



# **Saint Mary's Catholic High School**

Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026



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# SAINT MARY'S

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*"Pro Deo, Domo, et Patria"*

### STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026

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[www.smknights.org](http://www.smknights.org)

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*Accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and Cognia. This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.*

### INTRODUCTION

This handbook contains the policies, practices, and regulations of Saint Mary's Catholic High School. Following the policies and procedures is an integral part of the school's smooth and successful operation. It is important that parents, guardians, and students read and understand the contents of this handbook. School personnel should be notified if there are questions regarding the school practices contained within.

In addition to this handbook, students, parents, and guardians should understand that Saint Mary's staff, students, and parents and guardians are governed by the diocesan *Handbook of Policies and Regulations for Catholic Schools* and A.R.S. (Arizona Revised Statutes) related to the operation of the school.

Knights are expected to conduct themselves on and off campus, always and under all circumstances, in conformity with the norms of this handbook, diocesan policies, and A.R.S. (Arizona Revised Statutes) related to the operation of Saint Mary's Catholic High School. If a student chooses to act in a manner contrary to these policies, the student and his or her parents or guardians must be prepared to accept all consequences up to and including withdrawal from school. Parents or guardians who display and maintain a lack of support for the school's mission or personnel may be asked to withdraw their students from the school.

The principal of Saint Mary's Catholic High School reserves the right to modify, delete, change, amend or alter any of the provisions contained in this handbook at any point in time. Changes and additions will be provided to all parents and students. The principal has the right to amend the handbook or waive a disciplinary regulation at her discretion. *The handbook on the website, [smknights.org](http://smknights.org), is the most current version.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of Saint Mary's Catholic High School is to provide a liberal arts education that forms virtuous young men and women who know the Truth and love the Good.*

## PHILOSOPHY

Saint Mary's Catholic High School is a Roman Catholic, diocesan, co-educational, college preparatory institution serving metropolitan Phoenix. It is a centrally located school whose primary focus is dedicated to the spiritual, academic, social and personal formation of each student, centered on the Gospel. A Saint Mary's education does more than merely prepare students for college and career; it invites them into a relationship with the living God who is Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. It does this by means of an active sacramental and prayer life on campus, a rigorous liberal arts curriculum, co-curricular activities that foster virtue and servant leadership, and most significantly, by the exemplary Christian witness of its faculty and staff. Saint Mary's curriculum imparts a distinctively Catholic worldview in all subjects and treats the world as a mysterious—yet orderly—beautiful, knowable place.

Through the study of our culture's great achievements and discoveries in mathematics, science, fine arts, and humanities, Saint Mary's invites students to raise their hearts and minds in wonder to God as He is revealed in nature and in Sacred Scripture and Church teachings. By all these means, Saint Mary's works to achieve the mission imparted to Catholic schools by Pius XI in his encyclical, *Divini Illius Magistri*, to prepare the child for "what he must be and for what he must do here on earth, in order to gain the sublime end for which he was created."

## INTEGRAL STUDENT OUTCOMES (ISOs)

- Graduates of Saint Mary's Catholic High School will be...
- Well-formed **disciples of Jesus Christ** who continually grow in their faith and courageously live it out.
- Articulate **defenders of Truth** who can express themselves with thoroughness and charm.
- **Confident leaders** capable of correctly and fundamentally understanding problems and prudently and justly resolving them.
- Dutiful and generous **contributors to the common good**.
- **Responsible men and women** who demonstrate self-mastery in conformity with teachings of the Church.

## SIX VIRTUES OF A KNIGHT

The six virtues of a Knight are reverence, studiousness, obedience, respect, courtesy, and loyalty. These virtues should mark student conduct in the classrooms, on the school grounds, in the athletic arena, at co-curricular school functions, as well as at home and in the community.

**Reverence:** *Profound respect, awe, and love directed toward God.* Knights demonstrate reverence by full, conscious, and active participation at Mass; a serious attitude toward daily prayer; and an authentic openness to encountering Jesus in the daily life of the school.

**Studiousness:** *A disposition to diligence and the pursuit of knowledge (Catholic Encyclopedia).* Knights demonstrate studiousness by actively seeking in their studies the true, the good, and the beautiful; consistently giving full effort to their schoolwork; and developing an understanding that this pursuit is a matter of moral obligation.

**Obedience:** *The assent to rightful authority without hesitation or resistance (Education in Virtue).* Knights demonstrate obedience by being open to formation; recognizing that rules are made for their good; and accepting consequences with docility.

**Respect:** *The recognition of the dignity of all human persons.* Knights demonstrate respect by speaking charitably to and about others; being a good steward of the campus; and treating their peers and property with justice.

**Courtesy:** *A polite, well-mannered demeanor in interactions with others.* Knights demonstrate courtesy by controlling their passions; putting the needs of others ahead of their own; and developing a spirit of service.

**Loyalty:** *Steadfastness and fidelity to God, family, country, and school.* Knights demonstrate loyalty by upholding the teachings of the Church, honoring the sacrifices made on their behalf; and acting in the best interest of the school. “Once a Knight, Always a Knight!”

# SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

## Parental Support

While recognizing parents as the primary educators of their children, Saint Mary's needs, expects, and requires honest and consistent cooperation to implement the spirit as well as the letter of the Student-Parent Handbook's guidelines and rules. The Diocesan Code of Discipline directs that "Parents or legal guardians are expected to support teachers and administrators and to recognize that disciplinary action entails the exercise of judgment, often under pressing circumstances." (Diocesan Handbook 3-1.4.17 D.4) Serious consideration is given to every disciplinary action taken. Parental failure to cooperate and comply with Saint Mary's disciplinary policy, practice, directives of an administrator and determined consequences, in the opinion of the principal, may result in the student being required to withdraw from the school. When the school deems that a parent's actions, attitudes, or behavior conflict with the school's mission, policies, or any specific directive of the administration, that parent's student's continued enrollment will be reviewed.

Pursuant to ARS 15-507, Saint Mary's Catholic High School does not tolerate abusive, coarse, rude or foul language by parents/guardians or students toward the school, its faculty and/or staff, or athletic personnel, including coaches, referees and officials associated with the school, both on or off campus, and/or at extracurricular or athletic events.

A student may be required to withdraw from Saint Mary's if the school administration deems that a parent's/guardian's actions, attitudes, or behavior conflict with the school's mission, policies, or any specific directive of the administration.

## Communication Procedures

**It is extremely important** that families communicate with the school when contact information, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. have changed. Please email the Registrar: [registrar@smknights.org](mailto:registrar@smknights.org) to provide updated information.

Saint Mary's expects parents/guardians and students to know and abide by the policies and regulations explained in this Student-Parent Handbook, but the administration understands that there may be questions about specifics in the handbook. It is good policy to ask your questions about any aspect of school life to the person immediately involved in a situation, be it a teacher, coach, club or activity moderator, or administrator.

If you have a concern with a particular class or teacher, it is expected to first consult with that teacher. If the matter is not resolved, it is then appropriate to call the student's counselor. If it is still unresolved, then you should contact the appropriate Assistant Principal or Dean of Students. If you have a concern with a particular coach, it is expected to first consult with that coach. If it is still unresolved, then you should contact the Athletic Director. Only after following this process is it appropriate to communicate with the Principal about this particular issue. The school may request a meeting with the appropriate parties to resolve the conflict. Student presence at this meeting is at the school's discretion.

As Catholic education is a collaboration between parents and the school, you should always expect to receive a courteous hearing of your concerns. However, continued major complaints, continued failure to abide by school policies or rules by either parents/guardians or students, or continued lack of cooperation with the administration and staff may indicate serious philosophical disagreement between the school and the parents/guardians or student. In such a case, withdrawal of your student from the school may be necessary.

## BELL SCHEDULES

Daily Study Halls  
Zero Hour: 7:15–7:55 a.m. &  
8th Hour: 2:55–3:35 p.m.

### Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

7:30–7:55 a.m.	Teacher-Student Period
8:00–8:50 a.m.	Period 1 (Prayer, Pledge, and Announcements)
8:55–9:40 a.m.	Period 2
9:40–9:55 a.m.	Break
10:00–10:45 a.m.	Period 3
10:50–11:35 a.m.	Period 4
11:35 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	Lunch
12:15–1:05 p.m.	Period 5 (Daily Examen and Angelus)
1:10–1:55 p.m.	Period 6
2:00–2:45 p.m.	Period 7

### Mass Bell Schedule

7:30–7:55 a.m.	Teacher-Student Period
8:00–8:40 a.m.	Period 1 (Prayer, Pledge, and Announcements)
8:45–9:20 a.m.	Period 2
9:25–10:25 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Gym)
10:25–10:35 a.m.	Break
10:40–11:20 a.m.	Period 3
11:25 a.m.–12:05 p.m.	Period 4
12:05–12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:35–1:15 p.m.	Period 5 (Daily Examen and Angelus)
1:20–2:00 p.m.	Period 6
2:05–2:45 p.m.	Period 7

### Wednesday (House)

7:30–7:55 a.m.	Teacher-Student Period
8:00–8:45 a.m.	Period 1 (Prayer, Pledge, and Announcements)
8:50–9:30 a.m.	Period 2
<b>9:35–10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>House Time</b>
10:15–10:25 a.m.	Break
10:30–11:10 a.m.	Period 3
11:15–11:55 a.m.	Period 4
11:55 a.m.–12:25 p.m.	Lunch
12:30–1:15 p.m.	Period 5 (Daily Examen and Angelus)
1:20–2:00 p.m.	Period 6
2:05–2:45 p.m.	Period 7

### Friday (With Assembly)

7:30–7:55 a.m.	Teacher-Student Period
8:00–8:35 a.m.	Period 1 (Prayer, Pledge, and Announcements)
8:40–9:10 a.m.	Period 2
9:15–9:45 a.m.	Period 3
9:50–10:20 a.m.	Period 4
10:20–10:30 a.m.	Break
10:35–11:05 a.m.	Period 5
11:10–11:40 a.m.	Period 6
11:45 a.m.–12:20 p.m.	Period 7 (Daily Examen and Angelus)
12:20–12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:50–1:10 p.m.	Assembly

## Friday (Without Assembly)

7:30–7:55 a.m.	Teacher-Student Period
8:00–8:40 a.m.	Period 1 (Prayer/Pledge/Announcements)
8:45–9:20 a.m.	Period 2
9:25–10:00 a.m.	Period 3
10:05–10:40 a.m.	Period 4
10:40–11:05 a.m.	Lunch
11:10–11:45 a.m.	Period 5
11:50 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Period 6 (Daily Examen and Angelus)
12:35–1:10 p.m.	Period 7

## Final Examination Schedule

Final exams will be administered by subject and not by period. Following is the schedule for each of the three days of final exams.

7:55 a.m.	First Bell
8:00 – 9:35 a.m.	Final Exams
9:35 – 9:55 a.m.	Break
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Final Exams

# ACADEMICS

## Teacher-Student Period

The Teacher-Student Period occurs each school day 7:30–7:55 a.m. This time is a voluntary opportunity for students to get assistance from their teachers. If a student is not making adequate progress in class or habitually fails to turn in homework, the teacher may require a student to attend one or more Teacher-Student Periods or to come for help after school. Under these circumstances, the Teacher-Student Period or after-school appointment is **mandatory** and takes precedence over any athletic or co-curricular activity. Failure to attend a mandatory Teacher-Student Period will result in consequences, including, but not limited to, after-school detention or temporary loss of privileges.

Students must make prior arrangements with the teacher if they plan to make up tests or quizzes during this time.

## Grades

Grades are assigned in each class to indicate briefly mastery of content matter, student progress, and the character of a student's work. Grades are not the goal of learning, but rather the goal is the comprehensive academic formation of the student. Therefore, parents and teachers should find opportunities to discuss the student's academic performance. To this end, teachers will periodically offer comments on progress reports to aid parents in knowing and advising their child.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

To facilitate dialogue between parents and faculty, Saint Mary's administration and faculty will host two Parent-Teacher Nights in October and March. The event is typically held in the evening in the Gymnasium. Dates are posted on the School Calendar, which can be found on our website.

Parents are encouraged to schedule informal Parent-Teacher conferences any time during the school year as the need arises.

### Power School Online Student Grades

Parents are encouraged to monitor the homework, participation, quiz, test, and project grades for their students on a weekly basis using PowerSchool. Students and parents should address questions or concerns about particular grades directly with the teacher before reaching out to guidance counselors or an administrator. Parents are encouraged to email teachers through PowerSchool.

Information regarding how to access PowerSchool will be provided at the beginning of the school year. If assistance is needed with the password or PowerSchool process, contact your student's Counselor.

### Report Cards & Student Progress

All Report Cards and formal progress reports will be emailed to parents and distributed to students at the end of each semester and other scheduled times (approximately every 4.5 weeks). Hard copies of Report Cards are available upon request. Progress Report and Report Card distribution dates are posted on the School Calendar, which can be found on the website: [www.smknights.org](http://www.smknights.org).

## 2025-2026 Progress Report/Report Cards/Parent-Teacher Nights

S1	S2
Wednesday, September 10 (Progress Report - P1)	Wednesday, February 4 (Progress Report – P5)
Wednesday, October 8 (Mid-Term Report Card - P2)	Wednesday, March 4 (Mid-Term Report Card – P6)
Wednesday, October 16 Parent Teacher Night	Wednesday, March 19 (Parent Teacher Night)
Wednesday, November 12 (Progress Report – P3)	Wednesday, April 15 (Progress Report – P7)
Wednesday, January 7 (Semester 1 Report Cards)	Wednesday, May 27 (Semester 2 Report Cards)

### Grading Policy

Grades range from an A to an F (no A+ grade exists). Only the semester grade appears on a student's official transcript and becomes part of a student's permanent record. Progress Reports are used to inform parents of academic progress, to determine eligibility for participation in interscholastic activities and athletics, and to implement and follow-up on Academic Probation. (See the **Academic Probation** and **Eligibility** sections of this handbook.)

Courses offered on a Pass/Fail basis use a P to designate a passing grade and an F to designate a failing grade and are not used in the calculation of the student's grade point average (GPA).

### Contesting Grades

Students and parents who wish to contest a grade received on an assignment, test or report card must first attempt to resolve the disputed grade with the teacher. If the grade is still contested, the issue may be referred to the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction. Requests to contest a grade must be made within ten school days of the grade in question being reported in PowerSchool, and requests to contest a grade after ten school days will not be honored.

### Grade Point Average (GPA)

Courses offered in the high school curriculum shall be awarded grade points on a 4.0 grade point scale for traditional education courses, a 4.5 grade point scale for honors courses, and a 5.0 grade point scale for Advanced Placement and dual enrollment courses. Transfer student credit for weighted courses shall be given for Advanced Placement/dual-enrollment and honors courses according to the SMHS grading scale.

### Grading Scale

Grade	% Points	GPA Points		
		<i>Traditional</i>	<i>Honors</i>	<i>AP/DE</i>
<b>A</b>	93–100	4.000	4.500	5.000
<b>A-</b>	90–92	3.667	4.167	4.667
<b>B+</b>	87–89	3.333	3.833	4.333
<b>B</b>	83–86	3.000	3.500	4.000
<b>B-</b>	80–82	2.667	3.167	3.667
<b>C+</b>	77–79	2.333	2.833	3.333
<b>C</b>	73–76	2.000	2.500	3.000
<b>C-</b>	70–72	1.667	2.167	2.667
<b>D+</b>	67–69	1.333	1.833	2.333
<b>D</b>	63–66	1.000	1.500	2.000
<b>D-</b>	60–62	0.667	1.167	1.667
<b>F</b>	0–59	0.000	0.000	0.000

### Semester Examinations

Semester finals are given at the end of the first and second semesters. All students are required to take a cumulative semester exam in each of their classes. The semester exam counts for 20 percent of the semester grade.

