**Offering Work Love & Sacrifice**

**2018-2019**

**Student/Parent Handbook**

St. Mary’s Catholic School

Leipsic, Ohio

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St. Mary’s School Calendar

**August**

16 - PK parent meeting 6:30

16 - K parent meeting 7:30

17 - Professional Development Day

20 - Teacher Work Day

20 - Ice Cream Social/Open House 6 - 8pm

21 - First Day of School

31 - Fall Pictures

**September**

3 - No School Labor Day

6 - Diocesan Conference on Addiction

21 - Midterm

**October**

12 - Grandparent’s Day/ Bishop

16 & 17 Conferences 3 - 8 pm

18 & 19 No School

22 - 26 YMCA swimming for grade 3

26 End of Quarter

**November**

11 - Harvest Breakfast

21 - 23 No School Thanksgiving

30 Midterm

**December**

9 - Christmas Program Tentative

24 - 31 No School Christmas Break

**January**

1-2 No School Christmas Break

3 -Back to School

11 - End of Quarter

21 - No School MLK Day

27 - Feb 2 Catholic Schools Week

27 - Open House 9 - 11:30 am

**February**

2 - Winterfest

15 - Midterm

18 - No School Presidents Day

**March**

1 - Spring Pictures

8 - No School PD Day

13 - Quiz Bowl Gr. 7/8

14 - Quiz Bowl Gr. 5/6

15 - End of Quarter

**April**

18 - Midterm

19-22 No School Easter Break

**May**

13 - Field Day

20 - PK Graduation

21 - K Graduation

22 - Last Day of School

22 - 8th Grade @Mass @7pm

23 - Teacher Work Day

Students and Parents,

 Welcome back to St. Mary’s Catholic School and to the 2018-2019 school year. It is our privilege to work with all of you this year. As always, it is our goal to provide a safe and rewarding learning environment for all of our students. Elementary school is extremely important in the educational, social, and emotional development of your child. The success that your he/she experiences will hinge greatly on the cooperation between your child, his/her teacher, you as a parent and me. We encourage you to be active members of your child’s educational process and we believe it is a vital part of his/her education.

To that end, please review the handbook with your child. Highlight policies and procedures that help regulate all of our school activities. Keep a copy of the handbook throughout the year; it will be an important resource for answer to many questions.

If at anytime during the year, you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 419-943-2801. It is my hope, that by working together, we create a positive and safe learning environment for all St. Mary’s Catholic School students.

God Bless,

Michelle L. Knippen, Principal

St. Mary’s Catholic School

**St. Mary’s School**

**Mission Statement**

As a significant ministry of St. Mary’s Parish, St. Mary’s school exists to aid in the development of the whole child; spiritually, academically, socially and physically.

As part of a Catholic community living out the Gospel message, the school and family collaborate to nurture self-worth, respect, and an appreciation of the pursuit of knowledge.

# **Belief Statement**

We believe that St. Mary’s School exists to prepare students to become active and responsible members of both church and society. Therefore, St. Mary’s School aims to provide the educational climate which will help each child develop a feeling of confidence and self-worth, become more self-disciplined, and acquire the ideals, attitudes, and habits needed to live as mature Christians and responsible global citizens.

We believe that we are to:

1. Assist parents in fulfilling their roles to educate and form basic religious attitudes which will prepare their child to become a mature Christian and disciple of Jesus

2. Share with the child the knowledge of the Gospel as a stimulus to work toward a Christian solution of personal, social and spiritual needs

3. Provide the academic curriculum and quality teaching which will help each child achieve his/her full intellectual potential

4. Help the child become more responsible for his/her learning by developing respect and care for all materials, developing good work habits and study skills, and developing the discipline that promotes good scholarship

5. Guide the child in developing a value system based on the Gospel which will help him/her become a responsible Christian citizen by becoming aware of the injustices of the world in which he/she lives, showing knowledge of and living by a Catholic value system, and developing his/her own gifts and talents

6. Provide a program of guidance and testing as a means of evaluating a child’s achievements based on his/her learning styles and abilities

**7.** Promote an attitude of compassion by using the needs of the community, the Diocese, and the world to stimulate service to others.

### **FOUR CORNERSTONES OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

**We believe in the centrality of a good and provident God, and therefore,**

* We are grounded in the Word of God and share this source of light and strength.
* We cultivate a sense of the sacred and search for transcendence that leads to a deeper meaning in life.
* We integrate the teachings and values of Jesus in all aspects of our educational ministry.
* We provide religious and moral education to develop an integrated spirituality for global citizenship.
* We initiate and deepen faith formation of Christians through a variety of specific programs and experiences.
* We promote a spirit of dialogue with diverse cultures and religions and are open to mutual enrichment.
* We live a simple Gospel life-style and educate for solidarity so that all may enjoy the blessings of the earth.
* We commit ourselves through selfless serving to be bearers of hope to a world in need.

**We believe in the dignity of each person as an image of God, and therefore,**

* We appreciate, respect and reverence the uniqueness of each individual and the diversity among all persons.
* We actively support a holistic education which encourages a positive sense of self-worth and the full development of the person.
* We reverence the image of God in each person we encounter through respectful listening and availability.
* We create a welcoming atmosphere that builds relationships leading to unity and community.
* We provide opportunities and environments to help persons to claim and regain their human dignity, identity and self-worth.

**We believe in the St. Mary’s educator as a Gospel Witness, and therefore,**

* We follow Jesus, our Master Teacher, and give witness to His spirit of compassion, hope and joy, especially to those who experience poverty in its various forms.
* We use the Toledo Diocesan Courses of Study as a solid basis for instruction.
* We nurture the spirit and mission of our predecessors as educators and among all with whom we work.
* We reverence Mary, the Woman of Hope, our patroness, who made visible the glad tidings of the Gospel.
* We share the rich spiritual and educational heritage of those who have gone before us by using opportunities for ongoing formation and professional growth.
* We promote collaborative programs and processes that assure the continuity of the excellence of our past through our commitment, competence and dedication.
* We affirm that goodness supported by firmness is a characteristic mark of our educational heritage.
* We create clean, orderly and attractive surroundings in order to provide a safe environment conducive to learning and respectful of all.

