

OLC LOWER SCHOOL (TINY TIKES-GRADE 3) PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Dear OLC School Parents,

Welcome! We are happy to present you with the OLC PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK for the 2022-2023 school year. This handbook is an important resource and has been created to give you a general overview of our school's policies and procedures. Please use it as a reference, along with any correspondence you may receive from our school office and your child's teacher during the year. Refer to your child's teacher webpage via www.olcschool.org to stay informed of daily routines and information. The policies and procedures contained in this handbook are consistent with those found in the Upper School handbook, with information specific to the preschool and elementary levels.

This information exists to foster the efficient operation of The OLC School. The school administration is given flexibility to exercise discretion to meet this objective. In appropriate circumstances, the administration has the discretion to take actions other than those specified in the handbook and is subject to change at any time. If changes are made to this handbook, parents will be notified within a reasonable amount of time. It is not intended and should not be considered to create any additional rights for students/or parents.

If you have any questions/concerns regarding the information contained in this book, please feel free to contact us. Your feedback is appreciated and welcomed.

Sincerely,
Mr. Thomas Keating
Principal



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OUR MISSION

The mission of The OLC Lower School is to encourage children to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment where developmentally appropriate experiences are provided for all. The philosophy of The OLC Lower School recognizes that each child is unique and can learn. Our setting is such that it integrates the physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning for the total development of the child. Our goal is to cultivate students to become successful citizens in the global society of the 21st century.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The OLC School admits and does not discriminate against students of any race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, scholarships programs and athletic/other school administered programs.

The OLC School does not discriminate on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities in compliance with the regulations of Title IX.

AFFILIATION

The OLC Lower School is a part of the Archdiocese of Newark, and has been devoted to its mission of excellence for over eighty years. The OLC School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School.

PURPOSE AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION

This information exists to foster the efficient operation of The OLC School. To meet this objective, the school administration is given flexibility to exercise discretion. In appropriate circumstances, the principal has the discretion to take actions other than those specified in the handbook. This handbook is not intended and should not be considered to create any additional rights for students or parents.

AMENDMENTS TO THIS INFORMATION

This handbook is subject to change at any time when determined to be necessary by the school administration. If changes are made to this handbook, parents/guardians will be notified within a reasonable amount of time.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of Catholic education is to provide for the academic growth and development of the whole child while meeting the needs of the individual with an atmosphere centered on Christ. A child's beliefs, attitudes, values and behavioral patterns are developed primarily by his/her parents, who are the child's first educators. The purpose of a Catholic school is to reaffirm and enhance the



values taught at home. The OLC School aims to provide the child with a climate where faith, trust, and love for God and others is encouraged, lived, and witnessed in his/her life.

We believe that children learn best when home and school work together, therefore effective communication is essential. We look forward to developing a partnership with you as your child embarks on the adventure of learning.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Working in partnership, for the best interest of the child, parents should develop the child's behavior, habits and attitude towards school, which begins in the home. Among other considerations, a parent should:

- A. Arrange for prompt and regular school attendance and comply with attendance and tardiness policies and procedures.
- B. Carry out recommendations made by teachers/administration.
- C. Check regularly the school's website, electronic communication messages and teachers' page for information.
- D. Return (sign if requested) any communications from school in a prompt manner.
- E. Provide a quiet place for homework at a regularly scheduled time.
- F. Obtain Protecting God's Children certification and a background check if planning on volunteering at school sponsored events.

Your interest and support at home is important to your child and is most appreciated by the administration and teachers.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Grade Level	Drop off Location	Drop off Time	Pick up Location	Pick up Time
<i>Tiny Tikes</i>	York St	8:00-8:15	York St	11:30 am (half day) 2:45 pm (full day)
<i>PreK- 3</i>	York St	8:00-8:15	York St	2:45 pm
<i>PreK- 4</i>	York St	8:00-8:15	Courtyard	2:45 pm
<i>Kindergarten</i>	Marin Blvd	7:55-8:05	Courtyard	3:00 pm
<i>1st Grade</i>	Marin Blvd	7:55-8:05	Courtyard	3:00 pm



<i>2nd Grade</i>	Dining Hall (courtyard)	7:55-8:05	Courtyard	3:00 pm
<i>3rd Grade</i>	Dining Hall (courtyard)	7:55-8:05	York St	3:00 pm

Organized arrival and dismissal times are very important to the structure of the school day. **Discussions with your child's teacher should not take place during arrival or dismissal when teachers are supervising their students.**

ATTENDANCE

Prompt, regular attendance is essential to academic success. Parents are encouraged to foster positive habits for the benefit of their child, by enforcing the attendance and tardiness policies set forth by The OLC School.

In the event a child has frequent absences, promotion may be in jeopardy. Notification will be given to the parents and a conference will be scheduled with parent, teacher, and/or administration to review the child's academic growth and development and to create a plan of action.

A parent must email the school's attendance account at attendance@olcschool.org to report their child's absence, along with their name, grade, teacher and the reason for the absence, by no later than 8:00 a.m. If an email is not received by 8:30 a.m., a school representative will contact a parent/guardian by phone to verify the absence. Contacting the teacher **does not** validate the reported absence, although the teacher may be included in the email sent to attendance@olcschool.org. Please note that **students arriving after 9:00 am will not be permitted to enter school, unless the late arrival was previously arranged 24 hours in advance and approved by emailing attendance@olcschool.org**. Refer to the Tardiness section on page 6 for additional information.

When a student returns after an illness of three or more days, a doctor's note for the absence must be brought to school and given to the nurse. If the illness is extensive, or of a contagious/infectious nature, a doctor's permission to return to school is required.

Assignments must be made up if a student is absent. Parents should make arrangements with their child's homeroom teacher prior to picking up any homework assignments and books in the main office. Cases of frequent absenteeism could result in being referred to the Truancy Office of the local public school district.

