



ST. MARY'S SPRINGS
Academy

**ELEMENTARY (Preschool P3-8)
FAMILY HANDBOOK
2020 – 2021**

St. Mary's Springs Academy
255 County Road K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Elementary Office– 920-322-8046

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

To contact us, please visit [smsacademy.org/contact-us](https://www.smsacademy.org/contact-us)



www.smsacademy.org

Mission Statement

St. Mary's Springs Academy, rooted in Christ's teaching, academic excellence, and service to Church and community, prepares students to meet global challenges and become leaders for tomorrow.

Vision Statement

St. Mary's Springs Academy inspires students to live a purpose-filled life through inclusion in the Catholic community, development of God-given strengths, and a commitment to individualized academic achievement.

The Ledger Way

Faith, Learning, Respect, Leadership, community and responsibility

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year. We are ready for another great year of progress toward our Mission: St. Mary's Springs Academy, rooted in Christ's teaching, academic excellence, and service to Church and community, prepares students to meet global challenges and become leaders for tomorrow.

Here are a few highlights of what's new for this school year:

- Updated elementary P3- 8 Handbook

We hope you'll stay in touch by reading and responding to our Eledger (sent to your email inbox every two weeks) and visiting our website (smsacademy.org) regularly for the latest news. Thank you for being an essential partner in our efforts to ensure every student succeeds.

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Attendance

Attendance Requirements

In accordance with State Statute (118.15), all children between six (6) and eighteen (18) years of age must attend school full time until the end of the term, quarter, or semester in which they become eighteen (18) years of age unless they have an appropriate excuse or fall under one of the exceptions in the State Statutes or have graduated from high school.

Contacting Campus

In the case of an absence, the parent(s)/guardian(s) is required to call the campus:

SMSA Preschool- Elementary: 921-5300 SMSA Preschool-Elementary After School Care: (920)322-8094

Excused Absences

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to call the school office (921-5300) before 8:30 a.m. giving the child's name, grade, and reason for absence. An absence is considered an excused absence if the child is unable to attend school because of illness. Students are permitted to leave school before the regular dismissal in the event of illness or written parental request. Students missing more than 3 consecutive school days, including weekends, will be required to have a written doctor's note. Written requests should be sent to the classroom teacher who will then inform the office. Parents are to pick up their children in the school office.

There are events where a parent may need to remove a child from school for some reason other than illnesses. These may include but are not limited to family vacations, medical or dental appointments, sports or recreational activities, or family emergencies. When possible, parents are asked to contact the school in advance of these events.

A half-day absence will be counted for children missing more than two but less than four hours of school. All absences, excused or unexcused, become part of a child's permanent record.

Please help us assure the safety of your child by notifying school to report absences. Students not reported absent by a parent/guardian are considered truant.

If a student does not attend school for at least half a day, they are not allowed to participate in any athletic or extracurricular events that evening.

Unexcused Absences

Extracurricular Activities: Students with an unexcused absence for any portion of the school day may not participate in any school-sanctioned activity or event on that day. If a student has an unexcused absence on a Friday, he/she may not attend or participate in any school-sanctioned activity or event that occurs that weekend. Absences on exam days are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a doctor's note. Missed exams due to unexcused absences may result in a zero for the exam.

Doctor Appointments

Every effort should be made to schedule medical and dental appointments outside of the regular school hours. If it cannot be avoided, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must send a signed note about the appointment to the campus office. Appointments for haircuts or other non-medical related appointments will not be allowed.

Student Illness

Please make sure any changes to your child's health records and health history are accurate and up to date. Please notify us immediately of any chronic illnesses, allergies or special dietary needs. If a child should contract a communicable disease, the teacher and nurse must be notified. When and if children are exposed to a communicable disease, parents/guardians will be notified.

Children will be sent home if fever is above 100.4 degrees. Children should be fever free (with no medication) for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Please notify the school office to report a child's absence. SMSA requires students that are vomiting or suffering from diarrhea stay home until they have recovered and have been free of symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours. Please contact the nurse for any questions.

Pre-arranged Absence

The school strongly discourages all prearranged vacations, trips, hunting, college visitations, etc. when school is in session because the student will miss the discussions and instruction provided.

1. If a student intends to be absent on a school day, a written excuse signed by the parent/guardian should be presented to the Elementary Office a **minimum of one week in advance.**

2. The Elementary Office issues a pre-arranged absence form and attaches the written excuse to the form. Student must obtain teachers' signatures and return the completed form to the Elementary Office prior to the absence date.
3. Homework may be obtained from his/her teachers after teachers sign the pre-arranged absence form. Consult Google Classroom for classwork. Please note that if a teacher does not have the one-week notice, homework or classwork may not be available for pick up by the student.
4. The student bears full responsibility for completing all schoolwork. **Assignments received prior to absence are due upon the student's return.**

Makeup Of School Work For Absences (Illness, Injury, or Vacation)

Teachers will work with parent(s)/guardian(s) to help any student keep current in his/her schoolwork during an absence. If a parent wants to pick up missed homework, please contact the office by noon to make arrangements. To give teachers time to gather all assignments, homework for student absences may be picked up in the campus office at 3:00 p.m. Please call to make arrangements. The homework may be adjusted by the classroom teacher in the event of a prolonged absence due to chronic or long term illnesses. Missed school work will be made up by the child upon his or her return. It is the responsibility of the family and teacher to partner and make sure missed work is made up in a timely fashion (i.e. the same number of days absent, plus one day, to turn in work).

Cancellation of School

St. Mary's Springs Academy will follow the decision of the Superintendent of Fond du Lac Public Schools. It is understood we have students from multiple public school districts, some within which schools close and some remain open; we will conduct classes for those students who are in attendance. When weather conditions or other emergencies make it necessary to cancel school, this information is broadcast on radio stations KFIZ 1450 AM/107.1FM, WFDL 97.7FM, WTCX 96.1FM, WVBO 103.9FM, WPKR 99.5FM, WOSH 1490 AM, and WBKV 1470 AM. Green Bay television channels 2,5,11 and 26 and some Milwaukee stations will also announce school closings.

*In addition, SMSA will send a message to your phone as designated in the Skyward system.

Leaving Campus Grounds

SMSA is a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave the premises during the school day. If a parent(s)/guardian(s) requests a student to leave school, the student must report to the campus office and sign out before leaving and sign in upon returning. If a student becomes ill, he/she may **not** leave the building without reporting to the teacher, who will notify the campus secretary, who will then notify the parent(s)/guardian(s). A student may not leave campus for lunch unless he/she is accompanied by his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). No food is to be ordered to school by a student.

Tardiness

A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in the classroom at the beginning of class. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to notify the school office if any student will be tardy. Each time a student is tardy, it is recorded on the child's permanent record.

In addition to missed learning opportunities for the tardy student, tardiness to class or to school causes disruption to the learning environment for all students. Patterns of severe tardiness call for intervention by the teacher, the principal, and/or the school's student services staff.

Admission

St. Mary's Springs Academy accepts all students regardless of race, creed, or gender who present the necessary qualifications for participating in and achieving success both academically and behaviorally in the total school program. Therefore, the admission of students is based on the school's ability to serve the learning needs of each individual based on our mission. Official acceptance of students requires the receipt and review of all official school records. This includes testing for learning disabilities or other special conditions of the person. If at any time prior to or during the course of a student's education at the SMSA, it is determined that testing for special learning needs is needed to determine our ability to meet the students' learning needs, the admission or continued enrollment of that

student is contingent upon compliance with the request and the results of such testing. The Principal, on a case-by-case basis, will handle admission of students that have been suspended or expelled from other schools.

Admissions Process Criteria:

1. Families are admitted into the school community in P3 - Kindergarten on the basis of a screening process, and the principal and/or the president judge the interest and motivation to be in accord with the highest order of Catholic education.
2. All students are on probation during the first semester of their attendance at SMSA. SMSA will develop a screening process for all new students entering the school. During the first semester probationary period, SMSA will determine through this process whether or not it can meet the needs of the students.
3. Families seeking admission must provide current standardized tests, report cards and any other educational information prior to the child's admission, as part of the screening process. If no test or other educational information is available, the school counselor and/or other appropriate school personnel will administer a standardized assessment prior to admission. Medical and psychological records will be requested if needed.
4. Students who seek admission to SMSA from a home-school program, shall be placed in a grade level following an academic assessment determined by the administration.
5. **Priority Considerations:**
In admission and registration of students to SMSA, priority consideration shall be given to students in the following order:
 - a. All children currently enrolled
 - b. Children of families with siblings currently enrolled
 - c. Children of Holy Family Parish
 - d. Families currently enrolled and who transfer a sibling from another school to SMSA.
 - e. Catholic children of other parishes on the time of registration basis.
 - f. Non-Catholic children on the time of registration basis.
6. SMSA shall continue and, where needed, intensify their efforts to enroll students to achieve racial integration and cultural plurality, while maintaining the Catholic character of the school.

Preschool and K4 Admission

To be eligible for the 3-year-old program, students must be three (3) years old by September 1 in the year he or she proposed to enter school. To enter the 4-year-old preschool or kindergarten program, students must be four (4) years old by September 1 in the year he or she proposed to enter school. Early admission may be considered at the discretion of SMSA along with a signed Early Entrance letter agreeing to specific criteria. Children must be toilet trained to enter preschool.

Kindergarten Admission

To be eligible for kindergarten, students must be five (5) years old by September 1 in the year he or she proposes to enter school. Children must be toilet trained to enter preschool.

First Grade Admission

To be eligible for 1st grade, students must be six (6) years old by September 1 in the year he or she proposes to enter school.

Children with Exceptional Educational Needs

The admission, instruction, and retention of students with exceptional needs (speech and language, learning disabilities, mild health impairments, and students identified with ADD/ADHD) within St. Mary's Springs Academy shall be determined on an individual basis by the principals and Director of Student Services in consultation with the school's Student Services Team. A student accommodation plan may be developed in order to document the reasonable accommodations the school will provide to a student with special learning needs. Parents must provide current, accurate information regarding the student's needs to assist the school in determining whether reasonable

accommodations are possible. Proper documentation should be provided by the parents to support the student's need for accommodations.

Those students who may require specialized academic instruction, modification of curriculum, or modification of assessments may complete the Child Find Process through a special education referral for an evaluation of their special needs and possible identification. A child with exceptional educational needs that cannot be met through reasonable accommodations may be referred to the local public school (LEA) to determine whether the child is eligible for services. If the student is found to qualify, a service plan may be written in partnership with the LEA and/or IEP may be written if the child requires special education services through the LEA to make adequate progress.