**We believe an integrated education for transformation, and therefore,**

* We ensure a thoroughness of instruction that is rooted in Gospel values, the social Teachings of the Church and an understanding of complex world realities.
* We provide an integrated education, one that leads people to a fully human life in relation to themselves, God, others and all of creation.
* We create the environment to develop value-based leadership skills and the ethical use of communications media and technology.
* We form students to be reflective critical thinkers and life-long learners who have the determination to influence systemic and structural change.
* We nurture in ourselves and others an ongoing commitment to act with preferential care and love on behalf of those who are poor and marginalized, especially women and children.
* We transform our school in a center of non-violence, compassion and justice and give personal and corporate witness to peace-building and the responsible care of creation.

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### **Admission Policies**

St. Mary’s School admits students of any race, color or national and ethnic origin. All students will be accorded the same rights, privileges and access to programs and activities. In addition, St. Mary’s School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, loans, fee waivers and any other school related programs. In the event of filled classrooms, this school gives preference in admission to Catholic students living within the parish boundaries; secondly, to Catholic students living outside the parish boundaries; thirdly, to those who are not Catholic.

**Admission Procedure**

Registration is held beginning in March for the following school year. St. Mary’s parishioners and children from families already enrolled in the school will be accepted before accepting any new families, provided the parish member and/or current parents of enrolled students have registered by the deadline given in the spring and have paid all fees. A non-refundable registration fee must be paid at the time of registration.

## **Registration Requirements**

All entering students must have a copy of their birth certificate, social security card and immunization record. Catholic students who were baptized at a parish other than St. Mary’s need to have a copy of the baptismal certificate on file.

## **Tuition Payment**

St. Mary’s parishioners are given a parishioner discount for tuition. The tuition schedule is given out each spring. Payment schedules and tuition loan opportunities are published each spring for the following year.

A registration fee is required for each child. This fee is non-refundable. Tuition is refundable and will be prorated if a child leaves after the school year has started. All other fees technology, book, etc. are non-refundable.

There is a discount for a second, third and fourth child. There is no charge for more than 4 children in one family.

## **Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Requirements**

Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old (pre-K 4 years old) on or before September 30th of the year entering kindergarten.

**Grade Levels**

Students will be placed in a grade level based on the promotion or placement marked on the previous year’s report card.

**Parent Cooperation**

The mission statement of St. Mary’s School states that the school and the family collaborate. We feel that the parents are the primary educators of the students, and parent cooperation with the school is an essential ingredient for student success. Parents are expected to follow all policies and procedures given in the handbook and are asked to sign the form at the back of the handbook each year agreeing to do so. Parents are also expected to follow individual classroom policies and to be very aware of all communications from the school.

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the school. Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irretrievably broken.

**Transfers**

Students who are transferring from another school will be admitted under probationary terms to be set by the pastor and principal. All transferring students are expected to follow school policies and procedures. The probationary period is nine weeks to begin with and may be extended at the principal’s discretion. The probation includes acceptable academic and behavioral performance. Students transferring from another Catholic School will not be accepted at St. Mary’s School until it has been determined that no tuition and/or fees are owed to that school.

The school office needs to be notified of any student transferring to another school. The receiving school will then request student records from our office. Parents will not be given the student files to take to the receiving school. Parents should take copies of previous report cards to the receiving school until the request for transfer of records has been processed.

## **Withdrawal**

A student who withdraws from St. Mary’s School during the school year must return all school property and have all accounts and fees paid in full before records are forwarded to the next school. In the event of a withdrawal, tuition is refunded based upon the number of days in school and an average charge per day. In the event of a tuition loan, each refund will be handled on an individual basis through the school office.

Students expelled from St. Mary’s School are not eligible for any form of refund.

**Recess and Walking to Lunch During Cold Weather Months**

We recognize the importance of daily outdoor play. Children will be outdoors for recess unless it is raining or temperature and wind result in a below 20oF wind-chill factor. During cold weather, please make sure your child wears a warm coat, hat, gloves and boots for comfort and safety. Label each garment with your child’s name.

 **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND POLICIES**

## **ACCREDITATION**

St. Mary’s School is fully accredited through the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association. Full accreditation was renewed in May 2015.

**CURRICULUM**

St. Mary’s School is in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. The school follows the courses of study issued by the Diocese of Toledo which is based on the Ohio State Curriculum Standards. This is a sound, comprehensive and sequential academic program that enables our students to progress smoothly from one level to the next and prepares them for high school. The curriculum is evaluated annually by Diocesan competency tests based on this Course of Study.

**GRADING SCALE**

* A 100-93
* B 92-85
* C 84-77
* D 76-70
* F 69 or below

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**Mid-Quarter Reports**

Mid-quarter reports will be sent to parents regarding the student’s progress or lack thereof. The dates these reports are sent home are listed in the weekly parent newsletter. If parents have a concern, they are asked to contact the teacher. These progress reports are not report cards; their purpose is to inform parents of present progress or lack of it.

**Report Cards**

Report cards are sent home to be signed at the end of each of the first three quarters. Report card dates are listed on the yearly calendar.

**Graduation Requirement**

Each eighth grader will receive diplomas from St. Mary’s School if all academic requirements have been met, and the student has been promoted to 9th grade. Diplomas will be withheld for tuition and all other outstanding fees. Students will be able to attend the graduation ceremony, but will receive a blank diploma. Records will not be transferred to the high school and a diploma will not be issued until all financial obligations are met.

**Homework Policies**

Students in grades 2-8 are required to have and use an assignment notebook that is purchased through the school each fall.

The purpose of homework is to help students master concepts that have been presented in class.

Nightly Homework

* Read 20 Minutes
* Flashcards (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
* Spelling Words
* Vocabulary
* Worksheets
* Study for Tests and Quizzes

Students in Grades 2-8 will have intervention/class time each day. Students are expected to work on homework during this time. Students who do not complete homework during intervention/class time will need to finish homework at home. Vocabulary, Spelling, Tests and Quizzes should be studied during intervention, class time and at home.

Students who have achieved a routine habit of completing homework have a much better chance of academic success. A structured time and place each day is very helpful in establishing a routine. Students are expected to do their own homework. The parents’ role in homework is to assist, help drill, and to check completion. If parents are doing the majority of the work, the students are not practicing and learning themselves.

**Students who are absent will have the number of days absent to make up missing work.** Students who are out of school due to a personal convenience leave will be given homework to make up upon returning to school.

Individual classroom homework policies will be sent home and explained to students and parents at the beginning of each school year.

**Honors**

At the end of each quarter, students in Grades 1-8 will be awarded honors. The honors are based on the semester average. The following is a list of honors given along with the criteria:

* 1st Honors – All **A**’s and an **S or S+** in Music, Art, & Phys. Ed.
* 2nd Honors -- All **A**’s and **B**’s and an **S or S+** in Music, Art, & Phys. Ed.
* 3rd Honors – All **A**’s and **B**’s and **one C (80% or higher)**
* Perfect Attendance – A student who goes home ill or for an appointment will not be counted absent for perfect attendance provided they have been in attendance 5 or more hours.