If a student is absent from school because of illness or disciplinary action, she/he will not be permitted to take part in extracurricular activities/Aftercare that day or evening.



VACATION/EXTENDED ABSENCE

Attendance is vital for each student to receive the greatest benefit from instruction. **Families are strongly discouraged from taking vacations while school is in session.** If you plan to take an extended vacation, it is your responsibility to notify the office via attendance@olcschool.org and the teacher a week prior to departure. Tuition will not be reduced or refunded for an extended vacation. If you choose to withdraw or transfer your child from the school, it is not guaranteed that a place will be available upon your return.

Teachers will provide missing assignments to students upon their return to school. The website must be checked for any additional assignments (if applicable). Any homework assigned does not replace the value of classroom instruction. Sufficient time will be given upon a student's return to school to make up any work missed. Missed and/or incomplete work can result in a grade reduction for the trimester.

TARDINESS

Every minute counts. Being on time is a good habit to begin early in life. It is the responsibility of the parents to see that their child arrives at school on time in order to be in the classroom when instruction begins. The preschool is a part of The Lower School, not a daycare center with flexible hours. Children arriving late miss valuable instructional time, as well as disrupt the learning of other children. **Your child will be considered tardy (Tiny Tikes through Grade 3), if he/she arrives after 8:15am.**

Any students arriving after 9:00 am will not be permitted to enter school and will be considered absent, unless previously arranged and approved by emailing attendance@olcschool.org at least 24 hours in advance. Late arrivals after 9:00 am are for appointments that cannot be made outside of the school day (ex: medical specialists, passport/visa) and will not be approved for travel purposes including airport travel as well as visits to other schools. Documentation is required upon arrival. **Please avoid scheduling appointments during school hours** whenever possible.

Late arrivals approved by the Administration will result in the student being marked tardy for the day.

Please note the following regarding tardiness:

1-2 times per trimester: Phone call from classroom teacher

3-4 times per trimester: Written warning and/or referral to the administration

5+ times per trimester: Referral to the administration and/or an "N" under "Observes School Rules" on the Report Card



Please avoid making appointments of any kind during the school day, as this too interrupts your child's instructional time. If it is necessary, students must return with a note from the physician in order to be admitted beyond 9:00 am.

Special classes (such as Art, PE, Music, etc...) in other locations throughout the school begin at 8:30 am. *If your child arrives after his/her classmates have left the classroom, your child will not be taken to the special class for that period. Your child will remain in the office until his/her class returns.

SCOOTER/STROLLER PARKING

Due to space limitations, cleanliness of the building and security concerns, we will no longer be able to offer scooters/strollers to remain at school.

SUPERVISION (BEFORE AND AFTERCARE)

The responsibility of the school's supervision of students begins at 8:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Before Care is available from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. in the Dining Hall (PK3-Grade 3). After 8:00 a.m. students in Tiny Tike and Pre-K 3 & 4 will enter at the York Street door where teacher aides will escort the children to their designated classrooms.

The Before/Aftercare program is available for a separate fee. Any child picked up after students have been dismissed, or after 6:00 pm from Aftercare, will be charged an Aftercare late pick up fee and/or released from the program.

EARLY DISMISSAL/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The dates of these meetings are indicated on the school calendar. Dismissal will be at: 11:30 for Tiny Tikes, 12:00 for Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4, and 12:15 pm for K-3 students in the Lower School. Before and Aftercare are in session, unless otherwise indicated on the calendar.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Every attempt is made to keep school open by taking the time necessary to consider the circumstances by which the decision is being made. In the event that the safety of the students and faculty/staff is compromised, school will be closed. Parents will be notified via a text from School Messenger, a posting on our website, social media and announcements made by local news stations.

Along with the Jersey City Board of Education, as well as local districts, the school may need to call for a delayed opening or early dismissal during inclement weather. For delayed openings, school



will open at 10:00 am. Our teachers go on duty 15 minutes prior to opening time, please do not send your child to school before that, as there will be no supervision or Before Care.

POWERSCHOOL FOR PARENTS

Powerschool is a platform used to collect parent contact information and report out student grades (see below). Please make sure to update this important information through Powerschool. If you have questions about this please contact Amanda Rasslan: rasslana@olcschool.org.

CHANGE IN AUTHORIZED PICK-UP

Teachers must be informed in writing if a child is to be picked up by someone other than the parent(s). A Child Release Form must be filled out at the beginning of the school year listing all individuals authorized to pick up your child. Please remember to update your authorized name(s) if you change your caregiver, otherwise, your child will not be released to an unauthorized person. In addition, from 2020-21, we transitioned to an on-line system through Powerschool to collect contact information. Please make sure to update this important information. There will also be forms sent home in September to be filled out by hand.

CAREGIVERS

If your child is brought to and/or from school by a caregiver, please review school policies with him/her, as they are expected to follow them. Due to security concerns, no caregiver is permitted to enter and stay in the building before arrival and/or departure, unless previously arranged with the school office.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency forms are posted on the website. It is imperative that **all parents download, sign and return the forms before the start of the school year**. In addition, in 2020, we transitioned to an on-line system through Powerschool to collect contact information. Please make sure to complete the "Information Update Form" in Powerschool to update this important information. This information is critical in the event of an emergency. The information and people whose numbers are provided, must be local and available during school hours. In addition, they must be able to communicate effectively. If there are any changes in this information, immediate notification to the school office is necessary.

TEACHER/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Formal conferences are held twice a year (October and February). Parents are also encouraged to schedule appointments to conference with their child's teacher, as the need arises. Conferences should be scheduled at a time mutually convenient for both parent and teacher. **If any issues arise, parents should first try to resolve the issue with the classroom/special area teacher prior to contacting the administration.**



STUDENTS BRINGING MONEY TO SCHOOL

Any money that is sent to school for school purposes should be placed in a sealed envelope and identified with the child's name, grade and its purpose. We discourage children from bringing loose money, as the school will not be held responsible for any money that is lost or stolen.