The final decision with respect to the admission, instruction, and retention of any student rests with the Principal and Director of Student Services. Administrators will give careful consideration to the admission of students with special needs, but are not required to admit, re-enroll, or continue the enrollment of students whose needs cannot be met with reasonable accommodations.

Exceptional Education

In compliance with PL 94-142 and/or IDEA, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) evaluation will be provided by the public school system for all students referred from SMSA. When making a referral for an IEP evaluation, SMSA will follow the guidelines established by the Department of Public Instruction.

1. Parents/Guardians are informed about procedures for a referral and their verbal approval for such a referral is sought *before* the process begins.
2. The principal and/or counselor requests appropriate forms from the building principal or central office of the public school where the student resides.
3. All completed forms are returned to the building principal or to the public school central office, in accordance with the policy of the school district.
4. The principal and/or counselor keep a master list of all cases referred for PL 94-142/IDEA services. Information on this master list should include the name and birthdate of the student, the referral date, and the name of the public school where the referral was mailed.
5. If no action is taken within the ninety (90) days time limit allowed for the evaluation process, the principal and/or counselor will notify the Archdiocesan Associate Director for Student Services to report this fact. A letter will then be mailed to the appropriate public school personnel to encourage immediate action.
6. The school should automatically receive a copy of the IEP report after the evaluation is completed. Upon receipt of this report, the school attempts to follow through with the recommendations outlined in the report and determines if implementation of any service plan for the student if he/she continues his/her enrollment in the school is feasible. Consultation services in the interpretation and practical application of evaluation reports are available from the public school Division of Pupil Personnel services on an invitational basis.

If the parents/guardians elect not to follow through on the recommendations of the public school district, SMSA will determine whether the student's needs can be met and whether continued enrollment at SMSA is in the best interests of the student. This determination will be put in writing, shared with the parents/guardians, and becomes part of the student's permanent record.

If the student who is eligible for placement under PL 94-142/IDEA is enrolled at SMSA, the principal and staff shall become knowledgeable of the treatment for these students according to the directives of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; especially Bulletin Number 99.07, September 1999, "Parentally-Placed Private School Children with Disabilities."

Individualized Student Program

Students enrolled in SMSA with an Individualized Student Program to accommodate their special needs will have their accommodation plans filed and attached to their cumulative record to note the accommodations made reflecting their quarterly grades.

Supportive Consultant Program

While every attempt will be made under the guidelines of the Supportive Consultant program to accommodate students with identified special needs, SMSA reserves the right, given our limited specialists, to formally re-assess student needs during any part of their educational program. Based on the results of the formal assessment and in consultation with the Archdiocese, continued student enrollment at SMSA may be ended in the best interests of promoting student success.

***All admissions decisions of the President and Principal are final.**

International Students

St. Mary’s Springs Academy will work with approved international student agency programs in the acceptance of students with F-1 Visas.

Tuition and all applicable fees must be paid prior to official acceptance. The Principal is the approving authority of international student enrollment requests.

The number of students accepted in any given school year will be determined by the Principal and President.

International students will be held accountable for grades, assignments, and personal conduct as stipulated in this handbook. The students must be physically present at SMSA from the first day of school until the student’s last second semester exam.

Athletic and Extracurricular Activities

It is the philosophy of the SMSA Athletic Program to promote physical fitness, by recognizing its purpose in the complete physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual development of each student in its school. Accordingly, the program will provide for interscholastic competition that encourages maximum participation while promoting good sportsmanship, teamwork, dignity, and accomplishment.

In providing extra-curricular athletics, SMSA hopes to allow students to enhance their education by: extending the practice of Christian values outside the traditional classroom; providing enjoyable activity and diversion; gaining knowledge that will be useful in maintaining a healthy lifestyle into adulthood; and, developing positive attitudes toward a variety of activities and situations.

Playing Time Philosophy – When fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are involved in the same grade level competition, each team member will have equal playing time in each contest. While it is the spirit of the guideline that each student athlete will have equal playing time, some circumstances may not make that possible (i.e., physical limitations, illness, school limits, structure of the game, or coaches’ decisions based upon training violations). **SMSA Athletic Code SMSA Policy #6147, 3/18/97, Revised 5/31/06; Archdiocese Regulation R6145.2 #10**

Teams/Clubs -- All student athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to attend the orientation meeting for each sport. At each orientation meeting, there will be discussions of the sport season, practice and game schedules, eligibility, required forms and fees, code of conduct, etc.

NOTE: Athletic programs are offered as determined by the Athletic Director and Principal considering grade levels, time schedules, sufficient interests, etc.

School Teams	Grades	Club Teams	Grades
Football (Fall)	5-8	Girls on the Run (all year)	3-8

Cheerleading (Fall)	5-8	JLBC Girls and Boys Basketball (Fall/Winter)	1-8
Cross Country (Fall)	6-8		
Girls Basketball (7-8 Fall) (5-6 Winter)	5-8		
Volleyball (5-6 Fall) (7-8 Winter)	5-8		
Boys Basketball (5-8 Winter)	5-8		
Wrestling (Winter)	6-8		
Track and Field (Spring)	6-8		

Athletic Booster Club

The Athletic Booster Club is a self-supporting club that subsidizes the extra-curricular athletic program. Revenue is generated from its annual membership drive, concession stands, and tournaments. Membership is made up of the athletic director(s) and volunteers, and it is open to all SMSA parent(s)/guardian(s).

Before and After School Care Procedures

All students grades P3 - 5 who are not in the *Before and After School Programs* or with an older sibling are expected to remain outdoors until the first bell rings, except in the case of rain or below zero degree wind chill factor. Students in grades 6-8 may sit quietly in the Commons until the bell rings. Therefore, it is important that children arrive as close to the first bell as possible. **Our supervisory day begins at 7:35 before school, and ends at 3:20 after school.**

P3-5 students must leave campus or be picked up before the supervisory day ends. After that time, students will be sent to the After School Child Care Program. Students grades 6-8 may sit quietly in the Commons waiting for extra-curricular activities.

The Before and After School Care Program is available for K3 - 5. It must be utilized for students who have needs that do not fit in the supervisory day schedule. A registration form for this service is available at the Elementary Office.

Preschool – Grade 5: If a student is not picked up by his/her parents/guardians twenty minutes after the school bell at the end of the day, the student will be sent to after-school care. The parents/guardians will be responsible to make payment of the time the student is at after-school care.

Please see Child Care on SMSA Website www.smsacademy.org located under the Academics tab.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Due to safety concerns, students are to arrive at the campus shortly before the doors open, and are to leave immediately after their last class of the day unless they have permission from the teacher for extra help or a project. No student is to remain on the premises for the purpose of playing on the playground after school or waiting for a practice or other event.

Elementary P3 - 8

All bus driveways will be plainly marked. The buses will be using the two east driveways marked “Buses Only” for entering and exiting.

Vehicles **MAY NOT** go beyond the clearly marked parking areas. The area beyond the parking zone is the designated “Student Safety Zone”.

Drop off

MORNING ROUTINE: Grades PreK - 5: 7:45a first bell/7:55a start (7:35am supervised drop off begins behind school) • All parents with children PreK-5 will use the SOUTH (GREEN) lot. Ages K - 5 will stage behind the building on the playground pavement with supervision beginning at 7:30a . • Parents are asked to use the “Hug N’ Go” zones around the perimeter of the parking lot (sidewalks line the entire drop zone), only using parking stalls if you intend to walk your child into school. PLEASE PULL AS FAR AHEAD AS POSSIBLE! • 3k and 4k parents/guardians are required to walk students to their rooms, waiting in the hallway until the first bell rings. • Older siblings (grades 6-12) may be dropped off at this lot, but will be asked to use the footpath along the front edge of the building, entering the North Hall entrance.

A faculty or staff member supervisor is on the *playground daily beginning at 7:35 a.m.*

MORNING ROUTINE: Grades 6-8 please see Before and After School procedures mentioned earlier. Students may travel down the west outside path to arrive at the Commons.

Pickup

AFTER SCHOOL ROUTINE: Grades P3-5 have a 3:00 pm end bell and will exit the South Hall doors, and Grades 6- 8 have a 3:15 pm end bell and will exit the North Hall doors • Please have your whole family use the doors for your youngest child.

Please be prompt, so teachers and aides do not have to wait with your child(ren). Children not picked up by the time the buses depart (approximately 3:20p.m.) will go to After School Care. The parent/guardian will be responsible for After School Care payment.

Preschool (3 year olds) AM – Monday - Friday

Drop off: Using the “IN” and “OUT” driveways. Drivers should park, walk the child to their classroom, and promptly move their vehicle.

Pick up: Driver should park, pick up his/her child at the front door outside of school.

Kindergarten (4 year olds) AM – Monday-Friday

Drop off: Using the “IN” and “OUT” driveways. Drivers should park, walk the child to their classroom, and promptly move their vehicle.

Pick up: Driver should park, pick up his/her child at the front door outside of school.

NOTE: DO NOT park in the no parking zones.

SMSA provides a Before & After School Care Program.

To use this service, children must be enrolled in SMSA and toilet trained.

NOTE: All Before and After School program fees must be paid before the last day of school.

PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES

Bicycles must be parked in a safe area outside. All students who bring bicycles to school are to use combination locks. Bicycles may not be ridden on school grounds during or immediately before/after school. Neither the school nor SMSA will assume responsibility for lost or damaged bicycles. Students who ignore the observance of safety and courtesy rules while riding their bicycles to and from school will forfeit this privilege.

Busing

Travel by bus is a privilege. Obedience, courtesy, and safe behavior are required. Failure to comply with rules on the bus may result in a temporary or permanent suspension of a student's bus privileges.

All questions related to busing may be directed to the following sources:

North Fond du Lac

Director of Transportation, Johnson Bus Co. 921-3003

Superintendent of Schools 929-3750

Fond du Lac

Director of Transportation, Johnson Bus Co. 921-3003
Director of School Transportation 929-2790

Catholic Identity

SMSA's primary mission is Catholic Identity. To accomplish this goal, SMSA incorporates the following into the total school experience:

1. The liturgical and prayer service experiences are some of the most important features of Catholic living at our campus. They are celebrated in a form meaningful to the age groups, and involve the children through active participation. Attendance by parent(s)/guardian(s) makes a long-lasting impression on the students at all grade levels. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are strongly encouraged to join in the liturgical services when your child's class is leading the service.
2. Sacramental preparation programs such as First Eucharist and Reconciliation are handled through the Holy Family Parish or your local parish's Religious Education Program, which involves family, parish, and child. The programs are enhanced through the school curriculum.
3. Religion classes are held four/five days per week. All teachers of religion are certified in accordance with Archdiocesan policy. Liturgy constitutes a day of religion class.
4. Each school day begins with prayer. Other prayer experiences are shared throughout the day, beginning of each class, lunchtime, etc.
5. With social development in each grade level in mind, social concerns are highlighted, e.g., service to the poor, the needy, the lonely, etc., through visits/service projects.
6. Priests are available for liturgies, prayer services, reconciliation, special projects, general visits, faculty liturgies, etc.
7. Catholic values are emphasized in everyday situations while focusing on human dignity, justice, and peace.