## **Internet Use**

All parents must read and sign the “My Rules for Internet Safety” each school year. Without the signed paper, the student will not be permitted to use the Internet.

## **Middle School Student Service Hour Requirements**

As an integral part of the Religious studies program, students in Grades 3-8 are required to complete service hours each year in each of the following three categories: School, Parish and Local Community.

The amount of service hours needed varies according to the grade of the student. Service hour forms are available in the office and on the school’s website and from the teacher.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Formal all-school conferences are held after the first quarter has ended. All parents are given scheduled times for conferences. Parents are required to attend these conferences as this is an opportunity for teachers and parents to establish personal contact, discuss concerns and determine what can be done to help the student achieve success in the classroom. At any other time throughout the year, teachers will be happy to meet with parents regarding any issues or concerns. Please call the school office to arrange a conference. Teachers are not always available without prior notice due to other responsibilities.

**Promotion/Retention Policy**

Students will be promoted to the next grade level each year when the teacher and principal feel that the student has sufficient mastery of the curricula to progress to the next academic level.

Students who are failing to master concepts at a particular grade level may be recommended for retention if it is felt that it would be in the student’s best interest. Parents will be notified, at the very latest, during the third quarter if the teacher and principal feel that retention would be beneficial. At that time, a conference would be held with the teacher, parents and principal. The principal has the ultimate right to assign grade levels and to retain a student at a certain level.

After end of the first quarter a conference will be called to discuss student’s progress.

**Summer School**

If a student’s yearly average is failing in 2 or more of the major academic areas, the student will be recommended for summer school. Summer school will consist of at least 20 hours of work with a certified instructor unless other specific arrangements have been made with the principal and/or teacher. Parents and students will be notified as soon as summer school becomes reasonably apparent and probable. The requirement for summer school will also be noted on the grade card. Evidence of summer school attendance must be submitted to the principal before the next school year begins. Any cost involved will be the responsibility of the parent.

**Testing**

St. Mary’s School administers the MAP standardized test in the fall and in the spring of each year to students in grades 2 thru 8.

EdChoice and JPSN students in grades 3-8 take the Ohio tests as well as MAP.

Students in grades 5 and 8 take the National Religion Competency tests in the fall.

Students in Grades 3-5-7 take the diocesan Writing Competency tests in the spring.

The results of the standardized tests are sent to parents in the fourth quarter report cards. The results of the Competency tests are not given as individual results to the students, but as overall to the faculty in order for them to assess the results of their instruction of the courses of study and to plan for future instruction.

**Textbooks**

Textbooks are provided to all students. Students are to handle books carefully and keep non-consumable textbooks covered at ALL times. Writing or any other kind of marking is not permitted in non-consumable books. Students are responsible for the cost of lost or damaged textbooks.

A book fee is charged at the beginning of each year for the consumable workbooks.

In some classes technology may replace textbooks.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **ABSENTEEISM**

Parents are required by law to phone the school if their child is going to be absent. When a child is absent, and parents have not called by 9 A.M., the school is required to contact parents to determine the reason for absence.

Upon the student’s return to school after an extended illness, the student must bring a note from his or her parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence.

**Excused Absence:**

* A student’s absence will be excused for the following reasons.
* An illness with a note explaining the nature of the illness.
* A doctor’s note.
* Extenuating family circumstances with a note explaining the situation.
* Any reason that the principal deems a valid absence.

### **Personal Convenience Absence:**

### Parents are discouraged from planning vacation time during school. However, there are circumstances that make that impossible, and the school is sensitive to these needs. Parents are required to obtain a “Personal Convenience Absence Form” from the school office and complete the form prior to the absence. Students who are out of school due to a personal convenience leave will be given homework to make up upon returning to school.

Release of Student: The school is responsible for the child’s safety from the time that he/she arrives in school in the morning until dismissal time. Students will only be released to parents or to persons designated by the parents. Appointments during the school day are discouraged, but we recognize that it’s occasionally necessary. Parents must notify the school in advance and must sign the student out in the school office.

Tardiness:Students are tardy if they are not in their rooms by 8:15 A.M. Tardiness will be excused in cases of emergency, and the principal reserves the right to determine whether or not the tardy is excused.

It is extremely important that all students be on time and ready to begin work at 8:15 A.M. The transition time between home and school is very important for each child. When a child is tardy, that transition is not made easily, and the entire class is disrupted.

**ACCESS TO CLASSROOMS**

Children should be encouraged to be responsible and remember items before they leave for the day. If a message or item needs to be delivered to your child during the school day, it must be brought to the School Office and the School Office personnel will see that it is delivered to the child. We respect the work atmosphere of each class and want to have as minimal distractions as possible.

**ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

School doors are opened at 8:00 A.M. each day. Students are to remain outside of the building until someone lets them in. They are to go to the basement where they will be monitored until 8:00 A.M. There is no supervision of students before 7:30 A.M. and after 3:10 P.M.

Students are to be in their classrooms and ready to begin the school day by the first bell at 8:10 A.M. The Tardy Bell rings at 8:15 A.M. Morning prayer and announcements begin promptly at that time. The dismissal bell rings at 2:50 P.M. Prayer and announcements begin at 2:55 P.M. Students are then dismissed via announcements over the public address system.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Parents may send in treats for a birthday celebration. The respective classroom teacher will know if care needs to be taken because of an allergy of one or more students in the class.

**CAFETERIA**

St. Mary’s students have the opportunity of purchasing a hot lunch at the Leipsic Public School cafeteria or packing their lunch. Lunch menus are posted for each month. Lunch prices and method of payment are regulated by Leipsic Public School’s Cafeteria.

Since the Leipsic lunch program is under the Federal Lunch Program, free or reduced lunch prices are available for families who need help on a temporary or permanent basis. Applications for this program are made through Leipsic Public School. Forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year. However, a family may apply any time during the year if their financial situation should change thus making them eligible for assistance. Acceptance is based on Federal Standards.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Family newsletters and other important communications are sent home in a plastic envelope on the last day of the school week with the youngest child in the family. Please be very careful to read all communications from the school. The plastic envelopes are to be returned the next school day. The weekly bulletin from the principal is also posted on St. Mary’s School website.