Students will not be permitted to take semester examinations or register for the following semester until all financial obligations have been met. (Diocesan Policy 3-1.5.02G)

No student will be allowed to take semester exams early. Students must make up first semester exams within two weeks after the start of the second semester and must make up second semester finals within two weeks of the end of the second semester. Students who miss finals (first or second semester) for financial reasons are required to make up their finals within two weeks after being financially cleared and/or their return to school.

## Guidance Department

Every Saint Mary's student has a guidance counselor. The duties of these counselors are to help students select their courses, interpret academic achievement tests, and monitor student performance. The counselors help with college and career choices, assist students with personal issues, make referrals when appropriate, and encourage students to achieve their fullest potential. Each counselor also serves as a contact person for parents and can answer questions about general academic matters. Guidance counselors, however, do not provide therapy for students. Saint Mary's provides a behavioral health counselor to students recommended by the guidance counselors.

### Courses

Saint Mary's offers a wide variety of courses to meet student needs. Students may be enrolled in regular, honors, dual enrollment, or Advanced Placement courses.

### Honors Course Placement

Students are placed into honors courses based upon standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, performance in previous courses, and class size. Generally, entrance into honors level courses requires the approval of the guidance counselor and a teacher's recommendation. Students who display curiosity, hard work, active engagement in class, and intellectual aptitude are considered for honors placement. Students who do not continue to demonstrate these traits may be placed in regular level classes the next year. Students who earn a C- or below in an honors class or a C+ and below in a regular class will not be considered for honors placement.

### Honors Courses

Seat of Wisdom 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 Honors\*

Algebra 1-2 Honors

Algebra 3-4/Trigonometry Honors

Geometry Honors

Biology Honors

Chemistry Honors

Physics Honors

French 5-6 and 7-8 Honors

Classical Latin and Ecclesiastical Latin Honors

Spanish 5-6 Honors

Theology 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 Honors

### Advanced Placement (AP)/Dual Enrollment Classes

Advanced Placement (AP) and dual enrollment courses provide students with the opportunity to pursue the rigors of college level studies while they still have the support of the high school environment. Students who successfully complete these courses and exams are demonstrating to college admission officers that they have sought out an academic experience that will prepare them for success in college and beyond. Most two- and four-year colleges and universities worldwide recognize AP in the admission process and accept successful exam scores (usually a 4 or 5) for credit, advanced college placement, or both.

Saint Mary's offers dual enrollment courses through Colorado Christian University (CCU) or Advanced Placement courses. The courses are taught on our campus by Saint Mary's teachers. The following courses are offered:

Seat of Wisdom 7-8 DE (ENG 102), when available

PreCalculus/MAT 115 1-2

College Calculus I 1-2 (AP CalculusAB)

College Calculus II 1-2 (AP

CalculusBC)

College Biology 1-2 (AP Biology)

College Chemistry 1-2 (AP Chemistry)

College Physics 1-2 (AP Physics)

AP Spanish Language 1-2 (AP Spanish Language and Culture)

Philosophy DE

By earning a C or better in a dual enrollment course, students receive both high school and college credit. Transferability of dual enrollment college credit(s) is ultimately determined by the university to which one is applying. *It is the student's responsibility to make sure these credits will be accepted at the university he or she hopes to attend.*

Each of Arizona's public universities and Grand Canyon University accept CCU transfer credits. A complete list of institutions accepting credits is available at CCU's website.

Enrollment in these programs requires payment of additional college registration, test, and/or tuition fees.

Note: Students may not take a college course off campus during the high school academic year (including summer) in lieu of a course that is required to be taken at Saint Mary's.

#### Course Selection and Changes

Guidance counselors work with students and their parents in requesting and scheduling courses. The master schedule is built using student's course requests. Students choose courses, not teachers or sections. Hence, changes to course requests at the beginning of the year may not be granted. Any changes to course selections and schedules must be approved by the student's guidance counselor and at least one of the student's parents/guardians. Additionally, changes must be made within the first five school days of the semester. After this time, any course selection changes will only occur for extreme emergencies and will require the approval of the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

#### Course Level Changes

A student, parent/guardian, or staff member may make a request for a course level change from an honors course to a regular course during a semester (example: making a course level change from Seat of Wisdom 3-4 Honors to Seat of Wisdom 3-4). A request for this type of course change must be confirmed by the student, at least one parent, the exiting class teacher, receiving class teacher, guidance counselor, and the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. Course level changes out of honors level courses are generally not granted except in serious circumstances and are dependent upon space in the receiving class.

The grade percentage of the student at the time of the level change from the exiting class shall be transferred directly to the receiving class with no modifications. The percentage from the exiting class shall be averaged with the average earned in the receiving class for the remainder of that semester. Honors and/or advanced GPA points will not be given when a student transfers out of an honors or advanced course. The grade point average (GPA) used for that class for that semester will be based on where the *receiving* class is listed on the GPA scale.

#### Off Campus Courses

Students taking classes off campus or online during the school year or summer break must receive prior approval from the student's guidance counselor in order for these classes to satisfy Saint Mary's graduation requirements. Students must receive at least a C- to earn credit for online coursework.

#### Retaking a Course

The following courses are approved as retake courses at Saint Mary's, when approved by the instructor for skill-building purposes: Yearbook, Boys Weight Training, Girls Weight Training, Advanced Physical Education, and Choir 1-2. These courses and the corresponding grades and credit will be posted on the student transcript.

Students may retake other courses at other schools in order to earn a higher grade in the course to improve their opportunity for college admissions. However, the course being repeated may only count once for credit in the total number of high school credits required for graduation. The retake course will be listed on a student's transcript and marked as such. Students who have earned top grades at Saint Mary's in their core courses without retaking those courses at other schools or online will be the students considered for valedictorian and salutatorian honors.

When a student fails a core course at Saint Mary's, he or she is required to retake that course the next time it is offered at Saint Mary's. The retake grade will be posted as the final grade for the course on the student's transcript; however, the original F grade remains on the transcript but is not included in the GPA calculation.

### **Academic Recognition**

#### Honor Roll

At the end of each semester, students earn recognition for being on the Honor Roll. Honors recognition occurs for a student with a weighted GPA of 3.75 or higher for that respective semester.

Note: A student with a current grade of D or F will not be placed on the Honor Roll, regardless of GPA.

#### Principal's Honor Roll

Saint Mary's Catholic High School recognizes students who demonstrate exemplary scholastic achievement by including them in the Principal's Honor Roll. The goal of the program is to provide motivation, incentive, and reward for students who achieve high standards of academic success.

Students with a 3.75 cumulative weighted GPA or higher will be on the list. Students on the Principal's Honor Roll are considered for the Honor Board.

#### Honor Board

Seniors may be selected to be an Honor Board honoree. To be recognized for this honor, a senior must have a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.75 or higher at the end of his/her *sixth* semester (end of second semester of junior year) of high school. A student must be current in academic graduation requirements and be in good disciplinary standing to receive this honor.

Honor Board members must maintain their GPA, high disciplinary standing, and be involved in school leadership and service to the community through their senior year in order to receive the Honor Cord for recognition at Commencement.

#### Honor Cord

Seniors may be selected to be an Honor Cord honoree at Commencement. To be recognized for this honor, a senior must have achieved a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.75 or higher by the end of his/her *seventh* semester (end of first semester of senior year) of high school and maintain their GPA to the end of their senior year. A student must be in good disciplinary standing in order to receive this honor.

NOTE: Only school approved cords/stoles are permitted at graduation and must have approval at least a month prior to graduation.

**NOTE FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS:** Transfer students must attend Saint Mary's from the beginning of their sophomore year through their senior year to qualify for Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards. Students may contact a guidance counselor or an administrator for additional information.

A transfer student who has taken courses at another school that had been recognized with a weighted GPA may transfer the weighted GPA for those courses if they also receive a weighted GPA at Saint Mary's. All other courses will receive un-weighted GPA points. Saint Mary's reserves the right to deny the transfer of credit for any course from another institution if that course is determined by school administration not to meet the academic rigors established for a class offered at Saint Mary's Catholic High School

### **Academic Deficiencies**

Students must make up academic deficiencies before the start of the following academic year by following the remediation plan developed by the school. Failure to make up academic deficiencies within the time granted by administration may result in withdrawal from Saint Mary's. Rising juniors or seniors who fail to resolve credit deficiencies before the beginning of the next school year will be required to withdraw from Saint Mary's. If a student's academic deficiencies are such that the student cannot make up the deficiencies with the time remaining before graduation, the student will be withdrawn from Saint Mary's.

Except in rare circumstances, deficiencies in core courses (Theology, Fine Arts, English, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science) must be made up at Saint Mary's. This can happen either during Saint Mary's summer school (if the course is being offered), or during the school year. Core classes that are repeated during the school year have priority over elective classes and will "bump" them from a student's schedule.

Elective deficiencies may be remedied by attending summer school, taking online courses, or, in some cases, through a directed or independent study program under the supervision of a member of the faculty. Students wishing to enroll in courses outside of Saint Mary's must receive approval from their guidance counselor. Students must earn a C- or above in all approved online courses to receive credit.

Students are responsible for keeping their credits up to date, and for providing official transcripts of completed non-Saint Mary's courses to the Registrar as soon as official completion of the course.

### **Academic Probation**

Students with a credit deficiency, an F in any class, or a GPA of 1.667 or lower at the end of a grading period may be placed on Academic Probation for the next quarter. Such students will be placed on an individualized Academic Probation Agreement developed by their guidance counselor and Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction.

The Academic Probation Agreement may require a student to attend the morning Teacher-Student period, seek peer tutoring, attend before or after-school academic intervention, and/or meet with teachers during office hours. A student who does

not cooperate with the strategies outlined in the agreement may be asked to withdraw from Saint Mary's. Students who raise their grade and comply with the conditions of the Academic Probation Agreement may be released from academic intervention classes but will remain on Academic Probation for the remainder of the quarter.

## Academic Eligibility

To participate in interscholastic athletics or other co-curricular activities (theatre, trips, etc.), **students must have no grade less than a D and cannot have two or more Ds in all of their classes at the time of an eligibility check.** Teachers will not enter assignment grades on an eligibility check day. If eligibility is lost, it may be regained at a subsequent scheduled eligibility check if the student meets the minimum requirements.

During the ineligible period, student-athletes may try out for a sport that begins in the following grading period, but they may not suit up, play with the team, or miss any class time, until they meet the academic standards at a scheduled eligibility check. Students who are involved in other co-curricular activities and who become ineligible may not attend field trips, miss class time, or participate in performances until they regain eligibility.

### Frequency of Eligibility Checks

Eligibility checks for participation in interscholastic athletics and co-curricular activities will be performed on the dates listed below and are generally on Wednesdays. Eligibility checks are based upon the current semester grade or at the beginning of the semester, upon the final grade for the previous semester.

### 2025-2026 Eligibility Check Dates

S1	S2
Wednesday, September 10 (P1)	Wednesday, January 21 (P5) – Off only
Wednesday, September 24 (P2)	Wednesday, February 4 (P5)
Wednesday, October 8 (P2)	Wednesday, February 18 (P6)
Wednesday, October 22 (P3)- Off only	Wednesday, March 4 (P6)
Wednesday, October 29 (P3)	Wednesday, March 18 (P7)
Wednesday, November 12 (P3)	Wednesday, April 1 (P7)
Tuesday, November 25 (P4)	Wednesday, April 15 (P7) – Off only
Wednesday, December 10 (P4)	Wednesday, April 22 (P8)
Monday, December 22 (S1) – Off only	Wednesday, May 6 (P8)
Wednesday, January 7 (S1)	Wednesday, May 20 (P8)
	Wednesday, May 27, (S2)

## Graduation Requirements

### Academic Requirements

The Saint Mary's academic program requires a student to earn 28 credits in order to graduate. The table below lists the Saint Mary's graduation requirements:

CONTENT AREA	CREDITS
Theology	4
American History and Literature	2
World History/Geography and Literature	2
Ancient History and Literature	2
Literature/Government and Economics	2
Mathematics	4
Science	3
P.E./Health	.5
Electives	4
World Languages	2
Speech & Rhetoric	1
Fine Arts	1.5*
<b>Total:</b>	<b>28</b>

### Commencement Ceremony Exercises

To participate in the commencement ceremony of Saint Mary's Catholic High School, a student must fulfill all academic requirements, satisfy financial obligations (including the graduation fee which is due in the student's senior year), and be under no disciplinary or attendance restrictions. These requirements are strictly enforced. Participation in the commencement ceremony exercises is a privilege not a right. A student may be excluded from participation in these exercises (even if he or she is not denied a diploma) for reasonable cause as determined by the principal.

Seniors are required to strictly adhere to dress code requirements associated with the commencement ceremony. Only the school approved and provided cap and gown, National Honor Society sash, honor cords, corsage, and boutonniere may be worn. No additional sashes, flowers, or adornments may be added without approval from Principal.

## **ATHLETICS**

Saint Mary's Catholic High School is a member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA). In addition to this student handbook, student-athletes must observe the regulations in the current editions of the *AIA Handbook* and the *Saint Mary's Catholic High School Athletic Handbook*. Parents or guardians of a student-athlete and the student-athlete need to sign and agree to abide by the contents of the *Saint Mary's Catholic High School Athletic Handbook*. This handbook is available in the main office.

Before participating in any sport, a student-athlete must be academically eligible and submit a completed SM Athletic Packet which includes a current AIA physical form which must be completed by a doctor. Athletes must also provide a copy of their birth certificate to the Athletic Office and must pay the sports participation fee at the Business Office a week prior to the first regular season competition.

A transfer student must contact the Athletic Director to discuss eligibility. Transfer students will be required to complete the AIA 550 form a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of the season.

### **Athletic Programs**

Saint Mary's Boys' Sports: football, basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross country, track and field

Saint Mary's Girls' Sports: volleyball, softball, basketball, soccer, swimming, golf, tennis, cross country, track and field, flag football, and spirit line

### **Eligibility**

See **Academic Eligibility**.

### **AIA Tuition Assistance Guidelines**

No student shall accept any type of tuition assistance for athletic purposes. Any student, parent, or guardian who attempts to do so will be required to withdraw their student(s) from Saint Mary's Catholic High School for putting the school at risk for potential AIA violations. Anyone associated with Saint Mary's who becomes aware that this type of situation may be occurring is required to immediately report such an incident to the principal.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance and prompt arrival to school are vital to a St. Mary's student's attitude and success as a serious scholar. Research shows that "students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance." Additionally, "poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes," such as graduation (National Center for Education Statistics). Students are expected to be punctual and in attendance each day that school is in session.

Each student is required to attend Saint Mary's religious services: monthly Masses, Retreat Days, and Prayer Services, including Eucharistic Processions, etc.

## Classroom Attendance Policy

At the beginning of the year, teachers will inform students of their policies and procedures regarding tardies or absences and how it affects success in their particular classes. An absence is not an acceptable excuse for incomplete work. It is the students' responsibility to find out work missed and to complete work as assigned by the teacher. This policy is intended to encourage students to put school attendance as a high priority.