COMMUNICATION

Partnership Communication

Frequent and effective communication between the school and the home and between the home and the school is a very important part of the educational success at SMSA. Many of our teachers will send home a weekly newsletter with activities of the week listed. Others will use assignment notebooks or electronic means of communication. Teachers will also make use of scheduled conferences and will be happy to meet with parents and students whenever necessary. We also use Skyward on a weekly basis to update grades. Each family should feel welcome to address any concerns or comments they have about their child's academic achievements to the classroom teacher whenever necessary. Parents are also welcome to address concerns through the grievance procedure located below.

Every Thursday, when school is in session, school information will be emailed to you through the use of the Eledger. Parents are asked to read the material in the Eledger to stay in partnership with SMSA.

Grievance Procedure For Parent(s) /Guardian(s)

At SMSA, a parental grievance occurs when there is a disagreement between the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student enrolled at SMSA and an employee (e.g. teacher, aide, principal) of SMSA. Before any formal grievance can be initiated, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must meet with the employee with whom there is an issue to see if reconciliation or meeting of the minds can occur, consistent with the philosophy of the Archdiocese. If resolution occurs, there is

no need to proceed. An informal grievance not raised in a timely manner (generally not to exceed ten days) shall be considered to be waived.

Step One

If there is no resolution, the parent(s)/guardian(s) can initiate the formal grievance process by providing a letter to the employer's supervisor no later than ten (10) working days after the informal meeting noted above. The letter must contain the following:

- The date/time/place of the informal meeting
- The name and position of the employee with whom the disagreement exists
- Factual information and background regarding the disagreement
- Specific recommendations for resolution of the issue

After the receipt of the letter, the supervisor will provide the employee five (5) working days to respond and then schedule a meeting of all parties within ten (10) working days to work through conciliation toward resolution. Should a resolution occur, the process is concluded.

If resolution does not occur, then proceed to Step Two.

Step Two

If there is no resolution, the parent(s)/guardian(s) can initiate the formal grievance process by providing a letter to the president no later than five (5) working days after the formal meeting in Step One. The letter must contain the following:

- The date/time/place of the informal meeting
- The name and position of the employee with whom the disagreement exists
- Factual information and background regarding the disagreement
- Specific recommendations for resolution of the issue

After the receipt of the letter, the president will provide the employee five (5) working days to respond and then schedule a meeting of all parties within ten (10) working days to work through conciliation toward resolution. Should a resolution occur, the process is concluded.

If resolution does not occur, then proceed to Step Three.

Step Three

If the resolution does not occur in the formal meeting in Step Two, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will provide the pastor designate/board with a copy of the letter noted in Step Two within five (5) working days of the completion of Step Two.

The pastor designate/board will immediately call on the employee for his/her response and attempt to resolve the situation in one of the following manners;

1. The pastor designate/board may convene the parties in an attempt to reach mutual agreement. (Disputes in which the pastor designate/board is the immediate supervisor begin here).
2. The pastor designate/board may direct the local grievance committee to proceed with a review of all details with him (formal hearing), and submit a recommendation to him. The local grievance committee of three to five members will hear all sides of the dispute no later than thirty (30) days after the parent(s)/guardian(s) forwards a copy of the letter noted in Step One to the committee. The committee, appointed by the pastor designate (president and principal) and drawn from a pool of candidates, who possess qualifications that would allow them to discern impartially the issues at hand, will render a decision to all parties. If there is a consensus of all parties, the process is concluded. If resolution does not occur a final Step Four may be initiated.
3. The pastor designate/board may contact the Archdiocese Office for Schools for assistance in obtaining an independent mediator for help in resolving the matter. If agreement is reached, the process is concluded.

Step Four

Should resolution not occur through Steps 1, 2, and 3, the parent(s)/guardian(s) can request within ten (10) working days, a written appeal to the Archdiocese. Should an appeal not occur within the time period, the issue is considered closed.

The request for a hearing with the grievance committee shall be made through the Superintendent's Office. It shall contain the statements of the parties concerned. The Delegate for Parishes will convene the grievance committee and chair its proceedings.

Upon the receipt of the written statement, the grievance committee will set up a hearing, at the mutually convenient time and place, for discussion of the concern with all parties involved.

The findings of the grievance committee will be communicated to all parties involved. Upon such communication the work of the grievance committee will be closed. ***Archdiocese Policy #1312***

SMSA Website

SMSA has a website (www.smsacademy.org) that will be administered by several SMSA personnel.

Any organization or individual who establishes a website that contains information related to SMSA will need to secure the approval of the principal and/or president for the content of this site, and the use of SMSA name on this site.

SMSA personnel will ensure that the site information is current and accurate and has a link established to the SMSA website. All appropriate Archdiocesan policies relating to telecommunications will be adhered to. Failure to follow such policies may result in revocation of permission to use the name of SMSA.

Sites approved need to contain the following statement: "This site contains information that is authorized and approved by SMSA (Fond du Lac Area Catholic Education System)."

Photos of students may be used on SMSA websites under the following guidelines:

- Identified photographs of students may be published with written and dated permission from parents. Such photos would usually be for special reasons such as winning the Kohl Scholarship, contest winners or athletic achievement.
- No publication of student's addresses, phone numbers or other personal information is permitted.
- Group photos are permitted without permission as long as the caption identifies the activity or class, not the individual students in the photo. ***Archdiocese Policy 1112.1***

Discipline

Philosophy: Positive School Climate

The philosophy of Positive School Climate reflects our efforts, in partnership with parent(s)/guardian(s), to teach each child self-control, character, self-discipline and to shape attitudes and values which affect life-decisions. Love and Logic is the foundation of our philosophy in behavior learning opportunities. All disciplinary actions are based on the premise that the purpose of discipline is learning.

SMSA is dedicated to instilling Gospel values in collaboration with the Ledger Way values throughout the child's experience in the school community. This foundation in values in a supportive environment facilitates the child's ability to apply Gospel principles to their decisions and choices especially in his/her self-management and relationship to peers and others in the community of the school and society.

Beliefs

We believe:

- in fostering Catholic values
- in building positive attitudes through effective communication
- in the uniqueness of each student
- all students can learn
- the school environment should be safe and caring

- in respect for property
- in flexible scheduling and programming
- all subject areas are equally important
- that diversity within and among students must be respected
- in developing basic skills
- in building self-concept and esteem
- accepting responsibility for decisions is important
- in developing student self-discipline
- in promoting student success

Goals

We will provide:

- modeling
- a schedule/flexible schedule
- scheduled team planning/sharing and common planning time for teams
- a learning resource center
- positive affirmations to guide toward self-discipline
- heterogeneous groupings with regrouping options
- shared decision-making among staff
- team teaching/planning
- equal consideration for all subjects

Common Foundation

The common “Threads” running through the Positive School Climate Program are:

- At all levels, consequences are clearly stated and appropriate for the age level of the students.
- The program strives to create a positive climate and environment.
- The emphasis puts the responsibility of the behavior on the individual so the student can claim ownership for his/her actions.
- All the programs have reasonable and logical consequences if the regulations have not been followed.
- Respect for self and others are the top priority in all the programs.

It is very important that all parent(s)/guardian(s) see and understand the need for consistently supporting the school in its discipline philosophies. It is very important that we do not allow students to act in ways that are counter to the spirit of the SMSA mission.

Basic Premises of Discipline

Students are expected to adhere to the individual classroom teacher’s standards for learning and safety. The faculty and principal will jointly establish these standards.

Five basic premises that underlie all of SMSA discipline procedures are:

- The parent(s)/guardian(s) and school are partners in the discipline process.
- Procedures/rules are established and posted at each campus in every classroom.
- Positive reinforcement is given for appropriate behavior and consequences are given for inappropriate behavior.
- The consequences will address and make every attempt to guide the student’s inappropriate behavior through learning.
- The central emphasis of discipline in our system is to enable positive Christian behavior, which enhances the learning process.

Students Expectations

- Students must follow an individual teacher’s classroom rules and school-wide rules.

- Students are expected to treat all persons with Christian respect and dignity and to respect the physical property rights of others.
- Students are to attend class regularly and be on time.
- Students are to be in place and ready to work at the beginning of each class. Being prepared means having the materials needed for class.
- Students are to follow the directions of the teacher. Courtesy and respect must be given to all in the room.
- When movement is required between classes, all students are expected to do so in a safe and non-disruptive manner.
- Students may not eat food, candy, or chew gum in class, except on occasions designated by school authorities.
- Students must follow the dress code.
- Students must not forge a parent's/guardian's signature.
- Students must not cheat or plagiarize.
- **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Cheating in any form is a serious offense against the rest of the student community. It damages trust. It is expected that all school work submitted for the purpose of meeting course requirements represent the original efforts of the individual student. All forms of academic dishonesty will subject the student to disciplinary action. The following are examples of academic dishonesty:

- Cheating on an assessment. This includes but is not limited to the use of “cheat sheets” or other outside resources including programmable calculators, electronic devices and phones when not specifically allowed by the teacher.
- Plagiarizing. Using another individual's words and/or ideas without giving proper acknowledgment. This includes cutting and pasting information into assignments without proper citation.
- Relaying information about an assessment to students who have not yet taken it, or obtaining information about an assessment prior to taking it.
- Copying another individual's assignment or completing the assignment with others when the assignment is intended for individual completion.
- Allowing one's work to be copied.
- Fabricating data and/or citations.
- Submitting for credit the same work in more than one course without prior approval from the teacher.
- Acquiring papers, answers and/or assignments from another source.

Disciplinary Action for Cheating:

- Students who cheated on a homework assignment will be expected to redo the assignment on one's own after the student and teacher have conferenced.
- Students who cheated or plagiarized on other assessments will be provided with an alternate assessment to complete. The alternate assessment will be completed after the teacher, student, and parent discussed the cheating.
- If a cheating violation becomes habitual, the student will be referred to the Principal for further disciplinary action, which may include loss of co-curricular eligibility for the student's next school event. The school and the family will work in conjunction for a learning outcome.