CALENDARS

A yearly calendar is posted on the school website at www.olcschool.org. A monthly calendar will be posted on the school website and feature additional activities and any other pertinent information. **Please note that it is the parent's responsibility to check the website calendar for changes.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SERVICES

PATRIOTIC ROUTINES

Non-Catholic students are welcomed at The OLC School. They are expected to understand and agree that the school exists to educate in the framework of Catholic values. They must participate in the religion classes and prayer services scheduled during the school year (K-3). They must also satisfactorily pass all of the requirements of religious education taught at The OLC School (K-3).

In accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines, students must also stand to salute the flags of the country and school.

CURRICULUM

The OLC School is a part of the Archdiocese of Newark, which provides curriculum guides for each grade level and curricular area with maps for most subject areas. The link to the Archdiocese of Newark for these maps can be found on our website.

At The OLC School, we use these guides and maps, as well as the standards, to provide excellent programming, which is rigorous in all curricular and related arts areas. We strive to go above and beyond, by differentiating instruction to meet the needs of the students.

RELIGION

***Please note- If your child was baptized in the Roman Catholic church, it is required that he/she have a Baptismal certificate on file at school.** The religious education of students receives priority. Formal religion classes are scheduled regularly and are enriched by meaningful liturgical celebrations. The course of study for each grade includes not only doctrine, liturgy, prayers and scripture, but also Christian values and principles. The students are taught to live out the basic Christian values in their daily lives. However, no religious program can substitute for the parental guidance needed so much in today's world. It is through the family-faith program that the children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. This is a two-year program.



Our policy for Sacramental preparation is:

1. Children are prepared after school for the Sacraments at the Lower School
2. Children must have a Catholic Baptismal Certificate on file at school
3. If your family is not a registered, active member of The OLC Church, you must have permission from the pastor of the church where you are a participating Catholic in order to prepare for the Sacraments at The OLC School. Approval rests in the hands of Father Bryan Page, pastor of The OLC Church.

*At the Preschool level (Tiny Tikes-Pre-K 4) the teaching of religion is informally infused throughout the day. The teaching of religion will follow developmentally appropriate practices.

ART

Creating, enjoying and appreciating art is a vital form of communication and is an important element in our school. Art expands the boundaries of learning for the students and encourages creative thinking. Although taught as a special, both art and classroom teachers collaborate to integrate and give a deeper understanding in the core classes: math, language arts, social studies and science. Art is offered from Pre-K 3 through grade 8. Art appreciation is also integrated throughout the year.

COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGY

Computers are an integral part of our daily lives. Students are “digital natives,” however, in order to be a productive member of society, we need to ensure that they are prepared to utilize all technologies available to them in a responsible manner. Students learn to navigate through the Internet, including social media, and are taught the importance of being responsible cyber-citizens. The school also has iPads for use by students, whenever the teachers feel it is necessary.

MUSIC

Vocal music is a performing art offered to the Tiny Tikes through grade 8 to help support the students’ total development – physical, social, and cognitive. An introduction to various genres of music, theory, history and music appreciation is taught through singing, moving, listening and playing instruments. Other subject areas such as language arts and math are also integrated to make their learning more meaningful. Two musical concerts have been presented each year at Christmas time and in the spring. Participation for grades K-3 is **not optional**, as it is a part of the OLC experience. Preschool classes participate in sing-a-longs and end-of-the year musical celebrations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical education is an important part of the educational experience. The development and maintenance of a healthy body is essential for physical well-being and good mental health. Good



attitudes, development of leadership, sportsmanship and congeniality are achieved through the physical education program. Parents are to note that physical education (PE) uniforms are required during physical education. If a student needs to be excused from PE, a note stating the reason is required on or before the PE day. Students will not be excused from physical education for an extended period of time without a doctor's request. Jewelry is not permitted to be worn during PE. Small post earrings (girls only) are permitted.

WORLD LANGUAGE-SPANISH

World language is offered to Kindergarten through grade 8. An introduction to the language, customs and traditions of the cultures will be an enriching experience for our children living in a multicultural society. Our students participate in a Spanish World Language program.

REPORT CARDS (K-3)

Report cards are issued 3 times a year to indicate a child's progress academically, socially, and emotionally. The teachers make themselves available to assist children with additional help, and outside tutoring can be arranged, if requested. Peer tutoring/mentoring is also available.

TRIMESTER	DATES
1	September 8 - November 24
2	November 29 – March 4
3	March 7 – June 10

E= Exceeds	High Understanding Exceeds Grade Level Expectations
S= Secure	Understanding Demonstrated Achieves Strong Grade Level Expectations
D= Developing	Growth Demonstrated Achieves Grade Level Expectations
B= Beginning	Beginning Stages Is Approaching Grade Level Expectations



N=Not Yet Performing	Assistance Required Below Grade Level Expectations
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***The marking code above is for students in Grades K-3. It is based on developmental levels. Grade level expectations have been included to help you understand where your child falls in the grade level range.**

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are prepared mid-trimester and distributed either at Parent-Teacher Conferences or sent home in the backpacks. These reports highlight student strengths and anticipated goals, as well as suggestions/recommendations to support students' development. These reports will also indicate improvement needed in personal development.

When necessary, an Intervention Meeting with the administration, teachers involved, parents and student, if applicable, will be scheduled. The purpose of the meeting will be to develop a written plan to support the student's needs. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled, if necessary.

HOMEWORK (K-3)

Homework is an important part of The OLC School's educational program. Students are expected to complete assignments promptly and thoroughly as assigned. Students who attend Aftercare are allotted time to work on homework assignments under the supervision of teachers and staff.

PROMOTION POLICY

All promotions and retentions will be decided upon by the classroom teacher in consultation with the principal and parents. Such decisions are based on the total evaluation of a student's growth and progress.

