



St. Stanislaus Catholic School
Parent/Student Handbook
2026-2027

St. Stanislaus Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook 2026-2027

The St. Stanislaus Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook is provided to answer any questions you may have regarding the general mission and philosophy of our school, as well as to acquaint you with the policies, rules and procedures that will be followed. **The regulations cited are general guidelines and are not all-inclusive. Changes and/or variations will need to be made periodically at the discretion of the administration.**

Each teacher will provide additional information regarding policies, rules and procedures specific to their grade level. Read all materials thoroughly and keep them handy throughout the year as a source for future reference. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call the school office.

St. Stanislaus Mission and Philosophy

Following Christ, Developing Minds, Building Community, Inspiring Service

Mission Statement

We, at St. Stanislaus Catholic Elementary School, are dedicated to nurturing our students to achieve academic excellence within a safe, faith-filled family environment. We work to create well-disciplined learning experiences using a variety of academic resources and technology. Our students are led to Christ by deepening their faith, building their self-worth, and encouraging their service to the community. (Revised 7/2019)

Philosophy Statement

We believe in:

- Integration of faith with academic learning
- Integration of technology in our academic program
- Strong standards based, academic program
- Values taught by and lived according to the Gospel
- Strong communities
- Diversity
- Keen awareness of global and justice issues
- Meaningful worship experienced
- Stewardship and service to our neighbor
- Opportunities which educate the whole child
- Intrinsic value of every person

Accreditation

St. Stanislaus Catholic School is in full compliance with the State of Indiana regulations for non-public schools and with the Diocese of Gary mandates for school accreditation through the Lumen Accreditation process.

Agreement

Parents and students are to sign a statement indicating that they have read and understand the policies, procedures, and requirements of the school, and will abide by such. The acknowledgement must be signed and returned to school by the date indicated on the agreement. Parents are asked to read the handbook with their children at home so as to familiarize them with the general rules and policies governing the school.

Amendments to the Handbook

The Superintendent and Principal retain the right to amend the handbook for just cause. The guidelines set forth in the handbook are meant as general guidelines and are not all-inclusive. The school administration is the final arbiter in the interpretation and enforcement of all regulations.

Organization

Superintendent

The chief administrator of the school, the superintendent, in collaboration with the school principal, is the final authority in all school matters.

Principal

The liaison between the school and the parish and local community, the principal is responsible for all aspects of school administration. The principal upholds school policies, oversees the budget and the instructional program, communicates to parents, is responsible for the daily direction of the school, and supervises and evaluates faculty.

Assistant Principal

The Assistant Principal is responsible for supporting the principal in all aspects of school administration, the daily direction, supervision, and evaluation of faculty members as directed by the principal.

Teachers

Those directly responsible for the actual work of teaching and learning, the teachers are responsible for student spiritual, academic, and physical growth. Teachers accomplish this through academic instruction, assessment of student achievement, development of student discipline, and the creation of an environment that encourages students to reach their full potential.

Staff

Those responsible for the smooth operation of the school, the staff assist both teachers and the principal. The staff includes those who work with children in the classroom, assist students with health care, lunch, and playground safety, assist the principal with reports, accounts, record keeping, and communication, and keep the school clean and well-maintained.

Parents

Those who are the prime educators, parents are responsible for the religious, moral, and social development of their children. In partnership with the school, parents provide the most important influences on a child's values and attitudes and work with teachers to reinforce at home what is taught in school. Parents assist the school by providing time, talent, and treasure to help ensure the success of the school and its educational programs.

Admission Procedures

Statement of Non-Discrimination

St. Stanislaus Catholic School is operated under the auspices of St. Stanislaus Parish of East Chicago, Indiana. St. Stanislaus Catholic School admits students of any race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students. St. Stanislaus Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

General Registration Requirements

Registration for St. Stanislaus Catholic School will take place in the late winter and early spring for returning students. At this time, a Non-Refundable Processing Fee per child will be charged.

Current parents have until the last day of March to reserve their child's place in a classroom before new students are accepted. Parents not registering by the end of March run the risk of having their child's class fill up and be closed to enrollment.

Pre-School Registration

St. Stanislaus Catholic School offers a full day Preschool program. All students seeking entry must provide the following information at the time of registration: (a) birth certificate, (b) baptismal certificate (if applicable), (c) documentation complying with current local and state health and immunization requirements, (d) a current physical completed by a doctor and (e) the child's social security card.

Kindergarten Registration

St. Stanislaus Catholic School offers a full day Kindergarten program. All students seeking entry must provide the following information at the time of registration: (a) birth certificate (all students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years of age by September 1), (b) baptismal certificate (if applicable), (c) documentation complying with current local and state health and immunization requirements, (d) a current physical completed by a doctor and (e) the child's social security card. Students entering Kindergarten will be screened with a Kindergarten Screening instrument for placement in the program.

New Student Registration (All Grade Levels)

New students will be admitted to St. Stanislaus School in the following way: 1) available seats will first be given to students who are registered parishioners of St. Stanislaus Parish 2) next students who are siblings of current students will be registered. Open registration will then follow on a first come, first serve basis. If the number of applicants at any grade level exceeds the number of seats available, a public lottery will be held on the first Friday of March at 3:00 PM in the school office to determine which students will be selected.

At the time of registration, families must present the following: (a) student records from school previously attended (report card and latest standardized test scores) and a signed form giving our school the authority to request records (b) an official copy of the student's birth certificate, (c) a Baptismal certificate (if applicable), (d) documentation complying with current local and state health and immunization requirements, (e) a current physical completed by a doctor, (f) social security card and (g) proof that there is no outstanding financial obligation from the previous school attended. Readiness tests will be administered to all new students entering grades K-8. Readiness test results will aid in the decision for acceptance. Students and parents will meet with the principal to determine if the student and St. Stanislaus School will be compatible. All new students are admitted on a probationary basis.

New Transfer Students

In addition to the Registration Requirements above, each transfer student and their family must meet with the Principal prior to admission in order to determine an appropriate educational program for each student. **All transfer students are admitted on a probationary basis.**

Student Transfers/Withdrawals

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the School Office when a transfer or withdrawal is to take place. An official transcript of records will be sent to the new school upon receipt of a Release of Records Form from the parent and provided all financial obligations have been met.

Re-Enrollment of Students

Registration for all current students for the following school year takes place after January 15. The school is free to cancel, at its discretion, the agreement with parents or students who do not comply with the rules of the school. The achievement, attitude, and performance of all currently enrolled students will be reviewed at the end of the third academic quarter in order to determine eligibility for continued enrollment.

Required Physical Form / Medical History Documentation

Families are required to complete and submit all documentation as outlined on the school's Physical Examination Form and Medical History Form to ensure student health records are current and compliant with school policies.

Choice Scholarship Applicants

Families hoping to register their children under an Indiana Choice Scholarship must first be admitted to the school in the same way all students are admitted. (See New Student Registration above).

School Tuition Policy

Families will receive their tuition notice upon registering for the school year.

Grade Level	Tuition	Books/Technology Fee	Registration Fee	Processing Fee
PK3 - PK4 (Half Day)	\$3,100 per child	\$100 per child	\$150 per child	\$25.00 per child
PK3 - PK4 (Full Day)	\$4,700 per child	\$100 per child	\$150 per child	\$25.00 per child
Grades K – 8	\$7,100 per child	\$450 per child	\$150 per child	\$25.00 per child

Diocesan Tuition Assistance

Diocesan Tuition Assistance is offered and available from the Diocese of Gary to all registered **Catholic** families who have children in grades K-12. Parents are required to submit a FACTS Mgt. Application online by late February and announcements of scholarships granted are made in April/May for the following school year.

Indiana School Choice Scholarship Families

St. Stanislaus Catholic School welcomes families eligible to receive a scholarship for school tuition under the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program. These families must meet the school's admission requirements and the eligibility requirements of the scholarship program as outlined by the State of Indiana. If the tuition and fees as outlined above are not totally paid by the State of Indiana, School Choice scholarship families are responsible for paying any remaining balances. School Choice Scholarship families, like all school families, are responsible for fundraising obligations and for fulfilling their volunteer hours.

FACTS Tuition/ Fee Payments

St. Stanislaus Catholic School has contracted with a tuition collection firm to handle electronic tuition payments from parents. Upon registration, parents will be asked to complete a FACTS enrollment form, detailing the payment plan, and providing two options for payment, either automatic deduction or a mail-in option (whichever is preferred by the parent.)

There are three payment plan options that parents may choose:

- Plan 1: Full Payment by August
- Plan 2: Two Payments (August and January)
- Plan 3: Ten month schedule (August through May)

Payments received after the designated monthly deadline date will be considered delinquent and will be assessed a \$30 late fee. Families may access their accounts online, make payments, and view their payment history at any time.

If a payment is returned, FACTS also charges a \$30 Returned Payment Fee. Fees charged by FACTS are subject to change.

For payments made to the school, including but not limited to fees, fundraising, uniforms, athletics etc., our banking institution charges a chargeback fee for any personal check returned. This fee will be added to the family's payment obligation. More than 1 (one) NSF check will result in a family being required to make all subsequent payments for the year in cash, cashier's check, money order, or credit card.

Delinquent Tuition Accounts

Tuition accounts are evaluated on a regular basis and families are expected to keep their tuition payments up to date. Families who are delinquent in tuition payments will be notified through FACTS as well as through St. Stanislaus Catholic School. A student will be denied admission to school each quarter if there is an outstanding balance. Children will need to remain home from school until such time as payment can be made.

A student will not be readmitted for the next school year unless all financial commitments from the previous year are met. Any outstanding obligation for the school year will result in withholding report cards, transcripts and diplomas. St. Stanislaus Catholic School will pursue delinquent tuition collection through a collection agency and take whatever legal means necessary to ensure that parents adhere to the financial obligations of their contract with the school.

Diocesan Policy on Unpaid Tuition and Fees

The policy of the Diocese of Gary states that "If a family leaves a school and does not pay the balance of tuition, another Catholic school in the Diocese may not accept that student until the tuition is paid in full. If a family leaves a school and does not pay the balance of tuition, the school need only send the health records on to the next school. Grades and test scores do not have to be sent to the other school until the balance is paid. Verbal confirmation of grades may be given."

Fee Payment

The Processing Fee for the following school year is paid directly to the school in the late winter of each school year for the following school year. The Registration Fee will be added to the first tuition payment due in August. Book/Technology Fees will be added to tuition and paid on the same timetable as you have chosen for tuition. Throughout the year, field trip money, graduation fees, etc. are also paid directly to the school. These fees will have their own separate deadlines. Following May 1st, the school does not take check payments for any purpose. Parents will need to pay any remaining balances with cash, money order, cashier's check, or credit card.

Tuition/Fees Refund Policy

A prorated refund of tuition that had been paid in advance will be given to parents transferring their children from St. Stanislaus Catholic School. Calculations for prorated refunds will be based on months in attendance rather than individual attendance days. Students transferring after the 1st of the month will not receive a refund for that month.