If a non-custodial parent wishes copies of the plastic envelope contents and copies of report cards to be mailed, that parent will need to notify the school office of such request.

Individual classroom teachers communicate on a regular basis with parents. Parents should be aware of the days and the methods used by the teacher - i.e., classroom newsletters, homework, messages, etc. – that are sent home regularly.

If a student or parent is having a problem with a teacher, the parents should go directly to the teacher before going to the principal or the pastor.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

All persons can expect confidentiality from school personnel as long as no one’s life, health, or safety is at stake. Parents will be promptly notified of teacher concerns.

Anything that is written down and handed in by students will also be subject to the above criteria.

### **CONTACTING TEACHERS**

If at any time a teacher needs to be contacted, please call the school office. The teacher will return your call as soon as possible. Please do not stop by a teacher’s room during the school day, as that is valuable instruction time for all students. Please do not call teachers at home unless the teacher has indicated that this is acceptable. At the beginning of each year, each teacher will relate his/her preferred method of communication. Teachers may have obligations after school and are not always available, so it would be best to call ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

**Parent Volunteers**

Parents are cordially invited to visit the school any time between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30pm during days of operation. Parents are welcome to enter into the children’s activities, but at the direction of the teachers on duty. All volunteers must go to VIRTUS.org and complete the Expectation Form, the new on-line course and the background screening. This is at a cost of $25.00. This fee is good for five (5 years).

 If you are a returning volunteer--- you will receive an email notification from VIRTUSONLINE which gives you credentials for the new Protecting Youth Program. When you receive your credentials you should log in. Within a couple of weeks we will review whether your background screening is up to date. If any of the background requirements are expired, you will receive another email indicating that you must complete the course of the background screening. You will then need to log into VIRTUS in order to take the course (Protecting God’s Children) or submit your name and SSN for a background screening. The online course is free, the background screening is $25.00. This fee is good for five (5) years.

Parents are always encouraged to volunteer. This can be in the classroom, at special events and/or as a chaperone on a field trip. When acting as a volunteer you are a representative of our school. Please remember that any pictures you take while volunteering, should they include children not your own, may not be used for public display, i.e. Facebook, Instagram, etc. in order to protect the privacy of our students.

**Fire, Tornado and School Safety Drills**

Fire drills are conducted once a month to familiarize students with the procedures to follow in case of an emergency. Tornado drills are conducted according to prescribed plans in preparation for severe storms or tornado warnings. A school lockdown drill will also be conducted at least once a year in compliance with the law.

St. Mary’s School has adopted a detailed safety plan for school emergencies. There are specific procedures in place for dealing with different types of crisis situations, including shelter-in-place, lockdown, evacuation, etc.

If a “Lockdown” occurs during school hours, access to the building and parking lot will be restricted until the “Lockdown” is over.

**CUSTODY**

This 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, a school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and other school information regarding his or her child. If there is no 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.

In the case of a divorce, the custodial parent of a student is required to supply a copy of current custody papers to the school office. Unless otherwise stated by court documents, either parent will have access to the student(s). Never married parents should also have custody documents on file, as needed.

Unless otherwise noted through official court documents, the school will release a child to a non-custodial parent.

**Child Abuse**

School personnel are required by law to report any evidence of child abuse or neglect to Putnam County Job and Family Services. The school is required to and will cooperate 100% with law enforcement officials.

**EDUCATIONAL TRIPS**

At times throughout the school year, classes will be going on trips that are of an educational nature. No student has an absolute right to a field trip. Students may be denied participation if they fail to meet academic or behavioral expectations. Otherwise all students are expected to participate in any educational trips, as they are part of the total educational experience.

**ACCESS**

A permission form will be provided for each educational trip. Parents are required to sign these forms in order to permit a student to go on the trip. Students who do not return signed forms will not be permitted to go on the trip. A faxed form from the parent will be accepted.

**PARENTS’ RIGHTS**

Parents have the right to refuse to allow their child(ren) to participate in educational trips. The student must attend school on that day or it will be considered an absence. The student will be given work to do and will be supervised.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Sometimes, parents provide transportation for educational trips. Immediate family members may drive for trips as long as they are over 21 years of age. Drivers must provide proof of insurance and a valid driver’s license. Drivers must have each student transported buckled individually into a seat. In most cases, bus transportation is provided for our students when they go on a field trip. A bus fee may be charged for these trips.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTAL SUPPORT**

Parents are expected to relate to teachers as professionals, work cooperatively with them and be respectful. In return, teachers will relate with parents with respect and maintain confidentiality.

Parents are asked to go to the teacher first with concerns, especially regarding questions about specific incidents in the classroom. Please remember that the student’s perception of an incident might not be the same as the teacher’s.

**FAITH AND WORSHIP**

St. Mary’s School provides a faith-based education. All students, regardless of their religious affiliation, participate in daily religious instruction based upon our Catholic doctrine and tradition. Parents, by virtue of the fact that they enroll their child(ren) in a Catholic school acknowledge that religion is a basic part of our school day. Religious instruction in Catholic beliefs and values permeates all aspects of our school programs.

Grades K-8 attend Mass one day a week at 8:30 A.M. All students, regardless of their religious affiliation, are expected to attend all liturgies, retreats, prayer services or other religious celebrations that are planned for the class or school. Parishioners of St. Mary’s are expected to take part in the Sunday liturgies and in parish activities. The school should be viewed as an extension of the faith development begun by the parents. Stewardship, time – talent – treasure, is encouraged for all.

Second graders are prepared for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Eighth graders are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are also required activities outside of the classroom that include service hours, special projects, parent sessions and retreats.

**FUNDRAISING**

Tuition and parish subsidy are the basic sources of income for the operation of St. Mary’s School. Fundraising is used as means of supplementing these basic sources. Our basic fundraisers are:

* KASH for KIDS – Through this program a percentage of your regular purchases from local businesses, as well as some in the larger cities near Leipsic, go directly to St. Mary’s School. Parents and other parishioners place an order for gift cards or certificates either through the school or at church during the designated weekends.
* 300 Plus Club
* P.T.O. sponsored activities such as the Secret Santa Shop, Pizza Days, Bake Sales, etc.
* Harvest Breakfast – held on the 2nd Sunday in November – organized by the School Advisory Council
* Winterfest Dinner Dance – held sometime after Christmas in January or February – organized by the School Advisory Council and P.T.O.
* Christmas wreath sale in the fall, Plant Sale in the Spring
* Shoparoo
* Other big events as deemed necessary by the School Advisory Council

**HEALTH / MEDICATION**

Under special circumstances, students may need to have medication administered during the school day. A written form giving permission to administer medication signed by a physician is required before any type of prescribed medication can be administered. Medications must be brought to the school office by a parent in its original container.