RETENTION

A child may require retention in his/her grade for the following reasons:

1. Excessive absences that create the inability to keep up with the overall requirements of the grade.
2. Failure in two or more major subject areas, which are defined as: religion, reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.
3. Lack of ability to function with a maturity level required for successful accomplishment of academic, social and emotional goals.

Notification of potential retention will be made known to parents at the beginning of the third trimester. Cooperation among parents, teachers and student will often help prevent retention. There are times, however, when retention is recommended for the long-range benefit of the child.

TRANSFERS



Parents are asked to notify the school via an email to Amanda Rasslan at rasslana@olcschool.org prior to the date of transfer. She will then prepare the necessary paperwork, which will be given to the parents of the child on the last day of attendance. A transcript of the scholastic records will be sent directly to the new school after the receipt of a written request from the new principal, along with the parent's signature.

Please adhere to the following when transferring a child:

1. All text and library books must be returned.
2. All tuition payments must be completed.
3. Any outstanding paperwork due to teachers/office must be in good standing.

CLASS TRIPS

Class trips are an extension of the overall educational experience of the students. No student may take part in these trips without a signed permission slip. Attire for class trips is either gym/school uniform, unless otherwise noted. **Students absent due to illness, earlier in the day, cannot attend a trip later in the day.**

DAILY ESSENTIALS FOR SCHOOL

Your child is required to bring the following items to school on a daily basis:

- **Standard-sized backpack**
Large enough to fit an unfolded 9 x 12 inch folder. It is important that the backpack zips and has no wheels.
- **The OLC School Communications Folder**
To be used for communication between home and school. The folder will be distributed the first week of school.
- **Lunch Box**
Tiny Tikes-Pre-K 4: The lunch box must be able to fit inside the backpack
- **Nap Mats (Tiny Tikes – Pre-K 4 only)** Full day students are required to have a nap mat and sack purchased through the school office. Nap mats will be stored in school and sent home weekly for washing.

Please send in a complete change of clothing (pants/shorts, shirt, underwear, and socks) to be kept in the classroom **(Tiny Tikes – Pre-K 4 only)**. All items must be clearly labeled and placed in a large Ziploc bag. If your child's clothing was changed during the school day, please replace the clothing the following day.

It is extremely important to label all of your child's belongings in permanent marker from Tiny Tikes – Grade 3. This includes backpacks, lunchboxes, water bottles, lunch containers, clothing, and uniform.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please keep the following items at home:



- Toys
- Jewelry
- Umbrellas
- Make-up
- Money

DRESS CODE

The OLC School's dress code and uniform policies are designed to establish a sense of community, to reinforce our commonality and equality as human beings, to promote school safety, to support academic focus for its students, and to minimize distractions from the educational mission of the school. All decisions with regard to the dress code will be made with reference to these goals. Students' dress choices that interfere with school work, create classroom disorder, present a danger to health and safety or foster division among the student body are in violation of the dress code, regardless of whether they violate any specific prohibition. In keeping with the goals articulated above, OLC's specific dress code and uniform policies are as follows:

All students in Tiny Tikes-Grade 3 are required to wear the official school uniform at all times with **no substitutions being made**. All items must be purchased through Flynn and O'Hara. Visit www.flynnohara.com for further details/instructions.

ACTIVE WEAR (TINY TIKES - PRE-K 4)
Navy shorts or sweatpants
Gray t-shirt
Navy sweatshirt
ALL white socks
ALL white Velcro/no tie sneakers recommended

*****All students (K-8) must wear black shoes/sneakers throughout the year. White shoes are not permitted.**

BOYS (GRADES K-3)	
Spring/Summer Dates to be determined by school	Fall/Winter Dates to be determined by school



Gray shorts	Gray pants
White short/long sleeve polo shirt	White short/long sleeve Oxford button down* or polo shirt
Gray, black or navy socks	*Plaid tie (to be worn with Oxford button down shirt)
Black belt	Gray, black or navy socks
Black shoes/sneakers (shoes must be <u>all</u> back)	Black belt
	Black rubber-sole shoes (shoes must be <u>all</u> black)
	Navy cardigan or fleece sweater with school logo

*****All students (K-8) must wear black shoes/sneakers throughout the year. White shoes are not permitted.**

GIRLS (GRADES K-3)	
Hair accessories are plaid headband, scrunchie and bow purchased through Flynn & O'Hara	
Spring/Summer Dates to be determined by school	Fall/Winter Dates to be determined by school
Navy skort or shorts	Plaid skort or gray pants
White short/long sleeve banded polo shirt	White short/long sleeve Oxford button down or polo shirt
Black/navy socks	Black/navy socks or black/navy opaque tights
Black shoes/sneakers (shoes must be <u>all</u> back)	Black rubber sole shoes (shoes must be <u>all</u> black)
	Navy cardigan or fleece sweater with school logo

GYM FOR ALL STUDENTS (GRADES K-3)*



*Please note this is a change in uniform, 1 year grace period will be given
Navy shorts or sweatpants
Gray t-shirt
Navy sweatshirt
White socks
Sneakers of choice

SPECIFIC PROHIBITIONS

General

No substitutions are to be made for any component of the uniform requirements described above. Please avoid wearing accessories that are distracting, such as large headbands/bows, necklaces, bracelets and rings. We reserve the right to hold these items until the end of the school day.

Shoes

The following shoes are **not** permitted: black shoes with colored accents, light-up sneakers/shoes, character sneakers/shoes, wheelie sneakers, jeweled sneakers, work boots, crocs, heeled shoes, and sandals/flip flops. If non-black boots are worn for inclement weather, the student must bring black shoes to change into.

Jewelry/Cosmetics/Accessories

Excessive jewelry (rings, bracelets, or necklaces), handbags/pocketbooks, make-up, tattoos, and piercings (other than piercing of the ear lobe) are prohibited. Girls may wear small post earrings; dangling earrings are not permitted. Boys may not wear earrings of any style.