Fees including registration, technology, books, summer school, and athletics are not refundable.

Fundraising

Tuition alone does not pay the full cost of a child's education at St. Stanislaus Catholic School. Therefore, all families are required to generate \$400 in fundraising for the current school year. In order to eliminate repeatedly approaching parents to sell a wide variety of items, the school will limit itself to one fundraiser, a raffle, conducted twice a year in the fall and in the spring. Parents will receive 40 - \$5 raffle tickets in the fall and another 40- \$5 raffle tickets in the spring. Parents are asked to support the raffle. There are incentives available to families exceeding the required 80 tickets. Families are required to either sell the raffle tickets or pay the \$400 fundraising commitment. Families who do not wish to participate in the raffle will need to pay \$200 by the December deadline and another \$200 by the May fundraising deadline. Failure to pay by the designated dates will result in your child(ren) being excluded from school. You will be asked to keep the child(ren) home until the obligation is met. Dates will be posted on FACTS and announced in weekly messages. This applies to ALL school families.

Please note that St. Stanislaus Catholic School will not accept personal checks from non-school families or individuals. Families are encouraged to accept cash only. If a family makes the decision to accept a personal check as payment, that check must be written to the family instead of to St. Stanislaus Catholic School. The family is then responsible for making payment to the school.

Organizations such as Home & School and Athletics, and individual classes in the school will still run social events and small fundraisers to raise money to promote their agendas and activities but participation in these events and fundraisers do not count toward fulfilling a family's school fundraising commitment.

Volunteer/Service Hours

Every St. Stanislaus family is required to donate 20 volunteer hours to the school each year. These hours must be served by the parent or a member of the parent's immediate family. Field trips may count for up to 5 hours of the required volunteer hours. Only one field trip per family is allowed to be credited. Volunteer hours are \$15 per hour for uncompleted hours. Outstanding balances are due by May 15 for 8th grade families and by Memorial Day for all others..

Spiritual Activities

St. Stanislaus Catholic School's primary purpose is to provide a quality academic program within a Catholic setting. According to the mission of the school, students are taught to know Jesus and to grow as a faith-sharing community. In order to accomplish this purpose, the school provides many spiritual experiences which help our children nurture their faith development.

Mass

All students will attend school Mass at St. Stanislaus Church each week. Students in grades 3rd-8th will have the opportunity to help prepare and take part in the celebration of the Mass. Masses and other liturgical services will be announced in the school calendar. Girls will wear their full mass uniform (khakis, jumper, skirt, or skort) and boys will wear their full mass uniform to all Masses for the entire year. Prior announcements will be made to students and parents if students, during warm weather, have permission to wear their summer uniforms to Mass. Families are always welcome to attend.

Religion Classes and Prayer

Each school day begins with the students and faculty joining in prayer. Students also pray before lunch and to conclude the school day.

Religious instruction holds a prominent place in the daily schedule. The purpose of this instruction is to foster the knowledge and practice of our faith. Through religious experiences, it is hoped that students will come to a personal knowledge of Jesus and learn to actively participate in the faith that unites our community.

Sacraments

Students have the opportunity to participate in the following sacramental preparation:

Reconciliation: Students in grade 2 receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Students in grades 3-8 are given the opportunity to receive this sacrament in school during Advent and Lent.

Holy Communion: Students in grade 2 receive their First Holy Communion in the spring of each year. (Older students wishing to receive the sacrament can do so through their parish's religious education program. Or families are welcome to become members of St. Stanislaus Parish.) It is expected that parents of the communicants assist with their spiritual preparations at home. Parents of students preparing for this sacrament will be required to attend evening sessions for the sacramental preparation of their children. All other children in grades 3-8 have the opportunity each week to receive Communion at the all school Mass. Students who are not Catholic or who do not wish to receive communion on a particular day, are all invited to come up at that time for a blessing.

Confirmation: Confirmation is a parish activity, involving 8th grade students. In preparation for this sacrament, families must present a Baptismal Certificate if they were baptized at a parish other than St. Stanislaus. Requirements for reception of this sacrament will be sent home prior to the sacramental preparation. At this time, Confirmation will be held every year in the parish. Sacrament Fees are charged to all students making a sacrament in the school year. Amounts and due dates will be given by the classroom teacher.

Other Spiritual Activities

Students will participate in other spiritual devotions throughout the school year such as: during Advent to prepare for Christmas, during Lent to prepare for Easter, during May to honor the Blessed Mother through May Crowning and Rosary devotions and during Forty Hours to honor Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Altar Servers

All Catholic grade school children in grades 3-8 may be trained as altar servers. Once trained, students will be scheduled to serve on Sunday or Saturday night and during weekday Masses and other special occasions. New students may be trained at the end of grade 3 after receiving their First Holy Communion.

Academic Policies

Curriculum

Curriculum at all grade levels is aligned to learning standards established by the State of Indiana and the Diocese of Gary and includes instruction in the areas of:

Religion	Social Studies
Reading/Literature	Physical Education/Health
Language Arts	Art
Mathematics	Music Appreciation
Science	Technology

The curriculum is designed to address the content and skills necessary at each grade level to develop proficiency within each student to problem solve, to think critically and to work cooperatively.

Technology

Integration of technology within areas of the curriculum allows students to become creative thinkers and problem solvers, acquiring life-long learning skills so as to become responsible, contributing citizens in the Information Age.

To ensure that school computers are used responsibly, all students and parents will be required to sign an **Acceptable Use Policy** for the school year. Students who do not have a signed policy on file will not be in compliance and will not be allowed access to computers at the school. A copy of this policy will be given to parents at the start of the school year.

Grading Scale

The grading scale used at St. Stanislaus School is the scale established by the Diocese of Gary Catholic Schools Office. Where grades are given (in grades 1-8), the following academic assessment system is used:

A = 93-100	D = 70-74
B = 85- 92	F = 69 or below
C = 75- 84	

Students who have an IEP from a public school (Individual Education Plan) or an ISP (Instructional Service Plan) will have an * next to their grade showing that accommodations have been made for them as they work toward success.

Letter grades are not used by the Diocese of Gary in Pre-School and in Kindergarten. Students will be assessed as to how well they have met expectations in each curricular area and according to standards met.

Classwork and Homework

Class work and homework are integral parts of student life and are assigned as a means to help students reinforce, review, or enrich material presented during instruction. Students are required to come to class each day prepared with supplies, proper books and homework assignments. All assignments are expected to be neat and turned in on time. The level and quantity of work assigned will be dependent upon the needs and ability level of the student.

Parental Involvement and Homework

Parental involvement is important to student achievement. Parents must do the following:

1. Know what homework is given every night (check teacher's calendar/web page) or student planner
2. Listen to reading selections and practice oral reading
3. Ask questions about reading selections to check comprehension
4. Practice spelling and study vocabulary
5. Drill math facts
6. Assist with research and projects
7. Encourage to work ahead and stay on task
8. Provide a quiet time and space for doing homework each night
9. Refrain from giving answers and doing the work

All students in grades 2-8 will receive a student planner and are expected to use it to keep track of daily assignments.

Students are expected to complete homework every night and turn them in the next day to their teachers per their rules. All assignments are to be completed at home and not in school during other class periods. Students copying homework papers from another student will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. Furthermore, any student rendering a paper for purposes of copying will likewise receive a zero. Academic dishonesty will result in detention or other corrective action.

Students often will have time in class to begin homework assignments in order for teachers to offer guidance and support with the homework. Students are encouraged to use this time wisely and to ask questions freely. It is the responsibility of the student to return completed homework to the teacher. Late homework may receive a grade of zero (per teacher discretion). Parents will be notified online about missing assignments. At the request of the teacher, parents are to review, sign and return any papers that are sent directly to their attention.

Consequences for No Homework

Teachers wish to partner with parents to ensure that students are prepared for class and practicing what they are learning at home.

Parents must do the following to ensure that homework is being completed by their child(ren):

- Student planner must be checked every day to make sure that homework was written down by student
- Check and monitor FACTS to student grades
- Email/call or send a note to the teacher to check in on their child's homework activity

Repeated failure to do homework is a serious issue. If students fail over time to show improvements in effort and homework AND parents fail to make themselves available to conference with the teacher and/or support their child's homework efforts at home, parents will ultimately be asked to withdraw their child from St. Stanislaus Catholic School.

Late Work

Acceptance of late work will be dependent upon the teacher and the grade level. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in all work on the day and time assigned. Late work may receive a grade of 0%.

Academic Probation

Academic success is a shared responsibility between the school, the student, and the family. To support students in reaching their full potential, academic probation will be reviewed and issued at each progress report and report card period.

A student earning a failing grade (below 70%) in **two or more subjects** will be placed on **Academic Probation**. Parents will be notified in writing and are expected to take the following steps to support their child:

- Schedule a conference with the teacher(s) to discuss academic concerns.
- Monitor assignments, test preparation, and homework completion.
- Ensure the student is present and on time each day, ready to learn.
- Consider utilizing available tutoring or academic support services.
- Encourage healthy habits, including adequate sleep and screen time limits.

Continued academic probation may result in one or more of the following actions:

- An **Academic Contract** outlining specific goals and supports
- **Loss of extracurricular or leadership privileges**
- **Dismissal from the school** if sufficient progress is not made

Our goal is to partner with families to help each student grow in both character and knowledge. Early intervention and consistent support are key to long-term success.

Lunch and Homework Drop-Off Policy

To support student responsibility and minimize classroom interruptions, we strongly discourage the regular drop-off of forgotten items such as lunches, homework, or personal belongings. Families are expected to help students establish routines that allow them to come to school each day fully prepared.

Occasional Emergencies

We understand that emergencies can happen. In rare and unavoidable circumstances, essential items may be dropped off at the main office **before 10:00 AM**. Any items dropped off after this time may not be delivered until the end of the school day.

Please Note:

- **Lunches:** If a lunch is forgotten, students will be provided with a basic lunch option from the school, if available.
- **Homework:** Forgotten homework will not be accepted at the office. Students are responsible for managing their assignments and meeting deadlines.

Frequent drop-offs will be documented and may prompt a parent conference.

By limiting drop-offs, we are helping students build important life skills such as responsibility, time management, and self-reliance.

Cheating

Students found cheating on any classroom assignment/quiz/test may be subject to an automatic detention and will receive a 0% for the assignment/quiz/test. Parents will be notified that the incident occurred by the child's teacher.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It is important to acknowledge that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete academic assignments or assessments can be considered a form of academic dishonesty. At St. Stanislaus School, we prioritize the development of critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the genuine application of knowledge. By using AI to generate or complete academic work, students undermine their own learning process and hinder their ability to develop these essential skills. It is crucial for students to engage in their assignments with integrity, putting forth their own effort and utilizing their intellectual capabilities to foster true academic growth.

