



# School Handbook

*Confidential*  
*For the use of Cardinal Pacelli School only*  
*Revised August 2017*

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## **Part One - History, Philosophy, Mission Statement and Ohio OCSAA**

### **The Cardinal Pacelli School of Our Lord Christ the King Church**

The parish of Our Lord Christ the King was established in November 1926, with 132 Catholic families living within the parish boundaries. The letter authorizing Fr. Edward J. Quinn to form the parish coincided with the celebration of the first Feast of Christ the King established by Pope Pius XI. Therefore this was the first parish ever to be dedicated to Our Lord under the title of "King." The first Mass was said on December 5, 1926, in the Lin-Del Building at 3200 Linwood Road. In September 1927, a 4-room school building was built and opened with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in charge. Enrollment was 108 students but by 1936, it was 202 students and a larger school building was planned.

On October 31, 1937, Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, secretary of State to His Holiness Pope Pius XI, and a personal friend of the pastor, blessed the cornerstone for the new school. To honor the visit of the Cardinal, the new building was named The Cardinal Pacelli School. Cardinal Pacelli was elected pope on March 2, 1938, and took the name of Pope Pius XII.

In 1963, student enrollment was increasing and a second floor with eight classrooms and a principal's office was added to the school building. In 1971 the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, due to declining vocations and pressing needs in other ministries, found it necessary to end their relationship with the school.

In August, 1965, Fr. Quinn retired due to ill health. He continued in residence until his death on September 21, 1966, after nearly 39 years as pastor. Monsignor Edward J. Graham was pastor until 1975 when he retired. He was succeeded by Fr. Francis G. Lammeier until 1987 when Fr. Gerald Haemmerle became pastor. In January, 1997, Fr. Robert Obermeyer was appointed pastor. After Fr. Obermeyer retired in July, 2011, Fr. Edward P. Smith was appointed pastor.

In 1992, the parish began construction of its Parish Center which included a gym, art room and meeting rooms and was designed to meet the needs of the over 1000 families who are members of the parish. The original school gym was remodeled into offices, a new school library and a computer lab. The Parish Center was finished and dedicated on August 18, 1993. As of October 2006 construction plans began for the reconfiguration of classrooms and the addition of a Science Lab. Funds for this project were raised through a grant as well as a capital campaign throughout the parish. At the completion of this project, the school now houses a library, a computer lab, a science lab/classroom as well as an art room. The Kindergarten classrooms, a nurse's office and conference room completed the reconfiguration and are located on the first floor adjacent to the school office. Currently, Cardinal Pacelli School has two classrooms per grade from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 and one three-year-old Pre-School classroom.

# CARDINAL PACELLI SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT



Cardinal Pacelli is a Catholic community and a National Blue Ribbon school committed to providing a nurturing environment focused on developing the spiritual, academic, and social abilities of each child. We strive to foster critical thinking by integrating technology into the curriculum and providing genuine learning experiences. Driven by our Christian values, we work to instill positive morals and a sincere desire in our students to become lifelong learners and to better the community around them. *Approved by Education Commission 2013*

## **Fulfilling the Mission - Definitions**

**Beliefs** - we have a firm conviction of the following truths;

**Policies** - we have established the following guidelines in the management of our affairs;

**Goals** - we have identified what we propose to achieve; and

**Objectives** - we have established the following directives to achieve our goals.

## **Cardinal Pacelli School - Beliefs**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2013*

1. Catholic education must develop the total child, including spiritual awareness, creative ability, and emotional maturity.
2. All students can and want to learn, and formal education is essential to individual growth and success.
3. Academic excellence, a rigorous preparation for high school, and providing the tools needed for success in life underline the scope and sequence of our curriculum.
4. Every person should be respected as a contributing member of a positive and supportive school community.
5. Catholic education is the shared responsibility of the students, staff, parents, and administrators, and open and honest communication among this community is of paramount importance for the success of our students.
6. A motivated, high-quality staff is essential to student success.

**Cardinal Pacelli School - Policies**  
*Approved by the Education Commission: 2001*

1. The primary focus of instruction at Cardinal Pacelli School is the mastery of basic skills, development of an appropriate knowledge base, and the development of creative thought processes.
2. Every program and course of study is designed to promote student learning and achievement in the Pre-School - 8 instructional program.
3. The pastor, principal, education commission and accreditation team maintain and annually update the school's plan. They submit reports of the results of their progress to the staff and school community.
4. The school administration provide the resources and support needed to maintain and develop an excellent teaching staff. Incompetence of any staff member who compromises or interferes with the accomplishment of the mission of Cardinal Pacelli School will not be tolerated.
5. Every five years Cardinal Pacelli School completes a formal accreditation process through the Ohio School Accrediting Association (OCSSA).
6. Cardinal Pacelli School does not permit verbal abuse, physical abuse or humiliation of any student or staff member. No student will to keep another student from learning or prevent a teacher from teaching. Mutual respect in school is key to a positive environment.
7. Any new program, service or course of study becomes a part of our education process when it:
  - meets a demonstrated, mission-related need;
  - addresses the effect it will have on other programs, services or existing courses of study;
  - can be adequately staffed; and/or
  - is set in place with a written evaluation procedure.
8. Every program, service or course of study is reevaluated on a regular and timely schedule not to exceed every five years. If not justified in terms of the mission and beliefs of Cardinal Pacelli School, the program, service or course of study is eliminated.
9. Cardinal Pacelli School and the Parish Center are Non-Smoking facilities.

## Philosophy of Education

As a Catholic elementary school, Cardinal Pacelli School is dedicated to the Church's mission to proclaim the Word of Jesus Christ and translate this proclamation into action. Our goal is to integrate religious values and truths into daily life through our staff and our curriculum. We enter into an educational partnership with our students' parents to share their responsibility as the primary educators of their children. With religious education as our base, our program is built on three principles:

First, the best learning environment is one of love and trust. Children who feel loved and trusted will grow and learn. With appropriate structure and limits, students experience freedom of choice within clearly defined boundaries. They can express feelings openly and know that someone will listen and care. This is the school atmosphere for students and for staff members. Adults must set a good example in relationships between pastor, principal, parents and teachers. Teachers are treated with respect as competent and valued professionals.

Second, each child is an individual with particular needs. Children develop and learn at their own rate and in their own style. Personal intellectual, social, and emotional development requires that our program is flexible enough to accommodate all students. Basic skills are best developed in a logical, sequential pattern. In addition to basic skills, we seek to develop a challenging curriculum to prepare our students for future academic success. Academic excellence is valued and constantly pursued.

Third, open communication among students, school and home is essential. Parents and teachers are partners who work together to direct the child's educational development. Our program requires continual assessment of each student's needs, abilities, and progress. Communication between school staff and parents creates a more effective program and enhances the process of education.

All members of the school community must remain faithful to the basic values of Catholic education. As we live the gospel and create a loving, disciplined environment which views each child as a unique and valued individual, we fulfill our mission as a Catholic elementary school.



## **Curricular Design**

Cardinal Pacelli School offers a strong academic curriculum with a focus on skill development and mastery. Advanced classes in some areas along with individualized, group, and differentiated instruction provide a wide variety of learning techniques used to accommodate all student learning styles.

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1 implement this design in a self-contained classroom setting. Grades two through four exchange some classes with their partner teacher. Beginning in grade five, students are organized in departmental programs which exchange classes in the major subject areas.

## **Religious Education**

Religious education is the essence of Catholic schools. The aim of our Religion program is to prepare our students for Christian life and service to the community. Parents, the first and most important religious educators of their children, are aided by the school and parish to meet the responsibility of the religious and moral development of their family. All grades attend a weekly Mass and a monthly all-school Mass in addition to important observances of the church year.

Twice a year the sacrament of Reconciliation is provided for the students. There are special preparations for the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for grade two and the sacrament of Confirmation for grades seven and eight. Parental encouragement for the reception of the sacraments is of prime importance to spiritual development. Non-Catholic children are expected to attend both religious and non-religious functions. Special programs are planned throughout the year for Advent, Catholic Schools Week, the Lenten/Easter season, and to honor Mary during the month of May.

## **Financial Support**

Cardinal Pacelli School is the parish school for Our Lord Christ the King Church. Tuition is subsidized by the parish. Tuition charges cover approximately 50% of the cost of educating a student at Cardinal Pacelli School. The remaining is provided through the generous contribution of the parish.

## **Part Two - General Administration** **Admissions Policy**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2001*

Cardinal Pacelli admits students of any race, sex, color, creed, national and ethnic origin, to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the parish school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other school-ministered programs, and/or in hiring teachers and other personnel.

Admission shall not be based solely on ability or achievement. However, our school may not have the educational facilities to meet the instructional needs of the mentally and physically impaired. Their admission will be determined on a case by case basis where special arrangements may be made between the parents and the school administration.

It may not be feasible to accommodate all children with special physical needs due to the structural design of the existing building and limited parish funding.

The registration of children with special needs will be reviewed annually between administration and parents prior to the acceptance of registration.

### ***School Principal's Right to Amend Handbook***

The administrator reserves the right to waive and/or deviate from any and all disciplinary regulations for just cause at his or her discretion.

### **Requirements for Enrollment as a Current, Active Parish Member**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 1999*

**Registration** – of **new** students is ongoing through the use of an on-line registration system. **Priority registration for the next school year ends January 31.** Parents will receive an e-mail confirmation of the student(s) enrollment.

### **Requirements for enrollment as a Current, Active Parish Member**

Registration requirements are:

1. Completed application and registration forms.
2. Registration in Christ the King parish at least **six months** or a letter from your former parish stating you were active and participating prior to school registration date.
3. Baptismal certificate and birth certificate. (*Note: a copy of the baptismal certificate and birth certificate must be on file in the school office.*)
4. Immunization records.
5. Previous report card or progress report.

6. Interview with the principal and/or academic screening by the school psychologist in grades 1-8. The Principal will make the final determination of acceptance based on testing and all application material.

**\*Kindergarten screening for incoming students takes place in May.**

**7. Financial Requirements for Admission include:**

- a. An application fee of \$200 for Pre-School through 8. This fee is non-refundable.
- b. Tuition and student fees must be paid through **FACTS Tuition Management System** unless other arrangements have been made with the Business Office. One option is to pay in full by July 15<sup>th</sup>. A second option is to:
  - i. Pay in two installments on July 15<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. Pay in ten installments on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month from July-April

c. Tuition adjustments are available in the case of financial need. These will be determined at the discretion of the pastor and the principal. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, through the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign has created a tuition assistance fund for students within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. To apply for Tuition Assistance from Cardinal Pacelli's Education Fund, you are required to apply for the Archdiocese Financial Aid first. Both financial aid programs begin with a single application through FACTS Tuition Management System. The link can be found on the Cardinal Pacelli School website.