Inhalers and epipens may be carried by the student, but a special permission form must be completed by a physician and on file in the school office.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION:** Parents or legal guardians are required to complete emergency medical authorization forms. They will be kept on file in the school office, and teachers will have copies of these forms with them on educational trips off school grounds.

**CONTAGIOUS DISEASES:** Parents are asked to contact the school office in the event that their child contracts a contagious disease such as head lice, chicken pox, strep throat, pink eye, etc. Children will be sent home if a contagious disease is detected. Children will not be allowed to return to school until the contagious condition no longer exists. In the case of head lice, students must be checked in the school office before they are readmitted.

**ILLNESS DURING THE DAY:** Students who become ill during the school day will be sent home if necessary. Any child who has a high temperature will be sent home. Parents will be called, and if parents are not available, the next emergency contact will be called to pick the child up from school. Students must be signed out in the office.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** Students entering St. Mary’s School must be in compliance with the immunization requirements as specified by the Ohio Revised Code.

**ITEMS NOT PERMITTED IN SCHOOL**

Ordinarily, students may not bring their electronic game devices to school. If found in school, they will be confiscated by an adult.

Under special circumstances, with the permission of the teacher, students may bring their own electronic device, such as iPad, iPod, laptop, notebook, etc. They will be required to follow the instructions of the classroom teacher. There are a variety of reasons why an older grade student may need to bring his/her cell phone to school. If a student brings a cell phone to school, it may not be used during class time. It is to be used before and/or after school.

Students may not bring roller blades or skateboards to school.

For safety reasons, purses, bookbags, or any large bags are not permitted to be carried from class to class during the school day.

Any items not allowed in school are also not allowed on the playground or on school property during school hours.

**LIBRARY**

Children are encouraged to borrow books from the school library each week and to use the library for research and reference. Reference books such as encyclopedias, atlases, etc. are for in-school use and are not to be taken home.

Great effort is made to keep our library supplied with excellent reading. Children will be expected to pay for damaged or lost books.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Lost and Found items are kept in a box in the ASP Room. All lost and found items that have not been claimed at the end of the school year are given to charity.

**PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

Parents are encouraged to participate in the Parent-Teacher Organization. The P.T.O. is a major source of fundraising for the school, in addition to providing many opportunities and programs for students and parents. Meetings are usually held in the school cafeteria each month at 7:00 P.M. on a day determined at the beginning of each school year. Any changes to this schedule would be published in the Friday Flyer.

**PHONE CALLS**

Ordinarily, students will not be permitted to make phone calls during the school day unless it is an emergency or a special situation. Please make sure your child knows how he or she is to get home each evening so they do not have to call to find out each day. Thank you for your assistance with this as we try to instill a sense of personal responsibility in our students.

**PRAYER**

As a school community we begin and end our day with prayer. Each teacher also leads his/her students in classroom prayers throughout the day. A variety of prayer experiences are provided at the different grade levels, for the different seasons of the church year and for special occasions. Once a year a school-wide retreat day is provided for the students.

**PREGNANCY (STUDENT) POLICY**

Considering the sacredness of life, St. Mary’s School will not expel a student solely on the grounds of pregnancy or paternity. It is felt that he or she needs at this time Christian acceptance and counsel. The student (boy or girl) will be allowed to remain in school as long as the following procedures are implemented:

1) A conference will be arranged with the student, parents, principal and pastor.

2) The student will receive any counseling as deemed necessary by the principal and pastor.

3) The school will receive a medical report from the girl’s physician monthly to verify that continued enrollment in school is in the student’s best interest.

4) The principal, pastor, and parents agree that enrollment in school is in the best interests of the student(s) involved, as well as the other students in the school.

In addition, the student (boy or girl) may not assume any leadership roles in school. The entire class will be provided counseling sessions as needed.

**PUBLICITY PERMISSION**

The school reserves the right to use student pictures in publications and on the school’s website. Any parent who does not wish his or her child’s picture used publicly must notify the principal in writing by returning the publicity permission form that is issued at the beginning of each school year.

**RELIGION CLASSES / THEOLOGY OF THE BODY**

Religion classes are a basic component of the curriculum in the Catholic School. Loyalty to God and country and respect for the dignity and rights of all, are some of the essential elements instilled through the teaching of religion. St. Mary’s School aids the student in not only knowing his/her religion but above all, in living it. Theology of the body is taught as part of the Religion Course of Study.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The School Advisory Council is an advisory group to the pastor and principal on matters of the administration of St. Mary’s School. Elections are held each spring. Any parents who have had children attending St. Mary’s School for more than one year may be eligible for nomination. Nominations are taken at church each spring. Elections are also held in church.

You may contact any School Advisory Council member with any question or concern. School Advisory Council members are listed at the back of this handbook and can also be found on the school website.

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

School photographs are taken early in the school year and again in the spring. All students have pictures taken in the fall for the school files. The exact dates and needed information are announced in a timely manner in the Friday Flyer.

Unless you advise the principal to the contrary in writing, St. Mary’s School will assume that we may use your child’s photograph in school publications and in the local newspapers.

**SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES**

In the event of tornado warnings, severe thunderstorms, downed power lines, etc., students will be kept in the school building and not dismissed until it has been determined that it is safe to do so.

**SCHOOL CLOSING, CANCELLATION, DELAY:** If weather conditions are such as to cause delay or cancellation of the Leipsic Public Schools, St. Mary’s will follow their procedures:

A. Always listen to your local radio and/or watch the local TV stations for cancellations and delays.

B. At the beginning of each year parents have the option of signing up for Leipsic public school automatic calling system.

C. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, or a situation pertaining only to St. Mary’s School, then the school’s name will be specifically mentioned in the radio/TV announcement.

D. In case of bad weather or any circumstance requiring early dismissal, the above radio stations will broadcast the announcement.

**STUDENTS RECORDS / FILES**

**CUMULATIVE RECORD FILE:** A cumulative record for each student is kept in the school office. Cumulative files contain academic transcripts, academic testing, academic interventions and health records. Parents and guardians, both custodial and non-custodial, are entitled to access of these records unless court documents have been presented to the school office prohibiting access by an parent. Parents may request copies of the file. Those must remain with the school the student is attending. Requests for copies must be made in writing and at least 24 hours in advance.