Unacceptable Behavior

Any violations of **Wisconsin Criminal Statutes**.

- **Substance Abuse** - means, but is not limited to, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages on school premises, at school-related activities, or arriving at school under the influence. Use or possession of a controlled substance or smoking materials on school premises.
- **Sexual Harassment** - means, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature. “Unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” includes, but is not

limited to, the deliberate, repeated making of unsolicited gestures or comments, or the deliberate, repeated display of offensive sexually graphic materials.

- **Vandalism** - means, but is not limited to, destruction or theft of school, parish or personal property. Parent(s) / guardian(s) of students shall be responsible for the vandalism of their children. The acts of vandalism that result in significant damage include burglary, theft, malicious mischief, property damage, breaking and entering, and arson.
- **Fighting** - or physical harm to another in school, on school premises, on busses, during school-related activities, or while on field trips, etc.
- **Printed or Written Materials** - Possession on school premises or at school-related activities of printed or written materials deemed inappropriate or obscene by a teacher or administrator.
- **Truancy** - means any absence of one or more days from school during which the principal or teacher has not been notified in writing of the legal cause of such absence by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the absent pupil and also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of (the Compulsory Attendance law).
- **Verbal abuse**, such as swearing, obscene language, disrespect for teachers, other adults, or students. This includes written abusive language by note, relayed over Internet/email, or any other electronic or technological transmission.
- **Any severe or inappropriate conduct** on school premises or at school-related activities that endangers the life or safety of another. This includes threats, verbal or written, which imply physical or mental harm.
- **Weapons** - The possession or use of a **weapon or any object** deemed potentially harmful to others.

Harassment/Bullying:

SMSA firmly believes that all students, staff, and faculty must have a work environment that is free from intimidation, bullying, and harassment because of gender, race, religion, handicap, national origin, new-student status, or physical attributes. The school prohibits all harassment and bullying, whatever the reason.

Students should report any type of harassment to his/her teacher or any other staff member. All complaints brought to the principal's attention will be promptly and fairly investigated. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken if harassment is found to have occurred. No one will be retaliated against for reporting questionable conduct.

Conduct is viewed as harassment when it affects or interferes with a person's right to dignity, respect, positive school performance, or when it creates an intimidating, unwelcome or hostile environment at school or during school/parish events.

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- **An Imbalance of Power:** Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Examples of harassment include but are not limited to:

- Suggestive, explicit, or rude inappropriate remarks, gestures, jokes or comments about another person or his/her appearance.
- Derogatory descriptions of or comments to a person such as unwelcome touching, pinching, brushing, etc.
- Displaying illicit illustrations in any form at school/parish events.

- Describing or inquiring about personal, private details, or experiences of another student's life.
- Hazing, pranks, or other disrespectful behavior directed at a student.
- Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, denigrating, impersonating, and cyberstalking are all examples of cyberbullying. Don't be mean. Don't send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting, or intimidating someone else. Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime. Remember that your activities are monitored and records retained.

Parents will be notified if/when incidents of bullying occur. Repeat incidents of bully type behavior will result in a team meeting of parent/s, school staff members, and administration to design a plan of action to curb inappropriate behaviors.

Consequences and Procedures

The consequence/procedures for unacceptable behavior range from Probation/Suspension/Expulsion to keeping a student after school, a phone call or note home, verbal reprimand, "time out", etc.

Probation/Suspension/Expulsion

Whenever a student's conduct is such that it endangers the property, health, or safety of others, or disrupts the learning environment, action may be taken to restrict that student's privileges and rights of school attendance.

- **Probation** may be for a trial period by the principal. This has the potential to occur following a suspension in which an agreement stating expected behavior(s) has been formed among the principal, counselor, teacher(s) and the student's parents/legal guardians, students on probation. If the conditions agreed upon are met, the student will be released from probation. The principal's decisions are final.
- **Suspension** is justified only in unusual circumstances and is normally an in-school suspension. Action taken to suspend a student will be preceded by internal school procedures supported by documentation. A student who is being suspended is advised of the reason for the proposed suspension. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are given prompt notice of the suspension and the reasons for the action.
 - **In-school suspension** can be directed for varying lengths of time, but shall not exceed five (5) days. In-school suspension conditions are to be determined by the principal. An in-school suspended student remains the responsibility of the principal/teachers. A third detention in one quarter will result in an in-school suspension.
 - **Out-of-school suspension** is the responsibility of the principal. A maximum of five days can be imposed unless a written notice of an expulsion hearing is scheduled. Such notice shall allow not more than a total of fifteen consecutive school days to be served in suspension until the expulsion hearing is held. Out of school suspension may be given by the principal immediately following a serious disciplinary offense. Such a suspension is for investigative purposes.
- **Expulsion** is considered a termination of enrollment, permanently or for an extended period of time. Expulsion shall be considered as a rarity and used only as a very last measure.

Expulsion results from repeated refusal to obey school rules or from conduct which endangers property, health, or safety of others, and is deemed to be in the best interest of the school. An extremely serious single offense may also be cause for expulsion.

Any of the following may be cause for immediate consideration for suspension leading toward expulsion:

- Any violations of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes

- Intentional violence
- Continual disturbance on school premises
- Smoking or carrying smoking material on school premises
- Improper sexual overtones, sexual harassment of any kind to a student, teacher, or staff member possessing sexually explicit materials.
- Skipping of class
- Major Theft
- Using, sharing, or carrying drugs, related paraphernalia, unauthorized prescription drugs or alcohol on school premises
- Using, sharing, or carrying harmful materials, weapons, or simulated weapons
- Bomb threats
- Truancy
- Willful vandalism or repeated destruction of property

Expulsion Hearing Procedure

Actions taken to suspend or expel students shall be preceded by internal school procedures supported by defensible records.

Expulsion can take place only after an expulsion hearing has been held. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall be notified in writing at least five (5) days before the hearing is to take place. This notification period can be waived by mutual consent of the parents/legal guardian and the school if an expedited hearing date is advisable.

- The Expulsion Hearing Committee is composed of 3-4 people. The members may consist of parish council members, parishioners, and parents of former students. One of them will be considered as a facilitator of the hearing.
- An expulsion hearing is not a legal proceeding, therefore neither party may have an attorney present during the hearing
- The president and/or pastor designate is present for the entire hearing itself and during the deliberations of the hearing committee.
- The school is represented by the principal, along with any teachers if appropriate. The school gets a certain amount of time to present the chronology of events that lead up to the initiation of the expulsion process along with the supportive documentation and rationale as to why the expulsion is being sought.
- The student who is the subject of the hearing and his/her parents/legal guardians are given equal time to present their side of the story and reasons as to why expulsion is not warranted.
- The committee members can ask clarifying questions at the end of each presentation time. Representatives of the two sides are not to interrupt the other during their respective presentations.
- After the hearing has ended, school representatives and the student's/parents/legal guardians must leave. The hearing committee weighs the facts and issues that were presented and gives the pastor a recommendation as to what it believes is appropriate disciplinary action; this recommendation should be briefly summarized in writing.
- The president and/or pastor designate can accept the recommendation totally, in part, or reject it all together. The president and/or pastor designate have final responsibility for the decision to expel or not.
- The family of the student will be informed of the final decision within 24 hours. A formal letter will be sent out by certified mail detailing the final action and signed by the pastor designate and president no later than the day after the hearing. If the decision to expel is upheld, a date and time by which the expulsion becomes official are also indicated in the letter. Parents/legal guardians will be given the right to withdraw the student from school before the deadline; this withdrawal must be completed through a written notice signed by the parents/legal guardians.
- The student, or his/her parents/legal guardians, may within five days following notification of the expulsion, appeal to the Superintendent of Schools in writing with rationale for appeal. The

Superintendent of Schools will investigate that correct procedures were followed as defined by Archdiocesan policy. **Archdiocesan Policy #5144**

It is not possible for all circumstances or events to be addressed in this document. Therefore, the Principal/President may make discretionary professional decisions to protect and maintain the safety and well-being of the students.

Grades P3 - 8

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

The rules are explained to the students at the beginning of the school year and are posted in each classroom. The consequences for any infraction of classroom/cafeteria/hallway/playground rules or anything school related are determined by teacher's or school-wide procedures. Discuss the behavior with the individual or group of individuals involved in the situation. Encourage each child to tell what they did in the situation, emphasizing the importance of telling the whole truth and taking ownership of his/her behavior. Discuss with the child(ren) what should have been done and what would the actions be if the situation occurred again.

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE CONSEQUENCES

- Warning/Discussion/Documentation - Time taken as soon as possible to discuss the circumstances with the child regarding the situation. Discuss with the child what he/she thinks about their actions and how they would act the next time if a similar incident would arise.
- Plan of Action - Quiet time for the child to think about his/her actions and work in partnership with faculty/staff to complete the SMSA Elementary Office Referral Form in a quiet place in the classroom or, if outside, standing near the teacher. [SMSA Elementary Office Referral Form](#)
- Plan of action with teacher or team of teachers/parent(s)/guardian(s)/child (ex: an agreement). Example: Time-out/Loss of recess

Major Infractions: These actions will result in an immediate referral and notification to parent(s) / guardian(s) and/or immediate removal from school (expulsion may be pending):

- Any violations of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes
- Intentional violence
- Continual disturbance on school premises
- Smoking or carrying smoking material on school premises
- Improper sexual overtones, sexual harassment of any kind to a student, teacher, or staff member possessing sexually explicit materials.
- Skipping of class
- Major Theft
- Using, sharing, or carrying drugs, related paraphernalia, unauthorized prescription drugs or alcohol on school premises
- Using, sharing, or carrying harmful materials, weapons, or simulated weapons
- Bomb threats
- Truancy
- Willful vandalism or repeated destruction of property

***If indeed the judgment of the teacher/principal warrants concern regarding safety, a student may not be allowed to participate in a school related activity.**

All decisions made by the Principal are final. Possible consequences could be but are not limited to the following: remediation, fines, service, or repairs to damage.

Dress Code

Please refer to the SMSA website for Dress code: [Dress Code Policy](#)

SMSA Principal has the authority to question attire when and if such an issue arises. Parents/guardians may be called in to correct a situation should the occasion arise.

Clothing for Outdoors

During the winter months all students are expected to wear proper clothing (boots, scarves, hats, and mittens or gloves) in the interest of good health and safety. The students must wear snow pants/suits, boots, hats, and mittens/gloves in order to play in the snow hill on the playground. The school takes the position that what the student is allowed to wear to school by parent(s)/guardian(s) is acceptable for that child to wear outdoors for recesses. If children wear boots, hiking boots, tennis shoes, etc. for outdoors, please see that they bring shoes to change into for inside the building.