**If you are an Active Parishioner, you will be considered for both grants, non-parishioners will only be considered for the Archdiocese grant.**

**Parent Requirements for *Parishioner* Admission**

1. Support of religious instruction by regular, active participation in parish religious practice and worship including all of the following:
  - a. weekly Mass attendance
  - b. support of sacramental programs: Penance, Eucharist & Confirmation, and
  - c. active participation in Our Lord Christ the King parish activities.
2. Financial support of the church with regular envelope use.
3. Participation in school, PTO, and parish volunteer programs.

## Student Requirements for *Parishioner* Admission

1. Student evidences a Christian attitude and conforms to school regulations in all areas.
2. Student completes the required course of study and related assignments to the best of her or his ability.

## Requirements for Enrollment as a Non-Parishioner

*Approved by the Education Commission: 1999*

**Registration** – of **new** students who are not parishioners occurs after **priority registration for the next school year ends January 31**. Parents/guardians use the on-line registration process and will receive a confirmation email of the student(s) enrollment.

Registration requirements are:

1. Completed application and registration forms.
2. Registration in Christ the King parish at least **six months** or a letter from your former parish stating you were active and participating prior to school registration date.
3. Baptismal certificate and birth certificate. (*Note: a copy of the baptismal certificate and birth certificate must be on file in the school office.*)
4. Immunization records.
5. Previous report card or progress report.
6. Interview with the principal and/or academic screening by the school psychologist in grades 1-8. The Principal will make the final determination of acceptance based on testing and all application material  
**\*Kindergarten screening for incoming students takes place in May.**
7. Financial Requirements for Admission include:
  - a. An application fee of \$200 for Pre-School through 8. This fee is non-refundable.
  - b. Tuition and student fees must be paid through **FACTS Tuition Management System** unless other arrangements have been made with the Business Office. One option is to pay in full by July 15<sup>th</sup>. A second option is to:
    - i. Pay in two installments on July 15<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. Pay in ten installments on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month from July-April
  - c. Tuition adjustments are available in the case of financial need. These will be determined at the discretion of the pastor and the principal.

## Parent Requirements for *Non-Parishioner* Admission

1. Participation in school, PTO, and parish volunteer programs.

## Student Requirements for *Non-Parishioner* Admission

1. Student evidences a Christian attitude and conforms to school regulations in all areas.
2. Student completes the required course of study and related assignments to the best of her or his ability.

## Admission Policy for New Students

*Approved by the Education Commission: 1990*

**New Students for Pre-School through 8th Grade** will be accepted in the following order according to their parents' status with Our Lord Christ the King Church:

1. Current, active Our Lord Christ the King parishioners with:
  - a. Children who currently attend CPS
  - b. Children who do not currently attend CPS
2. New Our Lord Christ the King parishioners
3. Parishioners of other Catholic parishes
4. Non-Catholics

A **current, active**, Christ the King parishioner is defined as a family registered with the parish at least **six months** prior to the school opening registration date. The parishioner is contributing to the support of the parish through regular attendance at Mass, financial contributions and service to the parish and the school. When necessary, the number of years of active, parish involvement may be used as one of the criteria for school admission.

Within each category and sub-category of the admissions policies, preference will be given to those families who reside within the Christ the King parish boundaries.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

Cardinal Pacelli admits students of any race, sex, color, creed, national and ethnic origin, to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the parish school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other school-ministered programs, and/or in hiring teachers and other personnel.

# General Admission Requirements and Policies

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2001*

## **Pre-School Admission Requirements:**

1. 3-4 year old Preschool children must have reached age 3 by October 1 of the year in which they intend to enroll. All children entering Preschool must be potty-trained.
2. Pre-K children must have reached age 4 by October 1 of the year in which they intend to enroll.

## **Kindergarten Admission Requirements:**

1. Children must have reached the age of five by October 1 of the year in which they intend to enroll.
2. Kindergarten screening takes place in May. Determination of their enrollment into Kindergarten will be made by the Principal and teachers.

## **First Grade Admission Requirements:**

1. Children must have completed kindergarten.
2. Children must have reached the age of six by September 30 of the year in which they intend to enroll. If children are to be admitted below this age level they must:
  - a. have completed kindergarten, be tested successfully, or recommended by an accredited institution.
  - b. have reached the age of six by January 1 of the year in which they intend to enroll.

**Immunization and Health Regulations:** All children entering school must be fully immunized. State health requirements for immunization are distributed at registration and are available from the nurse and on the school's website under "Forms." There are yearly updates by the Ohio Department of Health on file in the clinic.

Ohio law allows immunization waivers for medical, religious, and "good cause". Forms for exemption are available from the school nurse. Medical causes must be accompanied by a physician's statement. Any questions about medical, philosophical or religious waivers, contact the school nurse.

**Student Participation:** All students are required to participate in the entire educational program including the Religion program.

**Readmission:** All students currently enrolled, will be evaluated for readmission to Cardinal Pacelli School at the end of each school year based on the progress they have made during the completed school year.

## Re-registration for current students:

Every January, families with students currently attending Cardinal Pacelli School will have the opportunity to submit their application for re-registration. Priority registration for the next school year ends January 31. An application fee of \$200 for Pre-School through 8<sup>th</sup> grade must accompany the on-line registration process. This fee is applied to tuition and is non-refundable.

The following criteria will be considered in the decision to accept a student(s) application:

- A. All tuition and fees, including library and cafeteria, must be current.
- B. Students have displayed successful academic growth and appropriate behavior. *(If a student is asked to enroll in summer school, re-registration may be contingent on the fulfillment of this requirement.)*
- C. The primary purpose of a Catholic school is to work with the family to foster the teachings, doctrines, and practices of the Catholic faith. Parents and guardians must agree to accept this commitment and actively participate in providing for the Church's practices and teachings outside the school setting. *(Non-Catholic students are required to participate in Religion classes, religious celebrations and liturgies.)*
- D. The support and loyalty of our students and parents are major factors in the success of our school. Students and parents must agree to abide by:
  - 1. Education Commission Policies
  - 2. Administrative Policies and Regulations
  - 3. School Code of Courtesy and Conduct
  - 4. Classroom Rules of Conduct

Parents/guardians will be notified if there are obstacles preventing the acceptance of a student's re-registration.

The Catholic Church and Cardinal Pacelli School recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. The education of our students is a partnership between parents and school. If, in the opinion of the administration, the partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require the parent to withdraw his or her child. This is a very serious decision that is not made lightly.

Non-Discrimination Policy: Cardinal Pacelli admits students of any race, sex, color, creed, national and ethnic origin, to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the parish school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other school-ministered programs, and/or in hiring teachers and other personnel.

## Policy on Class Size

Approved by the Education Commission: 2009

KINDERGARTEN – Grade 8 class size shall be limited to 25 students in each of the two classes.

Each grade shall be limited to a maximum of two classes.

- *Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the pastor and the principal with the approval of the Cardinal Pacelli Advisory Committee*
- *Teacher aides for some classes may be provided at the discretion of the pastor and principal.*

## Tuition Policy and Fees

1. No eligible child and family member of the parish shall be denied admittance to Cardinal Pacelli School because the family is unable to afford tuition.

2. Tuition Fees are available at [www.cardinalpacelli.org](http://www.cardinalpacelli.org) or by calling the Business Manager at (513) 321-4121.

3. Tuition Payment Schedule:

Pay in full by July 15

Pay in two installments, July 15 and December 15

Pay in ten installments on the 15th of the month, July-April

**\*Eighth grade students will not participate in graduation unless all financial obligations have been paid.**

Failure to make scheduled payments or fulfill financial obligations will result in the holding back of any student report cards and records at any time throughout the year including transferring of records to other schools.

If parents are unable to pay tuition on this schedule or have evidence of financial need, they must make arrangements with the Parish Business Office. Failure to pay tuition and/or comply with all financial responsibilities will be considered sufficient basis to dismiss children from Cardinal Pacelli School.

In order to be considered for partial relief from tuition, parents must fill out a financial aid form through the **FACTS Tuition Management System** and apply. At all times, this procedure will be administered with a true spirit of Christian charity, and fiscal responsibility.

If a child withdraws before the first day of school, all but the registration fee will be refunded. For withdrawals before the end of the First Trimester, 50% is due and will not be refunded. If more than 50% has been paid at that time, the difference will be refunded. By the end of the Second Trimester, 100% is due and non-refundable. Records will be released only when the above is satisfied.

**There will be a fee assessed for any returned check that is received.**



## Uniform Dress Code

Approved by the Education Commission: 1999

Uniforms are worn by students in grades K-8. All uniforms can be purchased through Lands' End and/or Schoolbelles. Students in grades 3-8 need to purchase the gym uniform also through Lands' End. The Cardinal Pacelli school code at Lands' End is 900143512 and at Schoolbelles is S1571. You may refer to the school website for more information about ordering uniforms.

### Boy's Uniform:

**Button down collar shirts:** white only, long sleeves or short sleeves

**Knit shirt (polo):** white only, short or long sleeve, button-placket, knit collar with Pacelli logo on left chest is only uniform knit shirt permitted. **Shirt tails must be tucked in at all times.**

\*Students in Grades 7 and 8 may wear knit polo shirts in white, navy (cobalt) blue, gray, or orange with the Jr. High Pacelli crest on the left chest.

**Sweaters:** solid navy blue.

**Fleece:** Navy blue Pacelli fleece

**Trousers:** dark navy blue tailored trousers; corduroy tailored trousers are acceptable - no outside pockets or loops, no five pocket pants, no cargo pants, and no studs or colored seams.

**Belts:** must be worn by all students in grades 5 – 8.

**Shoes:** gym shoes or dress shoes only – **NO** clogs or sandals. **Gym shoes MUST be worn for PE class.**

**Socks:** must be worn in **solid** white, black or navy blue only. **Elite socks are permitted but MUST only have the colors of white, black, or navy.** Socks must be seen above the shoe.

**Sweatshirt:** navy blue or gray, long sleeve with Pacelli crest is the only sweatshirt allowed to be worn as part of uniform. These must be purchased from Lands' End or RokkitWear. Long sleeve performance "shooter" shirts are also permitted.

### Girl's Uniform:

**Blouse:** white, button-front, long sleeves or short sleeves.

**Knit shirt (polo):** white only, short or long sleeve, button-placket, knit collar with CPS crest on left chest is only uniform knit shirt allowed. **Bare mid-drift shirts are prohibited. Shirt tails must be tucked in at all times.**

\*Girls in Grades K-4 who wear jumpers **DO NOT** need to wear uniform shirt with the Cardinal Pacelli crest.

\*Students in Grades 7 and 8 may wear knit polo shirts in white, navy (cobalt) blue, gray, or orange with the Jr. High Pacelli crest on the left chest.

**Sweaters:** Solid navy blue.

**Sweatshirt:** navy blue or gray, long sleeve with Pacelli crest is the only sweatshirt allowed to be worn as part of uniform. These must be purchased from Lands' End or RokkitWear. Long sleeve performance "shooter" shirts are also permitted.