In addition, a court, attorney, or law enforcement officer investigating abuse, neglect, missing children or any other investigation will have access to the records at the discretion of the principal.

The cumulative file goes with the student to each school that is attended. Only the official contents of the cumulative file are forwarded to a new school.

**PERMANENT RECORDS:** A permanent record card is on file in the office for each student who attends St. Mary’s School. This card records semester averages for each year and remains in the files at St. Mary’s School.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Eligible students receive bus transportation from the school district in which they reside. Parents are responsible for transporting all other students to and from school.

 **TUITION**

Parents and/or guardians are responsible for full payment of tuition and any and all fees.

If unforeseen circumstances arise, the office should be notified immediately. Student records will be withheld for transfer and report cards will not be given to students for nonpayment of tuition and fees.

St. Mary’s parishioners are given a parishioner discount for tuition. The tuition schedule is given out each spring.

A registration fee is required for each child. This fee is non-refundable. Tuition is refundable and will be prorated if a child leaves after school has started for the year. (In case of expulsion, tuition is not refunded) After the first semester, there is no refund on tuition. All other fees, workbook, supply, etc. are non-refundable.

**VISITORS TO THE BUILDING**

All visitors, regardless of purpose, are asked to sign in at the office and receive a visitor’s pass. All visitors will be admitted through the east door on St. Marys Street.

**Discipline Policies and Procedures**

At St. Mary’s School, we are working to create an environment that reflects the values of the gospel of Jesus Christ and an environment that is safe and nurturing and is therefore compatible to building a community of learners.

In keeping with the philosophy and mission statement of St. Mary’s School, the administration, teaching staff and School Advisory Council recognize the necessity of dealing with students who infringe upon the rights of the school community. We strive to create an environment that is absent from threat for all students. We will not tolerate demeaning behavior of any kind or behavior that in any way threatens the safety of others.

The gospel guidelines, life skills and procedures set guidelines for expected behaviors that are consistent for every child at every grade level. We believe that these guidelines and lifeskills are tools that are essential to becoming productive members of society. We also believe that following these guidelines and lifeskills helps to create an environment that is compatible to how the brain learns. As a result of the implementation of these guidelines, our focus is on positive aspects of behavior. The gospel guidelines, life skills and procedures are posted throughout the building, so the students are constantly aware of them.

However, when there has been a failure on the part of the student to follow procedures, consequences will be given.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR:

St. Mary’s students are expected to:

A. Follow individual classroom and school rules.

B. Be respectful to all teachers, staff members, volunteers and fellow students in speech and action.

C. Bring necessary materials to class, return requested data, and take pride in their appearance by observing the school dress code.

D. Be in their classroom on time.

E. Complete all homework and study assignments.

F. Respect school property and classroom materials as well as that which belongs to another.

G. Be honest in speech and written work that is submitted in their name. A student found cheating will receive a 0% on the test or assignment and will receive a 6-point Conduct Notice

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:**

It is the responsibility of the principal and the staff to provide and maintain an atmosphere where all can learn. When a student, by attitude or action, disrupts this atmosphere, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. This general procedure will be followed:

A. The teacher will warn the student of the disturbing behavior.

B. If the behavior continues, the teacher will give the student a conduct notice.

C. Students may be referred to the principal when necessary.

D. In cases of serious or repeated offenses, the student will be referred to the Principal and Pastor for appropriate action. When necessary, a member of the staff or another designated person will be included in this intervention.

**DETENTION:**

Once a student has accumulated three (3) academic notice points or six (6) conduct notice points, he/she will be required to remain after school for detention. Each month, a day will be designated on the calendar for this purpose and will last for one hour. Students will be given special assignments to complete during this time. If a student misses the scheduled detention, the amount of detention time will be doubled. Because a student has a practice, music lessons, or ball game is not an excuse for missing the detention.

**SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION:**

**A. Official Disciplinary Warning**: A warning is given to students who have set a pattern of misbehavior through minor offenses.

**B. Disciplinary Probation**: Probation is a warning to students and parents that suspension or expulsion of the offending student is imminent unless there is substantial improvement in the student’s conduct. Students are placed on probation if, after being placed on **Disciplinary Warning**, the conduct does not improve.

C. **Suspension**: In-school suspension means that the student is removed from his/her classroom to a separate supervised setting for a designated length of time. Out-of-School Suspension means that the student is removed from the school for the designated length of time.

Before the actual suspension, the student and his/her parents are notified orally or in writing as to the nature of the violation. A parent-teacher-principal conference will be arranged by appointment. Immediately after the suspension all school work must be completed.

D. **Expulsion:** The student is removed from the school and not admitted back under any circumstances. Students may be suspended or expelled for the following reasons:

**1)** Obscenity**:** actions or the act of using obscene or profane language in verbal or written form.

**2)** Vandalism or theft

**3)** Threatening or intimidating acts: the act of verbally or by gesture threatening the well-being of any person on school property.

**4)** The direct involvement with drugs, smoking, or such related actions. In the case, the student would be removed immediately. Parents would be contacted. Law enforcement officials would be contacted if deemed necessary.

**5)** Any criminal act committed by a student, such as arson, assault, possession or use of explosives, malicious mischief, or possession of concealed weapons. Pocket knives are prohibited.

**6)** Any other serious violations of Christian conduct which in the judgment of the administration are of such a nature as to warrant consideration of expulsion.

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE:**

A student shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of alcohol or any other drugs including counterfeit/look alike drugs or over-the-counter mood-modifiers on school premises before, during or after school, on/off school grounds at a school function or even on school buses or rented carriers. Likewise, a student shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit or sell any drug related paraphernalia. Students who are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, are detected to have alcohol on their breath, or who are in possession of alcohol or other drugs or mood-modifier will be immediately removed from school until a parent conference can be held. Students wearing or having in their possession drug related paraphernalia, could also be removed from school until a parent conference can be held. At the conclusion of a conference, a course of action will be determined, based upon the attitude of the student, cooperation of the parents, and seriousness of the offense.

**GANGS**

Membership in gangs that have been identified with disruptive, disorderly or criminal behavior is not consistent with the expectations of a St. Mary’s School student. All such gang paraphernalia, dress and signs are prohibited. Students engaging in such behavior are subject to severe disciplinary measures.