Designated Jeans Days/Spirit Days

To promote school spirit and unity, there will be designated days when the school uniform will not be required. Guidelines will be determined by the Administration and communicated to the students prior to the day. The rest of the dress code still applies as listed above. Below are common items that will be acceptable on days as designated:

- School sanctioned spirit wear, sweatshirts, and t-shirts
- Jeans with no holes/tears
- Items specific to the theme of the day (i.e. pajamas, sweatpants, costumes, specific colors)

Health Office

Environmental Protection

We wish to ensure a safe and healthy school environment with a goal of keeping students well and in school as much as possible. Students with asthma and allergies are particularly sensitive to indoor air pollution and other triggers such as dust mites, chalk dust, animals, strong odors, and exercise. We have availability of air continually circulating in every room. Any type of air fresheners (examples: plug in, hanging, etc.) will not be permitted in the school building.

Head Lice

Students with head lice will be removed from classrooms and/or schools at SMSA until they have received proper treatment. Your child will not return to school unless he/she is “nit” free for 24 hours and has been checked by the school nurse or other designee. When in doubt, consult your family physician. Notification will be sent home in your child’s grade level. The nurse and principal will determine if notices will be sent to other grades per their discretion.

Health Records

Immunizations / Vision / Hearing / Scoliosis Screening

Periodic visits are made to our campus by Public Health personnel. They are available for consultation regarding student health problems, communicable diseases, and health education information.

The following are the minimum required immunizations for each age/grade level according to the Wisconsin Student Immunization Law. Additional immunizations may be recommended for your child depending on his/her age. Please contact your doctor or local health department to determine if your child needs additional immunizations.

Grade/Age	Number of Doses				
Pre-K (ages 2 through 4 yrs)	4 DTaP/DTP/DT	3 Polio	3 Hepatitis B	1 MMR	1 Varicella
Kindergarten through Grade 5	4 DTaP/DTP/DT/Td	4 Polio	3 Hepatitis B	2 MMR	2 Varicella

Grades 6 through 12	4 DTaP/DTP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hepatitis B	2 MMR	2 Varicella
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1. D= diphtheria, T = tetanus, P = pertussis vaccine. DTaP/DTP/DT/Td vaccine for all students Pre-K through 12: Four doses are required. However, if a student received the 3rd dose after the 4th birthday, further doses are not required. Note: a dose four days or less before the 4th birthday is also acceptable.
2. DTaP/DTP/DT vaccine for children entering 5K Kindergarten: Each student must have received one dose after the 4th birthday (either the 3rd, 4th, or 5th dose) to be compliant. Note: a dose four days or less before the 4th birthday is also acceptable.
3. Tdap is adolescent tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine. If a student received a dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine, such as Td, within five years before entering the grade in which Tdap is required, the student is compliant and a dose of Tdap vaccine is not required.
4. Polio vaccine for students entering grades 5K Kindergarten through 12: Four doses are required. However, if a student received the 3rd dose after the 4th birthday, further doses are not required. Note: a dose four days or less before the 4th birthday is also acceptable.
5. Laboratory evidence of immunity to hepatitis B is also acceptable.
6. MMR is measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. The first dose of MMR vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday Note: a dose four days or less before the 1st birthday is also acceptable. Laboratory evidence of immunity to all three diseases (measles and mumps and rubella) is also acceptable. Varicella vaccine is chickenpox vaccine. A history of chickenpox disease or laboratory evidence of immunity to varicella is also acceptable

Screenings of hearing and vision are held during the year through the Fond du Lac County Health Department and the local Lions Club. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified of the dates and times.

Communicable diseases **must** be reported to the school nurse immediately, and the school nurse, in turn, reports this information to the Public Health Office. Any student with a contagious disease should remain out of school for 24 hours after drug therapy or if symptoms are still active. A doctor’s note is recommended for return of students to school.

All students should have an updated health history on file with the school nurse and to be updated yearly.

Note: Every family must have an emergency form, including emergency contact telephone numbers, on file in the school office.

Illness

If your child is staying home sick during school hours, please call the attendance line and leave a message with your child’s name, grade and reason they are ill. Student’s are required to stay home if they have a contagious illness, fever (100.4 or higher) or diarrhea, nausea/vomiting. The student should be out of school for a minimum of 24 hours or will need a doctor’s “return to school” notice if before the required time away. Keep your child home for 24 hours after: a fever (100.4 or higher) has resolved without using fever reducing medications (Tylenol, IBP), diarrhea/vomiting has resolved or the child has been on a prescribed antibiotic. If the student is seen by the school nurse or office staff with any of the above symptoms, parents will be notified to pick them up from school. *The illness requirements are adopted from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.*

Medications

When it becomes necessary for a student to take medications prescribed by a physician, the student must have a Medication Authorization and Instruction form (Archdiocese of Milwaukee policy form 5141.5b) [PROVIDER AUTHORIZATION FORM PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION](#) on file in the South Hall office. Federal and state law prohibit schools from dispensing any prescription medication without written consent of the parent, written dosage and dispensing instructions signed by the physician and medication given to the school by the parent in its original container having the pharmaceutical label with the student’s name, drug, dosage, time to be given, and physician’s name.

Please communicate with the school nurse medication needs or changes your child may have during the school day.

A parent may give permission on the annual health history form to the school nurse or office staff to give their child over the counter (OTC) medication such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums or topical medications per their discretion. The school nurse or office staff will contact the parent before giving any medication to verify the student has not received a dose of the medication before school.

Lunch and Milk Program

A federal school lunch and milk program is offered at SMSA. Please have all monies for milk/lunch tickets placed in a sealed envelope marked with the student's name, grade and room number.

School Wellness

Before the 2006 school year, all schools, including private schools that participate in authorized programs under the *National School Lunch Act* or the *Child Nutrition Act* must develop a local school wellness policy. The requirement is specified in the *Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004*. This requirement applies to those schools participating in programs such as the free and reduced-price lunch program, the school breakfast program and the special milk program. It implies that reimbursable school meals meet the program requirements and nutrition standards set forth under the legislation.

As required by law, SMSA Wellness Policy, at a minimum, shall include:

- Goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness in a manner that the school determines is appropriate.
- Guidelines for all foods and beverages available on school campuses.

Archdiocese Policy 5140.4 (5/11/06)

- **Lunchroom Rules:**

1. Students will use a quiet voice to talk.
2. Students will follow the directions of the lunch supervisor the first time they are given
3. Students will ask for permission to use the restroom.
4. Students will pick up all wrappers and food scraps.
5. Teachers will provide passes to students who need to return to the classroom for lunch time.
7. Students will bring healthy foods and drinks.
8. Students will walk in the cafeteria.
9. Students will line up quietly before being dismissed for recess.

Recess/Nutrition Snack

Grades K – 1: All students will have recess in the morning, lunch, and afternoon.

Grade 2: All students will have recess in the morning and at lunch.

Grades 3 – 5: All students will have recess at lunch.

Grades 6 - 8: All students will have a recess opportunity to go outside or stay in a supervised classroom.

All students in grades K- 5 must go outside for recess. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should not request a student to stay inside for recess due to illness. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are requested to keep a child home if he/she is too ill to participate in the full day. If a child is too sick to go out for recess, SMSA considers them too sick to be in school.

All food/snacks must be consumed during recess or nutrition break period.

Playground

Indoor/Outdoor Procedures

Children are kept inside campus when it rains or when the wind-chill reaches zero degrees. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to send children to school dressed in appropriate clothing, always presuming that they will be going

outdoors for recess. The only exceptions to this will be injury, etc. with an appropriate note from the doctor. When in doubt, the general rule is to have your children dressed for outdoor recesses.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) should not request a student to stay inside for recess due to illness. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are requested to keep a child home if he/she is too ill to participate in the full school day. If a child is too sick to go out for recess, SMSA considers them too sick to be in school.

Playground Safety

Appropriate behavior is expected for the safety of all students. There are consequences for those who choose to behave irresponsibly. Positive School Climate applies. The following items are ***not allowed*** on campus premises: frisbees, hard balls, superballs, racquet balls, skateboards, scooters, inline skates, or water guns.

- **Playground:**
 1. Students will keep hands, feet, objects that hurt, and words that hurt to themselves
 2. Students will follow the directions of the playground supervisor the first time they are given.
 3. Students will use equipment properly and return classroom equipment to its proper place.
 4. Students will demonstrate good sportsmanship
 5. Students will keep the playground free of litter. Broken glass and sharp objects must be reported to the playground supervisor. Students should not pick up sharp objects.
 6. Students will keep snow and ice on the ground.
 7. Students will respect the personal property of others.
 8. Students will play away from the parked cars, streets, trees and the storage building.
 9. Students will stay in an area where the supervisor can see them.
 10. Students will stay away from strangers who are parked or standing on or near the playground.
 11. Students will report all accidents immediately to the supervisor on duty.
 12. Students will line up quickly and quietly when the bell rings
 13. Students will stay outside unless the supervisor gives permission to enter the building.
 14. Skateboards and roller blades are not allowed.
 15. Outside equipment will be shared.
 16. Only flag or two-hand touch football is allowed (no tackling).
 17. Boots are to be worn in the snow. Students without them will be permitted on the blacktop only.

- **Rules for Playground Equipment**
 1. Slides
 - Only one person may go down the slide at a time.
 - When sliding, go feet first.
 - Be sure the person in front of you is off the slide, before you slide.
 2. Spinning Sphere
 - Only four people at a time.
 - wait your turn 4 feet from the spinning sphere
 - Spinning is permitted
 3. Monkey bars
 - Hang by hands only
 - One person at a time crossing the monkey bars
 - Stay out from under the monkey bars when students are crossing
 4. Leave the rocks, nature and sticks on the ground.
 5. Move carefully around the equipment.
 6. Walk on all equipment.
 7. Use the equipment when it is dry.
 8. Equipment must be shared

Safety

Custody

We are required by law and by the Archdiocesan Policy #5124.2 to require a copy of the court custody decree for any SMSA students who are the subject(s) of a divorce or separation or other custody arrangement. It is **very** important that we have this information on file for the safety of all the students and of SMSA. All information received is kept strictly confidential. This information will need to be updated annually. Your registration and school records are **not** complete until we have this information.

