as directed by school staff to allow the most vehicles into the drop off lane at one time as possible.
3. Once your car has stopped, your child(ren) may exit the vehicle on the side facing the gym:
 - a. K - 8th grade students will enter the building thru the side cafeteria door, K-5 students will remain in the cafeteria while Middle School students will walk to the gym.
4. Exit slowly from the drop-off lane and turn right to exit St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.
5. Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the drop-off lane.

Option Two

For those who wish to walk their children to school:

1. Park in the lower lot.
2. Walk up the concrete stairs to St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School and students only enter the main school entrance to proceed to their designated area.

Pick-Up Procedures K-8

Window Requests 2:30-3:00 PM **Loop Pick up 2:30-3:00 PM

Option One

1. Circle around the back school parking lot following the yellow arrows.
2. Pull all the way up as directed by school staff to allow the most vehicles into the pick-up lane at one time as possible.
3. Once your car has stopped, your child(ren) will be helped into your car by one of the school's staff.
4. Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the pick-up lane.
5. Exit slowly from the pick-up lane and turn right to exit St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

Option Two

For those who wish to walk their children to their car from school:

1. Park in the lower lot.
2. Walk up the concrete stairs to St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.
3. After announcements, you may request the staff member outside to call your child(ren) down to the lobby. Parents must wait outside the school building.

Daytime Parking

The front loop is reserved for PreK pick-up and drop-off only. No vehicles should be parked in the front circle before 8:00 AM or after 2:00 PM, except in an emergency situation.

If special assistance / handicap parking is required, please contact the Main Office for this service.

PRE-K DROP OFF/PICK UP

PreK families will have access to the front loop of the school for drop-off and pick up. Pre-K families may drop-off students between the hours of 7:00-7:50 AM. Families bring their child to the Pre-K entrance, where they will be asked to sign in their child. After 7:50 AM, families will need to ring the PreK entrance doorbell to gain access to the entryway where a PreK faculty member will meet them and the student will be signed in.

REMINDERS

1. **No double-parking on the curb (*blocking cars along the curb from getting out*)**
2. **No parking in reserved spots, nor next to reserved spots (*parking only along the yellow curb*)**
3. **Failure to comply with these procedures will lead to notice from administration and may have further consequences.**

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES (PreK)

Option One - Express Drop-Off

1. Enter the front circle / loop
2. Pull around the loop as far as possible to allow the most vehicles into the drop off circle at one time as possible.
3. Once your car has stopped, bring your child into the school through the PreK entrance, sign your child in and promptly return to your vehicle.
4. Exit slowly from the circle through the North End and turn right to exit St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

Option Two

For those who wish to take more time when dropping their child off, or if you plan to speak with a teacher:

1. Park in the lower lot.
2. Walk up the concrete stairs to the main PreK entrance.

Drop off during early hours

During the hours of 7:00-7:50 AM, children will be with one of the Pre-K Teacher's Aides. At 7:50 AM, the children will enter the classrooms to begin their morning routine.

PICK-UP PROCEDURES (PreK)

Option One - Express Pick-Up

5. Enter the front circle / loop
6. Pull around the loop as far as possible to allow the most vehicles into the drop off circle at one time as possible.
7. Once your car has stopped, enter the school through the PreK entrance, sign your child out and promptly return to your vehicle.
8. Exit slowly from the circle through the North End and turn right to exit St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

Option Two

For those who wish to take more time when picking up their child, if arriving before 2:30 pm, or if you plan to speak with a teacher and/or staff member:

3. Park in the lower lot.
4. Walk up the concrete stairs and enter the school through the PreK entrance to sign your child out of his or her classroom.

Departure

Pre-K Parents may begin using the front circle / loop 2:30-3:00 PM. Parents will then walk to the Pre-K entrance, where they will be asked to sign out their child. Children being picked up from Keepers will also need to be signed out from the main PreK entrance. Older siblings of PreK to Kindergarten students attending Keepers will be signed out by Keepers staff and sent to the PreK wing to meet parents/guardians.

TUITION & FEES: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Tuition

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston requires all schools of the Diocese to prepare an annual operational budget that is submitted to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools (Diocesan Policy 3110). This budget is prepared by the Principal in collaboration with the School Accountant, Finance Committee, and Designated Pastor. The budget must be a balanced budget based on anticipated income and projected expenditures (Diocesan Policy 3111).