**HARASSMENT / BULLYING**

Student to student harassment will not be tolerated at St. Mary’s School. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to:

* Any behavior that is demeaning to another person such as name-calling, gestures, facial expressions, physical contact, mimicry, etc.
* Any type of sexual harassment such as physical assault, unwanted touching, verbal conduct such as derogatory jokes or comments, innuendos, gestures, etc.
* Bullying behavior of any kind such as stealing property, threatening, physical abuse or contact, etc.
* Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report any type of harassment or bullying
* Any Internet harassment or threats
* Drawing violent or offensive in nature pictures

Consequences for bullying will be given within the discipline code if applicable, but will also be treated as individual instances with individual consequences at the pastor’s and principal’s discretion.

**HAZING**

Hazing, defined as any act initiating a person into any school or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of mental or physical harm is strictly prohibited. Students who participate in any hazing will be subject to extreme disciplinary action and possible expulsion.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE, INTERROGATION

A. For the safety and protection of all students within their care, certified staff members may search for weapons or other dangerous or illegal objects, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that such are in the possession of the student: i.e. lockers, desks, books, book/gym bags, etc. A witness must be present to observe such a search.

This may be done by law enforcement officials if they have a regulation search warrant and the administrator’s permission. A school official must be present during the search.

B. The school principal or teacher will conduct an interrogation which is related to misconduct or crimes which are school-related. If police interrogation is deemed necessary, parents will be contacted, if possible, prior to the beginning of the interrogation. No school official will release a student to the police without a warrant being shown and with the parent’s acknowledgement.

**WEAPONS POLICY:**

Students are prohibited from bringing weapons to school or having them in the school. Any student who carries, possesses, conceals, transfers to another to hold or hide, etc. any weapon on school premises or possesses a weapon in the vicinity of the school shall be immediately excluded from classes pending an investigation. Any student suspected of carrying, possessing, concealing or transferring a weapon on school premises shall be immediately excluded from classes pending investigation. A weapon is any object which can be used to threaten or harm another. It includes, but is not limited to: guns, knives, chains, karate sticks, sharpened instruments, ammunition, etc. School premises include the school building, playground areas, parish center, church and parking lots.

Investigation may include an inspection and search of students and their book bags, purses, lunch boxes, desks, lockers, other areas of student storage, etc. Investigation also may include questioning by the pastor, principal, a teacher or other person acting in his/her place and/or the police

**Dress Code**

The development of habits of neatness and good grooming are goals which should be part of the education of every student. Clothes worn by both girls and boys should always be neat, appropriate for a Catholic school student, and in keeping with the basic norms of Christian modesty. The intent of our dress code is to define school wear which emphasizes our academic environment and Christian values rather than the latest fads and designer styles. Our choice of guidelines has direct bearing upon discipline and our desired atmosphere for learning.

**Specific Dress Code Requirements:**

**Shirt/Blouse Dress Code-** St. Mary’s shirt/blouse dress code is a collared or un-collared, patterned or solid colored shirt/blouse of modest length and is not tight fitting. Spaghetti strap blouses are **not** to be worn. Blouses need to have straps that are at least the width of a credit card and no “undergarments” should be visible under the arms.

Although we would much prefer “panthers-wear,” “vikings” will be acceptable especially if students will be playing in or attending a game in the evening.

**Sweaters and Vests**- V-necked sweaters, cardigans (button-down or zippered), and vests are to be worn with a regular collared or un-collared shirt/blouse, or turtleneck underneath.

**Pants Code**- We recommend school dress pants, any solid color. If jeans are worn, their appropriateness will be evaluated in the same way dress pants will be checked: 1) they are a solid color, 2) the waist band is on the waist, not the hips, 3) the jeans do not have any type of holes in them, and 4) the pants are not tight fitting or dragging on the floor. Lined or unlined mesh pants and shirts are not included in our dress code.

**School Spirit Days**- Every day is St. Mary’s Panther Spirit Day! Please see next page for more details.

**Game Day Options**- Students may wear St. Mary’s School Spirit t-shirts or their team shirts on game days for those sports St. Mary’s sponsors (basketball). For those sports we combine with Leipsic Public School to form a team (volleyball, football), students may wear their game day shirts on game days that fall during the week, as well.

**Shoes-** Tennis shoes may be worn at any time. A good gym shoe and socks are necessary for gym classes. Socks (and/or tights/hosiery for girls) are to be worn with shoes. Sandals and shoes must have a back or heel strap. Stacked heels and shoes with wheels are not permitted.

**Jogging Pants/Wind Suits/Sweat Suits/Mesh Pants/Jeggings/Leggings/Basketball or Mesh Shorts** (tops and/or bottoms)- are **not** allowed for any grade level.

**Shorts-** Solid or patterned shorts/skorts, jean shorts, khakis’s and mid-calf pants (capris) are permitted from April 15 thru October 15. Shorts must be fingertip length or longer. Regular school shirts/blouses are to be worn with shorts. Shirts/blouses must be able to be tucked in.

**Dress Code for Mass**- Dress shoes and pants (not shorts) or other dress clothes are recommended when students serve, read, lead petitions or are part of a procession during Mass. They may change after Mass.

**Hair**-Hair should be well groomed, clean, and should not interfere with vision. Ladies may wear hair jewelry such as headbands or barrettes as long as they are conservative. Gentlemen’s hair should be no longer than one inch above the collar. Fad hairstyles, distracting hairstyles or unnatural hair color will not be permitted for anyone. The principal will have discretion in determining whether or not a hairstyle is considered distracting.

**Cosmetics**

Cosmetics, hairspray, and body spray are not to be brought to school. Only middle school ladies are permitted to wear light makeup, and only if it is applied before coming to school. Excessive make-up will not be permitted.

**St. Mary’s *Spirit-Wear* Guidelines**

St. Mary’s school spirit-wear is any **shirt/polo, sweatshirt, or hooded sweatshirt** that is with lettering in school colors that say “St. Mary’s”, “St. Mary’s School”, or “St. Mary’s Panthers”, etc. of any style or size of print, with or without paw prints.

Students may have their **names added** to the **back** of school spirit-wear. They may have first and/or last name, first initial with last name. **NO NICKNAMES.**

St. Mary’s students may wear school **spirit-wear shirts/polos** **all year round on any day they choose**.

St. Mary’s School spirit-wear **sweatshirts and hooded sweatshirts** may be worn from as weather dictates. Because classroom temperatures fluctuate, students need to be prepared to take off sweatshirts by wearing a regular dress code shirt/polo under these or to change into regular dress code shirt/polo.

\* If sweatshirts (regular or hooded) are worn as a coat or outside jacket, then for health reasons, students are asked to wear a regular dress code shirt/polo inside school.

Regular and hooded **sweatshirts** that are St. Mary’s spirit-wear are encouraged.