Online Access to Student Grades

Parents have access to their child's academic progress online at any time through FACTS. This is the most important way that teachers will communicate to parents about grades, effort and behavior in school. Parents are asked to monitor their child's progress on FACTS regularly and to communicate with teachers through the program's email capabilities. Valid parent email addresses are necessary to ensure the continued functioning of the program. Parents are responsible for updating any changes in email to the school in a timely manner.

Report Cards

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's process throughout the school year. Report cards are issued quarterly, approximately every 9 weeks, to indicate student progress in academic achievement and social areas. Parents are asked to discuss the progress report and report card carefully with their student and to work with your child's teacher to ensure that your child achieves their highest potential.

Progress reports and Report cards may only be viewed online through FACTS. In order to receive these reports, all parent financial obligations must be up to date. Families not having Internet access are able to use the school's computer labs to obtain this information or may send a note to your child's teacher requesting a hard copy of the report.

Honor Roll

Eligibility: Students in grades 3rd through 8th are eligible to be recognized on the St. Stanislaus Honor Roll at the end of each academic quarter. Honor Roll recognition is awarded in three categories: High Honors, Regular Honors, and Effort Honors. The qualifications for each category are outlined below:

High Honors

- Academic Performance: Students must achieve straight A's in all core and special subjects.
- Conduct and Effort: Students must earn 3's or 4's in Conduct and Effort for every subject.

Regular Honors

- Academic Performance: Students must achieve all A's and B's in all core and special subjects.
- Conduct and Effort: Students must earn 3's or 4's in Conduct and Effort for every subject.

Effort Honors

- **Effort and Conduct:** Students must earn 4's in Conduct and Effort in all core and special subjects, demonstrating exceptional commitment and attitude toward their learning.

Core Subjects: Core subjects include, but are not limited to, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Religion.

Special Classes: Special Classes may include Physical Education, Music, Art, and other electives or enrichment programs.

Additional Notes:

- Conduct and Effort grades are based on behavior, participation, and overall attitude toward learning as observed by teachers.
- Grades for Conduct and Effort will be recorded on a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 represents the highest level of achievement.
- Students who meet the qualifications for Honor Roll will be recognized in a school-wide announcement and may receive certificates or other forms of acknowledgment.

Parent Teacher Communication/Conferences

St. Stanislaus Catholic School welcomes parent involvement and is interested in arranging formal and informal opportunities to communicate and conference with parents. Parents may phone the school office to leave a message for a teacher or e-mail teachers. Parents will receive a return call or e-mail within 24 hours. Communication with parents strengthens the support and direction students need in order to be successful academically and socially in school.

Formal Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held at the end of the first quarter grading period. We expect all parents to attend this first conference. Parents will be asked about preferred meeting times and schedules for the conferences will be sent home in advance so that arrangements can be made for parents to attend. An optional Parent/Teacher Conference may be scheduled at the end of the 2nd Quarter at the request of either teacher or parent. Additional conferences may be necessitated throughout the school year to apprise parents of their child's progress or may be requested by a parent to address a concern.

Parents are asked to maintain a partnership with the school to ensure that their child is successful. If issues arise, parents are asked to use the following to decide who to call:

Concerns Dealing With:	Should Initially Involve:	If not resolved, who to involve next:
Student's Performance	Student	His/her Teacher
Teacher	Involved Teacher	Principal
Unfair Discipline	Person who disciplined the child	That person's Supervisor
Classroom Assignments	Teacher	Principal
Advisory School Board Policy	Principal	School Board
Principal	Principal	Superintendent
School Rules and Procedures	Principal	Advisory School Board/Superintendent

The following guidelines are set forth for all conferences or meetings between parents and school personnel.

1. Any parent wishing to have a conference should make an appointment. NO conferences will take place without an appointment. When the need for a conference is initiated by a parent, it is necessary to either:
 - a. Call the school office to leave a message for the teacher **or**
 - b. Send a written note or email to the teacher requesting an appointment time **or**
 - c. Leave the teacher a voicemail message
2. The principal and teachers know that it is healthy to separate their professional career from their homes and families. We ask that parents please respect this privacy. Arrange so that all phone calls or scheduled meetings take place during school days and during normal hours of operation.
3. All conferences with teachers should be on school days, either before or after school hours. The meeting should take place in a private room, conducive to such a gathering.
4. All meetings with school/church personnel can take place at a mutually convenient time. The meeting should take place in a private room, conducive to such a gathering.
5. At the beginning of each conference, a mutually agreed upon agenda should be established. The focus of the discussion should remain faithful to the agenda.

When a problem or concern arises, the process of resolution should involve only those parties directly affected by the issue.

Promotion and Retention

All students are expected to meet the minimum requirements for each grade level to merit promotion—academic performance and attendance factor into this. Students completing a grade’s work to the extent of their ability generally are to be promoted to the next grade level. To retain a child for another year, the teacher must demonstrate that such retention is warranted and would be beneficial.

When it is possible that a student will not be promoted: 1) the parent will be of the risk at the end of the first semester in order to allow ample time to remediate areas of weakness 2) a written record of notification will be kept on file 3) a meeting with teacher, parent, principal, and student (if applicable) may be requested to develop strategies that may help to make retention unnecessary.

If a parent refuses the school’s recommendation for retention at the end of an academic year, the refusal must be in writing and the parent may be asked to consider placing their child into another school environment.

Special Needs

St. Stanislaus Catholic School, in conjunction with guidelines provided by the State of Indiana, provides Student Support Plans for students with academic or behavioral concerns.. Students diagnosed with special needs and experiencing difficulty with the academic program will receive individual attention. Accommodations will be made in the classroom to better meet the individual needs of these students and school personnel, along with the parent, will review progress to date to develop a program to assist the student. At times, and dependent upon individual needs, some Special Education Services for evaluation, consultation and assistance may be available through the public school district in which the student attends. St. Stanislaus Catholic School has Title I math and reading services funded by the East Chicago Public Schools. Students who qualify are given additional resource help in math and reading during the school day.

Standardized Testing

Standardized achievement tests are given to students as mandated by the State of Indiana and the Diocese of Gary. These tests focus on measuring reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies skills. Students in grades 3-8 take ILEARN checkpoints and summative assessment. Students in grade 2 and 3 take I-READ in March, and students in grades K-2 take NWEA three times a year in the fall, winter, and in the spring. K-2 students also participate in reading and math universal screeners. Individual test results are made available to parents and are used to measure growth and to plan for instructional interventions.

Graduation

Upon satisfactory completion of the required courses of study, each eighth grade student will receive a diploma, certifying graduation from St. Stanislaus Catholic School. Students maintaining a cumulative average below 70%, may be allowed to move into 9th grade. However, they will be issued a certificate of completion and not a diploma. All tuition and fees must be paid in full before receiving a certificate or diploma.

Record Rights and Policies

St. Stanislaus Catholic School adheres to the Buckley Amendment (Family Education Rights and Privacy) regarding access to student records. A parent or guardian may inspect all permanent and temporary records of their child upon request. Requests from a third party for a student’s attendance or academic records will be considered, provided: 1) the request is made in writing from the attorney or agency, 2) the request contains the docket number or pertinent case number, and 3) a duplicate copy of the request is sent to the parent. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide non-custodial parents with access to academic records and other school information. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the custodial parent’s responsibility to provide the school with a court-certified copy of the court order. Never married parents should also have custody documents on file at the school as needed. This information will assist school officials in determining when, if ever, the child can be released to a non-custodial parent.

Records of students transferring to other schools will only be sent through the U.S. Mail or email. No records will be given to parents to transport to the new school. Students requesting records/transcripts/recommendations must make a five school day request to the office. All forms must be submitted to the school office for distribution.

NOTE: No official student records (exclusive of health records) will be released until all financial obligations to the school have been met.

Behavior Policies

Expectations

St. Stanislaus Catholic School expects each student to behave in a courteous, honest and respectful manner in order to maintain the Christian atmosphere of the school. The development and formation of loving, caring and self-disciplined individuals is a priority. All disciplinary actions are a means for holding students responsible for their actions and helping them to make just, moral, ethical and sound decisions. The emphasis on discipline is to guide students away from negative behavior, rather than to punish. Discipline issues will be handled equitably and

in a timely manner. Students must respect one another as well as respect all teachers, staff, and other adults with whom they are in contact. Our discipline code is extremely important because it creates a safe environment for all students.

Teachers have the authority to demand proper demeanor of students in the classroom and on the school grounds and are to hold students accountable for violation of any school rules. Students also are accountable for acts committed on the way to and from school or for actions outside of school that reflect or discredit the image, reputation and sense of mission of St. Stanislaus School.

It is very important that a child's development is nurtured through caring, patience, and understanding. However, while caring for your children, teachers may have to respond to your child's misbehavior. Hitting, kicking, spitting, hostile verbal behavior and other behaviors which will hurt another child are not permitted.

In response to these behaviors, teachers will not use:

- Threats of harm
- Physical punishment, even if requested by the parent
- Deprive your child of food or other basic needs
- Humiliation or isolation
- An intimidating or abusive way to approach students
- Abusive or profane language towards students

Classroom Behavior

All students deserve the right to an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, students are to abide by the general rules of order established for the classroom by their teacher. Generally, teachers will handle disciplinary matters as they occur in a way they feel is effective for their particular grade. When students fail to respond to a warning given by the teacher to correct their behavior, consequences will be assigned appropriate to the offense and parents will be notified either in writing or by phone. Classroom rules and consequences will be discussed with parents at the Back to School Night held at the beginning of the school year.

Students are not permitted to chew gum in any classroom or anywhere else in the school building.

Students are reminded that they are never to engage in actions that can be harmful to the safety of others, such as running in the hallways, pushing or shoving, pulling chairs from under people, rough play on the playground, etc. "We were only playing", will not be accepted as an excuse for violating this safety policy and avoiding corrective consequences.

Students are not to bring items to school such as the following:

- Water pistols
- Fidget spinners
- Toy guns
- Paintball guns
- Paraphernalia
- Firecrackers
- Matches or Lighters
- Pocket Knives
- Sharp Instruments
- Weapons or
- Anything that can be used or viewed as weapon by another person

In addition, the following are ONLY allowed with the permission of the teacher:

- Handheld music devices, headphones/airpods
- Hand held video games

Playground Behavior

Recess time is provided for the students each day. All students are expected to participate. Children will be outdoors per discretion of the Principal (during the winter season). Parents are responsible for seeing to it that their children are properly clothed for weather conditions. Students are expected to respect the limits set for them by the teacher or playground supervisors. For the sake of safety, it is essential that playground supervisors be obeyed and shown courtesy and respect at all times.