After establishing the desired and anticipated expenses, anticipated fees shall be added to the income projections. After establishing the fees, the school shall establish projected enrollment based on the enrollment of the current school year.

After having established the expenses, fees, and projected enrollment, the school shall establish the tuition rate. The tuition rate shall be determined by dividing all remaining school expenses by the projected enrollment. The tuition rate shall be uniform across all grade levels, with the exception of PreK2 and PreK3.

The school may establish additional subsidy and tuition reduction programs in which families may elect to participate. These programs must be backed by predictable income sources. When possible, families should also be allowed to contribute these subsidies and reductions to tuition assistance programs for needy families as a charitable gift.

TUITION SCHEDULE
School Year 2023-2024

| | |
|---|---------|
| Annual Tuition (Actual Cost of Education- ACE) | \$8,433 |
| Pre-Kindergarten 2 & 3 year old Amount Owed | |
| Full Time Enrollment | \$8,450 |
| Available Tuition as Participating Catholic in a Sponsoring Parish: | |
| • First Child Amount Owed, PreK4-8 | \$6,950 |
| • 2nd - 4th Multiple Child Amount Owed, PreK4-8 | \$5,550 |
| Non-Participating Families PreK4-8 | |
| • Non-Catholic and Non-Participating Catholic student rate | \$8,450 |

A 5% discount will be given if tuition is paid in full by June 30, 2023

Additional Fees:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Instructional Material Fee (per Student) | \$ 75 |
| Safety Fee (per Student) | \$ 130 |
| Registration Fee (per Family) | \$ 150 |
| Technology Fee (per Family) | \$ 125 |

TUITION ASSISTANCE

According to Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Policy 3212, “It is a principle of the philosophy of the parochial schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston that Catholic youth desirous of receiving a Catholic school education should not be deprived of it for financial reasons. Each local school board is encouraged to establish a tuition assistance fund. Schools may use the diocesan tuition assistance service to assist them in disbursement of funds.”

It is the policy of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School that no child will be denied a Catholic education at the school because of the family’s inability to pay. Therefore, the school will establish tuition assistance to ensure accessibility to the school for all. These programs must include the following:

1. Clearly defined rules regarding eligibility for the tuition assistance.
2. An objective and clearly defined method to determine said eligibility.
3. Respect for the Catholic nature and overall admissions policies of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

Every family wishing to apply for tuition assistance may do so through FACTS Management. To make the application, families must go to the following website: www.factsmgmt.com/aid. If the family is making their first application for tuition assistance, they must create an account. Families who already have an account must sign in. Once logged into the system, the family must enter all requested financial information into the system and then forward to FACTS Management a copy of their most recent tax returns.

Twice annually, in May and August, the Diocese will review each application and determine a reward amount. Once awards are determined, the family will receive communication stating their award amount, and the amount will be deducted from their FACTS tuition agreement and payments will be adjusted rateably. Families who do not receive awards or who wish to receive more may receive local tuition assistance by contacting the school’s Principal with their individual request and circumstances.

Families who experience financial hardship during the school year may also qualify for tuition assistance during the year. These families must also complete an online application for tuition assistance through FACTS Management. In addition, they must notify the school of their hardship and schedule a meeting with the school's Principal. This meeting will be granted once the FACTS application has been submitted and verified. At the meeting, the family must present documentation supporting the financial hardship. The Principal will then make a determination regarding tuition assistance within 48 hours of the meeting. If assistance is granted, the amount will be deducted from their FACTS tuition agreement and their payments will be adjusted ratably.

Families who are active and participating members of one of our four participating parishes (St. Francis de Sales, St. John's University, St. Luke's, and St. Mary's) may qualify for parish subsidy reductions of \$1,500 for each child in PreK4 through Grade Eight, and \$1,400 for each additional child (up to 3) in PreK4 through Grade Eight. To receive these subsidy reductions, families must meet with their pastor and return the verification form signed by the pastor. These verification forms may be obtained through the school and the signed form must be returned to the school by June 30th.