Hair

Extreme hairstyles are prohibited. Extreme hairstyles include, but are not limited to: dyed bleached or streaked hair; styles incorporating shaved words, letters or symbols; and hair of any extreme length. Above all, hair must be neat in appearance and well maintained at all times. Lines cannot be shaved into eyebrows.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Physical activity promotes healthy bodies and healthy minds, and is an important part of our school day. Weather permitting, we will take the children outside to play. Please provide appropriate clothing for the weather, such as hats, gloves, and jackets. **All exceptions from outdoor play must be approved by the administration and the school nurse, not the classroom teacher.** As the preschool children become familiar with routines and their teachers, we will take short trips in the neighborhood.



PHYSICAL AND/OR NON-COMPLIANT BEHAVIOR

As language develops for preschool and early elementary children, they are learning to find the appropriate words to express their feelings. There are times when their actions compromise the safety and well-being of themselves and others, as well as order of the classroom. This may include, but not be limited to, hitting, biting and pushing, as a way to solve conflicts or express how they feel. In addition, it includes any behaviors that are characteristic of bullying. It also includes resistance to redirection and/or refusal to comply. In such cases, please see the course of actions below that will be taken:

First offense	Second offense	Third offense	Fourth offense	5 + offenses
Parent will be notified by the teacher	Parent will meet with teacher and develop an action plan	Parent/teacher/administrator will meet to review and modify the action plan. Exclusion from school may begin.	Child will be excluded from school for a time to be determined by the teacher/administration. Reentry conference will be held.	Dismissal from school and/or re-registration withheld

A student who chooses to disrupt the good order of the school or to violate a policy or regulation will accept the consequences of those actions. Extreme behaviors that pose a danger or harm to himself/herself or others will result in the immediate removal from school until a plan of action is put in place.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

The OLC School, as part of its mission as a Catholic school, recognizes that all students require a safe and civil environment in order to learn and achieve their maximum potential. Therefore, behaviors including bullying, harassment and intimidation by any student, faculty member, staff or volunteer, are prohibited. These behaviors disrupt a student’s ability to learn and the school’s ability to educate. They are counter to the philosophy of school as a caring Christian community formed to proclaim and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Such acts will be dealt with immediately, and consequences given will reflect the child’s developmental age/grade level.

“Harassment, intimidation, or bullying” means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communications, as defined in N.J.S.A 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

A. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, actionable origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or mental, physical or sensory disability; or by any other distinguished characteristic; and that:

1. Takes place on school property, at any school sponsored function, in a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts



or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; and that:

- a. a reasonable person should know under the circumstances, that the acts will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging his or her property, or placing a person in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or
- b. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any person or group of persons; or
- c. creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Consequences and remedial measures for a student who commits an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be varied and determined according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student who commits an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including short and long-term suspension or expulsion.

In conjunction with the best traditions of Catholic morals and ethics, the school expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity and demonstrated capabilities, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities and the care of school facilities and equipment. Parents are expected to cooperate and support their child and school when notified that their child is not conducting him/herself appropriately.

The school believes that standards for students' behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents/guardians, and administration/faculty/staff, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for school and community property on the part of students, staff and community leaders.

The school believes that the best discipline is self-imposed, and that it is the responsibility of staff to use instances of violation of the code of student conduct as opportunities for helping students learn to assume and accept responsibility for their behavior and the consequences of such. Teachers and staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent student conduct problems and encourage students' abilities to grow in self-discipline.

FUNDED PROGRAMS

Chapter 192/193 (state-funded programs)

Chapter 192: Compensatory Education

"Compensatory Education" means preventative and remedial programs in basic communication (reading and math skills). Non-public school students who do not exceed minimum levels of proficiency in certain commercial norm-referenced tests are eligible for compensatory education services.

Chapter 193: Corrective Speech, English as a Second Language, Child Study Team Services, (Evaluation, Supplementary Instruction, Home Instruction).



GOVERNMENT RECORDS

Records attached to publicly-funded services provided through the local Board of Education, such as Child Study Team Reviews, Compensatory Education, Speech and Language and English as a Second Language are the property of the Board of Education. Parents wishing to examine these records or to procure additional copies for his/her own use must apply to the Board. The school is not permitted to distribute this information to anyone.

VIEWING RECORDS

Parents have the right to view his/her child's academic record, academic standardized test results and health records. These records can be made available upon request, with 24-hour notice. Please contact Ms. Rasslan (rasslana@olcschool.org) to view student records.

BATHROOM POLICY (TINY TIKES – PRE-K 4)

Children in the **Tiny Tikes Program** do not need to be toilet-trained. Please bring enough diapers, pull-ups, and wipes for your child on a weekly basis.

Please inform the teacher/instructional aide when you begin toilet-training at home so there is consistency with your child's bathroom routines at school.

Children in the **Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Programs** must be toilet-trained and wearing underwear, **not pull-ups unless included in an Intervention Plan**. Children are expected to use the bathroom independently. In the event of an accident, teachers will assist the children, if necessary.

SNACK

Students may have a small mid-morning working snack each day, depending on their assigned lunch period. Students must bring their own snack. It is strongly recommended that snacks be kept to one item only that is healthy and easy to eat. Children will not be permitted to eat candy during working snack.

LUNCH

All food allergies must be recorded on the Medical History Form. This form must be returned to the school nurse, as well as a copy for the classroom teacher.

Children enrolled in the full day program will eat lunch in school. The Dining Hall is available for the students at lunch time during their designated lunch period. Children are not permitted to go home or off the school premises for lunch. They have the option to order lunch from the school's lunch vendor or bring their own. Lunches brought from home should not contain glass bottles or require refrigeration or preparation (i.e. microwave reheating). **Parents are strongly discouraged from**



bringing outside food to the school for their child to eat or having food delivered to the school. Parents dropping off forgotten lunches should label them with the child's name and grade, bring them to the Lower School entrance and leave them in the office before 11:00 am. Office personnel will ensure that the child receives his/her lunch.