Emergency Preparedness

Please keep this information handy at home as, in the event of an actual emergency disaster, every parent / guardian must know how to respond. Your cooperation will be essential in the following ways:

1. Do **NOT** call the campus. Telephone lines must be kept open for calls to emergency personnel. In a citywide emergency, telephone lines may be busy or unavailable.
2. LISTEN to the local radio stations – K107.1 FM, KFIZ 1450 AM, WTCX 96.1 FM, WFDL 97.7 FM or WPKR 99.5FM
3. Instructions for picking up children will be broadcast on the radio stations. In some cases, students may be evacuated to an alternate site. The only way for you to know where to pick them up will be by the radio information.
4. In many cases, campus will be locked down during and immediately following a crisis. No one will be allowed to leave or enter except emergency personnel until it is determined to be safe.
5. When it is safe to release students, there will be a reunion plan. Parent(s) / guardian(s) need to be prepared to check in with identification. Students will not be released to anyone other than a parent / guardian without written consent. This may seem inconvenient; however, it is necessary because it can be very difficult to determine the whereabouts of every child if children are released without the knowledge of a parent / guardian.
6. Call the SMSA Administration Offices, 924-0993.

Personal Data Changes

Please inform the campus office immediately of any change in health problems, address and/or telephone (residence and/or business); emergency contact person; custody; and/or marital status.

If your child is being transferred, either during the school year or the summer months, please notify the campus office far enough in advance so that records may be forwarded to the new school promptly. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a release of record for any records to be transferred from SMSA.

Pets in School

For health and safety reasons, family/household pets are not allowed in the school building. With permission of the principal, special educational events such as Care for Critters, K-9 police dogs, blind dogs, science related classroom animals, may be granted with minimal student contact with the animals. **Archdiocese Policy #5140.3**

Safety and Protection

PE classroom teachers/aides have 2-way radios for the safety and protection of all students, faculty and staff.

Safety Drills

SMSA is required to practice one safety drill per month during the school year. Drills for fire, tornado and other safety procedures are conducted on a regular basis. Students are expected to follow directions for drills. SMSA has a crisis plan. All faculty and staff have been in-serviced on the SMSA First Response Crisis Plan. The building is equipped with a security system. All employees, volunteers and visitors must wear ID badges at all times.

School Visitation

For the safety of the children, all visitors, including parent(s)/guardian(s), must report to the South Hall office upon entering any of the campus, sign in, and receive a visitor's tag.

Smoke Free School Systems

There shall be no smoking or possession of smoking materials in the campus or at school-sponsored activities or on field trips. This includes students, staff, volunteers, and guests. **No Smoking Policy adopted by SMSA School Board 7/19/94**

Solicitations

Students, teachers, and/or staff will not solicit funds or advertise for any charitable, private or other group for their own personal cause, campaign, etc. in the school building except in the faculty lounge. We only ask the children to participate in school-wide or parish programs that are pre-approved by the Principal.

Telephone Use

Permission from a faculty or staff member is needed for use of the school telephone. Telephone use by students during the school day is limited to emergency situations, illnesses, and change of a scheduled sporting event or school activity. The students will not be allowed to use the telephone for the following situations: making plans with friends, items such as forgotten homework or assignments, gym clothes, band instruments, lunch, etc.

Student Concerns

Curriculum

SMSA curriculum consists of many learning experiences, both inside and outside the school setting. The educational process leads students to an integration of academics with faith and life through spiritual, physical, affective, and cognitive development. Below is an overview of the SMSA curriculum.

- **Early Childhood Programs**

Our Preschool Program flows out of the philosophy, goals, and values, which are currently in place in SMSA Total Catholic Education Programs with the following particular vision statements:

The 3-Year-Old Program The educational program will provide a Christian community where children can meet friends their own age with whom they can communicate, cooperate, and have many new experiences that broaden their knowledge base for later learning. Students will grow in a play-based learning environment.

4-Year-Old Kindergarten The education program at 4-year-old kindergarten is structured to assist your child in an uninterrupted, seamless transition in learning experiences to 5-year-old kindergarten and onto grades 1 - 8. The 4-year-old kindergarten aims to develop Christian values and attitudes, self esteem and positive self image, skills necessary for effective social interaction, self expression and communication skills, creativity in expression, large and small muscle development, readiness skills in mathematics and language arts, and intellectual curiosity and growth. Students will grow in a play-based learning environment.

3/4-Year-Old Kindergarten Enrichment:The Enrichment Program focuses on independent learning at their own pace based on interest and "learning through play." It is designed for students to reinforce what they have been learning in the morning P3 and 4K programs. This program has a strong sense of interpersonal skills including courtesy, eye contact, greetings, table manners and using teamwork.

- **K-8 Programs**

- **Art** (Grades K - 8)

We believe that each student deserves to experience the following in art: A satisfying and enjoyable art experience; an understanding that art is involved in our everyday living; individual expression with some direction; cultural and historical awareness; some mathematical concepts; and understanding of art concepts through projects created. We use the following media to create and develop in the following concept areas: drawing, painting, cutting and pasting, printmaking, sculpture/3D, fabrics, weaving, fibers, clay/pottery, glass, seasonal art, arts and crafts, library materials, and other printed materials. We provide instruction in the concepts of line, shape, space, color, value, texture, form, design, 2-D, 3-D, and correct

usage of materials. We incorporate art into all areas of the curriculum, and use reference help for students and instructors.

Health (Grades K-8)

Our health education program focuses on the goal of “total health,” including physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, athletic, social development, and overall well-being. In our program, wellness is our aim. Wellness is defined as actively making choices and decisions that promote good health. We provide a sequential program for grades K - 8 that develops understanding and awareness in health behaviors, current health issues, and fitness lifestyle habits. Included in our resources are community associations, medical facilities, and state and national organizations, e.g., American Heart Association, American Lung Association, etc.

English Language Arts (Grades K - 8)

We believe in a student-centered integrated language program, which promotes the students' spiritual, cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. Teachers, administrators, and the school community plan the curriculum, which builds on how students learn and construct meaning in authentic contexts. Reading, language, phonics, spelling, and writing interrelate within the curriculum, and language instruction occurs across all curriculum areas in addition to specific language arts classes. We promote a love for reading and writing. The instructional program consists of anthologies, writing journals, theme and spelling books, phonics, listening to tapes, word and comprehension skills, and other language arts-related materials, including computer desktop publishing programs. All grades develop an independent reading program, which includes the use of library books, periodicals, reference materials, etc. We provide a program to allow students to develop comprehension, decoding, writing, and spelling skills. This includes such information processing strategies as inferring, generalizing, comparing, contrasting, sequencing; and such problem solving strategies as identifying problems, predicting, drawing conclusions, and summarizing. Students can engage in background experiences and knowledge, confront potential prejudices and misconceptions, and ask questions that encourage dialogue, inquiry, and self-reflection. Students explore learning options and establish personal goals for learning. They also learn how to respect, support, and affirm each other, and assume increasing responsibility for their decisions and actions.

Readers and Writers Workshop (Grades K-8)

We also offer a set of programs called Readers and Writers Workshop. These are instructional models that allow the teacher to select appropriate text and writing examples for strengths and needs. Reader’s Workshop provides instruction that targets specific reading strategies. This instructional model does not replace a current reading curriculum; rather it is one component of a balanced literacy program. Writers Workshop follows the CCSS for writing, stressing the goals of communication in stories, essays, and everyday writing experiences. Grammar and sentence structure are integral parts to this workshop and are taught along the writing process.

Mathematics (Grades K - 8)

We believe that mathematics instruction must be student-centered; account for cultural, gender, and intellectual diversity; develop critical thinking; and meet all modes of learning. We believe that mathematics includes the development of problem-solving, mental math abilities, and basic computational skills that lead to a number sense and a value of math. We provide mathematics instruction that involves basic mastery of facts, experiential learning, hands-on experiences, exploration, open-ended situations with applications to the real world, interdisciplinary situations, and the use of computers and calculators at all levels.

Music

Elementary Music(Grades K - 4)

We believe that every student needs access to a balanced, comprehensive, and sequential program of music instruction and experiences. We also believe music holds an integral place in the Catholic liturgy, and is essential to the worship experience of children. Music can assist children to a fuller, more conscious, and

active participation in liturgy. It also serves as a foundation for a well-rounded education and life-long appreciation and performance of music.

Band (Grade 5-8)

We believe that instrumental music gives students the opportunity to be creative, develop discipline, challenge their talents, and have an appreciation of the music itself and its composers. Bi-weekly group rehearsals are provided. Additionally, we provide periodic small group or individual performance opportunities.

Chorus (Grade 5-8)

We believe that a choral music program allows students an opportunity to experience music through song. Chorus students perform both sacred and secular music in a concert setting. Chorus is open to all students in 5th - 8th grade who wish to be part of a choral program. Bi-weekly group rehearsals are provided. Additionally, we provide periodic small group or individual performance opportunities.

Note: Band and Chorus

Band and Chorus are both performance classes, with a major performance each of the semesters of the school year. Due to the fact of advanced planning, the band/chorus director needs to be notified at the end of the second quarter of any withdrawals from the band and/or chorus class (es). There will be a two-week grace period, one week before the end of the second quarter extending to one week after the beginning of the third quarter for withdrawals to take place. There will be no withdrawals from band or chorus at any other time of the year.

Exploratory Music (Grade 7-8)

Exploring Music meets once a week. Its two main focuses are listening and learning about music. Students are not required to perform in any concerts. Lessons are focused on learning about the lives of composers, experimenting on instruments and the themes/topics tend to vary each week.

Physical Education (Grades K - 8)

We believe that the early development of physical fitness, lifelong fitness skills and positive health behavior are of unquestionable importance in the child's total educational process. Our physical education program is designed to have a significant impact on a child's health and self-esteem. The goal of instruction is on self-respect and acceptance toward others, realizing that all have unique talents and gifts. The goals of the Physical Education Program are met primarily through cooperative activities with physical and instructional methods unique to each individual's personal needs. .

Physical Education Uniforms (Grades K - 8)

A required uniform for all students, Grades K - 8 will be available for purchase in the fall. The uniform consists of:

- SMSA Physical Education T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Tennis shoes and socks, **for gym use only.**

Showers (Grades 3 - 8)

Showers are optional for all students in Grades 3-8 following gym classes. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are encouraged to have their child(ren) bring a towel, soap, deodorant, etc. All items are to be labeled with the student's name.

Medical Excuse for Physical Education (Grades K - 8)

All students are expected to participate in gym class. If there is a medical reason that a student **cannot** participate in certain activities, please send a **written excuse signed by a physician** to the school nurse. Parental written excuses are valid for two gym classes. However, after two consecutive gym classes are missed, a doctor's medical excuse may be requested. If a child is too sick to participate in physical education classes, we consider them too sick to be in school. Therefore, children will not be allowed to miss physical education classes due to illness.