Teachers will review the following playground rules with their students at the beginning of the school year:

1. Students must respect the playground supervisors and follow their directives.
2. Students are expected to respect each other. Name calling, bullying, fighting, inappropriate language, etc., will be subject to disciplinary actions.
3. Play in which students end up on the ground is considered too rough and will result in students sitting out the rest of their recess.
4. Food, candy and gum are never permitted outdoors during play times
5. Cellular phones, headphones, airpods, hand held video games, music players, etc. are not permitted

All students are expected to be familiar with the playground rules and to follow them at all times. Teachers will review playground rules with their students at the beginning of the school year.

Games played are to provide social interaction and exercise and are not intended to be competitive. Rough play, fighting, arguing, using abusive language and cheating at games is not acceptable behavior. Students are never to pick up or throw sand, rocks, pebbles, snow, etc.

Self-Defense and Retaliation

Self-defense at school means staying safe **without fighting back physically**. Hitting someone because they hit you is **not** acceptable. Instead, students should: Step away if possible; Use words to stay calm; Get help from an adult right away

We teach students to handle conflict with responsibility and respect—not retaliation.

Disciplinary Consequences

Peaceful resolution of conflicts is discussed and expected at each grade level. When students are unable to resolve conflicts peacefully among themselves, they are to notify a staff member or supervisor for assistance.

Depending upon the severity of an offense and taking into consideration the age of the child, any one of the following disciplinary actions may be taken by the school. The parent(s) may be informed of the actions taken via phone call, email, note, or disciplinary write-up, etc.

- **Verbal Warning:** A student will be warned that a particular action is inappropriate.
- **Moving a Student's Desk in the Classroom:** A student's seat will be moved to try to prevent continued inappropriate behavior.
- **Time Away:** A student will be separated from the other students, but still remain within the academic environment.
- **Suspension of Recess Privileges:** A student will not be allowed to go out for recess for a specified period of time and will report to the teacher that gave the referral.
- **Teacher/Student Conference:** Teachers will work with children one-on-one to change behavior patterns.
- **Student/Parent/Teacher Conference:** A student and his/her parents meet with the teacher for the purpose of addressing inappropriate behavior and setting goals for improvement.
- **Detention:** Detention will be held on a day designated by the teacher. Parents will be notified in advance and given time to discuss the consequences with their child. Detentions are served at school with the teacher or administration.

If a student was not able to change his/her behavior and work with the teacher, they may face more significant corrective actions such as (but not limited to):

- **Student/Principal Conference:** A student will be sent to the Principal's Office to discuss inappropriate behavior and to set goals for improving behavior.
- **Student/Parent/Principal Conference:** A student, along with the principal, teacher and parents with the goal of addressing and improving inappropriate behavior.
- **Behavior Contract:** Determined and issued by the Principal.
- **Probation:** A student, along with the principal, teacher and parent work together during a specified period of time to help the student make a positive change before it becomes necessary for more serious disciplinary action to be taken. NOTE: Offenses occurring during a period of probation may immediately result in more serious disciplinary action.
- **Suspension:** A student will be removed from the classroom for a period of time from one (1) to three (3) days depending on the severity of the offense. During this time, students who are suspended may only make up tests and assignments that significantly affect their grade. All other classwork will receive a 0%. A conference (phone or in-person) must be held between the Principal, the student and the parents before the student will be allowed to return to class. In addition, the student will not be allowed to participate or be present at any extra-curricular activities while on suspension. Furthermore, the student is also subject to being placed on probation for

a period of time. During this time, behavior will be carefully monitored, documented and evaluated. If improvement is not made, further steps may need to be taken. The above steps may be skipped if the behavior merits an immediate suspension.

- **Expulsion:** A student's right to attend St. Stanislaus Catholic School is terminated. If warranted, the student will be suspended until such time as a conference can be held to discuss the offense. The final decision regarding the expulsion remains with the administration.

The following is a list of offenses which are considered serious in nature and warrant consideration for Behavior Contracts, Probation, Suspension and/or Expulsion. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive. The administration reserves the right to define individual situations and behaviors as possible expulsion offenses and to take appropriate action. Interpretation of school policies is exclusively within the domain of school administration.

- a. Incidents or threats of violence
- b. Gang Activity
- c. Written, verbal, or physical abuse of a member of the faculty
- d. Possession and/or use of illegal substances (drugs, alcohol, tobacco) or paraphernalia on school grounds or at school functions
- e. Repeated cases of lying, stealing, cheating, or forging a parent signature
- f. Possession of or use of guns, knives, other weapons or weapon like objects on school grounds or at school functions
- g. Damaging student, staff or school property/vandalism
- h. Sexual harassment of another student or school personnel
- i. Possession of paintball paraphernalia on school grounds or at school functions
- j. Downloading, displaying, disseminating unacceptable /offensive material
- k. Displaying any seriously objectionable off-campus behavior which places the reputation of the school in jeopardy (e.g. objectionable content on social websites, downloading, displaying, disseminating morally, sexually, religiously objectionable content/photos, fighting on the street or on the bus, off-campus theft, vandalism, destruction of property, arrest, etc.)
- l. Any action which the school administration determines to be in violation of the St. Stanislaus School mission, vision, or goals.

Explanation of Discipline Procedure

When an offense is suspected which has the possible consequence of expulsion, the following procedure will apply:

1. The student shall be suspended immediately and the school will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the offending student as soon as reasonably possible. The principal will have a meeting with the parent/guardian at the time of suspension to discuss the alleged violation. Any evidence, explanation, or other information regarding the incident should be presented to the school principal at the time of the meeting.
2. The principal and the superintendent will make a decision on the appropriate discipline. The parents/guardians will be notified of the decision by either phone or mail.
3. If an incident is of a violent or threatening nature, the student may be expelled without a meeting upon discretion of the administration.
4. No one who maintains civil litigation against the school is permitted to attend school and shall be considered suspended, while such litigation is ongoing.

Incidents of Bullying or Threats of Violence

The environment of a Catholic school should be one where respect for individuals prevails. Acts of violence, threats, harassment or bullying will be taken seriously. Any student, faculty member or administrator who becomes aware of an actual or perceived threat of harm by a student to themselves or another shall report it to the principal as soon as possible. The principal shall investigate the matter. This investigation will, at a minimum, include an interview of each person involved, the student making the alleged threat, and the person(s) reporting it.

The superintendent of the parish and the parents of students directly involved in the incident are to be informed, as appropriate and as soon as circumstances allow. Teachers at St. Stanislaus School will keep a log of bullying incidents throughout the school year. The principal is required to file a report outlining the number and categories of the bullying incidents to the State of Indiana at the conclusion of the year and to provide opportunities for bullying prevention education to students throughout the year.

Students involved in bullying behavior may be placed on a Behavior Contract, be made part of a conference for the purpose of resolving the matter, be required to undergo evaluation by a certified therapist, or face possible expulsion depending on the severity of the incidents.

Every effort shall be made to provide help for both the person being mistreated and those alleged to be mistreating someone.

The principal, along with the superintendent, retains local decision making responsibility for the remedy and its implementation.

Repeat Offenders

From our Parent Handbook: To support a safe, respectful, and Christ-centered school environment, St. Stanislaus has a clear and consistent system for responding to serious behaviors, known as Level 3 offenses. These include acts such as aggression, theft, harassment, and blatant defiance. When a student engages in a Level 3 offense, administration responds with appropriate consequences, communicates with all relevant parties, and documents the incident. If a student continues to demonstrate these behaviors, consequences increase in severity—ranging from detention and suspension to the possible implementation of a behavior contract or recommendation for expulsion. This tiered approach allows us to respond with both justice and compassion, ensuring that repeated behaviors are not ignored and that students are held accountable while being offered support and opportunities to grow. Rooted in our mission to follow Christ, this system helps us guide students toward making better choices while maintaining a learning environment where all can flourish.

	Demonstrated Behaviors	Handled By	Handled With	Next Steps
Any Level 3 offense	Aggression Theft Blatant defiance Destruction of property Intentional/Confrontational Profanity Contraband possession Failure to report to detention Obscene Acts Intimidation/Harassment Physical Altercation Verbal Altercation that cannot be resolved on the spot.	Admin	Actionable Consequence: Parent Conference Fine Detention Behavior Plan Suspension Expulsion	<i>Admin will log/update event in FACTS and report to parent, student, teacher</i>
Students who continue to engage in Level 3 offenses will be subject to additional disciplinary consequences. Note: The severity of a repeated act may lead straight to expulsion. See below.				
Repeated Level 3 offense (2)	After 2 or more level three offenses, admin may assign an additional after school detention or in-school suspension.	Admin	Actionable Consequence: After school detention In-school suspension	<i>Admin will log/update event in FACTS and report to parent, student, teacher</i>
Repeated Level 3 offense (3)	After 3 or more level three offenses, admin may assign an in-school suspension and implement a behavior contract.	Admin	Actionable Consequence: In-school suspension Behavior contract	<i>Admin will log/update event in FACTS and report to parent, student, teacher</i>
Repeated Level 3 offense (4)	After 4 or more level three offenses, admin may assign an out of school suspension.	Admin	Actionable Consequence: Suspension	<i>Admin will log/update event in FACTS and report to parent, student, teacher</i>
Repeated Level 3 offense (5)	After 5 or more level three offenses, admin may consider expulsion.	Admin	Actionable Consequence: Expulsion	<i>Admin will log/update event in FACTS and report to parent, student, teacher</i>

Student Pregnancy

If the school becomes aware that a student is pregnant, it will be determined by the superintendent and the principal what is the most appropriate course of action for the student and the school regarding the student remaining in school. The medical, psychological, spiritual, and educational well-being of the student shall always be the major consideration as well as the life of the unborn child.

Harassment

St. Stanislaus Catholic School does not condone any form of harassment. All individuals are to be treated with dignity and respect. Harassment in any form is prohibited. Actions constituting harassment include:

- Unwelcome physical touching or contact
- Assault
- Deliberate or blocking movements
- Any intimidating interference with normal work or movement
- Derogatory comments, verbal, written or online
- Jokes or slurs
- Belligerent or threatening words spoken to another person, written to them or posted online
- Derogatory, demeaning or inflammatory posters, cartoons, written words, drawings, novelties and gestures

Incident Reporting Policy

Students are required to report any incidents (such as accidents, conflicts, or misconduct) to their classroom teacher immediately. This ensures that the situation is addressed promptly and appropriately. Incident reports made by parents after school hours or the following day will not be investigated, unless the incident is considered an extreme offense. This policy helps maintain a safe and responsive environment for all students.

Student Interviews During School Investigations

To maintain a safe and orderly school environment, school administrators and designated staff members may meet with and interview students regarding incidents involving student safety, behavior, discipline, school policy violations, or other school-related concerns. These conversations are a routine part of the school's responsibility to investigate concerns, gather information, and ensure appropriate support and accountability.

While the school values partnership with parents and will communicate with families as appropriate, parent notification or presence is not required before a student is interviewed as part of a school investigation.