We encourage parents to send food that the children can eat on their own, as well as in child-friendly food containers. Please keep in mind that we will assist the children with opening and closing their containers, however we promote independence at lunchtime.

Some classrooms and dining areas will be designated as "nut free".

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

One of the strongest reasons for the success of a school is active parental involvement, and many parents view participating in school events as a moral obligation. The following are some of the ways to become involved:

- Become an active member of the PSA (Parent-School Association)
- Help with fundraising, social events and special programs (recommended: staffing 1 event + 5-10 hours volunteering over the year)
- Become a volunteer by completing the Protecting God's Children Course
- Bring new ideas to the PSA

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Please note that **no parent** will be permitted to volunteer in school-sponsored events without completing the Protecting God's Children training and a background check. **Please contact Ms. Christine Zarsky** at zarskyc@olcschool.org for more information.

TELEPHONE USE

The use of the school phone by the children is discouraged and they are asked to come prepared and not expect to call home for forgotten items.

TUITION POLICY

The OLC School is a parish school. In order to meet expenses, some ways the yearly budget is balanced are through: tuition, fees and fundraising. Tuition contracts are signed yearly after the projected budget/tuition costs are established. Tuition must be current for students to participate in any academic program or recreational activity. If the tuition contract is canceled, all fees and deposits are non-refundable and/or non-transferable.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Birthdays: Your child's birthday is special and we look forward to celebrating it. He/she will be allowed to dress up/down for the day. You may visit the classroom and host a special reading of your child's favorite book (for students in Tiny Tikes - Grade 3). Please contact your child's teacher



to schedule a time that is mutually agreeable. **Goodie bags, snacks and drinks are not permitted** and will not be distributed in class, due to allergies and the fact that this is disruptive to the learning environment.

****We will be happy to distribute birthday party invitations that take place outside of school, if every child is included.**

Special Visits/Holiday Celebrations:

The OLC Lower School embraces cultural celebrations of our student population and encourages parents to share their heritage with their child's class. You are welcome to share special talents, present cultural holidays and/or join as a guest reader, however, **plans for such celebrations must be approved by the classroom teacher/administration, at least one week prior to the celebration and is ultimately the decision of the classroom teacher and/or administrators.** In the end, these celebrations cannot compromise the educational programming at The OLC Lower School. **Goodie bags are not** included in these celebrations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

FIRE AND EMERGENCY DRILLS

Each school in the Archdiocese of Newark is required to conduct one (1) Fire/Emergency Drill and one (1) Emergency Drill a month. Exit routes are clearly indicated. Children are expected to comply with all regulations regarding safety during our drills. The drills are explained to the students and practiced each month.

HEALTH SERVICES

The State of New Jersey provides the funds for a nurse. The nurse conducts hearing and eye tests, weight/measurements and scoliosis screenings on a yearly basis. Annual physical examinations by the family doctor or clinic are mandatory. The parent should notify the nurse, as well as the teacher, of any physical limitation or ailments a child has or any medication the child may be taking. In the event of an accident or sudden illness, the parent will be called.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Parents are required to provide the school with documented records of immunizations for entry into school. Official school records, health department records, and/or physician signature shall be accepted as immunization documentation. The records must include the month, day, and year the immunizations were given. Medical exemptions may be granted with appropriate documentation.

For further information, see:

http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/childhood_imm_facts.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>



SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

ILLNESS AND INJURY

You may find that your child, especially in the preschool, will get more colds if he/she is attending school for the first time. This is typical because your child is being exposed to many new germs. Every effort is made to rid the room of germs. Hands are frequently washed, and tables, chairs and furniture are disinfected daily.

Students that become ill during the day will be sent to the school nurse's office to be evaluated. If they have a fever of over 100 degrees or higher, they are removed from the classroom and the parent will be called to take the child home. Otherwise, students may rest until the nurse believes they can return to class.

Students that are sent home sick cannot return to school later in the day for any reason, such as extra curricular/after school activities/clubs as well as Aftercare.

Any injuries received during school time are reported to the school nurse and/or main office. No child will be sent home when hurt, unless the parents have been notified through the school or nurse's office. Parents must arrange to have the child picked up.

Please provide the school with your child's updated vaccination record (including COVID-19) at the beginning of every school year.

Please notify the school if your child has been diagnosed with a common illness (influenza, coronavirus, strep throat, conjunctivitis, etc.). Doing so will allow the school to clean the classrooms thoroughly and prevent the spread of illness.

When You Should Keep Your Child Home

Although your child may ask to come to school, if he/she exhibits one of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home:

- Thick, discolored nasal discharge
- Excessive coughing
- Diarrhea/Vomiting – Student may return after being free of diarrhea/vomiting for 24 hours
- Conjunctivitis/contagious rashes
- Fever of 100°F or higher

If someone in your household is sick, please be extra cautious when sending students to school as a person can be contagious before symptoms even start. Please check your child for fever or abnormal symptoms prior to sending them to school.



FEVER

Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without a fever reducing medicine before returning to school. If your child displays any of the above symptoms while in school, you will receive a call to arrange pick-up within a reasonable amount of time. They will not be permitted to return to school the same day for any extra-curricular activities during/after school hours, as well as aftercare.

CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS

If a child has a contagious illness such as measles, mumps, rubella, or hepatitis, etc., the school must report it to the New Jersey Board of Health Office. The child cannot return to school until cleared by a licensed doctor with appropriate documentation of recovery. See specific information regarding [Covid Guidelines here](#).

CONJUNCTIVITIS

Any student diagnosed with conjunctivitis will be sent to the school nurse immediately. A parent will be called to pick the child up. Students must visit a doctor and remain home until all symptoms are clear after 24 hours of treatment. Documentation from a doctor is required upon a student's return to school.

ALLERGY AND EPINEPHRINE ADMINISTRATION

Any and all allergies must be reported to the school with appropriate documentation. As permitted by New Jersey Law, the school will follow the written orders of a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse for emergency administration of epinephrine via EpiPen for anaphylaxis. A school medication form will also be provided for a physician to complete.