Religion (Grades K - 8)

We believe that our religious instruction, centered within the faith community of the school, must guide the formation of students in the beliefs, values, and traditions of Catholic Christianity. We believe that parent(s) / guardian(s) are the primary religious educators of their children, and we also believe religious values permeate the total curriculum and climate of our campus. We incorporate Sacred Scripture, the Ten Commandments, the Seven Sacraments, Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, and other basic Catholic beliefs throughout the entire curriculum. Supplementary religious books and materials, singing, dramatizations, art, and various other instructional methods, such as guest speakers, are also used. We provide experiences in the four central areas of religious education: doctrine, community, service, and worship. Daily prayer, weekly liturgies, and prayer services are planned by students. Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, celebration of the liturgical seasons, retreat experiences, Scripture reading and study, and moral development are all essential elements in our Religion curriculum.

Science (Grades K -8)

We believe that scientific principles are approached in a highly process-oriented and student-oriented manner. Significant scientific processes include: recognizing and formulating problems, collecting data through observation and experimentation, and formulating and testing of hypotheses. Equipment and supplies for the scientific process are updated annually. We provide opportunities for students to be actively involved in the scientific process which emphasizes critical thinking, hypothesizing, processes of observation and data collection, analysis of data, experimentation, and laboratory skills throughout the science curriculum.

Social Studies (Grades K - 8)

We believe that social studies focuses on social relationships and how a society functions. Social studies is highly integrated with religious social skills and values. Resource people from various cultural backgrounds explain their customs and traditions. Current periodicals are used. We provide geography, thinking, study, reading, map reading and interpretation skills, skill in reading and interpreting charts / graphs / timelines, and creative writing skills. We also provide opportunities throughout the Social Studies curriculum for students to develop and use the inquiry method as a skill for the rest of their lives. We believe that the purpose of social studies is to make connections between past and present cultures and countries, to understand how society functions as it does today, and how humanity interrelates within a given structure. Historical conflicts and their resolutions are examined in order to make informal choices as individuals and as members of the global community. Social studies assist the student to appreciate the diverse social, religious, political experiences, contributions, and struggles of all humanity.

World Languages

Eighth grade students will experience two world languages (German and Spanish) in their with grade year. Students will learn basic vocabulary relating to their own lives and experiences, simple sentence structure, and compare certain cultural aspects to their own experience. Students will have one semester of each world language in an exploratory setting to support their decision of choosing a world language before entering HS.

- **General Curriculum Support**

Library Media Center (Grades K4 - 8)

SMSA has a library media center, which provides physical and intellectual access to information geared to the grade levels. The campus continually strives to provide an excellent collection of fiction, non-fiction, and reference books, as well as periodicals, audiovisuals, and computer materials that relate to the different subject areas.

Study Hall Policies

Students are given time during the school day to complete assignments, obtain additional teacher support, or study for upcoming assessments. They are to be respectful of their peers during this time. Students may

use school technology for instructional purposes during study hall. Students are reminded that the technology belongs to the school. They should take care of it, use, and return it properly to the designated spot before the bell rings. Students who damage technology will be liable for replacement or repair and will face disciplinary action. Phones are NOT allowed during study hall.

Student Planner

All students must have their Student Planner in their possession at all times and are encouraged to use the Planner to organize their assignments. Only the Student Planner will be used as a hall pass or pass to the next class if held over by a faculty member. Students may not leave the classroom during instruction without a student planner. Lost planners must be replaced for \$5 at the South Office.

Conferences

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Teacher/ Student

Conferences may be requested by either the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the teacher at any time during the school year. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are to contact in advance to request an appointment with a teacher or principal at least 24 hours.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Teacher/Student

Conferences will be held two times per year. The first scheduled conferences are mandatory for grades K-8th grade. These are held during the first quarter. The second scheduled conferences are by parent(s)/guardian(s)/teacher request only and are held within the second or third quarter.

If a parent(s)/guardian(s) needs a follow-up contact from a teacher after a conference or progress report distribution, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are strongly encouraged to contact the teacher. If you are unable to reach a teacher or principal directly, please leave your name and telephone number with the campus secretary and your call will be returned promptly.

Preschool and 4K conferences are determined at the discretion of the teacher.

Field Trips

Every teacher plans field trips or other classroom activities as an integral part of the curriculum. Therefore, to insure the safety of the school children, adults who chaperone field trips may **not** be accompanied by younger children. Buses are used as often as it is feasible. When private vehicles are used, drivers must complete the Volunteer Driver Information Sheet – Form 6153 (c), and submit to the school office. All students will remain with the teacher/class for the entire field trip. Students will not be allowed to call parents/guardians for forgotten field trip permission slips. Unsigned permission slips will result in the students staying back from the field trip.

No student will be allowed to go on a field trip without having a signed (by parent(s)/guardian(s)) permission form for that trip on file in the campus office. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified of field trips by the teacher. Any student who is determined as unable to participate in a field trip for whatever reason other than illness **must** attend school on the day of the field trip. No student will be deprived of a field trip due to lack of family funds. Due to the fact that some field trips have pre-paid costs, full refunds may not be possible.

Movies/Videos

All movies/videos shown in the classrooms must be rated G (General Audiences) for grades PK – 3. All movies shown in the classrooms must be rated either G (General Audiences) or PG (Parental Guidance) for grades 4 - 8.

Course Registration and Scheduling

Students have the opportunity to register for the next school year electives in music. Once the courses are selected, only in extraordinary circumstances will changes to the requests be considered. The Principal is the final authority on all registration and scheduling decisions.

Students who are accelerating in math must demonstrate their mastery of the middle school curriculum prior to enrolling in a high school math class while in middle school. Mastery will be demonstrated by a combination of data points. These include successfully completing Course 3 with at least an “A” all terms, achieving an “ADVANCED” in the Wisconsin Forward Exam math portion for at least two previous years, and showing a Grade Equivalent of 9.0 or higher on the High School Placement Test, which is given to eighth grade students in late spring.

Middle school students who complete a high school math class will not earn high school credit, nor will the high school course that is completed during middle school appear on the student’s high school transcript.

Daily Schedules

Children in the 3 year-old preschool program have morning classes on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, or Monday - Friday.

With the exception of preschool, all classes are scheduled Monday through Friday, with half-days and off-days as noted on the School Calendar.

Starting and end times

<u>Class</u>	<u>Doors Open / Classes Begin</u>	<u>Dismissal</u>
Before School Care	6:30 a.m.	7:45 a.m.
After School Care	2:55 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
3 Yr. Old AM Preschool (MWF or M - F)	7:55 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
4 Yr. Old Kindergarten	7:55 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
P3/4 Yr. Old Kindergarten Enrichment	11:15 a.m.	2:55 p.m.
Kindergarten	7:55 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Grades 1-5	7:55 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Grades 6-8	7:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.

All students are considered TARDY if they are not in their classrooms when classes begin for the day.

Grading

Preschool/K4

Students will receive narrative report cards throughout the year describing the developmental progress of the student. The report card will include the areas of Health and Physical Development, Social and Emotional Development, Language Development and Communication, Approaches to Learning, Cognition and General Knowledge, and Faith Development.

Note: A blank square equates to not assessed at this time.

Grades K - 3

3 = Secure: Demonstrates a complete understanding and application of the academic standard

2 = Progressing: Demonstrates a general understanding of the academic standard

1 = Needs improvement: Demonstrates an inconsistent understanding of the academic standard

Standards

+ Demonstrates consistent understanding and application

- / Demonstrates a general understanding
- Needs more time to develop

Grades 4 - 8

Percentages

A = Excellent / Exceptional / Advanced Quality	93 – 100
B = Very Good, Proficient and Meets Quality Expectations	92 – 84
C = Satisfactory and Meets Basic Expectations	83 – 74
D = Needs to Improve / Inconsistent / Minimal Performance	73 – 68

Homework

The term “homework” refers to an assignment to be prepared during a period of supervised study in class or outside of class or which requires individual work in the study hall, classroom, or home. Homework is developmental in nature and increases in scope with the maturity and capabilities of the student.

Homework, properly planned and purposeful in nature, should:

- Deepen students understanding and skills relative to content that has been initially presented to them;
- Prepare students for new content and have them elaborate on content that has been introduced;
- Help students develop good study habits and organizational skills;
- Foster positive attitudes toward school;
- Communicate to students that learning takes work at home as well as at school;
- Communicate to parents/guardians what is being emphasized in class, what is expected of students, and how the students' work will be evaluated.

The teacher, who takes into consideration the grade level requirements, the ability of the students, and the homework guidelines suggested by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, will determine the amount and type of homework:

- The approximate amount of homework assigned to students is indicated below:

Preschool – KG	0-15 minutes per night
Grades 1-2:	15-30 minutes per night
Grades 3-5:	30-60 minutes per night
Grades 6-8:	30-60 minutes per night
- Parent/Guardian involvement in homework should be kept at a minimum.
- The purpose of homework should be identified and articulated.
- When homework is assigned, approaches to providing feedback should vary.

Note: Any questions about homework should be promptly directed to the teacher(s).

Homework for student absences may **not** be picked up in school before 3:15 p.m. This allows teachers time to gather all assignments. It is not the responsibility of the teacher to provide assignments in advance for students who are out of school due to family vacations.

Invitations

When inviting students to home birthday parties, etc., unless all students (or all boys/girls) in a class are invited, please send the invitations through the mail. Please do not send invitations through school unless they are for the entire class. This is to avoid hurt feelings.

Lockers

All school lockers and desks are the property of SMSA. At no time does SMSA relinquish its exclusive control of lockers and desks provided for the convenience of the students. The lockers and desks are intended storage of books, clothing, and other related school materials. As a Catholic school, centered in Gospel values, it is expected

that personal items such as pictures, are in keeping with Catholic values. **Pictures may be hung in lockers with magnets, not tape.**

SMSA school authorities for any reason may conduct periodic general inspections of lockers and desks and any items in the lockers and desks at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

If lockers are to be locked students must use school furnished locks on the lockers. Any other locks will be confiscated by SMSA school authorities. ***Archdiocese Policy # 5145.2***

Lost and Found

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are asked to label/mark all clothing, boots, tennis shoes, gym clothes, etc. Campus has a separate lost and found area in the South Hall office area. Please have your son/daughter use this resource when an item is lost. All items not claimed are donated to the needy.

National Junior Honor Society Criteria

National Junior Honor Society is open to seventh and eighth grade students who apply and are accepted. In order to apply, a B grade average is necessary. On their application, students need to demonstrate their scholarship, leadership, character and service. In addition, students need to conform to St. Mary's Springs Academy N.J.H.S. bylaws.