False Allegations Policy

Purpose:

Our school values honesty, safety, and respect. Students are encouraged to speak up if something is wrong, but knowingly making a false claim about someone is not acceptable.

What is a False Allegation?

A false allegation is when a student intentionally makes up a story about another student or staff member. Honest mistakes or misunderstandings are not considered false allegations.

Student Expectations:

- Be honest when talking to staff.
- Report concerns to a trusted adult.
- Understand that making up a story can hurt others and break trust.

Consequences:

If a student is found to have knowingly made a false claim:

- Administration will meet with the student.
- Parents/guardians will be informed.
- Age-appropriate consequences may follow, such as:
 - Restorative practices (e.g., apology or reflection)
 - Loss of privileges
 - Counseling or other support
 - Disciplinary actions, as needed

Drugs and Alcohol

The use or possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, look-alikes or such, or substances injurious to the health of the students is forbidden on St. Stanislaus Catholic School premises or at St. Stanislaus events, at home or away. A student found in possession of any of the above faces immediate suspension and possible expulsion from the school. A student who shows, through writing, drawing or in conversation, a fascination with drugs or alcohol will be warned and a parent conference will be initiated. Intervention with a substance abuse counselor can be required.

Gangs

No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall:

1. Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign drawing, graffiti, tattoos, colors, or other things which may be viewed as evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang.
2. Commit any act or omission, or use any speech, either verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes, drawings, graffiti, or written communications, etc.) showing affiliation with a gang.
3. Use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including but not limited to
 - a. Soliciting others for membership in any gang
 - b. Threatening or intimidating others
 - c. Inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any other person
 - d. Causing or inciting other students to cause damage to any school property

Off Campus Conduct

The administration reserves the right to discipline students for off-campus conduct that is out of line with the behavior expectations of students during the course of the school day. This off-campus conduct includes, but is not limited to, cyber-bullying.

Cell Phones

Students are permitted to bring a cell phone to school if it is needed after school because a child will be entering an empty house, attending sports practices, or will be going home with a friend. Phones may not be kept on the child's person but must be kept out of sight and on the off position or kept in the student's backpack on the off position. If a cell phone is in use or is visible during the school day, it will be confiscated and a fee of \$15 will be assessed to the parent to retrieve the phone. Families will need to retrieve phones from the school principal. Phones are available in every classroom and students, with teacher permission, have access to a phone to call home in an emergency during the school day. Students are not permitted to phone parents in order to bring forgotten assignments, band instruments, or gym clothes, etc.

Texting

Students should, at no time, have access to their cell phones in order to send text messages during the school day. Students involved in texting during the school day face automatic detention. Repeated offenses may merit more serious consequences.

Sexting

Students involved in possession or transmission of inappropriate photos on their cell phones or other electronic devices face suspension and/or expulsion. This is considered child pornography. Please note that all school personnel are mandated reporters.

Cyberbullying

St. Stanislaus Catholic School attempts to provide a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken very seriously. Students making such threats (seriously or in jest online) face disciplinary consequences depending on the circumstances such as detention, suspension or expulsion.

Social Networking

Engagement in social networking sites such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Tik Tok, and Instagram, may result in disciplinary action if the content of the student's posting includes defamatory, abusive, or morally objectionable comments about the school, the faculty, other students, or the parish. Online behavior that disrupts the learning environment at school is greatly detrimental to the classroom learning environment. Parents are asked to model that behavior as well for their children. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the parent to monitor the online behavior of their child.

Online Access and Gaming

Some websites and gaming consoles pose a developmental and moral risk to the life of the student. Parents are cautioned to be aware of the online sites their children visit and that predators can pose a real risk to students through the students' use of online sites.

Personal Belongings

The school provides coat closets, cubbies and desks to accommodate the personal belongings of the students. St. Stanislaus Catholic School cannot be responsible for personal items, items of considerable worth or excessive amounts of money that are brought to school by the students. Parents are urged to monitor what their children bring to school with them. Students may not bring recreational airpods/headphones, video games, gaming systems, personal devices such as tablets, etc. to school without the permission of the teachers.

Students are to keep their individual areas clean, neat, orderly and free of any types of graffiti. Damage to school property or the property of another person must be reimbursed by the parent(s) and the student(s) responsible will be subject to disciplinary action.

To maintain a safe and orderly school environment, school administrators may conduct searches when there is reasonable suspicion that a student possesses an item that violates school policy or could endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the school community. Searches may include student desks, backpacks, lunchboxes, personal belongings, and other property brought onto school grounds.

When reasonably necessary, a student may be directed to empty pockets, remove outerwear, shoes, or hats, lift pant legs above the ankle, or otherwise display items in their possession. Students may also be asked to shake out or remove items from clothing or backpacks to assist in locating prohibited items.

St. Stanislaus Elementary School Parent Expectations

St. Stanislaus Elementary School is grateful to have a supportive and involved parent body. Our parents recognize that in order for our children to succeed in school, teachers, students, and parents need to work together to prepare our students with the necessary skills to be successful as an adult.

We appreciate our parent's involvement and sacrifice and encourage you to continue to participate fully and interact daily with your child's education.

The goal of this policy is to serve as a reminder of our expected code of conduct from our parents and visitors when interacting with or conversing with St. Stanislaus Elementary School faculty and/or staff.

Parents of St. Stanislaus Elementary School students are expected to:

- Recognize that the education of each student is a joint responsibility of the parent, student, and school community.
- Respect all members of the school community and be a good example with their own speech and behavior. Set a good example for children at all times.
- Refrain from using abusive language or behavior towards any staff member or on school property.
- Become familiar with school policies to help their children better understand them.
- Drop off and pick up their child promptly at set times.

- Build good relationships with teachers and communicate appropriately with them to better the education of their child.
- Maintain an open line of communication with the school on events that may affect student conduct or performance.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful resolution to the issue.
- Help students find a productive place to study and ensure that homework is completed in a timely manner.
- Contact the educator directly that you may have questions for or issues with.
- Set an appointment time to meet with the staff member either before or after school. Please don't just show up to school expecting or demanding to see school personnel. Chain of Command should be as follows:

1. Take your concern to the person closest to the situation
2. Present your concern to the next level (I.E. Principal or Assistant Principal)

Parents of St. Stanislaus Elementary School should NOT:

- Use loud, abusive, or profane language towards students or staff.
- Display disruptive behavior at school events that interfere with the overall operations of the school or event.
- Threaten staff members or other students.
- Damage or destroy school property.
- Use Facebook or any other Social Network to make rude/offensive comments towards individual staff members or the school in general.
- Use Facebook or any other Social Network to campaign against or fuel outrage against individual staff members, the school, or policies implemented by the school.
- Approach a staff member or another child in an intimidating or abusive way.
- Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of an identifiable school district official attempting to perform his/her duties.

Should any parent not follow the expected Code of Conduct, they may be asked to leave the school premises. If necessary, school officials may ask the appropriate authorities to remove a parent or even ban the adult from entering school grounds in the future. The administration also reserves the right to withdraw a family from attending St. Stanislaus Elementary School in the interest of school safety.

VIRTUS Training/Background Check Requirement

All adults working with children are mandated by the Diocese of Gary to attend a VIRTUS Training Workshop, complete a background check, and maintain current bulletins. Volunteers must register online and list St. Stanislaus School (East Chicago) as a primary or secondary location. Volunteers must also complete a background check online through the VIRTUS website. The cost of the background check is \$15.00 and is payable at time of application. Volunteers are responsible for payment. The processor of the service is FastraxOnline/Selection.com.

Parent Sex Offenders

When the parent or guardian of a student is on the sex offender list, it is necessary to clearly outline the parameters of that parent's or guardian's presence on school property. These parameters will be formally written, reviewed, and agreed upon by the parent or guardian, the superintendent, the principal, and the Diocesan attorney. The signatures of all parties will be necessary before the child will be permitted to continue in school. Failure to comply with the agreement may be cause for non-enrollment of the child in the school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

St. Stanislaus Catholic School sponsors a number of extra-curricular activities which foster leadership, teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, self-esteem, service and school spirit.

Students must remain in good academic and behavioral standing to be eligible for extra-curricular activities.

Any student absent a half day or equivalent to three class periods may not participate in or attend any extra-curricular sponsored activities that day. Students absent on Friday may not be permitted to take part in athletic events over the weekend. All school rules apply at extracurricular events. Faculty members, sponsors and chaperones with just cause, have full authority to admit, refuse admission to or dismiss any student from an event.

Activities taking place in individual homes, such as parties, are not school sponsored functions. Any problems arising at these events should be referred to individual parents and not to school authorities.

Uniform Dress Code

2026–2027 School Year

All students are expected to arrive each day in full, clean, and well-groomed uniform. Parents are responsible for ensuring compliance.

Tommy Hilfiger School Uniforms

Online at: globalschoolwear.com

School Code: STST04

No other brands are permitted.

Preschool (PK) Uniform Policy

Preschool students (PK3 & PK4) wear the **PE uniform every day, Monday–Friday**, including Mass days.

PK Daily Uniform Includes:

- Gray t-shirt or **gray sweatshirt** with school logo
- Red school logo shorts (Aug.–Oct., May–June) or sweatpants (year-round)
- White or black socks above the ankle (no ankle/no-show socks)
- Non-marring gym shoes (no boots, casual shoes, or light-up/roller shoes)

Footwear (All Students, K–8)

- **Mass Days & Special Events:** Low-heeled (1" or less) **solid black or dark brown dress shoes** with rubber soles. No athletic shoes.
- **Regular School Days:** Dress shoes as above, or **solid black/dark brown athletic shoes** with matching rubber soles. *No colors, logos, lights, or wheels allowed.*
- **Socks:** White, black, or navy **crew/tube socks** (must be visible above the ankle; no ankle/no-show socks).

Uniform Options by Season (Grades K–8)

Summer Uniform (Optional: August, September, October, May, June)

- Khaki uniform shorts, worn at the waist
- Polo shirt with school crest:
 - **Red for Grades K–4**
 - **Hunter Green for Grades 5–8**

- Black/brown belt (if shorts have loops)
- Girls may wear plaid jumper, skirt, or skort
- Socks as listed above

Winter/Year-Round Uniform (Required: November–April)

Mass Days:

- Khaki pants, worn at the waist
- White button-down oxford shirt
- Sweater or vest with crest:
 - **Red for Grades K–4**
 - **Green for Grades 5–8**
- Black/brown belt (if pants have loops)
- Tie (clip-on or traditional plaid)
- Solid black or dark brown dress shoes
- Girls may also wear plaid jumper/skirt/skort with oxford and tie
- Girls may wear white/black/navy **knee socks or plain tights** (no leggings)

Non-Mass Days:

- Polo shirt with crest:
 - **Red for Grades K–4**
 - **Hunter Green for Grades 5–8**
- Optional: ¼ zip fleece pullover with school crest (not allowed on Mass days)

Physical Education Uniform (Grades K–8)

- Gray t-shirt or **gray sweatshirt** with school logo
- Red logo shorts (Aug.–Oct., May–June) or sweatpants (year-round)
- White or black socks above the ankle

- Non-marring gym shoes (no boots, casual shoes, or light-up/roller shoes)
- PE sweatshirts **may not** be worn with the regular school uniform

Uniform Guidelines & Clarifications

Violations may result in an **Out of Uniform Notice**.