**Skirt:** Grades 5-8, dark blue school plaid wrap around kilt skirt or the side pleat skirt with knit short from Schoolbelles. Box pleat skirts purchased from Lands' End need to be appropriate length. **Skirts must be zipped, buttoned and unrolled at all times. The length of the skirt should be modest in length and no shorter than three inches above the knee. At no time should shorts be seen under the skirt.**

**Jumper:** Grades 1-4, dark blue plaid, drop waist shift jumper from Lands' End or V-Neck pleated jumper from Schoolbelles. **The length of the jumper must be modest in length.**

**Socks:** must be worn in **solid** white, black or navy blue only. **Elite socks are permitted but MUST only have the colors of white, black, or navy.** Socks must be seen above the shoe. Only **solid** white, black or navy blue tights may be worn.

**Leggings:** are permitted as long as socks come up to and cover the bottom edge of the legging.

**Shoes:** gym shoes or dress shoes only - **NO** clogs, sandals or platform shoes. During the winter months, boots may be worn **BUT** students **MUST** wear gym shoes for PE class.

### **Optional Uniform Regulations for Boys and Girls:**

**Turtlenecks:** may be worn under uniform shirts or blouses during cold weather. **White only.**

**Shorts:** School uniform shorts which can be purchased at most retail stores. They must be tailored, no outside pockets or five pocket shorts. **Shorts should be no shorter than two inches above the knee.** Shorts may be worn from **August** through **October** and from **April 1** through **June**.

**Slacks:** for girls, dark blue tailored slacks or dark navy corduroy, no denim, no loops or pants with outside pockets; no five pocket slacks, no cargo pants, no studs, or colored seams.

**Belts:** must be worn in grades 5 – 8.

**Windbreakers and jackets** may **not** be worn in the classroom. Only uniform sweatshirts, fleeces, and sweaters are permitted (see above).

**Hair:** Students must be clean shaven at all times; beards, mustaches and sideburns that extend below the ear are not permitted. Students must keep hair of natural color and not dyed in any way. Styles deemed to be a distraction or inappropriate by the administration will not be permitted. Hats, bandanas and artificial hair are prohibited.

**Undergarments:** with emblems, writing or colors that show through the shirt or blouse are not permitted. This includes colored bras.

**Nails:** Should be well-groomed. Acrylic nails and make up are not permitted.

**Jewelry:** one earring may be worn in the lobe of each ear. Dangling earrings are not permitted. Boys are **not** permitted to wear earrings. Students may wear small religious medals, small crosses, and scapulars under their shirt or blouse. Students may wear a wristwatch but other forms of jewelry should be limited and at the discretion of the administration.

The students have a variety of uniform options and should always be properly attired. It is the parent's responsibility to see that students are properly attired for school.

From time to time, the administration may announce special dress codes for special occasions.

### **Gym Uniform**

Grades 3-8 are required to wear a gym uniform which consists of a classic navy uniform mesh short and an orange tee shirt both with the Pacelli logo. These are purchased through Lands End. All students **MUST** wear gym shoes to school on PE days.

### **SPIRITWEAR DAYS:**

Spirit Wear days are days on which students are allowed to come to school dressed in clothing that celebrates our Pacelli spirit.

- Spirit Wear shirts depicting Cardinal Pacelli School can be worn or a solid blue or orange shirt.
- Denim blue jeans
- Solid colored khaki pants (or shorts during acceptable months)
- Uniform pants and or jumper/skirt may also be worn.

### **OUT OF UNIFORM DAYS:**

Students must observe school guidelines for clean, neat and modest attire when they are "out of uniform."

- Clothing should not be ripped, torn or inappropriate for school.
- Graphics must be school appropriate. (The administration will determine if a graphic is inappropriate and must be changed.)
- When leggings or tight fitting pants are worn, shorts, skirts, a dress or long shirt must also be worn
- Clothing length must extend below the fingertips when arms are fully extended at student's side or no shorter than two inches above the knee.
- No tank tops or tops with spaghetti straps.
- No short shorts or short skirts are to be worn

Parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing to students who fail to follow this policy. Teachers may ask students to remove or change **anything** that they find distracting or disturbing to others. The decision of an administrator concerning the dress of students is final.

All other parts of the uniform policy must still be adhered to including socks, jewelry, length of shorts etc. Any student coming to school dressed in a way that is not compliant with these guidelines will have to call home and have their uniform clothing brought to school to be worn for the remainder of the day.

### **Attendance and Absence**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2002*

To achieve academic excellence, students need to attend classes regularly and punctually.

- State attendance law requires all students to attend a minimum number of hours of instructional time per day = required number of hours for a full school year according to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Ohio Department of Education.
  - Excused absences include reasons of illness or a death in the family. Upon returning to school after an absence, the student **must** bring a note to the homeroom teacher giving the reason for the absence.
  - Excessive absenteeism (over fifteen (15) days) may result in request for a doctor's note for all absences.
- The parent or guardian must send an email to [absent@cardinalpacelli.org](mailto:absent@cardinalpacelli.org) or contact the school office (321-1048) before 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the absence. Teachers will take attendance first thing in the morning with their homeroom and also for each class during the school day. If the office is not notified, an email will be sent to assure the student's safety. Parents should contact the homeroom teacher before **11 AM** via email if they want homework to be sent home that day or picked up after school in the office.
- A student should be kept out of class only for illness or other serious reasons. Student absences due to illness, doctor appointments, or death in the family are considered an **excused** absence. The faculty and staff will gladly help students with their missing work from an excused absence. Students will have the same number of days they were excused to make up any work.
- Parents must be discriminating in their decision to keep a student home from school as valuable class time is lost which often cannot be effectively made up. "**Absences of convenience**" are strongly discouraged because they express a devaluation of the importance of education and will be recorded as an **unexcused** absence.
- Student absences due to vacation trips are considered an **unexcused** absence. Students and parents assume full responsibility for the work missed during an unexcused absence. Teachers are not required to prepare and provide in advance homework assignments for a student prior to an unexcused absence. They are also not responsible for reviewing/re-teaching material discussed/presented during the time of

the unexcused absence. The classroom setting can never be replicated. Parents are encouraged to check the teacher website for assignments given. Students are encouraged to check with a classmate for whatever was missed during class as this work may not be recorded on the teacher website.

- In grades K-4 the teacher will have the missed assignments for the students when they return.
  - In grades 5-8, it is the responsibility of the student to get all of their work from a classmate in their class. All missing/graded work will be required to be made up by the student within 5 days of their return.
  - Any tests and/or quizzes that were assigned prior to the student's departure will be required to be taken the day the student returns to school. Any tests/quizzes assigned during their absence will be scheduled at the discretion of the teacher. Students are encouraged to call a classmate and/or check their teacher's website for homework. Please note that classroom work is NOT listed on the web pages; therefore, it is the responsibility of the student to get this classroom work from another student.
- If a child has had a communicable disease, written notice of the disease must be submitted to the office on the child's return.
  - Notes must be sent to the teacher prior to an appointment stating that the student is to be released from school at a specific time.
  - When students return to school after an absence, they **MUST** hand in a note or send an email stating the days missed and the reason. This communication will be sent to the office.

The parent(s) or guardian must sign the student "**out**" at the school office. A tardy or ½ day absence will be assigned depending upon the length of time the student is out of the building and not in the classroom.

Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to avoid making appointments which will interrupt the school day.

- Parent(s) or guardians must send written notification of the reason why a student cannot attend physical education class. If a long absence from this class is necessary, the State of Ohio requires a doctor's verification of the reason and duration of the absence.
- If a student is absent for a significant part of a grading period, the teacher may not be able to record a grade until the required work is completed.
- No student may leave the school premises at any time during school hours without the permission of the principal.
- Students who are absent from school during the day **may not** participate in any school sponsored activities on the evening of their absence. This includes, but is not limited to, school sponsored activities such as selective electives, clubs, student council, sports, etc.

- Shadowing High Schools – Students are encouraged to shadow on days that Cardinal Pacelli School is not in session.

## **Tardiness**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2002*

All students are required to be at school for prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and morning announcements at 7:50 a.m. Any student who arrives after 7:50 a.m. or leaves for an appointment, will be marked tardy.

- The school day officially begins at 7:50 a.m. and students are expected to be present in the Gym or Homeroom at this time. Students should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. as there is no adult supervision available until 7:30 a.m.
- **A student who arrives later than 7:50 a.m. will be marked tardy.** A tardy student must come to the office to obtain a tardy slip for admittance to the classroom. A student who leaves in the afternoon prior to 2:30 p.m. will be marked tardy.
- Students arriving later than 11:00 a.m. will be marked one-half day absent.
- Any student missing up to three hours of the day will be marked one-half day absent.
- Students leaving before noon will be marked one-half day absent.
- A student who misses more than three hours of the day will be considered absent for a full day.

The school office reserves the right to determine if absent and tardy excuses are reasonable and valid.

At the discretion of the Principal, disciplinary action may be enforced for excessive absences and/or tardies. The Principal will notify parent(s)/guardian(s) when excessive tardiness and/or absences are incurred without valid reasons.

### **Daily Schedule Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten**

- 8:00 a.m. Pre-K begins
- 11:00 a.m. Pre-K dismissal
- 9:15 a.m. Pre-School begins
- 11:45 a.m. Pre-School dismissal

### **Daily Schedule Kindergarten**

- 7:50 a.m. Kindergarten begins
- 11:45 a.m. Half day kindergarten dismissal
- 2:30 p.m. Dismissal all day kindergarten

## Daily Schedule - Grades Kindergarten to Eight

- 7:30 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. Students assemble in Gym or Homeroom
- 7:50 a.m. Morning prayer begins
- 8:00 a.m. Classes begin
- 10:00 a.m. Primary recess period
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Lunch and Recess
  - Grades 5 & 6 lunch 11:00-11:15 - recess 11:15-11:30
  - Grades 7 & 8 lunch 11:15-11:30 - recess 11:00-11:15
  - Grades 3 & 4 lunch 11:30-11:45 - recess 11:50-12:10
  - Grades 1 & 2 lunch 11:50-12:10 - recess 12:10- 12:30
  - Kindergarten lunch 12:10-12:35 - recess 12:35-12:50
- 2:30 Dismissal begins

## Weekly Mass Schedule

- 8:15 a.m. Tuesday – Grades 5 – 8
- 8:15 a.m. Thursday – Grades K – 4

## Homework Policy

A reasonable amount of homework may be given which will take into consideration the student's age, their level of achievement, and the type of assignment. Homework assignments may supplement class work, may require independent review of class work, or may provide the opportunity to use research skills. Students must turn assignments in on time. Late or missing assignments are penalized at the discretion of the teacher. Make-up work may be assigned, particularly after a long absence.

Ordinarily, homework is not assigned on holidays or over weekends but this is left to the discretion and needs of the teacher. The time necessary to do homework will vary with grade level, the type of assignment given, and the student's rate of working. If your child seems to spend an excessive amount of time on homework or claims to have no homework, parents or guardians should request a conference with the teacher to clarify the situation.