TUITION PAYMENT

According to Policy 3119 of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, "all schools must have a policy regarding the payment and collection of tuition."

For the 2023-2024 school year, all tuition will be paid through FACTS Management. Families may choose to pay (1) their full tuition amount by June 30, 2023, and receive a 5% discount, (2) pay in full by September 1, 2023, or (3) through 10 monthly automatic deductions from their checking, savings, or credit card account during the months of September 2023 through June 2024. There is no fee for initially setting up these options.

GENERAL FEES

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School shall establish fees to fund specific, targeted programs or expenses not covered by tuition. In general, these programs must have clearly defined expenses that cannot be reduced or eliminated due to fluctuations in school enrollment. Fees will be established by the school's administration in consultation with the Finance Committee and Designated Pastor. Fees will be collected by the same means as tuition through the FACT Management System.

KEEPERS EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM

Keepers is the school's after-school extended care program for students from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grades. It is administered and staffed by employees of the school and runs from 3:00 pm–5:30 pm, Monday-Friday (**excluding early dismissal days**). Children who are not picked up by 3:00 PM will be automatically scanned into the Keepers program, and you will be billed accordingly.

The base charge for Keeper's is set by the school administration in consultation with the Finance Committee and the School Advisory Council. **The flat charge for the school year 2023-2024 is \$12.50 per student per day. This rate applies immediately once a child is scanned in, no matter the length of time used. No pick-ups will be permitted through the front entrance after 3:00 pm. Families who pick up their child(ren) from Keepers after 5:30 will be charged a \$25 fee, per student, which will be taken from the family FACTS account.**

Children will remain in extended care until an authorized adult, listed in the school's Student Information System, arrives for pickup. Each student will scan his/her face to be checked out. Authorized adults must come to the side cafeteria entrance to pick up their child(ren). Pre-K through Kindergarten will be picked up at the **Pre-K entrance** of the school. **Older siblings of Pre-K through K students will also be received at the Pre-K entrance. Children will not be sent alone to the car, and children will not be left alone in the extended care area.**

Children will not be released to anyone other than legal guardians unless prior arrangements with the school have been made. All authorized persons must be entered into the school's Student Information System and listed under emergency contacts. An ID will be required, and each person will also be scanned into the OptView System.

KEEPERS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

General Information

Pick up after 3:00 pm until 5:30 pm will take place from the Cafeteria vestibule. A Keepers Staff member will be there to check for approved adults wishing to pick up a child(ren) . **A picture ID will be required of individuals unfamiliar to the Keepers Staff.** Each student will scan his/her face to check out.

PK students will remain in their classrooms while school-aged students will be grouped together. Students will be offered a light snack while in attendance. This program will be staffed by young adults and provide a safe and flexible atmosphere. Students will be encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible, weather permitting. During inclement weather, indoor games, books, and movies will be available.

Please note, that no specific homework time will be designated. If students are responsible enough to work on their studies, it will be permitted, **but will not be the responsibility of staff to see that a student completes his/her work. Students will be expected to ensure that all belongings are returned to their backpack and not misplaced after completion of their homework.**

There is no special enrollment needed. All SFdSCCS students are eligible for this program. At 3:00 pm, any student who has not been picked up will automatically be scanned into the Keepers program. No student will be permitted to sit in the front office to await pick-up, even if a parent is just a few minutes past 3:00 pm. **The school's license requires that all students remaining past the designated end of school day become the responsibility of the Keepers program.**

The Keepers program will enforce the **Internet and Electronics policies** listed in this handbook. Please read over them with your children. No games containing violence will be permitted, nor will they be allowed to watch R rated movies or inappropriate YouTube videos. **The Keepers Staff will monitor all activities on all electronic devices, personal and/or school devices, and are charged with the responsibility to eliminate the opportunity for continued use if your child is found not following the rules. If it is a personal device, it will be taken and given to the approved guardian at pickup.**

Keepers will follow the school's **Health and Safety policies** and will also conduct the same safety drills from time to time as they are already familiar with during the school hours. It is imperative that the children have a plan in place during the after care hours as well.