- Shirts/blouses must be tucked in
- Only plain white undershirts (no designs/logos)
- Skirts/shorts/jumpers/skorts: no more than 5" above the knee when kneeling
- No makeup, nail polish, or artificial nails
- Belts required with pants/shorts that have loops
- Socks must be visible above the shoe
- Boots may be worn in bad weather to and from school, but proper shoes must be worn indoors

Jewelry:

- Girls: One pair of **stud earrings** (earlobe only)
- Boys and girls: One small religious medal/cross necklace **and/or** one religious bracelet
- No other jewelry or body piercings allowed

Hair & Grooming:

- Hair must be clean, natural in color, and well-groomed
- No highlights, extreme styles, shaved or sculpted cuts
- Boys must be clean-shaven
- Students may wear solid black, white, red, navy, or clear **beads** in braids
- **Permitted Hair Accessories:**
 - Items from Tommy Hilfiger
 - Solid black, white, red, or navy headbands, ties, or bows (3" or smaller)

General Appearance:

- No visible tattoos, glitter, or body writing
- No hats inside the building at any time
- The principal has final discretion on the appropriateness of attire, hairstyles, shoes, and accessories

Outerwear & Spiritwear

- No athletic sweatshirts or jackets may be worn over uniforms
- ¼ zip school fleece is encouraged for colder students
- Spiritwear may only be worn on designated days

Belts & Ties

- **Students are expected to purchase and wear their own belts and ties.**
- If a student forgets and borrows one from the office, a **\$2 daily rental fee** will be charged. Items must be returned the same day.

Special Events & Representing the School

Students attending field trips, Masses, or other school functions must wear the **full winter Mass uniform**, unless otherwise directed by a teacher.

Parents are expected to ensure uniforms are clean, properly fitting, and free from damage.

School Uniform Compliance Policy

At our school, we believe that a uniform dress code fosters a focused and respectful learning environment. Students are expected to be in proper uniform each day. It is the responsibility of both students and families to ensure compliance with the school's uniform guidelines.

Uniform Violations and Consequences

Teachers may document uniform violations in the **FACTS** system. The following procedures will be followed:

- **Grades K–2:**
 - After **three (3)** uniform write-ups, a **phone call home** will be made to inform the parent/guardian of the continued concern.
- **Grades 3–8:**
 - After **three (3)** uniform write-ups, the student may be assigned an **after-school detention**.

Ongoing Non-Compliance

We strive to work in partnership with families to support student success. However, **continued violations** of the uniform policy may lead to further consequences, including:

- A **behavioral contract**
- In severe or repeated cases, **dismissal from the school**

Out of Uniform/Dress Down Day Dress Code

Certain days throughout the school year will be designated as Out of Uniform or Dress Down Days. Some of these will be free of charge and others will be used as school fundraisers. The dress code for these days is as follows:

- A. Jeans (not be too tight or too baggy, no rips or holes)
- B. Summer khaki uniform shorts (August, September, May, June)
- C. Gym shoes properly laced (No other types of shoes are permitted)
- D. Socks above the ankle
- E. T-Shirts, sweatshirts, tops with no inappropriate pictures, words or advertisement. May not be too tight, low cut, or showing a bare midriff.

It is the principal's discretion if a child violates the dress code. If a student is in violation of this Out of Uniform Dress Code, the student's family will be called to bring appropriate clothing and the student will lose the privilege of participating in the next Out of Uniform Day. All rules pertaining to jewelry, make-up, nail polish, artificial nails and all other items in the Uniform Clarifications section of this handbook also still apply to Out of Uniform Days.

Health Services

Immunization Requirements

Indiana State Law requires that all children entering school have up to date immunizations. Any student not in compliance must be excluded from school until proper immunizations and examinations have been completed. Proof of immunization is required BEFORE your child attends the first day of school.

Every student must present proof of immunity against:

Pre-Kindergarten (3 to 5 yr. olds): 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella

Kindergarten: 5 DTaP, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hepatitis B, 2 Hepatitis A, 2 Varicella

Grades 1-5: 5 DTaP, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hepatitis B, 2 Varicella

Grades 6-8: 5 DPaT, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hepatitis B, 2 Varicella, 1 Tdap, 1 MCV4, 2 Hepatitis A, 1 MCV4,

Vision/Hearing Requirements

Vision/Hearing Screenings are provided for students during the school day on a schedule mandated by the State of Indiana.

Health Information

Health information on students must be kept up to date. At the beginning of each year, parents are to provide the following:

- Information on any special medical conditions, allergies and/or medications that the child may be receiving.
- Home, cell and work numbers of parent(s).
- Three (3) emergency contacts, including names and phone numbers (in case parents cannot be reached)
- Name and phone number of the child's physician

It is imperative that any change in data should be reported immediately to the school office to insure the health and welfare of your child at all times.

Medication

Indiana State Law forbids students from taking any type of medication during school hours without written authority and without adult supervision. Prescribed medications will be kept in the school office and administered by the nurse, secretary, office aide, teacher or administrator. If a child must take medication during school hours, the School Medication Permission Form must be completed by the parents and, in the case of prescription medication, authorized and signed by the physician. The medication must be sent to school in the labeled prescription bottle. All directions for administering the medication must be in writing or clearly written on the prescription bottle. Any medications for allergies should have written instructions as to amount and frequency of administration. All inhalers must be labeled with the student's name and in the original pharmacy packaging.

No student is allowed to carry any type of medication, nor are they to administer it to themselves during the school day. The only exception to this regulation is an inhaler which may be carried by a student under some circumstances with written permission from the parent and authorization from a physician.

Illness

Students are not to be sent to school ill. If an illness does occur, temperature must be within normal limits for 24 hours prior to being sent back to school. Students must not be in school if:

- They are vomiting
- They have a fever
- Have diarrhea, or
- Have a rash of undetermined origin

Parents are asked to communicate any health issues to the school so that all children can be protected from contagious diseases.

In the event a student becomes ill at school or an accident happens, parents will be notified immediately according to the emergency information provided to the school at the start of the school year. A student cannot be released to anyone except a parent, guardian or an authorized designee.

If a student is ill for an extended period of time (3 consecutive days or more), a doctor's release is required and must be presented at the time of the student's return to school.

Students well enough to be in school generally are well enough to play outdoors at recess time. Due to supervision requirements, it is not always possible to keep children in the office for recess. The recess period is part of the whole school program. It is essential to the physical, social and mental being of each child to be out in the fresh air with classmates. Parents are asked to dress their children according to the weather. During inclement or severe cold weather, all students will remain indoors.

It is expected that any student who is too ill to attend classes is too ill to attend an extra-curricular event. Any student who has been absent a half day or the equivalent of three (3) class periods may not participate in or attend any extra-curricular activities that same day without the permission of the principal. Students who are ill on Fridays are not permitted to participate in sporting events or school sponsored events over the weekend.

Accidents

If a minor accident occurs at school (scraped knee, bumps and bruises, bee stings, etc.), minimal first aid will be administered. In the event of a serious accident or health emergency, first aid will be administered and the parent will be contacted immediately after the paramedics have been reached. If the parent(s) or an authorized designee cannot be reached, paramedics will determine the need to take the child to an emergency room and the family doctor will be contacted to ensure the health and safety of the child.

Communicable Diseases

Any student who contracts a communicable disease must remain home from school until such time as a physician approves re-entry to school. Parents will be immediately notified to pick their child up from school if the child presents symptoms which may need to be reviewed by a physician. Children are to be excluded from school according to the physician's recommendations for chicken pox, mumps, measles, untreated head lice, German measles, and COVID-19. Other contagious diseases such as strep throat, eye infections, skin conditions, and impetigo require a written release by a physician. Upon returning to school, students must report to the school office for approval to return to class.

Mental Health Concerns

For the well-being of our students and their mental health, any student expressing suicidal ideation or self-harm in any form will be required to consult a medical health professional for an evaluation. Documentation from the provider will be required before being allowed to resume normal school routines.

School Counseling and Student Support

The social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our students is an important part of our mission. At times, a student may meet with the school counselor or another designated support staff member regarding an immediate concern, conflict, emotional need, behavioral concern, crisis, or other school-related matter. These meetings are considered part of the school's regular student support services and may occur at the request of the student, parent, teacher, counselor, or administrator. Parent permission is not required for these school support meetings.

If the school believes a student would benefit from ongoing or regularly scheduled counseling services, the parent or guardian will be contacted to discuss the recommendation, and written parent/guardian permission will be obtained before those services begin.

Parents may also request counseling support for their child. The school counselor may communicate with parents, teachers, administrators, and other appropriate school personnel as needed to support a student's educational, behavioral, and emotional well-being while maintaining appropriate professional confidentiality.

The school counselor is not a licensed therapist providing long-term mental health treatment. When appropriate, families may be referred to outside community mental health providers for services beyond the scope of school-based support.

Child Abuse or Neglect

By law, the State of Indiana requires all school personnel to report any allegations or suspicious of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Child Protective Services (D.C.P.S.) All adults working with children, including parents in contact with children, must undergo a Criminal Background Check and participate in a Protecting God's Children Workshop as mandated by the Diocese of Gary.

Re-Admittance to School

Students who have been out of school because of admittance to a behavioral unit or psychiatric facility may be readmitted to school in one of the following ways as deemed appropriate by the school administration: a) written correspondence to the school administration from the student's doctor, therapist, or case worker including a diagnosis and treatment b) a meeting with the school administrator, social worker or student's case worker to discuss diagnosis and treatment and/or c) a phone call to the school administrator from the student's doctor therapist, or case worker including a diagnosis and treatment. Upon arrival back at the school, the student must report to the main office.

General Policies

St. Stanislaus Catholic School Attendance Policy (in accordance with the State of Indiana Attendance Guidelines and the Diocesan Attendance Policy)

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to ensure an effective learning environment and enable students to fully participate in the ongoing educational process. St. Stanislaus Catholic School is accountable to the State of Indiana for daily attendance information and the failure to keep our attendance in the 90th percentile.

Effective July 1, 2013, the State of Indiana is defining habitual truancy as being absent ten (10) or more days within a school year without being excused or without being absent under a parental request filed with the school. Chronic absenteeism includes students absent from school for ten percent (10%) or more of a school year which is the equivalent of 10 days per semester (August-December) and (January –June) for students in grades 1-12 which equals no more than 20 days per school year.