If a child is absent, homework may be requested by emailing the homeroom teacher by 12:00 p.m. and indicating how he/she would like the assignments to be sent home (with another student, a sibling, or picked up in the office by the parent after school).

### Guidelines for homework assignments are:

- Grades 1-2 Optional, not to exceed 20 minutes
- Grades 3-4 Approximately 30-45 minutes
- Grades 5-6 Approximately one hour
- Grades 7-8 Average of two 2 hours

## Textbooks

Students are provided the use of hardcover textbooks. It is the responsibility of the student and parents to purchase a replacement book if a textbook is lost or defaced. **All hardcover textbooks must be covered at all times.**

Consumable books and workbooks used by the student are the responsibility of the student and parents who must purchase a replacement book for any that are lost or defaced.

Students are responsible for all electronic devices they use at school.

## **School Supplies**

A list of school supplies required for class is posted on the Cardinal Pacelli School website and sent home through *The Pacelli Post*. Students are expected to have the required supplies for their grade level at the beginning of the school year. PTO sponsors a supply order program for those who wish to participate. Forms for this (School Kidz) program are linked in the POST in the spring.

## **Student Progress**

Student progress is determined by several methods which include: daily assignments, class participation and involvement, personal effort, homework, special project assignments, tests, and quizzes. Parents and guardians are encouraged to stay in contact with teachers. Cardinal Pacelli School is on a trimester system and report cards are issued three times a year. An explanation of the grading system can be found on the report card. On-line access to student grades are available for grades 5-8 regularly through the **RenWeb Student Management System**. All parents/guardians will have continuous access to the on-line system for all grades entered for all subjects throughout the school year. Each trimester is approximately 12 weeks in length and mid-trimester is approximately 6 weeks in length. Parents are encouraged to use this system to access their child's progress and to initiate additional contact with the teachers if they feel it is needed.

## **Creating Class Lists**

Working together collaboratively, class lists are formed by the teachers. Parents cannot request a teacher for their child(ren). The Principal reviews the lists and assigns the teachers to each homeroom.

## **Promotion and Retention Policies**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 1991-1992*

Progress through the elementary grades is a combination of achievement in mastering certain basic skills as well as age, maturation and social development. The student must demonstrate competency in meeting subject area objectives as stated in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Graded Course of Study for all subject areas.

The teachers and principal will consider the following in making promotion decisions:

- the student's cumulative average in reading, math, science, language arts and social studies;
- the work habits and organizational skills of the student;
- the development of basic skills in reading, math and writing; and
- the social and physical development of the student.



Fundamental skills are acquired in the primary grades. Promotion and retention in the primary grades will be the teacher's decision with the approval of the principal, based primarily on reading and math ability and social development.

Promotion and retention in grades four through eight will depend on overall scholastic achievement. Failure in three major subject areas could result in retention. (Graduation requirements are successful completion of required course work, conduct which is acceptable for Cardinal Pacelli students in keeping with the guidelines set for our school, regular participation in classes, and good school attendance.)

Conferences will take place with the parents or guardians early in the year so that school and home may work together in helping the student experience greater success. A decision to retain a student will not take place until all aspects of the student's academic, physical and social development have been considered and additional options such as testing, summer school and tutoring are considered. Parents or guardians will be part of the decision making process and the decision will be made as early as possible. The teacher will discuss the possibility of retention with the school principal.

### **Withdrawal and Transfer of Students**

Early notification of student withdrawal or transfer should be given to the school office and to the classroom teacher. A minimum of one week's notice is necessary. Hard cover textbooks are the property of the school but the student may take workbooks and their report card with them. Academic records are sent to the new school upon receiving a request for school records and all financial obligations have been met at Cardinal Pacelli School.

### **Library**

All students have access to the school library. Library rules for checking out books, behavior in the library, the use of reference materials and student responsibility for lost or overdue books are explained at the start of each school year. Students are expected to follow these rules and to behave with courtesy and respect when using the library.

#### **Library Books:**

- Students are encouraged to check out library books on a weekly basis.
- Due dates are stamped on the date due card and books should be returned on that day. Books may be renewed unless there is a waiting list for that book.
- It is the responsibility of the student and the parents to pay the replacement fee for lost or defaced books.
- Report cards/records will be held at the end of the school year if books are not returned or paid for.

## Academic Achievement

Approved by the Education Commission: 1999

### AWARDS

#### Honor Roll

All students in grades 5-8 are eligible for Honor Roll recognition. Only subjects which receive a letter grade will be used to determine honors. The following criteria determines the honors:

- **Straight A Honors** - All grades are an A average (93%-100%)
- **A-B Honors** - All grades are B average (85%-92%)

Students must meet the following additional standards in order to qualify for the honors:

- No more than eight (8) cumulative tardies
- No detentions during the trimester
- Unexcused absences may result in exclusion from honors

#### Eugenio Pacelli Award

Two students from each "team" (K-2 / 3-4 / 5-6 / 7-8), per trimester will be selected by teacher teams who exemplify the following characteristics:

Leadership

Participative

Peacemaker

Supportive

Role model

Understanding

Respectful

Dedicated/Hard-working

Positive

Courageous

Encouraging

**\*\* This award is NOT based on academic strength/grades**

#### Subject Recognition Award

One student from each homeroom will be chosen each month in recognition for his/her performance in a specific area of the curriculum. This recognition will not necessarily be given to the student with the highest grade, but will emphasize effort, classroom participation, enthusiasm, and behavior.

The students will be recognized as follows:

September – Religion

February - Art

October – Social Studies

March - Music

November – Math

April - Spanish

December – Science

May – Physical Education

January – Language Arts

Pictures of the students will be displayed in the school for the entire month. Students will receive their certificates during morning announcements and will be named in the *Pacelli* POST.

## **Standardized Testing Program**

The Iowa Assessment, which measures student achievement and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt) which measures a students' ability to reason and solve various types of problems are administered to grades 2 and 7. All testing is given in the spring. When test dates are announced, parents are asked to have students well-rested and in attendance.

The Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) is an integrated, multi-level assessment instrument designed to assist school, parish and diocesan leaders to evaluate the effectiveness of their religious education and catechetical programs. This test is administered to grades 5 and 8.

The High School Placement test is administered on the third Saturday in November at one of the local high schools of your choice for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Results are used by the high schools to determine admission. Cardinal Pacelli School offers an 8-week study skills class in preparation for this diagnostic test during the school day. The cost of this class is assessed through school fees.

## **Math Grouping Policy in Grades 6 through 8**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2009*

During the third trimester of the 5th, 6th and 7th grades, decisions about student placement into math groups is made by the teachers. Standardized test scores, report card grades, and teacher recommendations are used to determine the group for the next school year. Additional criteria in these decisions can include previous math grades and standardized test scores, classroom performance and effort. The placement of a student into a specific group is not final and can be revisited to insure the best placement for the achievement of each individual.

## **Physical Education Program**

All students (Pre-K through 8) participate in the physical education program. Gym clothes are sold through Lands End. Gym clothes are required for grades 3-8 in the Physical Education class. **All gym clothes should be marked with the student's name.** Students are informed of gym clothing needs and given instructions for changing clothes by the physical education teacher. **ALL** students **MUST** wear gym shoes on P.E. days.

## **PART THREE**

### **Student Code of Conduct and Courtesy, Safety, and Activities**

#### **Visitors**

All persons, without exception (parents, guardians, volunteers, delivery persons, etc.) must enter through the front door and upon entering the school building must check in first at the school office and obtain a badge to wear during their school visit. This process facilitates security. All visitors to the classrooms must be approved by the teacher and principal.

#### **Alumni**

We value the experiences that you have had during your time away from Cardinal Pacelli School. We know how important it is to come back and visit your friends and former teachers. It is recommended that your visits be during the lunch periods where it is easier to catch everyone and the classrooms are not interrupted. If you are interested in coming for a visit, please stop in the front office to sign in and receive a visitor's badge.

#### **Discipline and Behavior Guidelines/Policies**

Discipline is fundamental to a successful life and essential in the educational setting. The faculty and administration of Cardinal Pacelli School expect excellent behavior from all students. Rules in the classrooms, halls, restrooms, cafeteria, and playground are designed to insure a safe and educational school day. Violence, threats of violence and simulations of violence will be taken as serious violations of the discipline and safety policies of the school. In all aspects of discipline, our goal is to act in a Christian manner characterized by fairness and compassion.

#### **ANTI-BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY**

Cardinal Pacelli School is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, nurturing and Christian environment for all of its students. Administrators encourage the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment, intimidation, relational aggression and bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal and psychological abuse.

Administrators will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities associated with school, including activities on school property, while en-route to or from school and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school related activity or function, such as field trip, or athletic event.

The term "harassment, intimidation or bullying" in this policy means any intentional, written, verbal or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:

- (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
- (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.

Behaviors that are repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being is a form of intimidation and harassment. Such behaviors would include, but not be limited to stalking, bullying/cyber-bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name calling, taunting, making threats and hazing. The term "relational aggression" in this policy means emotional violence and bullying behavior focused on damaging an individual's social connections within the peer group. Unlike Bullying behaviors, relational aggression is not repeated behaviors. Harassment, intimidation, bullying and relational aggression also means electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, email, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device that a student (s) or group of students exhibit toward another particular student(s) once or more and the behaviors both cause mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

### **Reporting and Documenting Procedures**

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes he/she has been or is the victim of harassment, intimidation, bullying or relational aggression should immediately report the situation. Reports can be given to the following positions in the school:

1. Individual's teacher
2. School Principal
3. School Psychologist
4. School Pastor

Reports can be made verbally or in writing to [badconduct@cardinalpacelli.org](mailto:badconduct@cardinalpacelli.org); however, reports need to include the following information for an appropriate investigation to occur:

- person(s) involved
- number of times and places of the alleged conduct
- the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, bullying or relational aggression
- the names of any potential student or staff witness.

Such reports shall be promptly forwarded to the school principal and/or school psychologist for review, investigation and action. When a student making a complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited so to honor the anonymity of any complaint.

### **Administrative Procedure/Response**

All reports of harassment, intimidation, bullying and relational aggression will be investigated and handled on an individual basis. If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or relational aggression has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include a student receiving points on their Conduct Card, detention, suspension and/or expulsion. This also may include discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors and removal from any official position and/or request to resign. Individuals may be referred to law enforcement officials.

The School Principal or Psychologist shall promptly investigate all reports of harassment, intimidation, bullying and relational aggression. All matters involving such complaint should remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.