Before students are accepted based on these criteria, their names are presented to the Faculty Council for approval. All approved applicants will attend the Induction Ceremony.

Membership in N.J.H.S. is contingent upon:

- Maintaining the standards of scholarship, leadership, character and service as outlined in the St. Mary's Springs Academy N.J.H.S. Constitution and Bylaws.
- Maintaining a B grade average
- Attending bi-weekly meetings
- Performing one service project that totals six service hours. Note, these hours will not be dually applied to service hour requirements for any other class, club, or extracurricular service hours. See NJHS Bylaws for specific requirements.
- Fulfilling agreed-upon projects of the society

Promotions of Students

The principal and teachers will work jointly with parents/guardians in determining the promotion of a student. Decisions will be made based on what is in the best educational and social interests of the student. Ultimately, the final decision for class placement rests with the school authorities, and is guided by Archdiocesan Policy.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued quarterly. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must sign the electronic report card.

Mid-Quarter Progress Reports: Mid-quarter Progress Reports for grade 5-8 will be reviewed at mid-quarter for sport's eligibility.

Money Sent with a Student

When it becomes necessary to send money to a teacher or to the office, it should be in a sealed envelope with the following information on the outside: the student's name and grade, the teacher's name, room number, the exact amount enclosed, and what the payment is for.

School Counseling

- **Counseling Services** – Counseling services are available for all students in grades P3 - 8. This may include individual or small group counseling. The school counselor will also provide guidance through classroom lessons. Grades K – 4 will have integrated guidance classes twice per month, and grade 5 – 8 guidance classes will be once per month.
- **Teacher Referral** – The teacher will notify the parents if a referral for guidance has been made.

- Request Counseling – If a parent/guardian would like to request counseling for his/her child, he/she should contact the school counselor to obtain a request form.
- Permission for Counseling – All students are permitted to see the school counselor. If a parent/guardian does not want his/her child to see the school counselor, a request must be made in writing to the school.
- Parent Notification – Parents/Guardians will be immediately notified if his/her child mentions harm to self and/or others. The school counselor will notify parents/guardians if his/her child requests guidance on the same issue more than twice. Parents/Guardians will also be notified if his/her child is selected to be in a small group. Notification will be made by either a phone call or email.

School Pictures

The opportunity to purchase individual school pictures is provided annually for all students in Grades P3 - 8 on a prepaid basis. Pictures are taken in the fall of the year. A school yearbook is available for purchase in the spring.

School Property

Damage, Loss and Non-return of School Property

Liability of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) – If a student loses, damages, or destroys school property, his/her parents/guardians may be held responsible in accordance with the policies of SMSA. Responsibility of parents/guardians includes financial liability.

Liability of Student – A student may be held personally responsible to pay for SMSA property lost, damaged, or destroyed as a result of his/her negligence or his/her intentional acts.

Student Use of and Liability for School Equipment and Supplies:

- a. It is the policy of SMSA to make available to students' various equipment and supplies, which may be checked out by individual students for use in connection with school programs. These items include, but are not limited to textbooks, library books and materials, athletic equipment and uniforms, and band equipment.
- b. It is the policy of SMSA that the materials listed above are made available to the students free of charge, so long as such materials and equipment are not misused, mistreated, destroyed, or stolen and are returned in a timely fashion so as to allow use by other students.
- c. In situations where school supplies and equipment are not returned as required, the administration shall take appropriate steps to assure the return of, replacement of, or reimbursement of such supplies or equipment. These steps may include, among other things, withholding report cards at the end of a grading period and/or barring offending students from participating in graduation activities unless the material involved has been returned or paid for. Procedures may also be established for levying reasonable fines calculated to assure the timely return of material (such as library books). Any such fines shall be established pursuant to a schedule, which is made to students prior to their checking out or taking responsibility for school property. These fines may be levied only as a means of assuring proper use, care and circulation of property.
- d. Chronic and/or malicious destruction, loss or theft of SMSA property by any student constitutes a disruption of the educational process and may be grounds, if proven, for suspension or expulsion of a student.
- e. Before the sanctions listed in section c and d are imposed, the school must first give written notice to the student and parent/guardian of the SMSA property for which he/she is being held responsible. This written notice must be given to a student and parent/guardian at least four school days before the imposition of the proposed sanction.
- f. Any student or parent/guardian who feels aggrieved by the notice of the proposed sanction shall file an appeal according to the grievance Procedure for Parents/Guardians found in the SMSA Family Handbook.

- g. If any more serious sanctions are proposed, Archdiocesan Policy #5114 will be followed in regard to probation, suspension, and expulsion.

Procedures for Library Materials Non-Return or Lost/Damaged

- SMSA and parents/guardians will work in collaboration regarding library materials that are checked out from the library.
- A student who has an overdue item cannot check out other materials until it is returned.
- If a student loses or damages a library material, parents will be charged the replacement cost. If the material is returned to the library, the replacement cost will be refunded.

Toys & Personal Items

Toys, trading cards, balls, personal items are brought to school at the risk of the owner. SMSA is not responsible for the loss of any personal items.

Technology and Network

SMSA campus is networked together for information sharing, Internet and email. Every family, student, and employee is expected to follow the SMSA Acceptable Use Policy for Computers and Networking from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Each family, student, and employee should read and sign the SMSA Acceptable Use Policy for the Use of Computers and Telecommunications for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee agreement before being permitted to use such equipment. The policy is as follows:

*Computing, data storage, and information retrieval systems are designed to serve the students, faculty, and staff of SMSA. Network and Internet access is provided to further the legitimate educational goals of SMSA. SMSA provides computing and network resources for the use of our students and employees. The equipment, software, and network capacities provided through SMSA computers are and remain the property of SMSA. All users are expected to conduct their online activities in an ethical and legal fashion. **The use of these resources is a privilege, not a right.** Misuse of these resources will result in the suspension or loss of these privileges, as well as disciplinary, legal and/or monetary consequences. Any monetary costs, which occur as a result of misuse of resources, will be incurred by the responsible party. Appropriate or acceptable educational uses of these resources include:*

Accessing the Internet to retrieve information from libraries, databases, and World Wide Web sites to enrich and expand curriculum is encouraged

Using E-mail capabilities to facilitate distance learning projects and communications

Using Email for teacher to teacher and other professional communications

Using Listservs and newsgroups to gain access to current information on local, state, national and world events

Examples of inappropriate or unacceptable uses(s) of these resources include, but are not limited to, those uses that violate the law, the rules of the network etiquette, or hamper the integrity or security of any network connected to the Internet. Some unacceptable practices include:

Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening, harassing, pornographic, or obscene material; or material protected by trade secrets. The transmission of copyrighted materials without the written permission of the author or creator through school E-mail or other network resources in violation of U.S. copyright law is prohibited. As with all forms of communication, E-mail or other network resources may not be used in a manner that is disruptive to the work or educational environment. The display or transmission of messages, images, cartoons or the transmission or use of E-mail or other computer messages that are sexually explicit constitute harassment which is prohibited by SMSA. It is also illegal for anyone to knowingly allow any telecommunications facility under their control to be used for the transmission of illegal material.

Use of email for personal communications. All messages created, sent and received over the SMSA network are the property of SMSA and are considered public information.

*To prevent computer viruses from being transmitted through the SMSA network, there will be no unauthorized loading or downloading of software or programs. All software must be registered and licensed as the property of SMSA. **Archdiocese Policy # 6161.2***

SMSA STUDENT NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

Internet Rules:

Students are responsible for good behavior on SMSA technology and networks just as they are in the classrooms and hallways. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior, communications, and Positive School Climate apply.

The network and Internet are provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others under the direct supervision of the faculty and staff through the services of GoGuardian. Parent or guardian permission is required. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Users of SMSA technology and network are responsible for their behavior and communications. It is presumed that all users will comply with SMSA policies and honor the agreements they have signed.

Network storage and file areas are SMSA property. Network administrators as well as faculty and staff may review student files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the network responsibly. Users should not expect any files stored on the SMSA network to be private.

During school the faculty and staff will guide the students toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for such guidance as they must also exercise responsibility with other sources such as television, telephones, home computers, movies, radio and any other potentially dangerous or offensive media.

The following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Damaging computers, systems, or network
- Trespassing into others folders, work or files
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Using obscene language
- Violating copyright laws
- Using others passwords
- Sharing passwords – each student is accountable for his/her own password
- Intentionally wasting resources
- Setting up or using social media accounts, blogging, instant messaging, non-school email that are not used for a SMSA learning purposes
- Changing the computer settings
- Shopping network or online

Depending on the violation, one or more of the following sanctions may be invoked:

1. Loss of access to equipment
2. Additional disciplinary action
3. Notification to law enforcement agencies
4. Application of Positive School Climate
5. Reimbursement for costs incurred due to misuse or damages

Final decisions of the sanctions to be invoked are made by the Principal.

SMSA FAMILY AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SMSA has chosen to permit students access to computer and telecommunications resources to further its educational goals and objectives. Reasonable care has been taken to assure the appropriateness and educational quality of the material available through the use of software and telecommunications.

However, parents and guardians are warned that SMSA and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee do not have total control of the information on the Internet. Parents and guardians are the primary authorities responsible for imparting the standards or ethical and legal conduct for your child(ren) to follow when using SMSA computers, computer networks and telecommunications. Therefore, SMSA supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not their child(ren) may have access to the computer network.

1. I am the parent/guardian of the below named student(s). I have read the Acceptable Use Policy for Computers and Telecommunications and clearly understand the responsibilities regarding the SMSA Network, computer hardware, software, and Internet access.
2. I have explained the policy to my child and have assured myself that my child understands it.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students will be allowed to bring cell phones and/or other electronic devices to school, but they must be kept in their lockers, turned off, and stored at their own risk during the school day. Grades 6-8 may check their phones during passing time at their lockers.

Students are not allowed to use cell phones during school hours unless granted permission to use them by a staff/faculty member (ex: players/recorders, and other electronic communication or entertainment equipment).

Any device(s) taken away by a teacher or staff member during school hours will be placed in the South Hall school office and must be picked up by parent/guardian.

SMSA is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or replacement of any cell phones or electronic devices.

Assistive Technology Devices

Some students may be identified by school staff as benefiting from Assistive Technology equipment to enhance their school experience. If the equipment is purchased by St. Mary's Springs Academy, it is the property of the school. Parents/Guardians are required to sign the SMSA Assistive Technology Equipment Agreement outlining the use of said equipment.