Medical and health related issues will be addressed in the same manner they are during school hours. Any student requiring special medical care (i.e. diabetics or seizure disorder) will be attended to according to the established medical plan on file. Although during the after care program hours there is no RN available, the Extended Care Director has been trained by the school's nurse on each individual child's needs and has completed a state licensing Medication Administration course and are the only two persons allowed to administer medication during the after care program. EPI pens and Inhalers do not fall under this category, and any adult in charge of the care and keeping of children who should require this can administer these types of life-saving medications.

Behavior

Children are expected to follow the school's rules and code of conduct during the after school program as well. The Interns will first attempt to resolve any small issues of concern by reminding the child(ren) of the rules. Any child who chooses otherwise will then be referred to the Extended Care Director. If there is a need for higher admin involvement, the school administration will then be notified. Please refer to the Behavior and Discipline section of the handbook for specific instances and procedures regarding behaviors that could result in suspension and expulsion.

EXTENDED CARE COMMUNICATION

Please contact the Extended Care Director with initial concerns or questions regarding the Keepers program. If you do not find resolution or satisfaction after contacting the Extended Care Director, then please contact one of the school Assistant Principals.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

All students at St. Francis are eligible for nutritious food, milk, and juice through the cafeteria. The school offers a variety of options to students, including hot lunch, soup and salad bar, and a cold lunch alternative. Seating is established by the Cafeteria Manager in consultation with the faculty. Please see the Cafeteria Manager in these cases. Students may also pack their own lunch each day.

The Cafeteria Manager publishes a monthly menu. Students place orders for hot lunch each morning with their teacher from 8:00 – 8:15 AM. Students who arrive late should either pack their lunch or place an order through the Front Office when they arrive. The cost of lunch is \$5.00 per day for hot lunch. Milk and water is included. Juice is \$1.25 each. Parents are billed monthly through FACTS. To apply for free lunch, please request the application form through the main school office or cafeteria manager. The Free Program does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, or religion.

SNACKS

Children are permitted to bring simple, nutritious snacks. Appropriate snacks will be communicated through the teacher.

Students in PK2 through PK3 will be provided with school snacks as part of the student tuition. **Students in PK4 may bring in their own morning/afternoon snacks, or families may opt to pay a monthly \$25 snack fee to have school snacks provided for their child.** This monthly fee will be billed through the family FACTS SIS account.

FOOD ALLERGY DISCLAIMER

While SFdSCCS strives to ensure the safety of all students, please be advised that our menu items may contain allergens, may have come in contact with items containing allergens, and may be subject to contamination or cross-contamination with certain allergens during the manufacturing process. In addition to our cafeteria items and PTO-provided snacks for select occasions throughout the year, our campus permits students to bring cold lunches and snacks from home. As a result of any number of factors which are beyond the control of our faculty and staff, SFCCS cannot guarantee an environment free from any particular food allergen.

Parents concerned with food allergies need to be aware of these possibilities and are encouraged to inform both the school nurse and their student's teacher(s) of their child's specific needs. If a student will be eating school-provided foods, it is the responsibility of the parents to review the menu and make an informed decision as to whether their child will be eating school-supplied food or bringing food from home on any given day. Our cafeteria (as well as the PTO in providing snacks for select occasions) will continue to serve foods which are purported to be peanut/tree nut free. However, any such food is subject to the possibility of contamination or cross-contamination as discussed in this disclaimer.

Because of the diverse nature of allergies present within our school community, parents of students with particular allergenic dietary requirements are responsible for ensuring that their child is provided with meals and snacks suitable for their needs. SFdSCCS will not assume liability for adverse reactions to foods consumed, or other food items with which students may come into contact, while on our campus.

ACCEPTABLE TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET USE

Please read this document carefully before signing the Internet Use Agreement form

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School has established a computer network and is pleased to offer various technologies, including Internet access for our students, faculty, and staff. We believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources. Providing this service can help promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication consistent with our educational goals.