1. School Principal and/or Psychologist will confer with the student, parent or guardian making the report in order to obtain a clear understanding of the alleged facts.
2. School Principal and/or Psychologist will meet with witnesses identified and those witnesses will be asked to make a written or verbal statement regarding the facts of the complaint.
3. School Principal and/or Psychologist will meet with the student(s) accused of harassment, intimidation, bullying and relational aggression to obtain a response to the complaint both orally and in writing.
4. Following the completion of the investigation, any student(s) found to have participated in harassment, intimidation, bullying or relational aggression toward another student will be subject to disciplinary action.
5. Retaliation against any student who makes a complaint of harassment, intimidation, bullying or relational aggression or any student who becomes involved in the investigation of such complaint, is strictly prohibited. In addition, making intentionally false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying or relational aggression for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action.
6. Parents and Guardians have the responsibility to assist their child in promptly sharing complaints, provide complete factual information, maintain and respect the privacy and confidentiality of all parties, act in good faith, and in a calm, courteous manner and show respect and understanding of each other's point of view and value all differences. When a parent and/or guardian does not uphold their responsibility they may be at risk of exclusion.

## **SMOKING, DRUGS, AND WEAPONS**

Cardinal Pacelli School is a smoke-free, drug-free and child-safe facility. Any violation of school rules regarding smoking, drug use or weapons will result in extremely serious consequences including placement on the Two-Step Discipline Program and possible suspension and/or expulsion from school.

### **NO SMOKING**

Students may not smoke on the grounds of Cardinal Pacelli School or Our Lord Christ the King Parish at ANY time. Even possessing matches or lighters, as well as tobacco in any form, are prohibited.

## **NO DRUGS**

You may never have drugs, alcohol, mind-altering substances, or medicine at any time on Cardinal Pacelli School or Our Lord Christ the King Parish property.

## **NO WEAPONS**

You may NEVER use or have in your possession any weapon, including but not limited to a gun, knife, pepper spray, or any object that could be used as a weapon or is a weapon look-alike. Possessing or using firecrackers, stink bombs, or any other disruptive or explosive device is prohibited.

## **Behavior Expectations**

Teachers will explain school regulations to the students at the start of the school year. In addition, each teacher may have rules specific to the operation of their classroom. These classroom rules will be as uniform as possible and approved by the principal.

Students' best behavior is manifested in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. School goals will emphasize this positive approach to discipline. These expectations in behavior fall into the following categories:

### **The child will be:**

- polite, courteous, friendly;
- kind and thoughtful of others;
- considerate of other's feelings;
- independent;
- responsible and honest; and
- giving and generous of him/her self.

### **The child will have:**

- self-control;
- a good self-image and self-respect; and
- a positive value system.

### **The child will demonstrate:**

- pride in home, school, and community;
- an ability to make appropriate personal decisions; and
- reverence to self, to other children, to teachers, and to the Church.

Parents, guardians and teachers are expected to work together to develop in students a positive attitude toward cooperation.

## **Code of Courtesy and Conduct**

### **Respect for Self**

*I will* show respect and participate at all religious services.

*I will* behave appropriately at all school assemblies.

*I will* take initiative to stand up for what I know is right.

***I will*** show my self-worth by taking pride in my appearance, being well-groomed and in proper uniform.

***I will*** arrive at school and classes prepared and on time.

***I will*** reflect Cardinal Pacelli School pride both in and out of school.

### **Awareness of Others**

***I will*** show respect for all adults and all students by the way I speak, listen, and respond to them.

***I will*** use polite language at all times and I will make such words as *Please, Thank you, and Excuse Me*, a part of my daily vocabulary.

***I will*** keep the volume of my voice under control and at an appropriate level.

***I will*** follow all classroom, library, cafeteria and playground rules, and all instructions of the adults in charge.

***I will*** walk in a quiet and orderly manner in line, in hallways and between buildings.

***I will*** remain in assigned areas unless given permission to leave.

***I will*** hold doors open for others.

***I will*** knock on the door and wait before entering a classroom.

***I will*** keep my hands to myself and not push, shove, or do any action that may cause injury to others.

### **Respect for Property**

***I will*** show respect for all school property by handling textbooks in a careful manner and conserving supplies.

***I will*** take care that our school's facilities and desks are kept orderly and undamaged.

***I will*** respect the property of others, just as I expect others to respect my personal property.

### **Positive choices in behavior will result in:**

Positive feelings of self-esteem and self-worth; and  
Personal contribution to our school community.

The Catholic Church and this Catholic school recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. The education of students at our school is a partnership between parents and the school. If, in the opinion of the administration, the partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require the parent to withdraw his or her child. This is a very serious decision that is not made lightly.

## **Cardinal Pacelli School Code of Discipline**

*Approved by the Education Commission: 2001*

Detentions will be issued by any teacher for:

- Disruptive talking;
- Excessive tardiness;
- Inappropriate behavior;
- Repeatedly being out of uniform;
- Chewing gum or eating without permission;
- Repeatedly not having gym clothes;
- Being defiant and disregarding an instruction from teachers and/or staff at CPS; and/or
- Consistently being unprepared for class



## CONDUCT CARDS

Students in grades 5 – 8 will receive a conduct card at the beginning of the school year. The card will be affixed to the inside of the student's planner. It contains two sets of five columns for each trimester. Students will have their card signed by a teacher or staff member if their misbehavior warrants it.

Examples of misbehavior include:

- disrespect toward others
- inappropriate language or gestures
- disruptive behavior
- damaging/stealing of school or personal property
- compromising the safety of self and/or others
- inappropriate use of social media
- inappropriate use of school technology
- leaving school property without permission
- cheating or lying
- physical violence
- gum chewing
- disregarding school rules

Once a Conduct Card is signed five times, the student will be given a detention. If a student has their card signed ten times in one trimester or receives two automatic detentions for offenses, he/she will receive a detention, a two-week probation from school extracurricular activities, and parents and coaches will be notified. Each additional detention will warrant an additional two weeks of probation and an in-school suspension. Parents will be responsible for paying the cost of the substitute teacher hired to monitor the in-school suspension.

If conduct/behavior continues to be an issue, a parent meeting with teachers, administrators, and the pastor will be called to discuss possible outside suspension or expulsion.

Recording of Conduct Card signatures will begin anew each trimester.

The detention period is 45 minutes after school until 3:30 and will be served each Wednesday. Teachers will dismiss the students through the front door of the school building.

The principal is the final arbiter in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rule for just cause at his/her discretion. Some actions may warrant a suspension or expulsion.

A reprimand for willful and/or repeated violations of school or classroom regulations will be the responsibility of the classroom teacher.

## Student Property Inspection

School administrators may inspect any student's property at any time for any reason without prior notice. This property includes, but is not limited to, desks, computers and lockers (cubbies). Additionally, any personal items are subject to inspection at anytime and for any reason, without prior notice, as a condition of bringing them onto or taking them from the school's premises. Such items include but are not limited to packages, lunch boxes or lunch bags, containers, backpacks, duffel bags, book bags, briefcases, purses and pockets. An inspection does not imply wrongdoing by the student being inspected. A student and his/her parent/guardians consent to inspection of personal items as a condition of enrollment and attendance at Cardinal Pacelli School. Refusal to consent may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, even for a first refusal.

Each teacher, or group of teachers, will establish and enforce both classroom rules and the discipline guidelines for the school. In the event that a student's behavior does not conform to school regulations, or a student exhibits conduct unbecoming to or inappropriate for a Christian student, the teacher will refer the student to the principal who may initiate a Two Step Disciplinary Procedure: (Education Commission Approved Policy)

### A student may become involved in the Step Program for:

- Disrespect to a student, teacher or staff member
- Destruction of property
- Fighting
- Carrying or possessing legal or illegal drugs. Prescription and non-prescription drugs or medications must be kept in original containers and locked in the school office.
- Narcotics and tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, explosives, or weapons (firearms and knives of any kind (including pocket and hunting knives) may not be carried to or on the school premises at any time.
- Pepper spray/dangerous material

### Two Step Program (for all grades)

The step program is used when the offense is considered seriously inappropriate. The step program is administered by the principal only.

**Step One** A conference is scheduled with the principal, teacher, student, and parents/guardians. The student proposes a plan to prevent this offense from happening again. A contract is formed with the parents, the student, the teachers and the principal. This action may or may not include a suspension.

**Step Two - Same as Step One** This action may include suspension or expulsion. For serious offenses, the principal in his or her sole discretion, may bypass the Step Program and proceed to enforce other forms of disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

## **Sports Eligibility**

Sports are sponsored by the parish and questions regarding student participation should be directed to the Athletic Commission which is overseen by the pastor.

## **Basic School Rules and Safety Guidelines**

### **Before School**

Students are not to arrive to school before 7:30 a.m. We are not responsible for students who arrive early to school before 7:30 a.m.

**Beginning** at 7:30 a.m., students may enter either the gym or school building. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, students will go directly to the gym and wait in their designated area. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and any other Mass day, they will go directly to their homeroom. All students are required to be at school for prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and morning announcements at 7:50 a.m. Any student who arrives after 7:50 a.m. or leaves for an appointment, will be marked tardy.

In the classroom, students are expected to:

- Enter quietly and prepare for class to begin;
- Be attentive, respectful, and cooperative;
- Complete assigned class work and homework in a timely fashion; and
- Observe all classroom rules.

In the hallways, students are expected to:

- Walk quietly at all times; and
- Extend courtesy to students and adults.

During recess, students are expected to:

- Respect one another and play fairly; name calling, teasing and/or leaving a student out of an activity or game is not permitted.
- Keep the playground area clean and safe. Do not litter; throw all trash in trash cans.
- Play fair and play safe; no pushing, shoving, or name calling.
- Include everyone in activities; when someone wants to play, they are allowed.
- When the field is wet, muddy or covered with snow, it is off limits.
- The areas around parked cars, the classroom window and modular units are off limits.
- No balls should be thrown at the school building.
- Do not chase balls that roll down the driveway hill.
- No tackle football; touch football only.
- Do not throw objects over the fence.
- Students should not try to retrieve objects from over the fence; ask a teacher for assistance.
- Students should not run with objects in their mouth.
- Please wear the proper clothing or outerwear for the weather.
- Inform adult supervisor before reentering building.

## PLAY SYSTEM AREA (K-grade 5)

- One person is permitted on the slide at a time.
- The slide is for sliding down; do not climb up.
- No more than one person is permitted to slide down the slide at a time.
- No jumping off the play system from the upper decks.
- Games of tag or chase should be played on the playground area, not on the play system.
- Do not throw balls on the play system.
- Students must stay where a teacher or parent volunteer can see you.
- Students must not loiter around the black railings or windows by the building
- Students must not run between cars.
- Students must play football on the grass and be careful around one another's games.
- Food is permitted but all trash must be deposited in trash cans.
- All sporting equipment is to be returned to its original classroom.
- Ask a parent volunteer or teacher to return to the building to use the restroom.
- No rough play: no pushing, tackling, slamming of four square balls, etc.
- No tennis balls allowed.

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Behavior guidelines on the playground have been listed under Discipline and School Rules. The supervised lunch recess is an excellent way to insure physical activity and relaxation so the afternoon classroom sessions can be productive.

- Students must cooperate at all times with adult supervisors on the playground.
- Bringing play equipment from home is discouraged.