The following general guidelines apply to **make-up work** after an absence:

- One day of make-up is allotted for each day missed unless other arrangements have been made with the teachers.
- Work that was due on the day of an absence is due upon return.
- Students who miss review or work sessions prior to an exam or major assignment due date may not be granted an extension and should expect to take the exam or submit their work upon returning to class.
- Students who are absent on the day of a major assignment (essay, lab report, project, etc.) or exam should be prepared to submit the work or take the exam when they return. Please refer to the teacher's syllabus for specific guidelines related to make-up work. prepared to submit the work or take the exam when they return. Please refer to the teacher's syllabus for specific guidelines related to make-up work.

## Reporting Absences

It is of paramount importance that we know where students are if absent. Therefore, on the day of absence, parents/guardians are to call the school attendance line at **602-251-2501** or email the school attendance account at [attendance@smknights.org](mailto:attendance@smknights.org) before **8 a.m.** on the day of the absence. An email must come from a parent/guardian email account documented in PowerSchool. The subject line should read Student First Name, Last Name, and Date of Absence (Jane Doe Absence for August 17, 2024).

When reporting an absence include the following information:

- the name and relationship of the person calling,
- the student's full name,
- the student's date of birth,
- and the reason for the absence.

Parents/Guardians who will be out of town while school is in session should give the school office the name and phone number of the adult who will be responsible for their sons or daughters in their absence.

## Foreseen Absences

Students with verified or unverified absences are expected to speak with their teacher regarding any work for the day they missed and schedule a time to make up any exams. If a student anticipates being gone due to a school sponsored event, including sports, the student should speak with their teacher **prior to leaving for the day**. Students that do not collect their work prior to leaving for a school sponsored event may not be given extensions on their assignments. Exams in this situation should be scheduled per the teacher's discretion.

## Excessive Absences

The State of Arizona Revised Statutes regarding excessive absences is follows:

A.R.S 15-803. School attendance; exemptions; definitions

- It is unlawful for any child who is between six and sixteen years of age to fail to attend school during the hours school is in session, unless either:
  - a) The child is pursuant to section 15-802, subsection D or section 15-901, subsection A, paragraph 5, subdivision (c).
  - b) The child is accompanied by a parent, or a person authorized by a parent.
  - c) The child is provided with instruction in a homeschool.
- A child who is habitually truant or who has excessive absences may... be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in section 15-802, subsection B, paragraph 1.
- For the purposes of this section:
- "Habitually truant" means a truant child who is truant for at least five school days within a school year.

- “Truant” means an unexcused absence for at least one class period during the day.
- “Truant child” means a child who is between six and sixteen years of age and who is not in attendance at a private school during the hours that school is in session, unless excused as provided by this section.

Students absent for **ten consecutive unverified days** are withdrawn from the school automatically. Parents of students wishing to return to the school after this ten-day period must make an appointment with the principal, who will then decide on admission status.

Severe illness or injury, necessary major surgery, and other health-related conditions may constitute exceptions to this policy, but the school must be notified of these conditions as soon as they become known. In such cases, the policy regarding these extended absences will be in effect. Delay in notifying the school may result in the automatic dropping from school rolls.

### **Excessive Academic Course (Class Period) Absences**

Students who miss more than five (5) days of a course in a half of a semester, other than school-sponsored events and athletics and regardless of being verified or unverified, may be placed on Attendance Probation. *The grade being earned in the course does not determine a student’s placement on Attendance Probation.* The school reserves the right to limit school related absences for students. Please see **Attendance Probation**.

Cumulative absences of **ten or more class periods** for a **single academic course** in a semester, verified or unverified, may result in the loss of credit for that course. Continued enrollment at Saint Mary’s will be contingent upon the student adhering to an **Attendance Improvement Plan**. Chronic Illness or an emergency causing excessive absences will be dealt with on an individual basis through the office of the Dean of Students and Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction. Students must make up all tests, quizzes, assignments, and time before credit is given.

#### **Before Probation**

- Absence #3-5: Absence Attendance Notification Letter
- Absence #6: Meeting with Dean of Students and parents and placed on Attendance Probation and an Attendance Probation Agreement is signed.

#### **While on Probation**

- Absence #3-5: Absence Attendance Notification Letter
- Absence #6: Student and Parents go before the Review Board (see below) for to determine enrollment status

*NOTE: Absences due to school-sponsored activities or meetings with a counselor or staff member are not in this probation or loss of credit policy but may be taken into account when considering the ability of the student to successfully complete the program of study. Students who have missed a considerable number of classes are discouraged from attending school activities that will cause additional absences.*

### **Truancy**

Truancy can be defined as an unverified absence for at least one class period during the day. If a parent/guardian fails to report a student absent from school, the student does not properly check out of the front office when they are leaving campus during the day school day, or a student is not in their assigned classroom they are considered truant. Students who are truant from school will be subject to disciplinary action by the Dean of Students.

### **Tardiness**

Students are expected to be in class, seated at a desk and prepared to begin when the bell rings to start class. A student arriving less than ten minutes late will be considered tardy. Any student tardy to class, without an official pass, will serve a lunch detention at the next available lunch. After ten minutes, the tardy becomes an unverified absence. Four and more subsequent tardies is considered *Excessive Tardiness*, becomes a disciplinary matter, and teachers will write a detention each time the student is tardy from that point forward.

A senior with excessive tardies may be subject to not participating in the graduation ceremony.

School actions:

- Tardy #4-6: Tardy Attendance Notification Letter
- Tardy #8: Meeting with Dean of Students and parents and placed on Attendance Probation and an Attendance Contract
- Tardy #10: Student and Parents go before the Review Board for to determine enrollment status

Students must report to class before going to see a counselor or the school nurse.

### **Late to School**

Students arriving on campus after the start of first period must check-in with the front desk receptionist to receive a late to school pass. After fifteen minutes, the Late To School becomes an unverified absence. Once a student has been late to school eight times per semester, for any reason, they will receive an Attendance Contract that must be signed by both the student and parents. The Attendance Contract will notify the student and parents of the additional consequences for further incidents of being late to school:

- Late to School #4-6: Late to School Attendance Notification Letter
- Late to School #8: Meeting with Dean of Students and parents and placed on Attendance Contract
- Late to School #10: Student and Parents go before the Review Board for to determine enrollment status

### **Attendance Agreement**

Students in danger of losing course credit due to excessive absences will be put on an Attendance Agreement. With assistance from guidance counselors and administration, students and their families will develop a plan for solving attendance issues. Students on an Attendance Agreement will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity including sports, dances, or other school sponsored events. Any student who continues to be excessively absent after two consecutive quarters on an Attendance Agreement may be asked to withdraw from the school.

### **Attendance Probation**

Students who continually or flagrantly violate attendance policies without documented chronic illnesses will be placed on attendance probation immediately or for the following quarter. This probationary period is designed for students to rededicate themselves to following school attendance policies. Consequences for students placed on attendance probation may include exclusion from participation in school dances, field trips, sports, attending games as a spectator, and other extracurricular activities. Any student placed on attendance probation for two consecutive quarters may be asked to withdraw from the school.

### **Early Dismissals**

Parents/guardians must request an early dismissal by calling the attendance line or sending an email before 8:00am on the morning of the early dismissal. Students should go to the front office before school to receive a pass to leave class at the time of the early dismissal. Either parents/guardians must personally sign out students or the office will verify by email that the students have permission from their parents/guardians to sign themselves out. It is expected that parents request early dismissal only for medical or emergency reasons.

### **Eligibility for Activities and Sports**

Students who are absent from school or who attend fewer than four (4) full class periods may not attend or participate in any outside-of-school co-curricular activities (school dances, athletic contests and practices, club meetings, fine arts performances and practices, field trips, etc.) on that day.

### **Verified/ Unverified Absences**

Absences will be recorded as either verified or unverified. Absences are considered verified when a parent or guardian calls or notifies the school of the student's absence. If a student is not reported absent by a parent or guardian, the absence shall be considered unverified. Both verified and unverified absences count toward the cumulative ten absences per semester.

For unverified absences, the teacher is not required to instruct again or extend due dates for other assignments. It is student's responsibility to request assistance of the teacher.

*Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to schedule appointments, vacations, and other voluntary absences outside of school time.*

### **Academic Intervention Attendance**

Academic Intervention is an extension of the student's regular day and the same attendance policies therefore apply. Students with an unverified study hall absence will be considered truant and will be referred for disciplinary action.

### **Chronic Illness**

Parents or guardians who anticipate their student having an excessive number of absences due to chronic illness must complete a "Chronic Illness" form and file it with the school. This form is available from the Front Office.

### **Illness**

If a student is absent from school due to an illness, they should not return to school as long as they are capable of infecting others. No student whose illness resulted in a fever, vomiting, or other symptoms of a contagious infection should return to school until the fever, vomiting, or other symptoms are absent for a minimum of 24 hours. A note from the doctor is required if a student is still appearing with symptoms.

A student who becomes ill during the school day must go to the Nurse's Office. Under no circumstances may a student who is ill or injured leave the campus without reporting to the nurse. If it is determined that the student is too ill or injured to remain in school, attempts will be made to contact a parent/guardian, or designated emergency contact person.

Transportation will be arranged, and steps for appropriate care will be taken. School officials will summon paramedics if medical attention beyond simple first aid is required. Parents/Guardians must assume all expenses incurred for emergency treatment. Parents must email [attendance@smknights.org](mailto:attendance@smknights.org) excusing the absence on the day of their return to classes. Parents/Guardians may give their students permission to drive themselves home if the parents/guardians feel their students are capable of driving home. A school official must verify this permission.

### **Closed Campus**

After arriving, students may not leave campus without permission from their parent and after signing out with the Front Office. Additionally, students may not go to their vehicles for any reason during the school day, including break or lunch.

Parents may not excuse students to leave campus on their own for lunch. Parents may, however, come to the school and sign their own child out and accompany him or her off-campus for lunch. Parents who do so must then accompany their child back to school and sign him or her in at the office.

### **Arriving Before School Begins**

Campus opens at 7:10 a.m. Students arriving between 7:10–7:30 a.m. must be in the library, or courtyard only. **Upon arrival, students may not remain in their parked cars; they must enter campus.** Students may be given a summons if found remaining in their parked car during this time. Beginning at 7:30 a.m., students may go to classrooms to attend teacher-student period. Students may not loiter in hallways, beside lockers, or in classrooms before the start of school. They may, however, go briefly to their lockers if they need to pick up materials, but must immediately return outside or to the library for quiet study and reading.

### **Leaving After School Ends**

The campus closes at 3:15 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 1:30 p.m. on Friday. Students are only allowed to be on campus if they are in a supervised school-sponsored activity, in the library, available Monday–Thursday, 3–5 p.m., or in study hall Monday–Thursday, 2:55–3:35 p.m. The school expects families to pick-up students by 5 p.m. (Monday–Thursday) and 1:30 p.m. (Friday). In the case of delayed transportation after this time, students must wait for rides in the courtyard by the front gate.

## STUDENT LIFE

### Campus Ministry

The role of campus ministry is primarily to provide for the pastoral care of the school community by offering each person on campus an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father in an authentic way.

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of life at Saint Mary's Catholic High School. Daily Mass is celebrated in the school chapel every Monday and Friday at 7:15 a.m. and Tuesday through Thursday during lunch. Once a month, the entire student body attends Mass in the gym. All members of the school community are invited to join with us for Mass. There is also a yearly Eucharistic procession through campus concluding with all school adoration in the gymnasium.

On the first Friday of each month, students have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to adore the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the chapel from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Adoration is open to the entire school community. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available at lunchtime and by appointment or availability of the Chaplain.

In addition to the weekly opportunity for reconciliation on Mondays at lunch, there is a school-wide reconciliation service during Advent and Lent. Students are encouraged to seek a priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation as often as needed outside of the regularly scheduled confession times.

There are many retreat and formation opportunities provided for the students throughout the school year. All classes have a retreat day each year. Juniors and seniors are able to participate in one of two annual Kairos retreats. Upperclassmen can take part in the pilgrimages to Washington, D.C. and San Francisco for the March for Life and Walk for Life when available. Finally, student Bible and/or faith studies are offered periodically and open to all.

#### Christian Service

*"Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (John 13:12–15).*

Participation in Christian service is an integral part of the life of a Saint Mary's student. Each student is asked to go beyond simply doing good works for the sake of the works themselves and learn to respond to the needs of others with true mercy and charity as their guide, becoming aware of their responsibility to serve those in need.

Jesus' example shows us that service is born out of love and not simply out of obligation. It is our hope that students will come to serve God and others out of love for Jesus Christ.

Christian service comprises both corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, ransom the captive, and bury the dead. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are to instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and the dead. Many opportunities exist throughout the school year to perform works of mercy and make life more pleasant and meaningful for others.

Each House, sports team, and club is required to do one service project each year, where all members participate. Student leaders of these groups are expected to demonstrate leadership and initiative by organizing projects that benefit their local community or Saint Mary's. Ideally, the service project is related to the charism, nature, or interest of the group. A list of service opportunities at parishes, in the community, and at school will be posted in the Campus Ministry Room.

Additionally, students will also be given opportunities to participate in service projects such as class retreats and mission trips offered throughout the year.

## Clubs and Organizations

Saint Mary's charters many co-curricular groups which are overseen by the school's club moderator. Some of our long-standing clubs include:

Ambassadors	Cooking Club	Knights of Wall Street	Philosophy	Totus Tuus
Art	Columbian Squires	La Table Francaise	Poetry	Youth 4 Life
AV/Tech	Drama	Mud (ceramics)	Singing Caballeros	
Chess	Drumline	National Honor Society	SM Merch Club	

### Eligibility

To participate in (non-graded) co-curricular activities, students must maintain academic eligibility. Students who are involved in co-curricular activities and become ineligible may not attend field trips, miss class time, or participate in performances until they regain eligibility.

See also **Academic Eligibility**.

## SAINT MARY'S HOUSE SYSTEM

The primary objective of the House System at Saint Mary's Catholic High School is to further our mission and enriching our culture by building authentic community with our students, parents, staff, and alumni. The House System provides a vehicle for strong bonds between all members of the school community, promotes the development of relationships, both personal and collegial, and enables a more complete development of each student's leadership skills.

### Overview of the Saint Mary's Catholic High School House System

- Saint Mary's Catholic High School has six houses, which are named after the six saints featured in our Saint Mary's Mural: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Agnes, Saint Junipero Serra, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint John Paul II, and Saint Francis.
- Each student will be a member of the same house for all four years of high school and beyond. There are approximately 85 students in each house.
- Siblings are assigned to the same house, though different rooms.
- Each house is divided into five rooms. Each room includes approximately 18 to 20 students.
- Each house is headed by a Head of Household, a faculty member chosen by the administration.
- Each room is headed by a teacher leader, the Room Mentor.
- Each house has two student leaders, the Senators.
- Each room has a room representative, who is elected by each room and mentored by the Senators.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Computer and Internet Access

#### Conditions and Rules of Use

Access to the Internet through the school's computer system is a privilege, and not a right. Accordingly, failure to comply with the following conditions will result in the cancellation of the computer and Internet privileges on our campus:

Use of a Saint Mary's computer network account must be in support of education and research consistent with the Mission, Philosophy, and Integral Student Outcomes of the school.

Under no circumstances is a student to use another person's credentials to log in to the network without receiving prior permission. The seriousness of this type of infraction may result in the student being withdrawn from school.