**Computer Network and Internet**

**Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement**

St. Mary’s School is pleased to make available to students access to the Internet. The world-wide network provides various means of accessing educational materials and other useful and interesting reference resources.

In order for St. Mary’s School to be able to continue to make this access available, all students must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of it. Students must understand that one student’s misuse of the network and internet access may jeopardize not only their own ability to enjoy this access, but may jeopardize that use for others as well.

What follows is a description of the Computer Network and Internet and Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement, its’ specific conditions of use and descriptions of elements of student responsibility as related to student access and use of the internet and the school computer network in general.

St. Mary’s School cannot provide access to any student who fails to sign and submit the Policy to the School with all information completed and all required signatures.

Listed below are the provisions of the agreement. If you have any questions about any of these provisions, please contact the appropriate staff representative to answer your questions.

1. **Personal Responsibility / Breach of Agreement**

 By signing this Policy and Agreement, you are agreeing to follow not only the rules of this Policy and Agreement, but are agreeing to report any misuse of the internet, or the school’s computer network in general. Misuse means simply, any violations of the conduct outlined in the Policy or agreement or any other use not included in the Policy

2. **Term of Permitted Use**

 Students will be asked to sign a new Policy and Agreement each year during which they are attending St. Mary’s School before they are given access to the internet. Also, students may, from time to time be asked to provide new information, or sign additional agreements or adjustments to this Policy and Agreement as required by either law or development of technology that affects the student use of the internet or general computer network use.

3. **Acceptable and Unacceptable Uses of Computer Accounts**

A. St. Mary’s School is providing access to its computer networks and the internet for educational purposes only. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, consult the designated person to help you decide if the use is appropriate.

B. All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school- aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and internet and stay from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guide for materials to shun.

C. All users will demonstrate the following acceptable network etiquette:

1. Be polite. Use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene or threatening language.
2. Be safe. Do not reveal personal information about yourself or others, including items such as your home address and phone number, etc. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with anyone you contact on the internet.

D. Unacceptable uses of the internet or Computer network

1. Uses that offend others. Don’t use access to make ethnic, sexual preference of gender-related slurs or jokes.
2. Uses that violate the law and encourage others to violate the law in any way.
3. Transmission or reception of any harassing messages or pornographic material.
4. Intrusion by any means into individual computers or networks. This includes inappropriate use of another student’s computer, password, files, programs or other items stored or made available for student use on the computer.
5. Misrepresentation of yourself or others to anyone else either in the school or on the internet. This includes using someone else’s user name, password or personal name.

2. **Privacy and Monitoring of Account Use**

 Network and Internet access is provided as a privilege and a tool for your education. St. Mary’s School reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received or generated in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of St. Mary’s School and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

3. **Failure to Follow Policy and Breach of Agreement.**

The user’s use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege and not a right. Any user who violates any part of the Policy and Agreement as outlined above, or as further defined as when needed, breeches his or her Agreement and shall, at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and the internet terminated. In addition, St. Mary’s School reserves the right to administer other suitable punishments or penalties that may be deemed appropriate for any offense that violates the terms of this Agreement.

4. **Warranties and Indemnification**

St. Mary’s School makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the internet provided under this Policy and Agreement. It shall not be responsible for any claim, losses, damages, costs (including attorney’s fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user of his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user’s use of its computer networks or the Internet under this Policy and Agreement.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

Because we believe that sports activities flow from our academic program and that students who participate in athletics must be held to a standard of expectation that takes into consideration their ability to get passing grades, demonstrate good sportsmanship and represent St. Mary’s School positively, we need to work together as parents, teachers, coaches, and students to hold our students to this important standard.

St. Mary’s CYO sponsors organized sports for grades 5-6-7-8 in basketball and 5-6 volleyball.

St. Mary’s is not able to sponsor sports teams for grades K-1-2-3-4.

Because we do not want to duplicate programs that are already sponsored by the YMCA or other organizations, we will not organize other sports teams without consultation with the Athletic Organization and the approval of the Pastor and Principal.

The gym is available for practice and games for our 5-6-7-8 basketball teams and CYO sports teams. Coaches are expected to keep an updated schedule of practice and games in St. Mary’s School Office. At the end of the sports season, all keys to the school building used by the coaches are to be turned in to the School Office.

All practice and game times are to be cleared with the Athletic Director before a schedule is published.

USE OF GYMNASIUM

No other students or children of the coaches are to be in the gym during practices.

 Because of insurance and liability issues, only those students officially participating in the sport may be the responsibility of the coaches during practices.

 1. **GUIDELINES**

A. To qualify for the team, prior to the start of the season a player:

 1) Must have a **Physical Card, Insurance Waiver Form** and **Medical Emergency Card validly** filled out and returned to the school office before he/she may begin practice.

B. **School Absence on Days of Games and Practice**

If a player is not in school on a day of a game or practice he/she may not participate in that day’s practice or game. If a player is absent in the morning and returns by the end of his/her lunch hour, he/she will be able to participate in that day’s practice or game. Exceptions to this rule would be approved absence due to a funeral, a doctor or dental appointment that requires the absences due to scheduling or distance or an emergency situation. Proper and adequate communication with school and coaches is expected in cases of exceptions.

C. Any student violating the rules of good sportsmanship will be subject to denial of participation in one or more games depending upon the seriousness of the action.

**These rules apply to eligibility for St. Mary’s School sports only. Eligibility in other sports programs in which students may participate is determined by the organization in charge.**

**PRINCIPAL’S RIGHT TO AMEND**

The principal retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause and parents will be given prompt notification if any changes are made.

**St. Mary’s Catholic** School

Handbook Review

Dear Parents, It is our hope that this handbook will be a quick and easy reference in answering those inevitable questions about school life at St. Mary’s. Please read it carefully and keep it in easy access for future reference. St. Mary’s faculty regards it a privilege to assist you in the Christian education of your child and they want to strengthen the bonds between home and school in every way possible. The greater the understanding between Parent-Teacher-Child, the greater will be the child’s growth spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially. This handbook will not answer all the questions regarding school matters, When you have additional questions please feel free to contact the office (419-943-2801). We want to be of service and we need your support. We ask that you sign the lower portion of this page and return the page to the office, indicating that you have received and reviewed your copy of the St. Mary’s Parent-Student Handbook.

Thank you and God Bless.

Mrs. Michelle Knippen, principal

Children enrolled at **St. Mary’s Catholic** School

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My child/children and I have reviewed the **St. Mary’s Catholic** School Handbook

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_