## CAFETERIA SERVICES AND RULES

Every school day the cafeteria staff serves a full meal that may be purchased by students and staff. Lunch orders must be sent to the office each morning recording the number of hot lunches to be purchased. Homeroom teachers are provided a lunch menu each month and are encouraged to post it in the classroom. The lunch menu will also be posted on the school website. Click here for school lunch information [School Lunches](#).

Each homeroom teacher should remind the students of proper lunch etiquette. To maintain order in the cafeteria, students will abide by the following rules.

- Students must sit in an assigned area.
- Students may talk in a quiet tone.
- Students will report spills to the adult supervisor.
- Students will be courteous at all times and observe good table manners.
- Students may not save seats.
- Students must remain sitting while they are eating.
- Students will walk quietly, be polite, and responsible.
- The last five minutes of lunch is silent so students can finish eating and get ready to dismiss from the cafeteria in an orderly fashion.

- Each student is responsible for cleaning up debris such as napkins, drink cartons, food, etc. from the place where he/she has eaten making it nice for those who come later to eat.
- Each week we rotate cleaners in the cafeteria. It will be the task of the lunchroom monitor to announce the cleaners for the week.

Teachers must inform the cafeteria manager of field trips which will cause students to miss lunch. Please do this at least two weeks prior to your trip.

**Courtesy, Cooperation and Helpfulness must be noticeable habits  
of Cardinal Pacelli students.**

**Phones, Calls & Messages**

Please arrange transportation details, doctor appointments, etc. with your child at home. Phone calls and messages to students are strongly discouraged unless there is an extreme emergency or a change has occurred.

Electronic devices such as cell phones, I-pods, cd players, etc. must be in a school bag and turned off. Any students with cell phones may have them collected by the teacher and held until dismissal. **Their use is prohibited during school hours.** Any student found using such devices during the school day will have them confiscated. Students will not receive the device until the end of the day, and if it is a recurring offense, the device will be held in the office until a parent can pick it up.

**After School**

Students are expected to:

- Leave school grounds promptly;
- Obey all safety rules; and
- Know that the school is not responsible for students left unsupervised after dismissal.

Students staying after school, must be at the direction of a Staff/Faculty member and arrangements must be in place for student pick-up upon a later dismissal from the school grounds. Parent and guardian cooperation is needed to build good safety habits. Please remind your child to follow these regulations.

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

- Use the sidewalks when walking to or from school;
- Cross only at intersections, look carefully and obey all traffic signals;
- Refuse to go near or enter a stranger's car;
- Go directly home by the same route every day; and
- Obey the crossing guard's directions.

**BICYCLE SAFETY**

Students who ride bicycles to school must:

- Walk their bicycle on school grounds and on the 900 block of Ellison Avenue

- During school hours bicycles must remain locked to the railing at the back of the school building.

## **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

- Students must remain seated to keep aisles and exits clear.
- Students must observe classroom conduct, talk quietly, and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
- Students may not eat or drink on the bus and can carry on the bus only those objects which can be held in their laps.
- Students may not put head or arms out of the bus windows or throw objects on, from, or at the bus.

## **Emergency Closing of School**

Anytime school needs to be closed due to weather or other uncontrollable conditions, we will contact you by: One Call, the automated school phone system, our school website, and will be posted on Channel 5 and Channel 12 - listed as Cardinal Pacelli School.

In inclement weather, the students will never be marked tardy. Please drive carefully and with caution. Use your discretion as to safety.

We will **EITHER CANCEL SCHOOL OR HAVE A TWO HOUR DELAY** which is a **9:50 START TIME**.

- If we have a two hour delay, there will be no morning Kindergarten, Pre-K, or Pre-School. If there is a delay, do not drop your children off early. We cannot guarantee that the staff will be in the building.
- If Forest Hills is on a delay and our school is on a regular schedule, parents whose children use these bus services can provide their own transportation to school or wait for the delayed buses to pick their children up. Our students **WILL NOT** be marked tardy.
- If Cincinnati Public or Forest Hills cancels school, and our school is still in session, parents whose children use these bus services need to provide their own transportation.
- **IF** school is in session and we need to close school early, the automated phone system will be used. Email messages will also be sent and, in addition, the information will be posted on our website.

## **Shelter in Place Emergency**

Shelter in Place is a safety procedure designed to help protect the staff and students at our school during a serious airborne hazardous material emergency. It means taking shelter inside the school until the danger has passed.

The goal of the Shelter in Place is to prevent contaminated outside air from entering the school for the duration of the incident. Incidents usually last a few hours, not days or weeks. It is important to keep students in school during a hazardous material emergency. During this time no student will be allowed to leave the building nor will anyone be allowed to enter.

If this situation should arise, you will be notified by One Call Now, RenWeb, or through channels 12 and 5 and the affiliated radio stations.

### **Emergency Lock Down**

A Lock Down would occur if there is immediate danger outside the school building or if an intruder has entered. During this time all students are locked in their classrooms and no one is allowed to leave or enter the building.

### **TRAFFIC FLOW SAFETY**

Because our school is on a hill, we have a unique traffic flow. Driving across the playground creates a traffic hazard and the potential for serious accidents. Please avoid driving onto the playground during school hours. If it is necessary, drive at 5 mph and be alert. The driveway is closed between 7:30 & 7:50.

ARRIVAL – **Buses** will enter up the hill and drop off students at the side entrance by the soccer field. **Cars** must drop students off on Ellison Avenue at the bottom of the hill.

Crossing guards will facilitate the safe arrival of students. Children are to enter and leave cars on the curb side only. Students will be supervised by an adult beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the gym on non-mass days and in the classrooms on the other school days.

**DISMISSAL** – Dismissal for kindergarten students is at 11:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Dismissal for all bus students is 2:30 p.m. Students who are car riders are dismissed at 2:35 in the back of school only. Parents who pick their children up by car, should arrive no later than 2:25.

Parents must exercise **extreme** caution on Ellison Avenue during dismissal:

- respect the no parking signs
- observe state laws and allow buses the right of way
- be alert to the crossing guards at the crosswalks
- Drive carefully to avoid accidents during dismissal.

Arrival and Dismissal for Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten: Drop off at double doors in the front of school. Students will be walked down to Ellison Ave. for dismissal pick up.

### **Fire and Tornado Drills**

These important safety drills are held at the intervals required by law. It is essential that everyone follow directions promptly and silently as soon as the first signal is given. Directions are posted in each room and explanations are given to the students at the start of the school year. Adults who are in the school building should follow the directions posted in their location.

## **Educational Trips**

Field trips are designed by the teachers to be an extension of the classroom curriculum. They are recognized as an integral part of a sound educational program. Despite the value of such an excursion, students do not have a "right" to participate in a field trip. Field trips are considered to be a privilege. Any student not following the code of conduct and discipline policies of the school may be asked not to participate. Appropriate classroom behavior, field trip behavior and a signed permission slip are all necessary to accompany a class on an outing.

The number and extent of field trips are determined by the teachers and are designed to flow from the learning experiences in the classroom. Room parents are asked to help with making the arrangements and obtaining chaperones and transportation. Students may travel by chartered bus or private car to an event. Permission slips which include time, place, and mode of transportation will be sent home prior to the trip. On the bottom of each will be a request for permission to take the student on the trip.

**NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO GO ON A FIELD TRIP WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. Verbal or email consent is not acceptable.**

**All parent chaperones and volunteers for anything related to the students during school hours MUST be VIRTUS compliant.** Please go to <http://virtus.org> to register.

Before an adult volunteer may use a private car to drive students on a field trip the following requirements must be met:

- Each driver must be properly licensed and insured and their vehicle must be equipped with safety belts for all passengers.
- Each driver will receive a list of the students in their car.

In case of an accident, the driver must:

- See to the physical safety of each passenger;
- Seek emergency health care;
- Notify the police;
- Notify the principal; and
- Notify the parents.

## **ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI DECREE ON CHILD PROTECTION/VIRTUS**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection requires all employees and adult volunteers over 18 who work with children to complete a background check, attend the **VIRTUS® Child Awareness Session** and keep current on Virtus training updates. You must pre-register to attend Virtus at [www.virtusonline.org/virtus/](http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/) Questions on **VIRTUS®** may be directed to the Cardinal Pacelli Virtus coordinator at [overbay\\_b@cardinalpacelli.org](mailto:overbay_b@cardinalpacelli.org) or contact the school office at 321-1048.

You must be compliant to enter the school to volunteer, have lunch with your student, help in the classroom, cafeteria, playground, etc. Compliance means the individual has attended the Virtus session as well as remain current on training updates and complete the background check.



Although child abuse is a reality in our society, such abuse, whether mental, physical or sexual, whether inflicted by lay persons or clerics, professionals or volunteers, cannot be tolerated in the Church. The purpose of the Decree is two-fold: to prevent the abuse of children and adolescents, and to provide a pastoral response to incidents of abuse after they occur. Parents who have **not** taken the class, completed the background check or remain current on Virtus training bulletins, will not be able to work in the classrooms, go on field trips or have lunch with their child in our cafeteria.

### **Policies Aimed at Preventing Child Abuse**

1. A child may receive scheduled, individual instruction or counseling from a volunteer only with the consent of the child's parent or guardian.
2. A child may participate in an organized program sponsored by a parish or school only with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian.
3. AT LEAST TWO ADULTS MUST BE PRESENT FOR ANY ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN SPONSORED BY A PARISH OR SCHOOL.
4. No child may be disciplined corporally or corrected with abusive language.
5. A volunteer must obtain the consent of a child's parent or guardian before inviting or allowing the child to visit in the adult's home.

### **Proper Response to Actual or Suspected Child Abuse**

If a Cardinal Pacelli School staff member or parent volunteer suspects possible child abuse (verbal, physical or sexual), they need to report suspicions to their superior or leader of their department at the school or parish. Ohio law protects those who report suspicions or cases of child abuse from prosecution. Any regular volunteer who observes a cleric, employee or other volunteer behaving in a manner that may pose a potential risk to a child (where the behavior does not constitute child abuse) is to report the matter in confidence to the proper superior or supervisor without delay.

### **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

- All suspected instances of child abuse or neglect shall be reported by the principal to a designated governmental agency for investigation and action as may be appropriate. Procedures for reporting such instances and information relevant to identifying victims shall be made available to all certified personnel and school employees.
- If the alleged child abuser is a member of the extended school staff, all such incidents shall be reported to the archdiocesan authorities as well. This report shall be made to the Archdiocesan Director of Educational Services, or his designee. If the individual is a cleric or religious, the Director for Educational Services shall notify the Chancellor and/or religious superior.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Cardinal Pacelli School has many "after school" and other activities for students throughout the school year. These include athletic activities, team practices and games, scouting, servers, fine arts clubs, choir, band, enrichment classes and other interests. Because these groups carry the name of Cardinal Pacelli School, student and adult participants are expected to display the high standards of the school they represent.

Students must be in good academic standing to represent Cardinal Pacelli School in extracurricular events. Parents should notify the homeroom teacher if their child is staying after school for an activity. Parents are expected to know who will supervise their children and to instruct their children to remain with the adult supervisor of the after school activity at all times. The adult supervisor is responsible for the safety of students.