These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you have while using our technology program. In general this requires efficient, ethical, and legal use of the network resources. If a St. Francis user violates any of these provisions, his or her privilege will be terminated and future access could be denied. The signatures on the Internet Usage Agreement Form are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

Technology and Internet - Terms and Conditions

Acceptable Uses

1. Use of technology at St. Francis School must be in support of education and research and consistent with our educational objectives and Catholic values. This includes classroom activities, research, peer review of assigned work, and exchange of project-related ideas.
2. Students will have access to the Internet via classroom, library, or lab computers. Students may also bring to school for their personal educational use netbooks, iPads, and other portable internet devices.
3. Student use of the Internet is contingent upon parent/guardian permission in the form of an electronically signed copy of this Parent & Student Handbook. Parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time.
4. Material created and/or stored on the school's network is not guaranteed to be private.

Unacceptable Uses

1. The network may not be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, or freeware without prior permission from the network administrator.
2. St. Francis network users may only use email accounts assigned through the network administrator and may not use commercial Internet or "free-mail" accounts without the permission of the network administrator.
3. Participating in chain letters and "spamming" (sending emails to more than 10 people at the same time) is not permitted.
4. The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Users may not buy or sell products or services through the system without prior permission from the network administrator.
5. Use of the network for advertising or political lobbying is prohibited.
6. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material that violates United States or local laws. This includes, but is not limited to, illegal activities such as threatening the safety of another person or violating copyright laws.
7. Network users may not use vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language, nor engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person.
8. Network users may not log on to another person's account or attempt to access another user's files. "Hacking" or otherwise trying to gain access to another person's or organization's computer system is prohibited.
9. Use of chat rooms, newsgroups, or instant messaging is prohibited.

Privileges

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. The administration, faculty, and staff of St. Francis School may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts. St. Francis School makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. St. Francis School will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. St. Francis School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet, or any of the components of the computers or network system. This includes, but not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

Use of Electronic Communication

Whether occurring within or outside of school, when a student's use of electronic communication jeopardizes the safe environment of the school, or is disruptive to the school environment, or is contrary to Gospel values, the student may be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences, including expulsion. This policy applies to communications or depictions through e-mails, blogs, text messages, or website postings, whether they occur through the school's equipment or connectivity resources or through private communication, which: (1) are of a sexual nature; (2) threaten, libel, slander, malign, disparage, bully, harass, or embarrass members of the school community; or (3) cause harm to the school community.

Use of Technological Devices

Use of any technology-oriented device in schools must have an educational focus and purpose.

The use of electronic communication devices during normal school hours is prohibited.

Teachers reserve the right to allow communication devices (e.g. cell phones, laptops, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPads, etc.) during instructional time for specific instructional purposes. If a particular electronic communication device is to be used for educational purposes, the school administration and/or teacher will provide parameters for its use. The school retains the right to confiscate these devices if they interfere with the learning environment.

The use of camera features on any electronic or communication device to take unauthorized pictures and/or videos at any time is prohibited.

The use of any electronic communication device during a test shall be considered and treated as cheating.

Internet Engagement

Engagement in social networking, online blogs or postings shall result in disciplinary action, including expulsion, if the content of the student's blogs or postings includes defamatory comments regarding the school, a person's dignity, bullying, harassment, threats, or other inappropriate comments that are contradictory to Catholic teaching.

iPAD & CHROMEBOOK CODE OF CONDUCT

The focus of learning with tablets at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is to prepare students for their future; a world of technology and information. Excellence in education requires that technology is seamlessly integrated throughout the educational program. The individual use of a tablet is a way to empower students to learn at their full potential and to prepare them for the future. Tablets encourage students to solve problems and think critically by stimulating analytical thinking. Learning results from the continuous dynamic interaction among students, educators, parents and the extended community. Technology immersion does not diminish the vital role of the teacher.

Students will:

1. Follow all teacher directions including when to use the device.
2. Access only information related to the learning task.
3. Have your device fully charged at the start of every school day.
4. Have the volume of the device muted unless otherwise instructed.
5. Inform the teacher or others when using the camera and audio recording functions.
6. Ensure the device is password locked.
7. Seek your teacher's permission before sending any form of electronic messaging in class.
8. Ensure that audio, photos and video recorded at school are not uploaded, broadcast or transferred without a teacher's permission.
9. Only use your personal device yourself and do not loan your device to another student unless instructed to share.
10. Transport and store your device in a safe and secure manner when not in use, ensuring tablets are in a sturdy and robust cover at all times.
11. Understand that your device may be removed by teachers until the end of the lesson or for more serious breaches; the device will be held longer.