Student must abide—on and off campus—by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette and ethics at all times. Activity deemed unacceptable, inappropriate, or illegal by the school or the State of Arizona is prohibited. Such activity may include but is not limited to the following:

- Using obscene or profane language
- Harassing, insulting, or bullying
- Intentional downloading, displaying, or sending pornographic, racist, or otherwise offensive material, threatening or obscene material
- Violating copyright laws or transmitting materials in violation of any United States or state organization or law
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or networks (includes, but is not limited to: modifying single workstation control panel settings, installing—or attempting to install—software without expressed permission from appropriate authorities, and changing hardware or network configuration settings for computers or printers)
- Using another users' password to access network resources
- Reviewing, modifying, or displaying information from the files of administrative systems of the school or other organizations or intentionally wasting limited resources
- Using computer systems for commercial purposes
- Using the network in any way that could disrupt the system or its use by others
- Downloading or installing any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto computers, or network drives
- Using or revealing the last name, personal address, or phone number of faculty, staff, administration, or fellow students

### Counseling and Confidentiality

With certain exceptions, any and all information regarding your child's and family's guidance at Saint Mary's is kept strictly confidential. Any information regarding illegal or risky behavior, the use, possession or distribution of drugs/alcohol, or any behavior that we believe places a student in harm's way becomes known, that information will be shared with the parent/guardian of the student. Under certain rare circumstances, we may be required or allowed to reveal information obtained in guidance sessions, on a need-to-know basis, without parent's prior consent.

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed under the following circumstances: threats of suicide or serious physical harm to self or others;

- court order to release records or other information about your child's school guidance, including test results, evaluations, attendance, and progress;
- referral to another professional, e.g., for the purpose of testing and evaluation, consultation with or supervision by another counseling professional;
- any behavior or situation where disclosure of information is required by applicable law (i.e. abuse, bullying, sexting, child pornography, use of illegal substance).

If informing parents is likely to endanger a student, counselors/teachers may withhold that information from parents, but only with the approval of the principal, law enforcement, or mandatory reporting agency.

When any information regarding sexual behavior or the use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol by a diocesan student becomes known by any diocesan staff member, that information may be shared with the parents/guardians of the student.

### Field Trips and School-Sponsored Activities

All permission forms and transportation forms (if needed) must be completed and returned to the school prior to participation in a field trip or school-sponsored activity requiring these forms. Students and their parents or guardians are responsible to communicate directly with the staff member responsible for the field trip or school-sponsored activity if they have any questions related to the forms or the event. Unless otherwise indicated, the appropriate dress for all activities is the school uniform.

## **Insurance**

Insurance exists for students as a supplement to the insurance that parents or guardians possess individually. The insurance exists at no additional cost to the student and his or her parents or guardians. The insurance covers participation in athletic programs and all other school-sponsored activities. There are limits on the coverage available under this insurance plan.

Students and their parents or guardians are responsible for reporting any injuries to the school nurse, athletic director, or main office staff to receive the insurance forms that must be completed.

## **Lost and Found**

The only courteous and Christian thing to do with an item found in or around school is to take it to the Front Office. Students who have lost an item should check at the Front Office for it. Unclaimed items are displayed quarterly in Fessler Hall. Saint Mary's donates unclaimed items to charity at the end of each quarter.

## **Messages and Deliveries**

No student will be called from class to accept a telephone call or message. If there is an emergency, please call the Front Office for proper action to be taken. If a student receives gifts from family or friends while at school, they must be taken to the Front Office to be stored until the end of the school day.

Students may not order food and have it delivered to school at any time. Parents or guardians who bring lunch to their children should label it clearly with the first and last name and leave it on the designated table in the Front Office.

## **Student Identification Cards (I.D.s)**

Every student will be issued an identification card with his or her name, picture, and school year. A student must have his or her I.D. card in his or her possession at all times while at school or school-sponsored events. Failure to possess the I.D. for admission to a school-sponsored event may result in the student not being admitted to the event. Students must allow two school days for a new I.D. to be made.

Students should report lost or stolen cards to the Dean's Office. The cost for replacement is \$5. No temporary student I.D. card is available during the replacement time.

A student who lends or uses another's I.D. card will be referred to the Dean's Office for disciplinary action.

## **Textbooks**

All textbooks and novels are included in the cost of tuition. Textbooks are distributed to students in *good, very good, and brand-new* condition and must be returned as such, showing only typical yearly wear. Since textbooks are only on loan to the students they must not be written in, torn, stained, or damaged in any other way. Each textbook is identified with the student's name and a unique barcode at the time of distribution. Students must return the exact textbooks that were distributed to them with unaltered name and barcode tags. Textbooks that are not turned-in or have altered or missing name or bar code tags will be treated as lost books and full cost to replace the book will become a financial obligation for the family. Books turned in damaged will be assessed as to severity of damage and a fine assigned accordingly. Students must pick-up their textbooks in the school library no later than their respective Orientation Day and return them no later than the textbook check-in days posted at the end of the school year. The *Bible* and novels are the property of the student and do not need to be returned. It is hoped that students will begin to build their own "libraries" of good literature with the novels. Please note that the same *Bible* is used all four years at Saint Mary's.

## DISCIPLINE

Saint Mary's Catholic High School strives to create an environment where students can grow spiritually, academically, socially, and personally. Discipline plays an important role in creating this environment. Saint Mary's students are expected to conduct themselves according to the Mission, Philosophy, policies, and rules as stated in this handbook at all times, on or off campus, at school sponsored events, and travel to or from school sponsored events. Discipline also covers misconduct that is in any way school related, affects the operation of the school, or impugns the school's integrity, reputation, or possibly creates scandal. The school's discipline policy also covers the use of Internet and/or social media. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action and may include counseling, parental involvement, suspension, required withdrawal, or other consequences as deemed appropriate by school administration.

### Off Campus Activities

Saint Mary's Catholic High School expects students to demonstrate responsible Christian social behavior on and off campus and to conduct themselves as good representatives of Saint Mary's and good citizens in our local communities in accordance with the law, our school discipline policies, and Catholic teachings. While we cannot monitor every violation that occurs off campus, and while Saint Mary's will not be held legally responsible or financially liable for the behavior of students off-campus, the school's Discipline Code will remain in effect at all times. If the behavior violates our Discipline Code or has or may have a negative effect upon the school's reputation, school discipline will be administered.

The school will keep an administrative record of disciplinary encounters with students and actions taken.

The following are some specific areas of student conduct and expectations. Failure to comply with the rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and expectations of Saint Mary's Catholic High School will result in disciplinary consequences up to and including required withdrawal.

### Academic Honesty and Integrity

Saint Mary's academic honesty and integrity standards include the expectations that no student will engage in dishonest academic behaviors which include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, obtaining an unfair advantage, aiding and abetting dishonesty, falsification of records and/or official documents and unauthorized access to academic or administrative records or systems.

Students who violate this policy have deliberately misrepresented themselves to their teachers and to their peers. In addition, students who are academically dishonest devalue their authentic accomplishments and also devalue the accomplishments of those students who have done their work honestly.

**Cheating** is defined as using unauthorized aid on a test, quiz, project or homework, and is a violation of the standard. Cheating includes:

- Giving one's work to another
- Copying another student's work
- Communicating questions or answers with another person during or after a test/quiz
- Using materials not permitted during a test/quiz
- Having possession of a current or previous test, quiz, or answer sheet without specific permission from the teacher
- Using any service, digital or other means, to do your schoolwork for you or provide answers to your schoolwork, including A.I. programs

**Plagiarism** is defined as presenting another person's ideas, words, or work as your own (with or without their consent) or providing one's own answers, ideas, or work so that another can pass them off as his or her own and is considered a form of cheating. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately. Plagiarism includes:

- Direct copying of another person's work
- Using any amount of another person's material or ideas without proper documentation/citation
- Paraphrasing another person's original material without proper documentation/citation
- Use of translation programs, uncited secondary sources, *CliffNotes*, *SparkNotes*, etc., including A.I. programs

Any student who violates this policy will receive zero points for the assignment/assessment or for parts of the assignment/assessment in addition to consequences such as:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Saturday detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: In-school or out of school suspension and Behavior contract
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: A discipline board hearing to determine student's continued enrollment at the school

### **Violation of Testing Procedures**

In addition to acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism, Saint Mary's also holds students accountable for maintaining proper behavior and integrity during all testing environments. Violations of testing procedures may not constitute direct cheating, but they compromise the fairness, security, and order of assessments, and are therefore subject to disciplinary action.

Examples of testing procedure violations include, but are not limited to:

- Possession of unauthorized materials during a test or quiz (e.g., notes, formula sheets, smart devices, calculators when not permitted).
- Using electronic devices (including phones, smartwatches, earbuds) during or in the vicinity of the assessment without explicit permission.
- Talking, whispering, or communicating with others during a test, whether or not the subject is related to the assessment.
- Looking at another student's paper or allowing one's paper to be visible to others.
- Beginning the assessment before instructions are given, or continuing to write after time has been called.
- Leaving the classroom or testing area without permission or supervision.
- Failing to sit in the assigned seat or disrupting the testing environment.
- Sharing, discussing, or referencing test content with other students who have not yet taken the assessment.

Violations of testing procedures are taken seriously because they undermine the conditions necessary for fair and accurate assessment. However, such violations may be distinct from academic dishonesty, such as copying or submitting unauthorized work.

Consequences for testing procedure violations may include disciplinary actions such as a detention or conference with teacher and/or administration, but loss of academic credit is at the discretion of the teacher and administration based on the nature and impact of the violation.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

Saint Mary's is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and spiritually grounded learning environment. The possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or related substances is strictly prohibited and stands in direct opposition to the values of integrity, personal responsibility, and respect for self and others that define our Catholic community. By its very nature, it opposes the virtues of temperance, prudence, and justice.

Violations of this policy—whether occurring on campus, during school-sponsored events, on school-sponsored transportation, or outside of school when connected to the school community—will result in serious disciplinary consequences, up to and including suspension, required withdrawal, and legal reporting when applicable.

If Saint Mary's has reasonable suspicion that a student may have used alcohol or drugs recently, that student will be suspended from school and must complete an alcohol or drug test within 24 hours of the incident, at the expense of the parent. Once the test results are sent to the school, the consequences will be finalized. Diluted test results will be considered a positive test.

Saint Mary's Catholic High School works proactively to identify and address issues brought to its attention in order to assist students and families and cooperates with legal authorities with regards to students who break the law. Incidents involving drugs and alcohol on the Saint Mary's campus, any other school campus, or at school-related activities will be reported to the police. (ARS 13-3411).

## Dangerous Substances and Prescription Medications

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, or being under the influence of any dangerous, illicit, or mood-altering substances. These include but are not limited to:

- Narcotics
- Hallucinogens
- Stimulants
- Depressants
- Inhalants
- Any synthetic or designer drugs (e.g., synthetic cannabis, “bath salts”)

Students may not use, carry, or distribute prescription medications that are not prescribed to them. Students with a valid prescription must register the medication with the school nurse or designated health official and follow procedures for proper use and storage on campus.

## Distribution, Sale, or Attempted Sale

- Distributing, selling, or attempting to sell alcohol, drugs, prescription medication, or any controlled substance is strictly forbidden.
- This includes offering or exchanging substances for money, favors, or services.
- Students found responsible for distribution or attempted sale will be subject to immediate suspension and a disciplinary hearing, which may result in required withdrawal and police notification.

## Tobacco, Paraphernalia, and Over-the-Counter Medications

- The use or possession of tobacco or nicotine products—including but not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, JUULs, and other paraphernalia—is prohibited on school property, school transportation, and at any school-related events.
- Possession of paraphernalia associated with tobacco, drugs, or alcohol use (e.g., lighters, rolling papers, vape cartridges, grinders) is also not allowed, nor should they support, endorse, or promote the use of these substances in any way (verbally, via e-mail, Internet, social media, texting, etc.).
- Over-the-counter medications such as pain relievers, sleep aids, or cough suppressants must be stored and administered through the nurse’s office. Students may not self-administer or share these medications without written authorization.

## Alcohol and Marijuana

- Students may not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or marijuana on school grounds, on school transportation, or at any school-related activity, including athletic events, retreats, field trips, and dances.
- Evidence of use prior to arriving at school or a school event (e.g., smell, behavior, physical symptoms) will be treated as an on-campus violation.
- Alcohol and marijuana products, including edibles, THC-infused items, or containers, are banned regardless of quantity or potency.
- Students may also face disciplinary action for posting or appearing in social media content that depicts underage alcohol or drug use in a way that impacts the school community or violates the Student Code of Conduct.

## Disciplinary Consequences

Violations of this policy will be addressed through a combination of disciplinary action, which may include:

- Immediate removal from school or event
- Parent/guardian notification and required meeting
- Suspension (in-school or out-of-school)
- Mandatory counseling or substance abuse education (mandatory, random)
- Behavior agreement
- Drug or alcohol screening and follow-up plan

- Referral to a discipline review board for repeated or severe offenses, with possible required withdrawal

## **Backpacks**

Backpacks may not contain any symbols, pictures, drawings or designs that are considered pop culture and/or contrary to the spirit of Saint Mary's School Community. Inappropriate buttons, badges, and other adornments are not permitted.

## **Buildings**

Classroom buildings and the gym are closed to students at lunch. Students are permitted to be in the cafeteria or outside during lunch. Exceptions can be made for special meetings if permission is granted by the administration.

## **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Cell phones and other electronics (ear pods, Bluetooth devices, headphones, etc.) are strictly prohibited during the school day at Saint Mary's. They are not to be used, seen, or heard during any part of the school day. Saint Mary's acknowledges, however, that students frequently use their phones after school to arrange transportation with their parents or guardians. In light of this, the following guidelines have been established:

- Upon arrival, and before entering campus, students must turn their phones off and store them in lockers or backpacks until 2:45 p.m.
- Under no circumstance are phones allowed to be carried on one's person (pockets, socks, pencil cases, lunch boxes, etc.). After school, we encourage students to use their phones solely for the purpose of coordinating transportation with a parent or guardian and only outside of school buildings. Cell phones are not to be used in locker rooms or in bathrooms at any time.

Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will have their phones confiscated, and the following

consequence: First Offense: \$10.00 fine

Second Offense: \$15.00 fine and detention

Third Offense: \$25.00 fine, Saturday detention, and parents must redeem cell phone

Fourth Offense: \$35.00 fine and Student will be required to submit cell phone to the Dean's Office daily

If parents need to contact a student during the school day, they should call the school's main telephone number and ask for a message to be delivered. Students who need to communicate with their parents during the school day must seek permission from faculty or staff to use a campus phone.

*Note: Saint Mary's Catholic High School reserves the right to check confiscated devices for any inappropriate information that may be stored, received, or sent during a school day or at any other time. Saint Mary's is **not** responsible for broken or damaged, lost or stolen electronic equipment on campus and will not be monetarily liable for such losses.*

## **Destruction of Property and Vandalism**

Students may not be involved in willful, inappropriate defacement, destruction, or damaging of their own property, another person's property, or school property at any time. This includes writing on walls, drawings or words. Under Arizona law, and school policy, parents or guardians are liable for damage done to school property by their student and will be charged for the cost of repairing or replacing the damaged property.

## **Disrespectful, Defiant, or Insubordinate Conduct**

Students shall refrain from disrespectful, defiant, or insubordinate conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, failing to follow a reasonable request from school employees, engaging in refusal to follow directions, and failing to identify themselves. At all times students should communicate respectfully with each other, staff members, parents, and guests through appropriate spoken, written, and non-verbal language. Students are to address adults using the adult's proper title and last name, for example, *Ms. Bartlett, Mr. Atkinson*, etc. When appropriate, students may simply address an adult by his or her title, for example, *Father, Sister, Coach*.