Students who are absent from school during the day may not participate in any school sponsored activities on the evening of their absence. This includes, but is not limited to, school sponsored activities such as selective electives, clubs, student council, sports, etc.

The school assumes no supervisory responsibility for participants after school hours. Students should never be on school property including the gym without adult supervision. Parents must pick up their child(ren) promptly from after school events.

It is the responsibility of the adult supervisor of after school activities to leave the meeting room and area as clean and orderly as it was before the activity. Trash is to be collected and emptied, the lights turned out and doors and windows locked.

**Alcohol Policy:** Alcoholic drinks may not be served or be on school premises during any school-sponsored event which includes the participation of Cardinal Pacelli School students.

**Boy-Girl Party Policy:** Boy-girl parties are strongly discouraged for students in grades five and six. We ask for parents' and guardians' cooperation with this policy.

As an introduction to boy-girl social events, Cardinal Pacelli School will sponsor one or two evening parties for seventh and eighth grade students each year. Teachers and parents will chaperone these parties and all students are invited. School and parish facilities are not available for any private parties for elementary school students.

## **Lost and Found - Forgotten Items**

Clothing and personal items (uniforms, jackets, lunch boxes, etc.) must be clearly marked with the student's name. An effort can then be made to return lost items to the owner. A Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria and articles are displayed in the hallway at the end of each semester. Unclaimed articles are given to the CPS Uniform Exchange or to the Free Store.

In an attempt to encourage the development of a sense of responsibility, we ask that many items which are "forgotten" and left at home should remain at home. If it is absolutely necessary that a forgotten item be brought to school, mark the item with the student's name and leave it in the school office. The student or his/her teacher will be notified. Do not take the item to the classrooms.

## **Cafeteria and Lunch Program**

Cardinal Pacelli School is pleased to offer students the option of a healthy hot lunch. The price of lunch is \$3.25. Milk will be sold for \$0.75. Parents are to set up a pre-pay account to monitor their child/children's cafeteria account balance. Any purchases made may only be done with an account that is current. Checks should include the student's name, grade, and homeroom. Children will check in for lunch in homeroom.

## **Part Four** **Home and School Communication**

### **THE PACELLI POST**

All school wide communication, notices, and other information are sent to all known email addresses provided by enrolled families. The school's weekly newsletter, *The Pacelli Post*, is emailed every Wednesday and is the primary means of communication between the school and families. The newsletter includes news of school happenings, items of academic and personal interest, important calendar or event changes, links to online school resources and news, and needs from various school organizations.

Any items sent to school (forms, money, permission slips, etc.) should be placed in an envelope and labeled for the recipient.

### **CONTACTING TEACHERS**

All teachers may be contacted through the email addresses listed on the website's Staff page or call the office and leave a message with the school secretary. There should be no communication with teacher's through their own personal phone.

### **CURRICULUM NIGHT**

This annual event is held during the first month of school. It is designed to give parents the opportunity to meet teachers, visit classrooms and learn from teachers the policies, procedures, and curriculum for the coming year. A school open house will be planned during Catholic Schools Week.

### **EMERGENCY CARD - CHANGE OF ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER**

Please inform the school office immediately of any change of address and phone number, place of employment or change in any information which is included on the student's emergency card. It is essential that emergency card information is always current.

### **HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTORY/Request to Restrict Release of Directory Information**

As requested by the Archdiocesan Office of Education, Cardinal Pacelli School will provide directory information (student name, gender, address, home phone number, grade and parent email address) for students in grades five through eight for distribution to Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese, unless the parent/guardian has submitted a Request to Restrict Release of Directory Information form to the school office prior to August 1 each year. This form is available on our school website.

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parents are urged to confer with their child(ren)'s teacher(s) on a regular basis, particularly if they receive notice of academic deficiencies or conduct problems. Frequent communication is very important to gain the best results from the education process.

Parents are asked to communicate with the teacher to schedule a conference. Drop-in visits are much less productive as the teacher and/or principal may not be able to give parents total attention and complete information without preparation.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are planned in the fall at the end of the first trimester grading period. All parents are encouraged to schedule a conference time.

### **Parent-Teacher-School Communication**

The best educational atmosphere is one in which parent, teacher, school, and church work as complements to one another. The commitment of the faculty and administration is to work in a constructive, professional manner for the education of our students.

Lines of communication between all members of our educational community need to be open and direct and operate best when handled swiftly and confidentially.

Teachers can be available after school to meet with parents. Parents are asked to schedule appointments in advance with the teachers by contacting them via e-mail. Teacher's private phone numbers will not be given out from the school office.

***Student concerns should be addressed to the classroom teacher first, before approaching the principal.***

### **Grievance Procedure**

Scheduled conferences are encouraged as the best means to ensure effective communications between parents and teachers. As with any communication process, misunderstanding is possible. Should this occur, the following procedure must be observed:

First - attempt to handle the problem at the level at which it has occurred. For example: a parent or guardian with a disagreement or misunderstanding with a teacher should first talk with the teacher.

Second - if agreement is not reached at the first level of conversation, contact the principal. The principal is obliged to hear the concerns from all parties, investigate, and then notify all parties of the results of the investigation.

Third - if the second level result is not satisfactory to the parties concerned, the pastor and the staff of the Catholic Schools Office may be consulted.

## **Cardinal Pacelli Advisory Committee**

The Cardinal Pacelli Advisory Committee is a group of individuals who serve on a voluntary basis to advise and consult with the principal and pastor on the operation of our school and to recommend policies. The commission meets each month except in December, June and July.

Questions about school policy should be directed to the principal first. Any changes to school policy are made through the principal with the approval of the Cardinal Pacelli Advisory Committee.

Individual instruction, disciplinary issues and personnel are **not** the responsibility of the Cardinal Pacelli Advisory Committee. Such concerns should be addressed as written in the grievance procedure steps #1- #3 above.

## **Cardinal Pacelli Parent-Teacher Organization**

The Cardinal Pacelli School PTO plays a vital role in our educational community as a strong link in keeping home and school close together. Membership is open to all parents and participation in the PTO is required of all parents. An annual volunteer sign-up form for PTO projects is distributed in the spring and fall. Board meetings are monthly except in July and are open to all members.

Many school programs and improvements are made possible through PTO organization and volunteers. These include: room parents, playground supervision, cafeteria supervision, school office volunteers, special grade level programs, social events, school library staff, numerous fundraising events, and other volunteer activities. There are numerous opportunities for parents to contribute to the quality of their child's life at school.

## **Athletic Commission**

The extracurricular sports program for the parish and the school is administered by the Athletic Commission which is under the direction of the Parish Community Commission. The Athletic Commission meets monthly except in July. It coordinates team formation, recruits volunteer coaches, schedules practice times, administers concessions and distributes and collects equipment and uniforms.

## **Fine Arts Commission**

This extra curricular activities program was begun in the fall of 1991 and is under the direction of the PTO and school staff. The goal of the Fine Arts Commission is to provide after school opportunities for students to express themselves through the arts.

## **Volunteer Services**

The Cardinal Pacelli School community is grateful to and recognizes the contributions of the many volunteers who make Cardinal Pacelli such a great place to learn and grow. Cardinal Pacelli parents and friends are given many opportunities through classroom and teacher support, PTO events, athletic programs, fine arts events, scouting, and service on numerous boards and commissions to volunteer their time and talents to the school. Cardinal Pacelli

School parents and friends respond often and generously and their interest makes Cardinal Pacelli a very special school.

## **Fundraising Events**

Most school and parish organizations sponsor fund raising events during the year. PTO, Athletic Commission, scouting, and other groups support their programs through voluntary fundraising. Most PTO all-school fundraisers are organized and staffed by volunteers and participation is voluntary. These funds are spent to enhance the learning environment for all CPS students. In recent years purchases have included ceiling fans, folding cafeteria tables, drinking fountains, audio visual supplies and computer hardware.

**School and parish groups planning a fund raiser must receive the approval of the pastor and the principal during the group's initial planning stages.**

## **Requirements for Volunteers: VIRTUS Training**

Starting July 1, 2014, all people who work or volunteer within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati must attend a live VIRTUS session AND read their monthly bulletins. Additionally, up until now, volunteers, teachers, staff and clerics were required to be fingerprinted every five years. Beginning January 1, 2014, volunteers will not have to be fingerprinted, but they will have to do a background check through Selection.com from within their VIRTUS account.

**Definition of a volunteer:** Any person who volunteers at the school in the classroom or with any activity (Parent reader, Science parent, Room Parent, Chaperone, Coach, Volunteers at any school event - Olympic Day, Talent Show, etc...)

**You must pre-register with VIRTUS® before attending. Walk-in's are not permitted. To register follow the registration instructions.**

Anyone who was trained before August 1, 2012 had the old training and must attend the new **VIRTUS®** class. Fingerprints and background checks through the Archdiocese are good for 5 years.

All volunteers who have completed the training will have a name badge in the office. When volunteering, sign in at the office, locate your name badge, and wear while on the school premises. When leaving school, go to the office to sign out and return the name badge. Those who have not completed the **VIRTUS** training will not be permitted to enter the classrooms etc.

If you have any questions, please contact our **VIRTUS** Facilitator.

## **Part Five** **Auxiliary Services**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES** - a school psychologist from the Cincinnati Public Schools visits the school each week. The psychologist will consult with teachers about students with learning difficulties, develop helpful compensation plans, and conduct diagnostic evaluations.

**INTERVENTION SPECIALIST** - a school intervention specialist from Cincinnati Public Schools is here full time. The Intervention Specialist is a licensed teacher who is trained to

provide direct specialized instruction to identified students. Their primary task is to carry out the goals and objectives of the Individualized Services Plan. Services may be provided individually or in small groups.

**AUXILIARY CLERK** - one day per week a clerk provided through auxiliary services works in the school. The clerk facilitates ordering of classroom supplies within compliance of entitlement fund regulations.

**SCHOOL NURSE** - a school nurse from the Cincinnati Public Schools auxiliary services is here three days a week. Her responsibilities include updating immunization records, screening students for hearing and vision, tending to sick and injured students, administering medication, discussing specific medical needs, answering medical concerns from parents/guardians, and write Individual Care Plans for students with significant medical concerns and distribute to appropriate staff.

**SPEECH PATHOLOGIST** – a speech/language pathologist serves the needs of students two days a week. Students having difficulties in articulation, language, voice, hearing and auditory processing are serviced.