Excused absences are defined as absences that the school regards as legitimate reasons for being out of school including 1) illness verified by a note from the parent/guardian, 2) illness as verified by a doctor's note, 3) family funeral, 4) an educationally related non-school activities and 5) other trips, performances, activities etc. that have the approval of the school.

Calculating Absences: According to the Indiana Code (IAC 1-3-3), a student in attendance during any part of the day up to and including one half of the day shall be counted as one half. A student in attendance for more than one half of the day should be counted as one full day. Note: Instructional time for grades 1-6 is 315 instructional minutes and for grades 7-8 is 379 instructional minutes.

Consequences of Chronic Absenteeism and/or tardiness:

Absences Beyond the Maximum Days: Being absent from school for more than 10 days shows up as a school warning on the State of Indiana attendance report. Students habitually absent will be reported to the Department of Child Services. Being absent more than 20 days may result in a child not being promoted to the next grade level. If a student exceeds the maximum number of days absent per quarter, the homeroom teacher will determine the student's grade and discuss with the principal the possibility of retention.

According to the Indiana Department of Education, habitual absenteeism includes students absent ten (10) days or more from school within a year without being excused. Excused absences include illness, doctor/dentist appointments, funerals, court appointments, page (legislative), and principal's discretion. Unexcused absences include vacations, non-school related events, transportation issues, lack of sleep, weather related issues, and personal business. Parents are required to phone St. Stanislaus School when a child is absent. **If the parent fails to communicate with the school, the child's absence will be unexcused.** The principal has final discretion in determining whether an absence is unexcused.

Attendance Policy:

1. After 7 total absences, the parent receives written notification by email.
2. After 10 total absences, parents receive a written disciplinary letter that must be signed and returned to the office.
3. After 15 total absences, a mandatory meeting will take place to review disciplinary measures.

- a. Being absent (unexcused or excused) more than 20 days may result in a student not being promoted to the next grade level. Chronic absenteeism includes students absent from school ten percent (18 days) or more of a school year for *any* reason, excused or unexcused.
- b. Being absent from school more than 20 days (unexcused or excused) may result in dismissal from St. Stanislaus School.

Students habitually or chronically absent will be reported to the Department of Child Services.

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to ensure an effective learning environment and enable students to fully participate in the ongoing educational process. Punctuality forms life habits for work and family, which will benefit the student for years to come. Actual in-class instructional time and educational experiences are vital and can never be recovered. In order for your children to receive the full benefits of their education at St. Stanislaus School, they must be in attendance and arrive on time each day. **Students are expected to be in their seats at 7:45am and ready to start the school day.**

Tardiness Policy:

1. After 5 tardies, parent/guardian will receive an electronic warning with a tardy report.
2. After 10 tardies, parent/guardian will receive a truancy notice that outlines the attendance policies, expectations and possible disciplinary procedures.
3. After 15 tardies, parent/guardian must attend a mandatory meeting with administration. Student may be placed on Attendance Contract and stipulations for compliance will be outlined.
4. If family does not comply with stipulations on Attendance Contract, consequences may include:
 - exclusion from extra-curricular activities
 - mandatory parental support meeting provided by school counselor
 - risk of academic failure in missed classes due to loss of instructional time
 - report to the Department of Child Services
 - risk of withdrawal from St. Stanislaus School

Notification of Absence to the School

Parents are required to notify St. Stanislaus School secretary by calling when a child is absent. For safety reasons, it is very important for the school to know that the parent is aware that their child is not here. If no phone call is received by 8:30 AM, the parent will be notified that their child is not in attendance. **If the parent fails to communicate with the school, the child's absence will be unexcused.** Excused absences include illness, doctor/dentist appointments, funerals, court appointments, page (legislative), and principal's discretion. Unexcused absences include vacations, non-school related events, and personal business. The principal has final discretion in determining whether an absence is unexcused.

Student Return to School after Illness: When a student returns to school after a medical absence of three or more consecutive days, a medical release note must be given to the main office. Parents are required to send the note even if they have phoned in the child's absence each day. If no note is received, the parent may be asked to pick up the child until medical release is received.

Student Return to School after Personal Absences: When a student returns to school after a personal absence of three or more consecutive days, written documentation stating the reason for the absences will be requested. Parents are required to send this documentation even if they have phoned in the child's absence each day. If documentation is not received, the parent may be asked to pick up the child until documentation is received.

School Hours (all grades):

Monday 7:45 AM to 2:00PM
Tuesday – Friday 7:45 AM to 3:00PM

Please note the following:

1. Parents are required to call the school office by 8:30 AM to report a student's absence for that day. The student's name, grade and reason for the absence is to be given.
2. Students are marked tardy if they are not in their classroom when the bell rings at 7:45 AM. Students who are tardy must report, upon arrival, to the school office to obtain a tardy slip. No child will be admitted to class without a tardy slip after 7:45 AM.

3. Unexcused absences will be recorded for vacations taken during the school year. Vacations during school time greatly impact a child's education and the grades a child receives. Therefore, vacations are strongly discouraged. Teachers will not honor a request for homework prior to a vacation. Upon returning to school, deadlines will be set by the teacher for making up any missed work.
4. The parent is required to notify the school office and the classroom teacher in advance of any absence other than excused.
5. School personnel will not take requests for make-up homework for students in grades 6-8. It is the student's responsibility to request a list of missed work from the teacher upon returning to school.
6. Following an excused absence, a student in collaboration with the teacher will determine an appropriate deadline for completing missed work.
7. Any student arriving later than 2 hours from the start of the school day will be marked as a 'half-day'.
8. Any student leaving more than 2 hours from the end of the day will be marked as a 'half-day'.
9. No student is ever to be removed from the school grounds without the knowledge of the teacher and office personnel. Advance notification by the parent must be provided to the main office and the teacher for early dismissals. This ensures that the student will be ready when the parent arrives and also causes less interruption to the class.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

The St. Stanislaus Catholic School office hours are 7:30 AM – 3:15 PM each school day.

Parents who drive their children to school may drop them off at 7:15 AM. The main entrance doors of the school are locked between 7:15 and 7:45 AM. Parents may not drop children off at the front entrance. Door C, in the alleyway, is the morning drop off location. It will be staffed by school personnel. Door C is open beginning at 7:15 AM and will be locked at 7:45 AM. **Classes begin at 7:45 AM and students must be in their classrooms at that time in order to avoid being tardy.** Anyone late after 7:45 AM must come to door A of the school to be admitted and then must come to the office for a tardy slip. Anyone arriving through the front doors at Door A in the morning receives an automatic tardy.

Teachers will meet their students in front of their classroom or at their assigned place in the gym or cafeteria each morning. No child is ever permitted to leave the school grounds prior to dismissal for any reason without being signed out at the office once they have arrived in the morning. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion from St. Stanislaus School.

At dismissal, children, in grades PK-8, will be picked up in the Car Line in the main parking lot or Magoun Ave.

All walkers must have a signed walker release form on file before being permitted to walk home. Children walking home must cross at corners patrolled by crossing guards.

Families are reminded that, at no time, should cars be parked in the no parking zone outside the school's front doors. This is a parking violation. Families are also not to use the Teacher parking lot for drop off or pick up. This is reserved solely for faculty and staff.

Emergency Delayed Start

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies, St. Stanislaus School may implement a delayed start. The delayed start will typically be students arriving at 9:30 AM and faculty and staff arriving at 9 AM. Delayed start times may be affected by the nature of the emergency.

Before/After School Care (*If available*)

The Before/After School Care Program is held each day 6:00 AM – 7:15 AM and again from 3:00 PM – 6:30 PM. A registration fee, as well as a signed contract, is required for all children using the program. Respective contracts for each service must be completed and registration fees paid. Any child brought to After-Care because no one was there to pick up at the regular dismissal will be charged. Specific cost and application information is available in the school office. Parents must keep their payments current for Before/After-Care. Accounts will be reviewed monthly and parents who accumulate outstanding balances will not be able to take advantage of these services. This year our After-Care program has been contracted out to the Whiting YMCA. Registration and billing will be processed by the YMCA.

Appointments

Every attempt should be made to schedule medical and dental appointments after school hours. When this is not possible, a note must be presented to the school office and the classroom teacher stating the student's name, date and time of appointment and who will be picking up the student. No students will be allowed to leave the school alone for any reason during the school day. A parent who finds it necessary to pick up a student before dismissal must pick the child up in the school office and sign a release before leaving the premises. It is NOT recommended for any student to LEAVE school early for appointments. Students are responsible for making up all work that was missed during their absence. A written doctor's note should be submitted to the main office upon the child's return to school.

Communication to Parents

A weekly newsletter will be sent to all parents each weekend highlighting the coming week's events. Communication going home to parents in paper form will be sent with the youngest and only child of the family. If your child fails to bring this information home, please notify the school office for a replacement.

Crisis Management

A Crisis Management Plan is on file at St. Stanislaus Catholic School for dealing with all categories of crisis including, but not limited to, natural disaster, environmental and building disaster and disruption of human life. At all times, the safety and security of students and staff is the primary concern.

Early Dismissal

The school must be notified in writing by 9:00 AM on the day in which a parent will be picking a child up early. Students will receive an unexcused absence if parents pick a child up early without written notification. Parents who need to pick their child up early from school because of some emergency situation; doctor's appointment etc. must come into the school office and sign the child out. The school highly recommends that a student does not create a habit of leaving school early, this disrupts the learning environment. Students will not be released to any person other than the parent unless that parent has previously notified the school that another person is authorized to pick up the student. If the entire school has an early dismissal, the regular dismissal procedures outlined above will be followed.

Emergency Drills

Fire, tornado, safety, and civil defense drills are held regularly to develop safety practices that will help students move quickly and in an orderly manner to pre-designated safety areas during an emergency. Rules of safety are reviewed regularly and posted in each classroom

Emergency School Closing

Closings will also be shared via a text sent through ParentAlert, a message posted on our school's web page and on Facebook. Parents will also receive a computerized text alert or call from the ParentAlert communication system notifying them of any closure or emergency situation.

St. Stanislaus may find it necessary to close due to emergency situations that are not weather related; the above procedure to notify parents will be followed.

Excessive Heat Policy

Most of the school building at St. Stanislaus School is air conditioned. Window units are in all classrooms and the gym and cafeteria are air-conditioned as well. In the event that an air-conditioner is not working and the temperature humidity index is over 90 degrees, students will be relocated to an air-conditioned place in the building

Field Trips

Field trips are valuable extensions of the St. Stanislaus curriculum and students are expected to attend. At various times during the school year, these trips will be planned, with final approval given by the principal.