## **Disruptive Conduct**

Disruptive conduct refers to any behavior or action by a student that interferes with the normal functioning of the educational environment, intends to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with teaching, hinders the learning process of other students, or jeopardizes the safety and well-being of individuals within or outside the classroom. This includes, but is not

limited to, continuous talking, loud talking or yelling, making noises, refusing to follow instructions, unauthorized movement around the classroom, being disrespectful to teachers or peers, throwing objects, or engaging in any distracting behavior that disrupts the learning process.

In the case of disruptive conduct, the teacher will notify the student that what they are doing is disruptive conduct and warn them to stop the behavior immediately. If the student continues to act in a disruptive manner and the teacher must tell the student to stop a second time, the student will receive detention for their disruptive conduct. After three incidents of disruptive conduct, the Dean of Students will meet with the teacher(s) and student to address the concerns. At five incidents of disruptive conduct the student will be placed on a Behavior Agreement. Subsequent incidents will result in reviewing the student's continued enrollment at Saint Mary's.

## **Dress Code Violations**

### Parental Collaboration

A dress code violation related to modesty (short skirt, tight pants, etc.) must be corrected immediately. If the violation cannot be corrected on campus, parents or guardians will be contacted and asked to help correct the violation by bringing appropriate clothing to school, or by taking the student home.

Students must reimburse the school for any uniform or dress code violation corrected with school-supplied materials (shaving supplies, socks, etc.).

### Summonses

A student in violation of the dress code may receive a \$10 summons. This must be paid at the Front Office by the due date given by the Dean of Students (typically within five school days). Failure to pay on time results in detentions until the summons is paid. Students may receive multiple summonses during the same day if they violate the dress code more than once (e.g., if an un-tucked shirt or rolled up skirt is observed during first and seventh periods, a student may receive a summons for each infraction).

Excessive or repeated dress code violations are considered insubordination and result in further consequences.

## **Endangering or Threatening the Health and Safety of Others**

A student shall not physically or verbally engage in conduct that endangers, or reasonably appears to endanger, intimidate, or degrade the physical, emotional, psychological, or spiritual health or safety of another student, faculty or staff, or visitors.

## **Entertainment Devices**

Entertainment devices such as iPods, smart watches, smart glasses, music players, DVD players, video games, earbuds, or any other similar devices or toys are prohibited on campus during the school day. Students in possession of any electronic device may be disciplined and the device will be confiscated and released only to parents or guardians after confiscation.

## **False Fire Alarms**

Students may not activate or pull the fire alarms or emergency communication devices for false reasons. Financial compensation to the school for the false alarm will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

## **False Identification**

Students are required to have their current Saint Mary's student I.D. with them at all times. Students must always provide accurate identification when requested by a staff member, chaperone, or security officer. The replacement fee for lost or stolen cards is \$5.

## **Fighting**

Fights are a mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence. Verbal confrontation alone does not constitute fighting. Students shall refrain from doing anything that might provoke a fight or from participating in a fight. Students who believe that a fight may occur shall communicate that information to a school staff member, security guard, chaperone, or law enforcement officer immediately. Students who participate in a fight will be disciplined and their continued enrollment at Saint Mary's will be reviewed.

## **Food and Beverages**

Food and beverages are not permitted in the classrooms, hallways, or in school buildings except in the cafeteria or designated eating areas. Violations will result in a \$10 summons.

## **Forgery**

A student shall not use the signature or initial of another person; or alter a document after another has initiated or signed the document without approval.

## **Gambling**

Students shall not participate in any gambling activities resulting in the exchange of money or favors based on who may win or lose.

## **Graffiti**

Non-standard writing styles, such as tagging, are not permitted on any surface, clothing, notebook, backpack, paper, skin, etc. These styles will be interpreted by school personnel as gang related. This includes writing on walls, drawings or words that are scratched, painted, or sprayed on property of another.

## **Gum**

Gum chewing is not permitted on school grounds and will result in a \$10 summons.

## **Hazing, Bullying, Harassment, Hurtful Behavior**

To request, make, or force someone to do something that may cause physical, social, or emotional harm (including through the use of the Internet or other social media or websites) is never acceptable. This includes a student wanting to hurt someone because that someone hurt him or her (retaliation) and applies in all settings, including athletics. If any student or parent feels bullying is occurring in any fashion, they should report this to an administrator immediately. A substantiated charge against a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or required withdrawal.

### **Diocese of Phoenix Policies on Harassment/Bullying/Hazing**

The Diocese of Phoenix affirms the dignity of every man, woman and child, and is committed to an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to work or learn in an atmosphere that is free from discriminatory practices.

### **HARASSMENT**

**1. HARASSMENT POLICY: (Policies 3.1.3.26 and 3.1.4.30, DIOCESAN HANDBOOK OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND NORMS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THE DIOCESE STRONGLY OPPOSES AND PROHIBITS ALL FORMS OF HARASSMENT. ANY VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION, UP TO AND INCLUDING TERMINATION OR REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL.**

- a. It is the policy of the educational programs of the Diocese to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from any type of harassment (as defined in Section 2 below). The educational programs of the Diocese shall take reasonable steps to ensure that no employee, volunteer or student associated with these programs is subjected to any type of harassment.
- b. It shall be a violation of this policy for any person to harass an employee, staff member, volunteer, parent, or student. Harassment may also constitute unjust discrimination and, as such, may violate civil law.
- c. Each administrator shall be responsible for promoting understanding and acceptance of, and assuring compliance with, local state and federal laws and diocesan policy and procedures governing harassment within his or her educational program or office.
- d. Prevention is the best tool for the elimination of harassment. The Catholic Schools Office recommends an educational program at each school so that the school may take reasonable steps to maintain an environment free of harassment.

### **2. Definition of Harassment**

a. "Harassment" is threatening, intimidating, or hostile conduct toward an individual because of his/her race, color, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or disability, or that of his/her relatives, friends, or associates, which conduct:

- i. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment;
- ii. has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance; and/or
- iii. otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunities.

b. Conduct that constitutes harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- i. epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, stalking, unwanted physical conduct, or other threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts based upon race, color, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or disability;
  - ii. threatening, intimidating, or hostile commentary or graphic material based on race, color, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or disability that is circulated within or placed on walls, bulletin boards, or elsewhere on premises where the educational program operates, or by the use of social media or means of electronic communications.
- c. Sexual harassment is a form of harassment and is prohibited by this policy. Sexual harassment includes, but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual conduct and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature which meets any one of the following criteria:
- i. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct is the basis for any decision affecting services, honors, programs or other available activities or benefits of the Diocese or school;
  - ii. The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.
- d. Conduct that constitutes sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following:
- i. Verbal: Sexually demeaning comments, sexual statements, questions, slurs, jokes, anecdotes, or epithets;
  - ii. Written: Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, e-mails, or invitations;
  - iii. Physical: Sexual assault, touching, impeding or blocking movement;
  - iv. Visual: Leering, gestures, display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters.

### 3. Procedures

- a. Any person who alleges harassment by an employee, volunteer, or student shall file a complaint in writing by providing a completed Bullying/Harassment/Hazing Prevention and Intervention Incident Form" (See Appendix A.6) directly to his or her teacher, immediate supervisor, or Principal/Preschool Director. The complaint shall describe the perceived violation, name the perpetrator, identify any potential witnesses to the incident, and provide such information as requested.
- b. Allegations of harassment against an employee or volunteer shall be addressed in accordance with the Human Resources Policies and Procedures of the Diocese of Phoenix.
- c. Allegations of harassment reported in accordance with this policy are taken seriously and will be appropriately investigated in a timely and professional manner.
- d. The educational programs of the Diocese prohibit and will not tolerate retaliation against an individual for making a good faith complaint of harassment, or for cooperating with the investigation of such a complaint.
- e. Anonymous reports or complaints generally will not be accepted or investigated due to concerns about reliability and the inability to effectively, thoroughly and impartially investigate.
- f. Information will be treated with discretion and with due regard for confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, with the understanding that information will be disclosed as necessary or appropriate to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.
- g. The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes a violation of this policy shall be made by the school administration in its reasonable judgment, based upon whether a reasonable student or person in the same or similar circumstances would find the conduct intimidating, hostile, or abusive. The "reasonable person" standard includes consideration of the perspective of persons of the alleged victim's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. It is not necessary to make a showing that the victim was psychologically harmed.
- h. As religious organizations called to teach the Catholic faith and carry out the mission of the Church, the Diocese of Phoenix and the Catholic schools have the right and responsibility to teach Catholic beliefs and practices in accord with the teachings and laws of the Catholic Church. Under no circumstances shall such teaching of Catholic beliefs be deemed to constitute harassment, or otherwise be deemed to violate civil law or any policies of the Diocese of Phoenix.

### 4. Sanctions

- a. A substantiated charge against an employee or volunteer shall subject such employee or volunteer to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.
- b. A substantiated charge against a student in one of the schools in the diocese shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or required withdrawal, consistent with the student discipline code.
- c. The determination regarding appropriate disciplinary action shall be made by the school administration in its reasonable judgment, based upon the severity or pervasiveness of the conduct, the harm to the victim, and such other factors as the school administration deems relevant or appropriate in its reasonable discretion.

## **BULLYING**

### **1. BULLYING POLICY: (Policy 3.1.4.30, DIOCESAN HANDBOOK OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND NORMS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS) THE DIOCESE STRONGLY OPPOSES AND PROHIBITS ALL FORMS OF BULLYING. ANY VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION, UP TO AND INCLUDING TERMINATION OR REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL.**

- a. It is the policy of the educational programs of the Diocese to maintain a learning environment that is free from any type of bullying (as defined in Section 2 below). The educational programs of the Diocese shall take reasonable steps to ensure that no student associated with these programs is subjected to any type of bullying.
- b. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to commit an act of bullying against another student.

### **2. Definition of Bullying**

"Bullying" is any aggressive and unwanted behavior by a student or group of students that:

- a. is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim;
- b. involves a real or perceived power imbalance between aggressor and victim; and
- c. is repeated over time, or causes severe emotional trauma.
- d. "Bullying" includes cyberbullying.
- e. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.

### 3. Procedures

- a. Any person who alleges bullying by a student shall file a written complaint by providing a completed "Bullying/Harassment/Hazing Prevention and Intervention Incident Form" (See Appendix A.6) directly to his or her teacher, immediate supervisor, or Principal/Preschool Director. The complaint shall describe the perceived violation, name the perpetrator, identify any potential witnesses to the incident, and provide such other information as requested.
- b. Allegations of bullying reported in accordance with this policy are taken seriously and will be appropriately investigated in a timely and professional manner.
- c. The educational programs of the Diocese prohibit and will not tolerate retaliation against an individual for making a good faith complaint of bullying, or for cooperating with the investigation of such a complaint.
- d. Anonymous reports or complaints generally will not be accepted or investigated due to concerns about reliability and the inability to effectively, thoroughly and impartially investigate.
- e. Information will be treated with discretion and with due regard for confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, with the understanding that information will be disclosed as necessary or appropriate to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.
- f. The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes a violation of this policy shall be made by the school administration in its reasonable judgment. It is not necessary to make a showing that the victim was psychologically harmed.

### 4. Sanctions

- a. A substantiated charge against a student in one of the schools in the diocese shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or required withdrawal, consistent with the student discipline code.
- b. The determination regarding appropriate disciplinary action shall be made by the school administration in its reasonable judgment, based upon the severity or pervasiveness of the conduct, the harm to the victim, and such other factors as the school administration deems relevant or appropriate in its reasonable discretion.

## HAZING

**1. HAZING POLICY: (Policy 3.1.4.30, DIOCESAN HANDBOOK OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND NORMS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS) THE DIOCESE STRONGLY OPPOSES AND PROHIBITS ALL FORMS OF HAZING. ANY VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION, UP TO AND INCLUDING TERMINATION OR REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL.**

- a. It is the policy of the educational programs of the Diocese to maintain a learning environment that is free from hazing (as defined in Section 2 below). The educational programs of the Diocese shall take reasonable steps to ensure that no student associated with these programs is subjected to any type of hazing.
- b. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to commit an act of hazing against another student.

### 2. Definition of Hazing

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student or students, and in which both of the following apply:

The act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with an educational institution; and

The act creates or contributes to a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm or degradation, or actually causes physical injury, mental harm or personal degradation.

### 3. Procedures

Any person who alleges hazing by student shall file a complaint in writing by providing a completed "Bullying/Harassment/Hazing Prevention and Intervention Incident Form" (See Appendix A.6) directly to his or her teacher, immediate supervisor, or Principal/Preschool Director. The complaint shall describe the perceived violation, name the perpetrator, identify any potential witnesses to the incident, and provide such information as set forth in such form.

Allegations of hazing reported in accordance with this policy are taken seriously and will be appropriately investigated in a timely and professional manner.

The educational programs of the Diocese prohibit and will not tolerate retaliation against an individual for making a good faith complaint of hazing, or for cooperating with the investigation of such a complaint.

Anonymous reports or complaints generally will not be accepted or investigated due to concerns about reliability and the inability to effectively, thoroughly and impartially investigate.

Information will be treated with discretion and with due regard for confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, with the understanding that information will be disclosed as necessary or appropriate to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes a violation of this policy shall be made by the school administration in its reasonable judgment. It is not necessary to make a showing that the victim was psychologically harmed.

### 4. Sanctions

- a. A substantiated charge against a student in one of the schools in the diocese shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or required withdrawal, consistent with the student discipline code.
- b. The determination regarding appropriate disciplinary action shall be made by the school administration in its reasonable judgment, based upon the severity or pervasiveness of the conduct, the harm to the victim, and such other factors as the school administration deems relevant or appropriate in its reasonable discretion.

## **Insubordination**

Students must cooperate with the directives of faculty, staff members, chaperones, or security officers the first time a directive is given. Failure to comply with a reasonable request is considered a defiance of authority and will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Littering**

“Leave a place better than you found it.” Students are responsible for cleaning up their trash. Students who regularly litter will be subject to disciplinary action, such as fines, detentions, and/or cleaning the school campus.

## **Lockers (School and PE)**

All students are assigned school lockers; students in PE or weight training class are assigned an additional locker in designated areas in the gym. All assigned lockers have built-in combination locks, and students are required to lock them at all times. Students may receive consequences for lockers left unlocked or belongings not secured in a locker. Single-use, temporary lockers equipped with built-in electronic locks are also available in the gym.

All lockers in the school and gym are the property of Saint Mary’s Catholic High School and may be searched at any time. Students may not write on or put anything on the inside or outside of the locker that may damage it. The student assigned to a given locker and his or her parents or guardians are financially responsible to reimburse the school for any damage done to that student’s assigned locker. Items left on campus or in a locker room after the final day of school shall be considered a donation to Saint Mary’s.

## **Neighborhoods and Jaywalking**

Students, especially while in uniform, represent Saint Mary’s everywhere they go and should act accordingly. Saint Mary’s students are expected to be respectful of neighboring homes and businesses by not trespassing on their property. Students are also expected to follow all civic ordinances such as: no jaywalking, no loitering, etc. Students are not allowed to take short cuts through the alleys of the surrounding neighborhood.