## **Part Six – School Wellness Policy** **School Wellness Policy of Cardinal Pacelli School**

### **Preamble**

Whereas, children need access to healthful foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive;

Whereas, good health fosters student attendance and education;

Whereas, obesity rates have doubled in children and tripled in adolescents over the last two decades, and physical activity and excessive calorie intake are the predominant causes of obesity;

Whereas, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for two-thirds of deaths in the United States, and major risk factors for those diseases, including unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, and obesity, often are established in childhood:

Whereas, only 2% of children ages 2 to 19 years of age eat a healthy diet consistent with the five main recommendations from the Food Guide Pyramid;

Whereas, nationally, the items most commonly sold from school vending machines, school stores and snack bars, include low-nutrition foods and beverages, such as soda, sports drinks, imitation fruit juices, chips, candy, cookies, and snack cakes;

Whereas, school around the country are facing significant fiscal and scheduling constraints; and

Whereas, community participation is essential to the development and implementation of successful school wellness policies;

Thus, Cardinal Pacelli School is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of Cardinal Pacelli that:

- The school will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, and monitoring nutrition and physical activity policies.
- All students in grades K-8 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages sold at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Food service professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students and staff; will accommodate for those needing special meal planning (such as those with food sensitivities or allergies); and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- The school will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish links between health education and related community services.

#### Nutrition Education-

- Cardinal Pacelli School will implement the health objectives related to diet, nutrition, and exercise as stated in the 2002 Archdiocesan Graded Course of Study for Science and Health.
- Programs relating to proper nutrition, tobacco education, and drug/alcohol education will also be presented to the seventh and eighth grade students as an extension of their basic curriculum.
- Appropriate materials, reminders, and programs will be prepared and presented to parents regarding proper nutrition, appropriate in-school snacks and lunches, and encouragement for each child to eat a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Nutrition guidelines, food pyramid charts, suggestions for healthy food choices and/or other messages related to health and nutrition will be posted in or near the cafeteria.
- Community resources will be utilized to enhance regular health curriculum.
- School lunch periods will be scheduled so as to provide nourishment within a reasonable time frame from the start of the school day, and to allow 15-20 minutes to sit and eat.
- Recess or snack breaks will be scheduled for students as needed to maintain energy levels.
- Appropriate education about food allergies will be presented to those involved with students with allergies, and sharing of food and beverages will be discouraged due to food allergies.

#### Physical Activity -

- All students will participate in the school's physical education program.
- Physical education programs will implement the objectives of the 2006 Archdiocesan Graded Course of Study for Physical Education.
- All students will have access to recess according to the school's schedule.
- Discipline will be administered in ways other than depriving a student of recess or physical education class.
- Students and families will be encouraged to participate in school and community sports programs, and to be physically active outside of school.



#### Other School-Based Activities -

- The use of non-food items or healthy food items will be encouraged for rewards for student behavior.
- Cardinal Pacelli School encourages teachers and parents to provide healthy snacks, and to minimize sugary treats for classroom celebrations.
- School organizations are encouraged to consider healthy food and non-food fundraisers.
- Teachers will be offered training in nutrition as needed, and in physical activities conducive to learning appropriate for classrooms.
- Hand washing equipment will be available in all restrooms: hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom; and students will be encouraged to wash hands before eating.
- Restrooms are available to accommodate tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs.
- Designated areas will be provided and monitored as necessary for students with special dietary needs.
- Fully operational and clean drinking fountains will be available throughout the school.

#### Nutritional Guidelines for Foods Available During the School Day:

- The school lunch program will follow the nutritional guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Services.
- The school will set nutritional guidelines for all food products sold on the school premises, and will encourage The PTO and Athletic Association to do so, also.
- There will be appropriate restrictions on access to vending machines and the sale of other food and beverages.

#### Guidelines for Reimbursable School Meals-

- Cardinal Pacelli School will follow state and federal guidelines and procedures for reimbursement for lunch and milk programs.

#### Plan for Measuring the Implementation of the Wellness Policy -

- Cardinal Pacelli School will establish a wellness committee consisting of parents, students, food service staff, administration, and teachers to implement and monitor the policy.

### **Health Care Regulations - Illness at School**

State law mandates that new students entering a certified Ohio school must have a medical report and an immunization record on file at the school. There must be a physician's signature on the medical history. Forms are issued from the school office and detail what immunizations are required for school. For parents/guardians objecting to vaccination of their child for a good cause, an "Immunization Waiver" form is available from the nurse. Parents/guardians must indicate if the reason is: religious, medical, or good cause. Medical cause must be accompanied by a physician statement. TB testing is a requirement for any student coming from outside the USA. A student may not attend school if proper medical records are not in their school file within **10 days** after the start of school. A dental report is advised but not required by law.

## **Health Services**

During the school year vision and hearing screenings are performed for students in grades K, 1, 3, 5 and vision screening only for Grade 7. Teachers may also refer students. Please notify the school office if you want your child to be tested if they are not in these grades. Postural screening is done for students in grades 5, 6, and 7. Students are involved in health classes, and programs on drug and alcohol abuse, sex respect, nutrition and dental care.

### **Illness at School**

If a student becomes ill during school, the office will contact the parent/guardian stated on the emergency card. In the event that a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the school administration will seek emergency care if deemed necessary. The student's parent/guardians will be liable for any expenses incurred.

All students are picked up and signed out at the school office. Persons appointed by the parents to pick up a student must be properly identified to the satisfaction of the school office.

Students must be fever free (100 degrees or below) for 24 hours without the use of medication, no vomiting or watery diarrhea for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

### **Cardinal Pacelli School Medication Policy**

When it is necessary to administer medication, the following guidelines, taken from the Ohio Nurses' Association Guidelines, are to be followed:

- All school personnel must be informed that the administration of any drug (prescription or over-the-counter) without the order of the physician and permission of the parent/guardian could be interpreted as practicing medicine, and is prohibited by law.
- The principal shall appoint a responsible person or persons for storing and administering medication in the absence of the school nurse. All medication should be kept in a locked cabinet.
- Written requests must be obtained from the physician and the parent/guardian before any medication is to be administered by school personnel. The request must include instructions as to name of medication, dosage, time, duration of medication, and side effects. A faxed copy may be accepted with a request for a hard copy to follow.
- Medications must be in original containers and have an affixed label including the name of the student, name of the medication, dosage, route of administration, and time of administration.
- New request forms must be submitted each school year and as necessary for changes in medication orders.
- It is advised that the medication and the signed permission form be brought to school by the parent/guardian.
- The school nurse is responsible for monitoring medications administered by school personnel. This responsibility includes providing specific instructions pertinent to the medication.
- Accurate records of the medication given must be kept on file and with the student's health record.

## **Summary of inhaler law (Am. Sub. H.B. 121) and epinephrine autoinjector law (ORC 3313.718):**

These laws permit a student to carry asthma inhalers and epi-autoinjectors with consent of the physician and parent/guardian. In addition, the bills grant immunity to school districts, community schools, and chartered non-public schools, and their employees for good faith actions in connection with this permission.

### **Children with Special Medical Needs**

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to include any information pertaining to the special medical needs of their child(ren) on the school medical forms. Parents/guardians are asked to make a special effort to see that teachers are told of the child's condition and what the teacher is to do in case of an emergency. The nurse will write up Individual Care Plans for students with significant medical concerns and distribute to the appropriate staff.

### **Accidents at School**

Student or staff accidents on the playground, in school and/or parish buildings must be reported to the school office. In most cases, an accident report will be filled out and placed on file. The student's parents/guardians are notified of the accident.

### **AIDS**

Archdiocesan policy stipulates that, "Each instance of AIDS involving a student or an employee shall be treated as a strictly confidential and individual matter. Decisions regarding such occurrences shall take into account Christian concern and compassion, community health and well-being and individual privacy and needs." State law does not require parents/guardians to divulge that their child is infected with the HIV virus. Employees of the parish and/or school are not required to divulge such information about themselves. The Diocesan Handbook includes administrative procedures for students or employees with AIDS.

For questions or concerns, contact:  
Ohio Department of Health  
AIDS Activation Unit  
Communicable Disease Division  
614-466-5480

### **Policy for Handling of Blood & Body Fluids in School**

Blood and other body fluids may harbor a number of organisms besides HIV that are potentially infectious to others. The following simple precautions contain the necessary elements for handling spills of any body fluids (blood, saliva, semen, vaginal secretions, and vomit).

The use of barrier precautions prevents direct skin or mucous membrane contact with body fluids that are visibly contaminated. Following these precautions will protect against any harmful infectious organisms.

- Wear impermeable gloves.
- Remove visible waste with absorbent disposable towels.
- Hard surfaces soiled with blood, urine, semen, feces, vomitus, etc., should be thoroughly cleaned with soap and water, then disinfect with an EPA approved disinfectant or a solution of bleach and water \*(1/4 cup bleach per gallon of water). This solution should be freshly prepared for each use.
- Rugs or carpets should be cleaned with sanitary absorbent agent according to directions.
- Mops should be cleaned in disinfectant solution.
- Place towels and gloves in a plastic bag and dispose of as normal trash.
- Wash hands with soap and water, or use gel hand sanitizer after removing gloves.

\*If bleach is unavailable, other common products can be used for disinfection, such as peroxide (1 part peroxide to 1 part water) or rubbing alcohol (full strength).

For an injury that results in bleeding, such as nosebleeds, menstrual accidents, etc.), the person assisting the child should wear gloves whenever possible. Direct contact with blood is potentially infectious when there are breaks in the skin, as in chapping or eczema conditions. Proper hand washing significantly reduces the risk of infection from contact with all potentially infectious body fluids, whether gloves are worn or not.

### **Hand Washing Policy**

- Hand washing posters are posted near restrooms and sinks.
- Hand washing guidelines will be taught to students.
- Staff and students will wash hands according to the following protocols:

#### **When to Wash:**

##### **Students**

- Before eating
- After using the bathroom
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing the nose
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

##### **Staff**

- Same as above for students
- After caring for ill or injured child
- After cleaning
- Before and after dispensing medicines
- After using gloves for any purpose

#### **How to Wash**

- Wet hands and apply a small amount of liquid soap to hands
- Rub hands together until lather appears, and continue for at least 20 seconds. Scrub between fingers, under nails, and the backs and palms of hands.
- Rinse under running water. Let the water run while drying hands.
- Dry hands with paper towel. Avoid touching the faucet handles or towel holder with clean hands.
- Turn off the faucet using the towel.
- Throw the towel in the trash can.

- Hand sanitizers may be used if washing is not an option.

## **Food Allergy Policy**

Food allergies can be life threatening. Because these are becoming more common and severe, a Food Allergy Policy is in place at Cardinal Pacelli School. Please see the complete policy under Nurse's website forms. Summary of parent responsibility:

- Parents will notify the school of the food allergy on the Emergency Medication Form.
- Work with the school to develop a plan, filling out the "Family Food Allergy Health History Form".
- The child's physician fills out the Food Allergy Action Plan, and both physician and parent sign this form.
- Provide EpiPen and /or antihistamine medication to school if needed.
- Inform bus service of the plan, if appropriate.
- Educate your child in the self-management of his/her food allergy.
- A "nut free" table will be designated in the cafeteria for those students who prefer to sit away from students who may possibly bring nut products in their lunch. They may bring a friend to sit with them provided their lunch is nut free.
- Some classrooms may be "nut free" zones depending on allergies associated with the students.