- A notice will be sent home detailing the experience, along with a permission slip to be signed by the parents.
- No child will be allowed to go on a field trip without the written consent of the parent.
- Students who are not allowed to participate in the field trip must report to school and will be given an alternative assignment.
- In addition, they may be given a written assignment to complete, which will correlate with the educational experience provided by the field trip.
- Field trip money constitutes a commitment on the part of the parent and student to pay their share of the cost of the field trip, and as such, cannot be refunded.
- Students who cannot behave responsibly will not be allowed to go on a field trip without a parent.
- Children who must take medication while on a field trip must have a written note from the parent and the medication sent to school in the original prescription bottle.
- Younger siblings are not permitted to attend field trips with older brothers and sisters due to liability and insurance reasons.
- When space is limited, only a certain number of parents will be able to attend as chaperones.
- All chaperones must have completed VIRTUS training and done a criminal history background check as mandated by the Diocese of Gary.
- A rotation system will be used so that all parents may get the opportunity to serve as chaperones.
- A chaperone's purpose is to supervise the children to whom he/she is assigned.

- All guidelines set by the teacher are to be followed.
- Transportation for field trips will be provided by a licensed and insured bus service provider.

Forgotten Textbooks/Materials

Students and their parents are not permitted in classrooms before or after school if the teacher is not present. Students have time at the end of the school day to assemble their take home work and must be responsible for packing their book bag with everything they need.

Gum Fine

Students found chewing gum will be fined a fee of \$5.00 per event.

Home and School Association

The Home School Association is composed of dedicated and involved parents who have been elected to their positions. The organization has four (4) primary purposes:

1. To expand avenues of communication between the school and parents.
2. To sponsor educational and informative programs for the school community.
3. To provide volunteer and social assistance to the school.
4. To raise money for the programs of the school.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the activities planned by the Home and School Association, as they are designed to help our children to develop a sense of school spirit and community. Help is always needed and appreciated. Check the school calendar for the exact dates of meetings.

Library Use

The library is available for use by students in order to provide for their personal growth and to promote an interest in and an appreciation of reading. Each student is responsible for books checked out in his or her name. A fine will be charged for lost or damaged books based on the replacement value. A bill will be sent home with the child for the amount charged.

Lost & Found

A Lost & Found area is available in the school office. To assist in matching a student to a misplaced item, the student's name must be placed on all personal items and clothing. Items not claimed at the end of each semester will be donated or discarded.

Litigation

If there is a disagreement or dispute between parent/guardian and the school on a policy matter and/or disciplinary matter, and the parent/guardian seeks civil litigation in the matter, the student in question will be suspended until the civil decision has been made. Thus, the school cannot be accused of being prejudicial toward the student during litigation.

Lunch

A hot lunch program is available to students and orders are placed by teachers daily. Students may instead choose to bring a bag lunch to school each day. **Fast foods, soft drinks, and NUTS are not permitted at lunchtime and parents are asked to comply with that policy.**

As a participant in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), we are required to adhere to the guidelines established by the USDA. With current federal programming grants, all students are eligible to participate in free breakfast and lunch programs.

Students will be expected to clean up after themselves following breakfast and lunch. Proper language, eating habits and table manners are expected at all times. For safety reasons, students are not permitted to exchange food.

Food Allergy Policy

St. Stanislaus School maintains a school-wide procedure for addressing life-threatening allergic reactions and maintains an Emergency Action Plan for any student whose parent/guardian and physician have informed the school, in writing, that the student has a potentially life-threatening allergy.

The school will provide training and education for all school staff including teachers, aides, office staff, food service personnel, and maintenance workers. That training will include but will not be limited to 1) a description/definition of severe allergies and a discussion of the most common food, medication, latex, and stinging insect allergies 2) the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis c) the correct use of an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen) 3) location of emergency Epi-Pen 4) specific steps to follow in the event of an emergency 5) activating emergency medical response – Dial 911 6) completion of an evaluation form by each employee after training.

Teachers will be familiar with the Emergency Action Plan of students in their classes and respond to emergencies as per the emergency protocol in the Emergency Action Plan. This information will also be available in the substitute teacher folder. In the event that an incident occurs for which there is no known allergic history, emergency medical services will be called immediately.

A parent/guardian of a student with food allergies is responsible for providing all food for his/her child. Snacks will be kept in a separate box provided by the parent/guardian. The school will never knowingly provide snack food for children with known food allergies. If students have severe food allergies, special provisions will be made for these children in the cafeteria.

Desks and tables will be washed with soap and water following any activity with food held in the classroom proper hand washing will be taught and encouraged before and after the handling/consumption of food.

We are a NUT free school.

Non-Catholic Students

All students, including Non-Catholic students, who have chosen to attend St. Stanislaus Catholic School, must follow the school curriculum and be educated in an environment of Catholic tradition, including participation in prayer, liturgical experiences and religion classes.

Non-Custodial Parents

St. Stanislaus Catholic School abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and other school related information regarding the student. Self-addressed stamped envelopes provided by the non-custodial parent can expedite written communication. If there is a court order specifying that no information is to be given to the non-custodial parent, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

School Advisory Board

The St. Stanislaus Advisory School Board is a body whose members are selected to participate in decision making in specific and designated areas of responsibility. It is consultative in nature. A consultative board operates in the policy making process by formulating and adopting, but never enacting policy. The School Board:

1. Participates in and encourages strategic planning and helps develop goals, objectives, long and short range plans for the school,
2. Helps to formulate policies in accordance with Diocesan policies,
3. Assists in developing the school budget,
4. Serves as a public relations source.

For an issue or topic to be raised at a board meeting, it must be submitted in writing to the Board President or the principal at least five (5) days before a regularly scheduled meeting. If the issue falls within the scope of school board matters, the person will be placed on the agenda. Only those people who have been placed on the agenda will be permitted to address the board during the explicit time allocated for such communication. Those addressing the board should focus their presentation on only those issues approved prior to the meeting. Any presentation or expressed viewpoint that becomes or borders on a personal attack of a particular person or family or any communication which is not expressed in a calm, respectful manner will not be allowed.

At the board meeting, the board members will simply receive, without response or interaction, the comments of the person making the presentation. Possible follow up includes, but is not limited to:

1. Discussion at an executive meeting
2. New business item on the next board agenda
3. Information regarding issue included in the school communication
4. Personal contact regarding issue by letter, phone call or meeting
5. Referral to proper group or committee

Advisory Board Meetings are held bi-monthly.

School Supplies

Supply lists for each grade level will be available prior to the start of the new school year.

- Students are required to come to school prepared with these materials on the first day of school and every day.
- All materials must be marked with the student's name and grade.

Security

It is essential that students and staff members know that the school is a place of safety and security. Therefore, security measures will be taken.

All doors to the school buildings will be locked during the school day and parents and visitors must ring the bell at the main doors for admittance to the school office. Visitors should not hold the door open for other guests. They should instead allow those guests to buzz in properly.

For security reasons and to maintain an academic environment, no parents or visitors will be allowed access to classrooms during regular school hours without reporting to the office, signing in, and wearing a Visitor Badge.

Sending Money to School

Students should only bring money to school that is needed on that day. Parents should put all money in an envelope that is clearly marked as to the purpose of the money, the student's name, and the amount enclosed. Money or valuables should never be left in desks or coat closets. St. Stanislaus Catholic School cannot be and is not responsible for lost or stolen items or money.

Supervision

Students are to be supervised by a designated, responsible adult at all times. Thus, only students who are participating in a school sponsored event, scheduled meeting, or athletic event (such as sports practices) are to be in the building. Faculty are not available after 3:00 PM for supervision of students so students must have a tutor, club sponsor, coach etc. accompanying them when in the building after 3:00 PM.

Substance Abuse/Violence Prevention Programs

School community education and intervention programs geared toward substance abuse and violence prevention will be implemented at various grade levels with the assistance of local agencies.

Textbooks

It is the policy of St. Stanislaus Catholic School that students be held responsible for any lost or damaged textbooks/workbooks. The full replacement cost of a textbook which is lost or damaged will be assessed against the parent and student. Final report cards and official student records will be withheld until financial arrangements have been made to cover the cost of the lost or damaged textbooks.

Vacations

A school calendar is sent home early in the school term stating the days that school is not in session. It is strongly advised that family vacations be planned to coincide with these times so that students do not miss any instructional time.

Parents who choose to take their children out of school for family vacations are advised to closely monitor their child's progress online and with the teacher to determine what effect such an absence will have on the student's work. Vacations count as unexcused absences.

Teachers are not responsible for giving students a complete listing of their assignments before a student leaves for vacation. This task is completed more accurately after the student returns.

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all assignments according to the timeline determined by the teacher.

Visiting the School

Parents are strongly encouraged to visit the school during scheduled calendar events and at other times of the year. If a parent wishes to meet with a teacher or the principal, they are reminded that a note must be sent or a phone message left requesting an appointment time.

Any item being delivered to the school for a student must be left in the school office. School personnel will make sure that the student receives the item. Visiting classrooms during school hours is not permitted without the knowledge of office personnel and the permission of the teacher.

All parents and visitors must report to the office, sign in and obtain a Visitor's Badge before proceeding to a classroom during the school day. Upon leaving, visitors are to return to the school office to sign out and return their badge.

Pesticide Application Policy

In accordance with Indiana State Law (IC 15-16-5-64.5 and IC 15-16-5-64.7), St. Stanislaus School follows specific guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff regarding the use of pesticides on school property.

Application Timing

- Pesticides will **not** be applied on school property during regular school hours or during before- and after-school programs unless:
 - An **immediate pest threat** to student health is present.
 - The application area is **outside and not immediately adjacent** to student-occupied buildings.

Reentry Period

- Students will **not be allowed** to enter any area where a pesticide has been applied until the longer of the following has passed:
 - The minimum reentry time listed on the pesticide label.
 - **Four (4) hours** after application.

Rodenticides

- Rodenticide baits may only be used in areas **inaccessible to students**.

Pesticide Storage

All pesticides stored on school property will be:

- In the **original container** or a clearly labeled service container.
- Kept in a **locked storage area** that is clearly marked as pesticide storage.
- **Completely separated** by a solid wall from any areas where food is stored, served, or accessed by students.

Pesticide Notification Registry

In compliance with Indiana law, St. Stanislaus School maintains a **Pesticide Notification Registry** for parents, guardians, and staff who wish to receive advance notice of pesticide applications on school property.

- Notification about the opportunity to join the registry is provided:
 - At the **start of each school year** in the school newsletter.
 - When a student **enrolls or transfers mid-year**, via the **Parent/Student Handbook**.
- The Parent/Student Handbook is accessible any time through our **weekly school newsletter** and on our **school website**.

How the Registry Works

- You may request to be added to the registry **at any time during the school year** by contacting the school office.
- Members of the registry will receive **at least 48 hours' notice** before any pesticide application unless:
 - The application occurs more than 48 hours before a scheduled school day.

- The application is required for an immediate pest threat or in an area not adjacent to occupied spaces.

Pesticide Notices Will Include:

- School name and address.
- Name, license number, and contact info of the licensed applicator.
- Date, time, and location of application.
- Target pest.
- Product details (manufacturer, EPA registration number, and brand name).
- Explanation if 48-hour notice is not possible.