## **Obscenity, Defamation, Profanity**

A student shall not use profanity, defamatory, racist, vulgar, or obscene words, phrases, or gestures in oral, visual, or written form, nor shall a student distribute defamatory or obscene materials, including through the use of the Internet or other social media or websites. Defamatory words or materials are those that are false and expose a person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, disgust, or an equivalent reaction or have a tendency to impugn a person’s occupation, business, or office. This includes racial or sexual epithets. Obscene materials are defined as those that an average person, applying a Catholic standard of ethics, would find offensive. Students will be subject to disciplinary action for using obscenity, defamatory language, or profanity.

## **Parking Violation**

Students who drive to school shall only park in the school parking lot designated for students and must have a parking permit for the current school year clearly visible. Parking permits may be purchased in the Front Office. Students who park without a permit or violate any of the parking policies outlined in the “Transportation and Parking” section of the handbook, will receive school consequences.

## **Public Display of Affection**

Students must conduct themselves in a manner becoming Saint Mary’s Catholic High School standards at all times. No public display of affection is allowed on campus or at any Saint Mary’s sponsored event. This includes hugging, holding hands, kissing, and any other form of romantic behavior among students. Saint Mary’s believes that young men and women should develop friendships that are noble and supportive of their overall moral and intellectual growth. Social events

sponsored by the school should not be viewed as the promotion of romantic relationships between our young men and young women, which can take up an enormous amount of the consciousness of young people. Parents will be notified regarding students engaged in public displays of affection at Saint Mary's.

### **Publication Distribution and Posting of Signs**

Students may not post signs or hand out flyers, invitations, or other documents without the approval of the school's administration.

### **Recklessness**

Students must be aware of their surroundings at all times. The unintentional engagement of careless behavior that may pose a safety or health risk for others violates the safety of others and is not conducive to a well-ordered learning environment. This may include non-serious but inappropriate physical contact such as pushing or pulling others, or inappropriate physical contact in areas that pose a greater danger of injury, such as stairwells or doorways.

### **Retaliation**

Students may not retaliate against others who they believe have wronged them. If someone has treated a student inappropriately, the student should seek out an adult on campus for advice and assistance.

### **Reverence at Religious Activities**

Students shall behave reverently and respectfully observe times of silence during all school-sponsored religious activities such as Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, penance services, retreats, and daily prayer.

### **Sexual Conduct**

Sexual activity of any kind is strictly prohibited on campus, during school hours, at school-sponsored events, athletic events or on school transportation. This includes any behavior, physical contact, or communication that is sexual in nature, sexually suggestive, explicit, or engaging in sexual conduct which the school community or the general public would likely find offensive, indecent, or grossly inappropriate. No students are allowed to touch another student's private body parts, which generally mean any area of the body that is generally associated with sex and normally covered by clothing when in public. Such actions not only violate the moral teachings of the Church but also compromise the safe and respectful learning environment we are committed to maintaining for all students.

### **Social Media**

If Saint Mary's becomes aware that a student has posted or displayed information on the Internet, on any social networking site, or any other website (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, etc.) that involves inappropriate behavior as reflected by the spirit of the school's mission or defined in our discipline code, the student will be subject to appropriate school disciplinary procedures, including withdrawal.

Students are also prohibited from posting any materials on the Internet and from sending information via electronic transmission that is associated or linked to Saint Mary's, her students, faculty, or staff without prior written consent from the school's administration. This may include but is not limited to pictures and videos of Saint Mary's students, teachers or officials that are taken on campus or at school-sponsored events. Violations of this policy carry appropriate school disciplinary procedures, including withdrawal.

### **Terroristic Talk**

Terroristic talk refers to any speech, communication, or expression by a student that involves threats, intimidation, or references violent acts or terrorism. It involves making statements that may be interpreted as promoting or inciting violence, harm, or fear among students, staff, or the school community at large. This type of talk can cause significant disruptions to the educational environment and raises serious safety concerns.

Examples of terroristic talk include, but are not limited to, threats of violence, (such as expressing intent to harm or kill someone on the school premises or at a school event); bomb threats; mass shooting references, (such as joking or discussing plans related to carrying out a mass shooting at the school); cyber threats; glorifying past violent events; hate speech and/or derogatory harassment; and spreading fear or panic.

Terroristic talk is taken seriously by Saint Mary's as it poses a significant threat to the safety and well-being of students and staff. Students engaging in terroristic talk face severe consequences, including suspension, required withdrawal, involvement of law enforcement, and potential legal action depending on the threat and local laws. It is crucial for students, teachers, and parents to be vigilant and report any instances of terroristic talk to the Saint Mary's Dean of Students or any administrator immediately.

### **Theft**

A student shall not take, use, or borrow property belonging to another person without that person's permission. Students are encouraged to leave home unnecessary electronic equipment, money, or other valuable personal belongings. Students should keep all their belongings with them or stored in a secure locker at all times. Saint Mary's is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen personal property on campus.

### **Tobacco/Nicotine**

Tobacco use by minors is illegal. A student shall not use or possess any form of tobacco or nicotine products on or off campus. State law ARS 36-798.03 prohibits smoking on school campuses.

### **Trespassing**

Students shall not enter school property outside of school hours unless involved in a supervised school related activity. Unauthorized entry is gaining or attempting to gain forceful or unauthorized entry to, or occupation of a school building or grounds. Possession of a school key to gain admittance does not diminish the fact that the student(s) are on campus outside of school hours and will be disciplined accordingly. Should a student or group of students enter the campus and set off the campus alarm system, they will incur the fees involved in police response to that alarm and be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Violation of Civil or Criminal Statutes**

A student shall not violate or attempt to violate a civil or criminal statute while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Arizona law requires school officials to contact law enforcement for the following statutes: Serious Crimes and Threats (ARS 15-341); Deadly Weapon Possession (ARS 15-515), Possession of Illegal Drugs (ARS 13-3411), and Child Abuse/Neglect (ARS 13-3620).

### **Weapons**

A student shall not, under any circumstances, bring onto school premises or to any school-sponsored activity a firearm, explosive, knife, or any other weapon. This includes real or fake weapons, such as toy guns, pellet guns, BB guns, airsoft guns, paintball guns, taser or stun guns, pepper spray or mace, knives of any kind, chains, clubs, fireworks, box cutters etc. Students are prohibited from bringing onto campus simulated firearms or weapons, which are a replica, facsimile, or toy version of a gun or other weapon. Violators are subject to immediate, required withdrawal and will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES**

Saint Mary's students who engage in any inappropriate conduct shall receive disciplinary consequences at the discretion of school administration (Principal, Assistant Principals, or Dean of Students). Discipline may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Verbal correction
- Conference with student
- Writing assignment
- Summons
- Detention

- Conference/contact with parent(s)
- Loss of privileges (e.g., social, athletics, club memberships)
- Temporary removal from the classroom
- Drug or alcohol testing
- Restitution and/or suitable arrangements
- Community Service
- Saturday Detention (3 hours)
- Discipline/Attendance Agreement and/or Probation
- In-school suspension (ISS)/Out-of-school suspension (OSS)/Emergency Removal
- Re-entry conference with Dean of Students
- Withdrawal from a class
- Referral to the appropriate law enforcement authority
- Required withdrawal from school
- Review Board Hearing

## **Contacting Parents**

The school will contact parents or schedule a conference with them when an issue with their child's academics, attendance, or behavior arises.

## **Campus Detention**

A student who is assigned a campus detention shall serve the detention on the day assigned, usually Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:55–3:55 p.m. (8th hour).

Detentions may not be missed unless an extreme emergency exists that has been shared with and approved in advance as an acceptable reason by the Dean of Students. Students who fail to report to detention, arrive late, or do not follow directions in detention will receive additional detentions or in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Excessive detentions will result in additional consequences, including placement on a Discipline Agreement.

## **Review Boards**

Serious discipline cases may be subject to review by the Discipline Review Board. On the day of the review board, the student will not attend classes and be sent home following the conclusion of the meeting while waiting for notification of the school's decision.

The Discipline Review Board consists of the Dean of Students, faculty members, and any representative(s) deemed necessary by the Principal. The Discipline Review Board can meet without the student and parent. The board may request to meet with only the student and their parent(s) or guardians(s) if necessary.

Taking into consideration the degree of offense, the past record of the student, and the nature of the offense's circumstances, the Discipline Review Board recommends consequences regarding the infraction to the Principal for final decision.

Other than the case of a required disenrollment of a student, it might be possible for other serious matters to require an appeal of an administrator's decision. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent in a Diocesan school to determine if the decision is proper subject for appeal.

1. The Dean will present the situation from information gathered.
2. The members of the Board will ask clarifying questions.
3. The student will be given an opportunity to speak.
4. The parents/guardians will be given an opportunity to add testimony.
5. Opportunity for additional questions or comments by Board members will be given.

6. The Board will meet in private for deliberation.

7. The Board's recommendation will be made known to the principal. The principal will accept, reject, or modify the Review Board's decision and inform the parents/guardians within 24 to 48 hours.

The Principal reserves the right to modify the procedures outlined above if he/she feels the situation warrants a change. Circumstances that may warrant a change may include, but not limited to, the safety and well-being of the student body, the school or local community, timing of the incident or hearing, or any other reason deemed necessary by the Principal.

### **Saturday Detention**

Students may also be assigned a 3-hour Saturday detention for egregious violations or a pattern of behavior that has not been corrected by lesser consequences. Saturday detentions will be held from 8:00-11am and may include written assignments, manual labor or other work assigned by the detention moderator.

### **Suspension**

Suspension (either in-school or out-of-school) is imposed when a student demonstrates a deliberate disregard for Saint Mary's policies and procedures.

In-School Suspension (ISS) is when a student is required to report to school during normal school hours but does not attend classes and may not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities until he or she is cleared to return to the classroom. ISS may involve other tasks, such as cleaning the campus. The student must complete all missed schoolwork on an independent basis.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) is when a student is required to stay home. He or she may not attend classes or attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities until he or she is allowed to return to school. The student must complete all missed work on an independent basis. Parent and student will meet with Dean of Students prior to returning to school.

### **School Investigations**

Investigative Leave is when a student is required to stay home during a period of investigation of events that may have occurred on or off campus. The school reserves the right to modify to suspension based on the outcome of the investigation. During this period, students are able to complete their school work.

The school reserves the right to speak with and interview any student that may be considered a witness to an event.

The school encourages students to report situations that may be harmful to themselves or others.

### **Agreement or Probation**

Agreement or Probation is the supervision and evaluation of the student's conduct for a specific period of time. This may be imposed for serious infractions, or when other actions to change behavior have not been successful, and may include, but is not limited to, some or all of the following: loss of co-curricular activity privileges, community service hours, and outside counseling.

### **Withdrawal (Voluntary or Required)**

Ordinarily, a parent will be given the opportunity to withdraw the student from school voluntarily. If a parent refuses to withdraw the student and the serious nature of the behavior warrants it, the student will be required to withdraw from school. If the administration determines that the student's or parent's attitude and/or behavior illustrate a refusal to cooperate or comply with Saint Mary's school expectations, the student and parents will accept the required withdrawal without further discussion. Students who are required to withdraw or voluntarily withdraw in lieu of a required withdrawal from Saint Mary's for disciplinary reasons are not permitted to be on the Saint Mary's campus and are not permitted to attend Saint Mary's school-sponsored activities or athletic events, whether on or off the campus.

### Appeal Process

If after the completion of the Review Board, the principal requires that a student withdraw from the school, the student (if 18 years or older), or the parent or legal guardian of the student, may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent of schools.

There shall be no right of appeal for a student, parent or legal guardian if the principal takes some disciplinary action toward a student other than the required withdrawal from the school. There shall be no right of appeal, for example, for the suspension of a student or for detention. (See the complete policy for the appeal process in the **Grievance and Appeal Process** section of this handbook).

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Saint Mary's Catholic High School administration may, without a search warrant, search a student, or his or her personal possessions, based on reasonable suspicion. Reasonable suspicion means that an administrator has grounds to believe that the search may result in evidence of a violation of a diocesan or school policy or procedure, or a law. Personal possessions include but are not limited to purses, backpacks, book bags, cell phones, packages, clothing, and vehicles. The administration reserves the right to seize any item deemed inappropriate. As determined by the administration, such items may be retained by the school or turned over to the diocese, law enforcement agencies, or the student's parents or guardians.

## REASONABLE CONTACT

The school administration is committed to maintaining a safe environment for all students and staff. In order to maintain the good order, safety and the welfare of the school community, situations may arise in which school administration or staff may restrain, redirect, escort, or otherwise use such physical contact as is reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances to prevent a student from doing, or continuing to do, any of the following:

- Committing a criminal offense
- Causing personal injury or damage to the property of any person (including himself or herself)
- Significantly disrupting the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or any school function, despite receiving reasonable instruction to cease such behavior

## UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

The Saint Mary's school uniform identifies those who wear it as members of a Catholic community committed to virtue and excellence. The uniform supports and promotes a unity of purpose, and the reality of being a member of something larger than oneself. We want our students to dress their best, and look their best, so that they will be their best. In addition, Saint Mary's Catholic High School establishes a uniform for the following reasons:

- To instill modesty, good grooming habits, and neatness in appearance.
- To maintain a proper academic environment within the school community.
- To reduce superficial competitiveness in dress among students so as to reflect and support the dignity of the individual.

Students are to arrive and leave school in proper uniform throughout the school year, from the first day of school orientation to the last final exam on the last day of school. Students not in proper uniform will be required to correct the issue and receive a summons. If the issue cannot be corrected immediately, the student will be sent to the front office and will not be permitted to return to class until the uniform is corrected.

The governing principles of the uniform and dress code are modesty and order. Modesty, which protects the dignity of the human person, applies equally to men and to women. Order, the correct arrangement of something, directs that the uniform and other clothing should be worn as is proper.

Each student's dress and personal appearance should be such as not to disrupt or distract the educational environment of the school. Each student's clothing must fit appropriately as determined by school administration. Clothing may not be too tight, too baggy, too revealing, too short, too long, or hang too low. Saint Mary's reserves the right to insist that the dress and grooming of students are within the limits of generally accepted good taste, in school as well as at all school-sponsored events. Students are required to wear their uniform on semester and final exam days and also during summer school. If there is doubt as to the appropriateness of some attire, it should not be worn until it has been approved by an administrator.

## **Boys' Uniform and Dress Code**

### Shirts

Boys must wear the school-purchased uniform knit shirt in green or white or the white oxford shirt. Boys may wear plain white short-sleeved or long-sleeved T-shirts under the school shirt; the T-shirt may not contain any writing or pictures. Shirts must be tucked in and properly buttoned, such that only the uppermost button is unbuttoned. All shirts must be purchased through the Saint Mary's Spirit Shop located on campus. **Seniors are permitted to purchase and wear a Black Saint Mary's polo from Anton Uniforms.**

### Jackets and Sweaters

The Saint Mary's school uniform polo must be worn under all outerwear. Boys may wear only SM-branded, uniform-approved, and school-purchased sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets over the school uniform shirt. No other jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, blankets, or cool-weather attire may be worn at school. Sweatshirts with hoods (hoodies) **ABSOLUTELY** may not be worn on campus. All uniform outerwear must be purchased through Saint Mary's and approved by the Dean of Students. Saint Mary's lettermen's jackets are permitted and encouraged.