Adhere to all other Technology and Internet Usage Agreements.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Various athletic opportunities are offered to students at St. Francis. Boys and Girls in grades 6-8, who meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the West Virginia Secondary Athletic Commission and St. Francis Central Catholic School, are eligible for volleyball, basketball, track, cheerleading, softball and cross-country.

All students participating in Athletics must show proof of insurance. All students participating in athletics must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Generally, students are released only to parents/guardians or the parent/guardian who has custody according to school registration data. Positive identification may be requested. If someone other than the parent/guardian or the parent/guardian who has custody will be picking up a student, a note must be on file in the office authorizing release of the student. If a child is to go home with another student, both students must bring written permission on the day of the event. There will be no exceptions. This policy is in the interest of the child's safety.

The student is responsible for showing the written note to all pertinent teachers. The written note is reviewed and initialed by the pertinent teachers before being presented to the school office.

EARLY RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Parents are encouraged to avoid picking up students between 2:00-2:30 PM. Early release is discouraged as it robs students of equal opportunity to learn and succeed by causing them to miss vital instruction. Doctor, dentist, and clinic appointments should be scheduled, whenever possible, for an after-school time or during vacation from school. Unless otherwise approved, picking your child up thirty (30) minutes prior to dismissal will result in the same consequences as an unexcused tardy.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) MEETINGS

All parents are members of the Parent Teacher Organization. General meetings are held at least once each year. The meetings scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year will be announced through the school's calendar, the PTO agenda of events that is sent out during the summer, and Bloomz.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents are urged to clearly mark all articles of clothing, book bags, and other school items. Any items found in the school building or on the school grounds should be placed in the Lost and Found container located in the cafeteria. Items placed in the Lost and Found remain there for 30 days. Every attempt is made to return identifiable articles to the owner. After 30 days, items are donated to charity.

PARTIES AND TREATS AT SCHOOL

Parties are held at various times during the year for the students. Please refer to your school calendar for dates and grade levels. Homeroom parents, with the supervision and direction of the homeroom teacher, plan the parties.

QUESTIONING OTHER STUDENTS

No parent is permitted to question another student while at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School or at an officially sponsored school event. Questioning of students is to be done by a member of the school's faculty or administration at their discretion.

POLICY RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

The safety of each child entrusted to the care of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is of primary importance each and every day children are with us. This is especially true regarding child sexual abuse.

The primary responsibility for safeguarding children each day falls upon the administration of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School. However, only the concerted efforts of all the adults in the St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School community can guarantee that children will not become victims of sexual abuse while in our school building or at school activities.

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston require ALL school employees and any school volunteers to complete three steps prior to being allowed to work in our school and with our children. St. Francis further strongly recommends all parents complete this process during their child(ren)'s first year at St. Francis Central Catholic:

- **Background Checks:** Before a person is offered a paid or volunteer position, they must give permission to have a background verification that is focused on anything that would put children at risk. Only after being cleared can they be offered said position. The background checks are processed at the local level, i.e. Parish, Catholic School, etc.
- **Policy Handbook:** Each employee and volunteer is to be given a copy of Diocesan handbook "Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children". The policy is available online via www.dwc.org (Available in English and Spanish)
- **In-Service Workshop (VIRTUS):** Employees and volunteers must complete the Protecting God's Children for Adults/VIRTUS training. All should be registered online with VIRTUS, and keep up-to-date with the training bulletins.

By registering for a VIRTUS account online at www.VIRTUSonline.org, you may complete all three documents and fulfill the Safe Environment program initiatives all online. For a more detailed description of how to register, visit the school website (sfcss.org) and locate the '**Safe Environment Volunteer Registration Instructions**' document under the Parents – Download Files & Forms tab.

Please contact Mr. Swierkos if you have any questions regarding the Safe Environment Program at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Teachers will instruct students at the beginning of the school year on the following safety procedures. This is in addition to the required 15 minutes of general safety instruction each week. Practice or “walking through” the procedures prior to all-school drills is encouraged. Additional safety information may be obtained in the school office.