MEDICATION

The administering of medication in school will only be permitted when the students' health and continuing attendance in school is in jeopardy and only when prescribed by a physician with the necessary form(s) being completed by the physician. Under no circumstance will medication be administered to students in school except by the school nurse, the students' parents, the school principal/or designated administrator. All medication must be delivered to the school office in its original labeled container.

Students will be permitted to self-administer medication only for life-threatening illnesses or conditions that have been written and provided by the student's physician. Parents must schedule a conference with the school nurse, administration, and classroom teacher to discuss in detail the need for medication. The parents and the student's physician must complete and sign an "Authorization for Self-Administration of Medication in School" form, also available through the nurse's office, as well as the school website.



LICE

Please notify Amanda Rasslan (rasslana@olcschool.org) if you have discovered your child has lice. Doing so will allow the school to take the proper precautions to prevent the spread. Parents will be notified if a student is found to have head lice while in school. He/she will be sent home from school for immediate treatment. Appropriate treatment of head lice and proper care of the child's environment and personal items must be attended to immediately. It is required that the student be examined by the school nurse or designee upon return to school and/or Beforecare. All classrooms will be checked and letters will be sent home in classrooms where the head lice were found.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The school's Asbestos Management Plan is on file in the school office, as required by the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). This document is available for examination upon request in writing with a five working day time frame for request.

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

New Jersey State Law requires that any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child may have been subjected to abuse or neglect must make a report to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF), Child Protection & Permanency.



Acceptable Use Policy for Technology

The OLC School recognizes the value of computers and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, the school encourages the responsible use of computers; computer networks, including the Internet; and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of The OLC School.

Because the Internet is an unregulated, worldwide vehicle for communication, information available to staff and students is impossible to control. Therefore, The OLC School adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of electronic resources and the Internet in order to provide guidance to individuals and groups obtaining access to these resources on OLC owned equipment.

The OLC School Rights and Responsibilities

It is the policy of The OLC School to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all online network activities by staff and students. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, student, or other individual to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies of the network. Within this general policy, The OLC School recognizes its legal and ethical obligation to protect the well-being of students in its charge. To this end, The OLC School retains the following rights and recognizes the following obligations:

1. To log network use and to monitor file server space utilization by users, and assume no responsibility or liability for files deleted due to violation of file server space allotments.
2. To remove a user account on the network.
3. To monitor the use of online activities. This may include real-time monitoring of network activity and/or maintaining a log of Internet activity for later review.
4. To provide internal and external controls as appropriate and feasible. Such controls shall include the right to determine who will have access to OLC School owned equipment and, specifically, to exclude those who do not abide by The OLC School's acceptable use policy or other policies governing the use of school facilities, equipment, and materials. The OLC School reserves the right to restrict online destinations through software or other means.
5. To provide guidelines and make reasonable efforts to train staff and students in acceptable use and policies governing online communications.

Staff Responsibilities

1. Staff members who supervise students, control electronic equipment, or otherwise have occasion to observe student use of said equipment online shall make reasonable efforts to monitor the use of this equipment to assure that it conforms to the mission and goals of The OLC School.
2. Staff should make reasonable efforts to become familiar with the Internet and its use so that effective monitoring, instruction, and assistance may be achieved.

User Responsibilities



1. Use of the electronic media provided by The OLC School is a privilege that offers a wealth of information and resources for research. Where it is available, this resource is offered to staff, students, and other patrons at no cost. In order to maintain the privilege, users agree to learn and comply with all of the provisions of this policy.

Acceptable Use

1. All use of the Internet must be in support of educational and research objectives consistent with the mission and objectives of The OLC School.
2. Proper codes of conduct in electronic communication must be used. Giving out personal information is inappropriate. When using e-mail, extreme caution must always be taken in revealing any information of a personal nature.
3. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose.
4. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
5. Subscriptions to mailing lists and bulletin boards must be reported to the system administrator. Prior approval for such subscriptions is required for students and staff.
6. Exhibit exemplary behavior on the network as a representative of your school and community. Be polite!
7. From time to time, The OLC School will make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with the acceptable use practice.

Unacceptable Use

1. Giving out personal information about another person, including home address and phone number, is strictly prohibited.
2. Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
3. Excessive use of the network for personal business shall be cause for disciplinary action.
4. Any use of the network for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.
6. No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by others. Hardware and/or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
7. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
8. Hate mail, chain letters, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the network.
9. The unauthorized installation of any software, including shareware and freeware, for use on OLC School computers is prohibited.
10. Use of the network to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files (as determined by the system administrator or building administrator), or files dangerous to the integrity of the local area network is prohibited.
11. The OLC School network may not be used for downloading entertainment software or other files not related to the mission and objectives of the school for transfer to a user's home



computer, personal computer, or other media. This prohibition pertains to freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of The OLC School.

12. Downloading, copying, otherwise duplicating, and/or distributing copyrighted materials without the specific written permission of the copyright owner is prohibited, except that duplication and/or distribution of materials for educational purposes is permitted when such duplication and/or distribution would fall within the Fair Use Doctrine of the United States Copyright Law (Title 17, USC).
13. Use of the network for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
14. Use of profanity, obscenity, racist terms, or other language that may be offensive to another user is prohibited.
15. Playing games is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a teacher for instructional purposes.
16. Establishing network or Internet connections to live communications, including voice and/or video (relay chat), is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the system administrator.

Disclaimer

1. The OLC School cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the network.
2. Pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (18 USC 2510 et seq.), notice is hereby given that there are no facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications. System administrators have access to all mail and will monitor messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
3. The OLC School will not be responsible for any damages you may suffer, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by our own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at your own risk.
4. The OLC School makes no warranties (expressed or implied) with respect to:
 - the content of any advice or information received by a user, or any costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting any information; and
 - any costs, liability, or damages caused by the way the user chooses to use his or her access to the network.
5. The OLC School reserves the right to change its policies and rules at any time.