### Pants and Belts

Male students are required to wear khaki (light tan) dress trousers. Pants must look professional and be tidy and in good repair. White pants, tan jeans, jeans-cut and stitched pants, skinny-cut and cargo pants are not allowed. Trouser legs must reach to the top of the shoe and should not extend to the ground. Trousers may not be torn, frayed, cut, oversized, too tight, or too baggy. Trousers must be worn at the waist with a black or dark brown leather belt. Over-sized belt buckles are not permitted.

### Shoes and Socks

Boys are required to wear black or dark brown leather dress shoes or loafers. Boat-shoe style shoes (such as Sperry Authentic Original AO) are acceptable only in one solid color--dark brown or black, with dark soles. Boys may not wear tennis shoes, skate shoes, moccasins, canvas shoes, or any other non-leather, non-dress shoe. Athletic shoes are permitted only during official school athletic activities. Socks must be solid-colored, crew-length, in black or deep brown (**logos are not allowed**). Students are responsible for keeping their shoes looking professional and well-kept.

### Hair and Grooming

Hair styles must be neat and well-groomed at all times. Boys' hair must be styled above the top of the shirt collar, may not cover or go below the eyebrows and may not extend past the mid-point of the ear. In addition:

- Bleached, dyed, chalked or highlighted hair, mohawks, dramatic hairstyles (burst, skin or bald fades, shaved patterns, sharp angle lines, excessively spiked, shaved, man buns, etc. are not permitted.
- Braids, twists, locs, and/or rows are permitted within the guidelines above.
- Exceptions *may* be granted based on established cultural, religious, or medical reasons and must be previously approved by the Dean of Students. Appropriate documentation must be provided.
- If hair is in violation, students must cut or fix the hair to meet school guidelines within two school days of being notified. If the hair violation continues past this two-day timeframe, students will not be allowed to return to class until the correction is made.
- The Dean of Students will make the final determination about whether a student's hair is appropriate and acceptable. For questions, please see the Dean of Students.

Boys must be clean-shaven, and sideburns may not extend longer than the middle of the ear. Boys who come to school with facial hair will be asked to shave at school and will receive a \$10 summons. Shaved eyebrow lines will not be allowed.

### Hats and Glasses

Hats and stocking caps may not be worn or carried on campus from the time of arrival until the time of dismissal. Hats worn at school functions must be in good taste, worn with the bill facing forward and only in appropriate locations. Hats must always be removed during prayer, when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and during the playing of the National Anthem. Dark glasses may not be worn on campus from the time the student arrives on campus until the end of the school day.

### Tattoos

Tattoos, whether temporary or permanent, must be completely covered and out of sight at all times during the school day and during all school-sponsored activities, including athletic competitions and practices. Students may not write or draw on themselves or on others.

#### Jewelry

Boys may wear a religious medal on a simple, thin chain, a watch, a Saint Mary's class ring, and one other ring. A religious bracelet may be worn. No earrings, gauges, brandings, body piercing (brow, tongue, nose, etc.), covered piercings, leather straps, heavy chains, ball-bearing necklaces, or anklets are allowed. Rosaries may not be worn as necklaces.

### **Girls' Uniform and Dress Code**

#### Shirts

Girls are required to wear the school-purchased uniform knit shirt in green or white or the white oxford shirt. Girls may wear plain white short-sleeved or long-sleeved T-shirts under the school shirt; the T-shirt may not contain any writing or pictures, and undergarments should not be visible. Seniors are permitted to purchase and wear a Black Saint Mary's polo from Anton Uniforms.

Uniform shirts must be tucked in and properly buttoned, such that only the uppermost button is unbuttoned. All shirts must be purchased through the Saint Mary's Spirit Shop located on campus.

#### Jackets and Sweaters

The Saint Mary's school uniform polo must be worn under all outerwear. Girls may wear only SM-branded, uniform-approved, and school-purchased sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets over the school uniform shirt. No other jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, blankets, or cool-weather attire may be worn at school. Sweatshirts with hoods (hoodies) ABSOLUTELY may not be worn on campus. All uniform outerwear must be purchased through Saint Mary's and approved by the Dean of Students. Saint Mary's lettermen's jackets are permitted and encouraged.

#### Skirts

Girls may wear only Anton Uniform Dorchester plaid skirts. Uniform skirts must be worn at the waist, and the length of the skirt when so worn should extend to the knee in both the front and the back. Skirts must be properly fastened at all times. Female students are advised to wear close fitting dark shorts (bicycle shorts) under their skirts; these shorts should not extend past the length of the skirt. When the skirt no longer meets the length requirement or no longer fits at the waist so that the zipper and button can be closed, the skirt must be re-hemmed, professionally altered, or traded for clothing that properly fits. Otherwise, girls must purchase a new skirt. Skirts may not be rolled at the waist.

#### Shoes and Socks

Girls must wear solid colored black or brown leather dress shoes, flats, or loafers (no lug soled, or block heeled shoes allowed). Sperry brand boat shoes in Authentic Original (AO) style in the color Sahara are acceptable. Students are responsible for keeping their shoes looking professional and well-kept.

Socks or tights must be solid-colored black, white, Kelly green or gray and free of any logos. Ankle, crew, or knee-high styled (no higher than just below the knee) are permissible.

#### Hair

Girls are to keep their hair neat and well-groomed at all times. Ultra-short, shaved, unnaturally colored, or extremely contrasting streaked hair is not allowed. Flat black hair dye, and the excessive use of bleach are not permitted. Hair lengths must be blended. Shaved eyebrow lines are not allowed. Wigs are not allowed, unless they are to be worn for a medical condition that has been documented by the school nurse. Such wigs would not be in a color radically different from the student's natural hair color. The office of the Dean of Students will make the final determination about whether a student's hair is appropriate and acceptable. For questions, please see the Dean of Students.

#### Hair Accessories

All hair accessories such as ties, bows, clips, ribbons, and head bands must be solid-colored white, green, or black, or Dorchester plaid, simple, moderately sized, and not distracting. Girls will be asked to remove hair accessories that are excessively large or distracting.

#### Hats and Glasses

Hats, visors, sweatbands, bandanas, scarves, or dark glasses may not be worn on campus from the time of arrival until the time of dismissal.

#### Makeup and Fingernails

Makeup must be appropriate for young women in a Christian school, applied with modesty and in good taste. Excessive or exaggerated use of black or dark colored eyeliner is not allowed. Bright, dark-colored, or glittery lipstick will not be allowed. White makeup is not permitted. False eyelashes must be natural looking extensions. They may not be distracting or in poor taste.

Nail polish may be any plain solid color except black or excessively dark or bright. No jewels, decorations, or patterned designs are allowed. Traditional white tipped French manicures are permitted. Fingernails may not be worn longer than ½ inch past the fingertip and must be oval, square, coffin, almond or squoval shaped. Nail shapes such as stiletto are not allowed.

Girls who attend the Homecoming Dance or Prom will be permitted to wear patterned or jeweled nails for no longer than **two weeks after** the dance. After that time, girls will not be allowed in class until their nails are compliant with the regular dress code.

#### Tattoos

Tattoos, whether temporary or permanent, must be completely covered and out of sight at all times during the school day and during all school-sponsored activities, including athletic competitions and practices. Students may not write or draw on themselves or on others.

#### Earrings and Other Jewelry

Girls may wear one pair of short earrings in the ear lobes only. “Short” means that the earrings do not hang more than ½” inch below the ear lobe. Loops are not to be larger than the size of a nickel. Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings, gauges, ear cuffs, and chains are not permitted. A second pair of earrings is permitted, provided they are small studs in the upper lobe just above the standard earring. No other upper-ear piercings, body-piercing jewelry, or covered piercings are permitted.

Girls may wear one small necklace or a religious medal on a simple thin chain. No chokers, beaded, leather, shell, chain-link, or similar necklaces are permitted. One bracelet, one watch, and two simple rings may be worn. Anklets are not permitted. Rosaries are not to be worn as necklaces.

## **Special Dress Code Guidelines**

#### Physical Education

Saint Mary’s Catholic High School has a specified dress code for all physical education classes, consisting of the **school athletic shorts or sweatpants and t-shirts. Shorts and sweatpants may not be rolled at the waist.** These items (shorts, sweatpants, and t-shirts) must be purchased from the Saint Mary’s Spirit Shop located on campus. All PE and weightlifting students are given an assigned locker with a built-in combination lock. Students are required to keep their belongings and valuables in the assigned lockers and to keep the lockers locked at all times.

#### Spirit Shirts

Fridays are designated as spirit shirt days. With administrative approval, students may wear a Saint Mary’s green, white, black, or gray athletic team or spirit shirt. Gold spirit shirts may be worn only when announced in advance. Tank tops are not allowed. Shirts must always be tucked in, clean, and presentable.

#### Special Attire for Clubs and Sports Teams

Varsity athletic teams and other co-curricular organizations may wear an athletic team jersey or designated team shirt on Fridays during the season their sport is in session in lieu of a spirit shirt. If the team has a “bye week”, the team may not wear their jerseys. The teams may also receive permission to wear special attire on designated days as determined by the Dean of Students and Athletic Director.

#### Appropriate Attire at School Functions and Activities

Saint Mary’s Catholic High School reserves the right to insist that the dress and grooming of students (and their guests) are within the limits of modesty and good taste in school as well as at school events.

## Modesty

Modesty is an integral part of chastity, and purity requires modesty. *“Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden... Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love... Modesty is decency. It inspires one’s choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet”* (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2521- 2522).

There is no chastity without modesty. Because of the important role modest dress and behavior plays in protecting the dignity of the human person, students are required to dress modestly at all times, whether on campus or at any Saint Mary’s event.

At any Saint Mary’s event, skirts or dresses must be worn to the knee or longer. Low cut shirts and transparent or excessively tight clothing are prohibited to men and women. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be sent home.

The modesty guidelines are to guide all dress code situations, including school functions and events both on and off campus:

**Male students are to observe the following:** No excessively baggy or tight pants. No hats during indoor events, or at inappropriate times during outdoor events (prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, etc.) Shirts must be worn. No shirts with extremely open sides or shirts that display inappropriate writing. Ripped shorts, pants, and jeans are not permitted. No earrings on or off-campus, no body piercings, or exposed tattoos.

**Women are to observe the following:** No strapless, spaghetti-strap, off-the-shoulder shirts, or shirts that expose the midriff, cleavage, or back are permitted; No tight or short clothing. Shorts must be to at least the extended fingertips. Skirts and dresses must extend to the knee. Leggings, jeggings (or other form-fitting pants), ripped shorts, pants, and jeans are not permitted. Body piercings and exposed tattoos are not permitted.

*Note: Other clothing or accessory items that the school determines to be not in good taste will not be allowed.*

## Formal and Semi-formal Events

There are specific formal and semi-formal dress codes for special events, including end of the year ceremonies, graduation, concerts, art shows, and dances. Specific guidelines will be issued for each, but, in general, the following guidelines will apply:

**For women:** skirts and dresses with hems that reach the knee; bare midriffs are not acceptable. Strapless, spaghetti-strap, off-the-shoulder, or tank tops are not permitted. No tight or form fitting clothing. Women must wear dress shoes. No flip flops, or dyed hair.

**For men:** Dress pants, a collared dress shirt, a tie, dark socks, and dress shoes are required. Hair should be trimmed appropriately, and men should be clean shaven. No dyed hair or hats.

## Dances

Ticket purchase and attendance for Homecoming and Prom dances will require students and parents to agree to and sign a dance contract. This contract will outline specific guidelines for the dance, including our semi-formal and formal dress code. Dances at Saint Mary’s Catholic High School are for the benefit of Saint Mary’s students. If a student wishes to bring a guest who does not attend Saint Mary’s, a guest pass must be obtained before the dance.

*Note: Other clothing or accessory items that the Administration determines not to be “in good taste” will not be allowed.*

# FINANCIAL MATTERS

## **Tuition Rates**

### Full Tuition Rate

The full tuition rate applies to families that are not registered, active, and participating members of a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Phoenix.

### Reduced Tuition Rate for Practicing Catholics

Families who are registered, active, and participating members of their parish in the Diocese of Phoenix are eligible for a reduced tuition rate. The reduced rate becomes effective when the Parish Verification Form is signed by the pastor, or his designee, and is submitted to Saint Mary’s Catholic High School by the school’s provided deadline. Forms received after the deadline result in a full

tuition rate charge. The reduced tuition rate is not retroactive. Criteria used in determining active and participating membership may vary by parish.

Transfer students will have 30 days from the date of registration to submit a signed and sealed Parish Verification Form to qualify for the reduced tuition rate.

A non-refundable deposit of \$325 is due at the time of registration. Students may not schedule or receive course schedules until registered. Registration is not complete until all required forms are submitted and the \$325 deposit is paid.

FULL TUITION RATE	REDUCED TUITION RATE
\$18,500	\$14,500
\$100 Fundraising requirement	
20 Volunteer hours (\$200 equivalent)	

### Additional Costs and Fees

Families will be responsible for any additional costs not included in the tuition. These items may include the following as applicable:

- Uniform costs (\$150 on average)
- Parking fee (\$100 individual or \$75 carpool)
- Graduation fee (\$250 seniors only)
- Replacement costs of textbooks lost or returned in unusable condition

### Payment Options

Tuition payments will be billed monthly and begin August 2025. Ten (10) monthly payments will be billed for the 2025– 2026 school year. Payments must be made by automatic deduction from a bank account or credit card. Credit card payments will incur a three (3) percent processing fee per transaction.

### Financial Aid

It is the policy of Saint Mary’s Catholic High School to attempt to provide a Catholic education to all students regardless of financial limitations. In order to offer more students an opportunity to attend Saint Mary’s, and in justice to all who sacrifice their time and money supporting the school, Saint Mary’s uses well-established guidelines to determine the disbursement of financial aid.

Families who anticipate a need for financial assistance must complete and submit the Financial Aid Independent Review Form (F.A.I.R.) online at [www.fairapp.com](http://www.fairapp.com) on a yearly basis every spring. F.A.I.R. requires an application processing fee of \$31.

F.A.I.R. verifies financial need and submits its findings to Catholic Education Arizona (CEA). Saint Mary’s receives financial aid awards from CEA in the summer and early fall. Families must continue any scheduled payments until the F.A.I.R. eligibility is determined, unless prior arrangements have been made with the school’s Business Office.

*Note: If a F.A.I.R. form is returned showing the family is able to pay its full tuition amount, the original Tuition Payment Agreement Form stays in place, unless the family makes other arrangements with the Business Office.*

Financial aid is not guaranteed, and it is the responsibility of the family to apply for financial assistance to the tuition-assistance awarding organizations that collaborate with Saint Mary’s. Families are responsible for fulfilling their school financial obligations if a deficit in financial aid occurs.

The school mails Tuition Contract Agreements in July. If a family has been awarded the parish discount and/or financial aid, the Tuition Contract Agreement reflects it. All families must sign and return this agreement in order for the student to pick up his or her schedule and textbooks each year. Families need to follow the Tuition Contract Agreement to avoid Financial Delinquency (see **Financial Delinquency** below).

### Fundraising

Financially, Saint Mary’s Catholic High School depends not only on tuition and grants to meet ever rising instructional and operating costs, but also must look to fundraising. Those who have to pay state taxes, should consider donated to Catholic

Education Arizona in the name of Saint Mary's Catholic High School for a tax credit. Tax credit donations of at least \$200 will satisfy the fundraising obligation. Saint Mary's has established other fundraising opportunities for families to raise the mandatory \$100, per student, for the school. This \$100 must be raised by April 30. If a family does not meet the \$100 requirement, the Business Office bills the family for the remaining amount. This payment must be made on a timely basis to avoid financial delinquency (see **Financial Delinquency** below). These direct and indirect sources of funding help us meet the cost of educating our students.