Note: Fire Department Officials make inspections periodically, and may call a fire drill when they visit. **DO NOT WANDER OR HESITATE! EXIT IMMEDIATELY**, even if a fire drill has just ended.

FIRE DRILLS

The fire laws of West Virginia require a minimum of ten fire drills each school year. During the first two weeks of classes, there will be at least two fire drills. Prior to the first fire drill, teachers will inform the students of the proper procedures for a safe exit from school.

In all fire drills or emergency exit drills, **ALL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS MUST KEEP PERFECT SILENCE** during the drill, leaving the building, standing in the safe area, and returning to the classroom when directed to do so by either the Office Manager or Principal.

When the alarm sounds, students rise, walk in a single line, and exit the building in silence. Students must leave all personal belongings and school materials behind in the classroom or in the locker. Children are to walk quickly, not run, with hands at their sides.

If there is a disabled student in the class, the classroom teacher will assign a student(s) to assist the student to leave the building. The teacher will assign a student or adult staff person to help a child with a cast or other medical condition that requires assistance during the drill. Every teacher who works with these students is to know the person or persons assigned to help. No teacher should leave the room until all students have left the room.

Teachers are to take their class lists to call roll when the class has left the building. The Principal, Executive Assistant to the Principal, or another designee shall check with each teacher during the drill to determine if all students are present and/or accounted for. All school volunteers and staff members must exit the building during the fire drill. Students not with a class at the time of the drill are to leave the building by the nearest exit and join their class outside the building. Students on the playground at the time of the drill should meet in a safe area designated by the classroom teacher at the opening of the school year. When the class is in the specified area outside the building, the teacher responsible for the class at the time must call roll and report to the designated administrator if any student is missing. No teacher or student is to re-enter the building to check for the child.

At the close of the drill, the Principal will notify the groups that it is safe to enter the building. Everyone must keep perfect silence in entering the building; students will return to their desks and resume class.

The person responsible for the drill must post the date, time, evacuation time, number of students, and sign the form for the state fire marshal’s office. The form must be posted where it is visible to anyone during the school year.

TORNADO DRILLS

Tornado drills are announced by a person coming over the public address system and saying “tornado drill.” Students will sit facing the wall in the downstairs hallways. Teachers should take care to ensure that students are kept – as much as is possible – out of the pathways of doors and windows. Students in the Art room, Music room, and Gym should take refuge in the gym locker rooms. Students in the cafeteria will make their way into the gym locker rooms as well. Students should sit facing a wall.

CLOSED CAMPUS / LOCKDOWN / INTRUDER DRILLS

CLOSED CAMPUS (*robbery close by, bear on campus, other outside danger*)

When in a “Closed Campus”

- There is no immediate threat on the school campus itself, but we are on alert
- Instruction and all indoor activities continue as normal
- No outside activities are allowed

The closed campus will be in effect until the all-clear message is communicated.

LOCKDOWN (*active shooter, other immediate threat on campus or inside the building*)

During a lockdown, the faculty/staff/students operate under the *Run, Hide, Fight* protocol. Specific communication will be delivered so that you are aware of where the threat is and can respond accordingly. Depending on where the threat is, use your best judgment to react in the following manner:

- **Run**
 - If you are able to get out of the building and to a safer location, then this is the first option
 - The location you run to will vary based on where you are at the time of the communication
 - Take a silenced cell phone if possible.
- **Hide**
 - If running is not an option, then stay hidden in the classroom or the location you are in when the threat is made
 - Doors are to be shut and locked
 - Lights are to be turned off
 - Time permitting, blinds can be pulled down
 - Remain in complete silence and be sure to silence cell phones
- **Fight**
 - If the intruder locates you then you must fight back
 - Faculty/staff/students should have something to defend themselves against a threat (*pens, scissors, books, etc*)

The lockdown will be in effect until the all-clear message is communicated.

Students who are not with their class when the threat is made should go with the closest class available to them. Students should not worry about getting back to their classroom, but instead be aware of getting to the closest class they can. Teachers should try to quickly check the hallway for students while exiting the building if running or before closing their door if hiding.

Further procedures are available to and practiced by all faculty and staff; as well as additional training for these situations. It is important to be aware of your surroundings and understand best practices, but always use your best judgment in how to keep your kids safe.