User Agreement (to be signed by all adult users and student users above grade 5)

I have read, understand, and will abide by the above Acceptable Use Policy when using computers and other electronic resources owned, leased, or operated by The OLC School. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

User Name (Print) _____



User Signature

Parent Agreement (to be signed by parents of all student users under the age of eighteen)

As a parent or guardian of [please print name of student] _____, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. The OLC School has taken reasonable steps to control access to the Internet, but cannot guarantee that all controversial information will be inaccessible to student users. I agree that I will not hold The OLC School responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my child to use network resources, including the Internet, that are available through The OLC School.

Parent Name (Print) _____

Parent Name (Signature) _____



Student Social Media Consent and Reliability Release Form

Throughout the school year, students may be highlighted in efforts to promote OLC activities and achievements. For example, students may be featured on our Instagram or Facebook page.

I, as the parent or guardian of _____, hereby grant permission to The OLC School and its employees, representatives, and authorized media organizations permission to print, photograph, and record my child for use in audio, video, film, or any other electronic, digital and printed media for non profit use.

a. This is with the understanding that neither OLC nor its representatives will reproduce said photograph, interview, or likeness for any commercial value or receive monetary gain for use of any reproduction/broadcast of said photograph or likeness. I am also fully aware that I will not receive monetary compensation for my child's participation.

b. I further release and relieve OLC, its Board of Trustees, employees, and other representatives from any liabilities, known or unknown, arising out of the use of this material.

I do not grant permission for my student to be in any social media posts.

I certify that I have read the Social Media Consent and Release Liability statement and fully understand its terms and conditions.

Please understand that failure to return this release form within ten (10) school days from the date of distribution will constitute approval of the above requests.

Please Print

Name of child _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



Date _____ Phone Number _____

Signature of parent or guardian _____

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

I acknowledge receipt of the Parent/Student Handbook containing the policies and procedures for The OLC Lower School. I have read the handbook and agree that it is binding on the students and the parents during this academic year. I understand that the administration of the school will have the discretion to make changes to the handbook if deemed necessary.

I understand that the policies and procedures contained in the handbook are established for the benefit of all students. I am aware of my responsibility to support the school in the policies it has established, and to see that my child adheres to them.

Student Name

Teacher

Grade

Relationship to Student

Print Name (parent)

Signature (parent)

Date



THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

STUDENT HANDBOOK POLICY - SEXUALITY

The learning environment and religious nature of Catholic schools are guided by the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found at the website for the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. ¹

Among other things, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity equally to the one and the other. Each of them man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity." (§2393, Catechism of the Catholic Church).

"Except within a valid marriage between a man and a woman (see, e.g. Sections 2360-2363, Catechism of the Catholic Church), Christ is the model of chastity, which all are called upon to emulate. See, e.g. Sections 2392-2397, Catechism of the Catholic Church."

If a student's expression of gender, sexual identity or sexuality should cause confusion or disruption at the Catholic school, if it should mislead others, cause scandal or have the potential for causing scandal, then the matter will be discussed with the student and his/her parents. If not resolved to the satisfaction of the School, which is seeking to uphold Catholic principles, then the student will be expelled from the Catholic School after the parents are first given the option to immediately withdraw the student from the School.

As in the case of students, if serious concerns arise as to a parent's or guardian's (herein "parent's") position or action with respect to the tenets of the Catholic faith, then he/she will be counselled by School. If the matter involving the parents/student(s) is not resolved to the satisfaction of the School, which is seeking to uphold Catholic principles, then the parent will be asked to withdraw child(ren) from School and they agree to do so immediately. If they fail to do so, parents understand that child(ren) will be expelled from the Catholic school.

¹www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/



(Last Revised by Archdiocese of Newark 2/5/2016)



AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT ENROLLMENT

All parents and guardians (herein "parents") who believe that a Catholic School is a proper educational and religious environment for their child, and would like their child to attend a Catholic School, must adhere to the following agreement with their Catholic School:

Parents agree that the learning environment and religious nature of the school are guided by the Catechism of the Catholic Church.¹ Among other things, the Catholic Catechism states: *"By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity equally to the one and the other. Each of them, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity. (2393 Catechism of the Catholic Church.)"*

Further, they acknowledge that a Catholic School looks to the recent encyclical, *Laudato Si*, wherein Pope Francis stated *"Our body itself establishes us in a direct relationship with the environment and with other living beings," and that "learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology."*

"..... "Valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different. In this way we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment. "

If serious concerns arise as to a student's and/or parent's position or action(s) with respect to the tenets of the Catholic faith, then parents will be counselled by School. If the matter involving the parents/student(s) is not resolved to the satisfaction of the School, which is seeking to uphold Catholic principles, then the parent will be asked to withdraw child(ren) from School and they agree to do so immediately. If they fail to do so, parents understand that child(ren) will be expelled from the Catholic school.

Parents understand and acknowledge that prior enrollment in a Catholic School does not establish a precedent for further schooling by Catholic School nor constitute a guarantee of placement for subsequent years.

Parents agree to share with principal and classroom teacher(s), in writing if requested, professional recommendations and/or treatment reports regarding their child's medical, psychological and/or social situation.

¹ The Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found at the website for the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops:
www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/



Parents understand and acknowledge that the policy and doctrine of Catholic Schools are firmly rooted in the Catholic Faith. Accordingly, parents acknowledge and agree that in the case of disagreement as to parents' or students' obligations hereunder, or regarding the tenets of the Catholic Church, the matter will be presented to the Archbishop or his designee for interpretation and/or decision. Any decision of the Archbishop or his designee shall be final, conclusive and binding.

Date:

Signature of Parents or Guardians: _____

If Guardian, state relationship to student(s): _____

Signature of Principal

(Last Revised by Archdiocese of Newark 2/5/2016)