### **Late Registration and Early Withdrawal**

If a student registers after school begins, the tuition is pro-rated over the number of days a student is enrolled for that particular month. If a student withdraws prior to the start of school, all tuition paid in advance is refunded minus the \$300 non-refundable deposit. A student who withdraws after school has begun is responsible for the month's tuition if he or she attends even one school day during the month.

### **Financial Delinquency**

When any fees, fines, tuition payments, or any other costs are past due to Saint Mary's Catholic High School, there is a financial delinquency. In the event of a student's financial delinquency:

- The student will not be permitted to take end-of-semester examinations and will receive "Incompletes" in all of his or her classes until all financial obligations have been met.
- The student will not be permitted to register at the same school or at another Catholic school within the Diocese of Phoenix until all financial obligations have been met.
- The student will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored sports programs or any other school sponsored activities.
- Families who miss any payment, due to insufficient funds, will be charged a \$30 missed payment fee. After being informed of the missed tuition payment, the payment will be re-attempted on the next available payment date. If an emergency has occurred, suitable arrangements must be made with the school financial administrator at least five business days before a scheduled payment date.
- Families who have missed two monthly payments and have not made suitable arrangements within fourteen (14) calendar days of the second missed payment will be informed that their child or children will not be allowed to attend school.

## **GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCESS**

Any grievance, issue, or concern within the Saint Mary's Catholic High School community should be resolved by first communicating with the person with whom the grievance, issue, or concern exists. An understanding must exist that it is possible that confidentiality surrounding both the name of the person sharing the grievance, issue, or concern and the information pertaining to the actual grievance, issue, or concern may not occur. Staff members reserve the right to share both the name and the information with the person(s) involved in the grievance, issue, or concern.

If the grievance, issue, or concern cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the people involved, the grievance, issue, or concern can be brought to the attention of the immediate supervisor in that area. This step may be repeated until the immediate supervisor is the principal.

Any grievance, issue, or concern brought to the attention of the principal shall be submitted in writing along with proposed ideas to solve the grievance, issue, or concern.

If the principal requires that a student withdraw from a school, the student (if 18 years or older), or the parent or legal guardian of the student may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent of schools after meeting with the school's principal about the decision to withdraw.

There shall be no right of appeal for a student, parent, or legal guardian if a principal takes some disciplinary action toward a student other than the required withdrawal from the school. There shall be no right of appeal, for example, for the suspension of a student or for detention.

#### **Appeal Steps:**

When a parent, employee, or student (if 18 years or older) wishes to appeal a principal's decision, the person must submit the appeal in writing to the superintendent of schools (in the case of a diocesan school). The written appeal must contain the following information:

- The subject of the appeal.
- Any factual data relevant to the appeal.
- Cite the specific policy(ies) alleged to have been violated.

- The efforts that have been made to resolve the issue.
- Date(s) of meeting with school principal regarding the decision.

The principal's decision must be appealed within 10 working days of the communication of that decision to the aggrieved party. It shall be within the sole discretion of the superintendent of schools to determine whether to review the decision.

The superintendent of schools may, in his sole discretion, designate another person to hear the appeal and to render a decision on the superintendent of school's behalf. The superintendent of schools (or his designee) will review the situation to determine whether the school's actions were consistent with their policies and procedures. The final decision will be based on these findings.

- The decision of the superintendent of schools, or designee shall be final and binding upon the parties and shall conclude the appeal process.
- There shall be no further right of appeal.

Notwithstanding anything in these policies to the contrary, the principal of a school has the authority to make decisions and impose consequences that are in the best interest of the school and community it serves.

## **SCHOOL PARENT ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Advisory Board**

The Saint Mary's Catholic High School Advisory Board meets monthly with the principal of Saint Mary's in an advisory capacity. Information on applying to be a member of the Advisory Board will be communicated during periodic recruitment windows.

### **Parent Service Organization**

Saint Mary's Parent Service Organization provides a way for parents to support the school and build community by contributing their time, effort, and presence to various school events and activities. In addition, current Saint Mary's families help new families connect with the school's many longstanding traditions and foster the family spirit that enlivens the extended Saint Mary's community.

### **Athletic Booster Clubs**

Saint Mary's parents work closely with the Athletic Director to support school athletic teams. Parent volunteers are vital to the success of the athletic and co-curricular programs at Saint Mary's.

## **SCHOOL RECORDS**

### **Access to Student Records**

Parents have the right to inspect and review the official transcript of their child to ensure accuracy of its content. No personal information concerning a student will be given to any person unless the person is the parent or authorized guardian. Parental requests should be made in writing and the school has 45 days to respond and provide access.

### **Birth Certificate**

Saint Mary's requires that all students have a copy of their birth certificate on file in their cumulative folder.

### **Immunizations Records**

Saint Mary's requires that all students have a copy of their up-to-date immunization records on file in their cumulative folder.

### **Permanent Records (Official Records)**

Saint Mary's keeps the following student records indefinitely:

- Academic Transcripts
- Academic Test Results
- Immunization Records

Guidance department, disciplinary records, and health records are not part of the student's official records and are not kept in the permanent file.

## **Transcripts**

When a student transfers to another school, a copy of the student's official record (transcript) shall be sent as requested from one educational institution to another. Only semester grades appear on a student's transcript. A copy of an unofficial transcript may be provided to a parent, guardian, or student upon request. No student disciplinary records are sent with transcripts.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

All schoolbooks, equipment, or clothing items checked out to a student that are lost or stolen are the responsibility of the student and his or her parent or guardian and must be replaced or purchased at the current replacement cost. The Saint Mary's High Catholic School staff strongly encourages students not to bring any expensive personal items or large amounts of money to school.

We encourage students to write their names in their books and on their personal property. The school and its staff members are not responsible for personal items (textbooks, personal items, clothing, electronic devices, or money) or school items (books, equipment, or clothing) that are lost or stolen on campus or at school sponsored activities.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING**

### **Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

Parents must follow the school's traffic flow pattern, distributed at the beginning of the school year and on our school website. The designated areas for student drop-off or pick-up are:

**Entering from 7th Street:** the turn-around on Saint Mary's Way (formerly Sheridan Street)

**Entering from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street:** the student parking lot in front of Piper Hall

*Note: Do not drop-off or pick-up students in the faculty parking lot, the staff parking lot on 3rd Street, or the Virginia Plaza parking lot north of the school campus.*

### **Student Parking**

Students who drive to school must park in the student parking lot and display a parking permit. Parking permit applications may be obtained in the Front Office. Saint Mary's requires a driver's license and a current insurance ID card to be submitted with the parking permit application, due to Arizona State law. Yearly parking permits are \$75 for individual student permits and \$50 for carpool permits (limited spaces available on first come, first-serve basis).

Students that violate the follow parking policies and procedures are subject to disciplinary actions and procedures including but not limited to summons, detentions, revoked parking privileges and additional disciplinary consequences.

- Once parked, students must exit their vehicles and proceed to campus; loitering in cars or in the parking lot is not permitted.
- Students may not go to their vehicles during school hours unless authorized by the Front Office.
- For the safety of students, a 5-mph speed limit will be strictly enforced. Reckless driving is prohibited.
- Only students with carpool permits are allowed to park in the designated carpool spaces.
- Students driving to school must have a permit attached to their vehicles at all times. Parking permits must be displayed from the rear-view mirror with the number facing forward. Transfer of permits between students or to any other vehicle is prohibited.
- Vehicles without permits will be issued a \$10 summons per violation, accruing weekly. Citation fines are due within one week.
- Temporary permits will be issued if other than the registered vehicle must be used for a short-term emergency situation. This permit is requested from the Front Office and must be on the vehicle before the start of the school day.
- Tags, bumper stickers, signs, or flags that suggest profanity, advertise or endorse tobacco or drugs, or are inflammatory or degrade another person for any reason are prohibited.
- All accidents and thefts from cars must be reported immediately (within 24 hours) to the security officer or Front Office.
- Vehicles may be searched if the administration has a reasonable suspicion that a school violation exists.
- Students will be assigned a parking space and may not park in another assigned spot. Students illegally parked risk being towed.

## **USE OF STREETS AND PUBLIC TRANSIT**

For safety reasons, Saint Mary's students coming and leaving campus must use the pedestrian crosswalks, especially on Saint Mary's Way (Sheridan), 3rd Street, 7th Street, and Central Avenue. Jaywalking is both illegal and dangerous and could result in a citation or disciplinary consequence.

Students taking the bus to or from school are expected to behave appropriately on the bus and at bus stops. Students leaving the campus on foot must also be sure to have appropriate good citizen behavior for our neighbors (residential or business). Saint Mary's takes seriously reports of student littering, disrespectful conduct, trespassing, and any other conduct that would injure the reputation of the school.

## **VISITORS**

All visitors, including parents, guardians, and alumni, must request a Visitor Badge at the Front Office. In addition, all visitors must sign in and out of the school's Visitor Logbook (also located in the Front Office).

Visitors who are not parents or guardians are not allowed to visit students on campus during school hours (7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.) for any reason.

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being.

Saint Mary's Wellness Policy is aimed at promoting and protecting students' health, well-being, and their ability to learn through the promotion of healthy eating and physical activities. Parents and other guests are asked to refrain from bringing unhealthy food to students at school. Saint Mary's also encourages its clubs and organizations to offer non-food items or healthy food choices when conducting fundraising activities.

Saint Mary's Wellness Policy includes the following components:

### **Nutritional Guidelines**

- Food service (tasty and nutritional daily food choices)
- Staff (professional, trained, qualified staff)
- Pleasant eating experiences (25-30 minutes provided, choice of indoor or outdoor eating)

Nutrition Education through the school's science, health, and physical education curriculum

### **Physical Activity**

- Physical education (required for all freshmen; available as an elective for grades 11–12)
- Physical activity (sports, games, activities provided to meet the needs of all students, not just athletes)

### **Other School-Based Activities**

- Foods of minimal nutritional value are not served during the school day, with a few special-occasion exceptions.

### **Parent and Staff Involvement**

- The Cafeteria posts its menu on the school's website and staff is educated to sponsor fund-raisers that do not involve the selling of unhealthy foods.

### **Implementation and Evaluation**

- The Wellness Committee meets throughout the year and the administration is involved in the policy's implementation and evaluation.

## **DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CODE OF CONDUCT**

For clergy and diocesan personnel (includes volunteers) in their ministerial relationships with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

### Diocesan policy requires that they:

- Participate in training programs for a Safe Environment for children, youth and vulnerable adults as well as training for the implementation of the Diocesan Policy on Sexual Misconduct.
- Maintain the appropriate boundaries for adult-child relationships in the classroom and school, religious education program, youth ministry program, and parish.
- Any person who reasonably believes that there is criminal sexual misconduct with minors or vulnerable adults must report to the police and Child Protective Service as well as cooperate fully in any police investigation.
- After notifying the police, report to the Youth Protection Advocate for the Diocese so that the Sexual Misconduct Policy can be implemented.
- Advise an adult who reports an allegation of sexual abuse by church personnel with a minor or vulnerable adult that he or she has the right and responsibility to report this allegation to appropriate law enforcement and social service agencies.
- Avoid situations of extreme personal self-disclosure. This creates a situation where young people or vulnerable adults are drawn to personalities rather than the community at large.

### Diocesan policy prohibits:

- Any kind of sexual contact or inappropriate touching of a minor or vulnerable adult.
- Any breach of professional trust, which has as its intent sexual contact or activity with minors or adults.
- Any inappropriate behavior, which could be misunderstood or be construed as an indicator of potential sexual misconduct.
- Having minors or vulnerable adults (who are not family members) with whom there is a ministerial or work relationship, as a visitor in one's home, residence, dormitory, apartment, rectory or the private living quarters of priests without another adult present.
- Vacations with minors or vulnerable adults (who are not family members) unless parents or other adults are present.
- Field trips or other outings involving minors or vulnerable adults in places and situations where no other adults are present.
- Travel with minors or vulnerable adults (who are not family members) without another adult present in the car, van, church bus, carpool or other means of transportation.
- Behavior including but not limited to activities that involve excessive physical contact with minors or vulnerable adults, i.e., wrestling, tickling, other physical "horseplay".
- Giving out to minors or vulnerable adults one's personal phone number, pager and personal e-mail address.
- Taking a vulnerable adult, minor, or group of minors to a restaurant for a meal without another adult present.
- Giving alcohol or drugs to minors or vulnerable adults.

## LEGAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING ASBESTOS

Dear Parents,

This informational letter comes to you at the direction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). The Agency requires all schools to inspect their buildings and facilities and to identify, sample, and analyze all friable and non-friable building materials that may contain asbestos. Friable materials are defined as those that can be easily crumbled by hand. The Asbestos in Schools Rule and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act regulation further require that all parents, teachers, and employees of schools where asbestos is found be notified. This requirement is part of an inspection and management plan that is on file at our school.

The Asbestos Office of the Diocese of Phoenix has conducted an inspection of our entire school facility. Any friable asbestos containing material that has been found to be damaged has been repaired or removed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The non-friable asbestos containing material will be maintained as it is and be re-inspected visually every six months for any physical damage until it eventually is removed.

Repair or removal is done by contractors experienced and certified in this type of work. After repair or removal, an extensive survey is completed to ensure that all the school areas are safe and free of asbestos fibers.

*Tanya Bartlett, M.Ed.*

Principal

Saint Mary's Catholic High School



## **DISCLOSURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS OF SCHOOL PARTICIPATION Saint Mary's Catholic High School**

All parents and guardians must understand that there is always some potential for injury and illness inherent in such all School activities. The School is using good faith, reasonable efforts to reduce the risks of injury and illness, including implementing the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Education, and state and local health authorities in light of the unique needs and circumstances of the School community, and in order to allow for in- person learning while protecting students, teachers, administrators, and staff and helping slow the spread of COVID-19. While the CDC and health authorities state that these efforts help lower the risk of COVID- 19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities, they cannot eliminate all risk of exposure and transmission, and School cannot ensure any child's complete safety.

By allowing their children to attend the School in person, therefore, all parents and guardians are specifically acknowledging and assuming the risks and hazards associated with their children's participation in all school activities, but not limited to, the risks associated with the novel COVID-19 virus. All parents and guardians understand that their children will be associating with, teachers, administrators, staff and other children and may contract COVID-19, and other viruses and diseases, through their children's participation in activities at school. By allowing their children to attend the School in person, all parents and guardians are acknowledging that they understand and voluntarily assume the risk that their children may acquire COVID-19, and that COVID-19 may subsequently be transmitted from children to parents, guardians, family, and other members of the household.

By allowing their children to attend the School in person, on a daily basis, all parents and guardians are certifying that their children are in good health and have no current issues that make it unsafe to participate in School activities, and acknowledge that the School may not have a medical professional on staff. Parents and guardian agree that they will notify the School and will not send a child to School or School functions if the child develops a fever or other symptoms of illness or tests positive for COVID-19. Furthermore, parents and guardians will not send a child to School or School functions if the child is sick, has COVID-19 symptoms, or has been in close contact with someone who shows symptoms of or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 until after a 14 day exposure period has been exhausted for the child with no symptoms. By allowing their children to attend the School in person, all parents and guardians are further agreeing that they follow, and will take reasonable steps to ensure that their children will follow, all rules, policies and guidelines of School in order to protect other students, teachers, administrators, and staff and help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Updated 6/3/2025