

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SCHOOL

**16701 "S" Street
Omaha, NE 68135**

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FAMILY HANDBOOK 2018-2019

Revised July 2018



This Family Handbook is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contractual agreement between St. Stephen the Martyr (SSM) School and any student or any parent of any student. The information contained in this Handbook provides a general description of rules and regulations. The school reserves the right to add to, modify, or abolish any of the Handbook provisions without notice. Updated information will be communicated through email to families. Non-enforcement of any of the rules or regulations does not serve as a waiver of their future enforcement. The Handbook does not create any restriction upon SSM School's right to institute any course of disciplinary action, which, is SSM School's sole discretion, it believes is necessary and consistent with its Catholic educational mission.

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www.stephen.org

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Principal
Assistant Principal

Rev. David Belt
Rev. Padraic Stack
Mrs. Julie Perrault
Dr. Joseph Greco



HISTORY

SSM School opened in the fall of 1992 with grades preschool through fifth. Sr. Regina Wagner was the founding Principal. The first graduating eighth grade class was in 1996. The second phase of the school opened in the fall of 1997-when a library media room, gym and additional classrooms were added. SSM School is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education under Rule 10 and is accredited by AdvancED™ Performance Accreditation beginning in 2015.

Section I- Mission and Philosophy

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish Mission Statement

Saint Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

Saint Stephen the Martyr School Mission Statement

United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

Philosophy

The philosophy of Catholic education takes into consideration the total personality of the student in the imparting of knowledge. There is unity of purpose springing from the students oneness. The school is responsible for contributing to the total development of each student in terms of his origin, nature, and destiny. SMM exists as a unit of the Mystical Body of Christ and as an institution of society. As such, its function is two-fold. First, it strives always to help the student grow in Christian love of God and all creatures, and secondly, it helps students in their search to find their full human potential. In order to obtain these goals we will:

- Encourage a love and devotion to God by means of frequent use of the Sacraments and other liturgical services.
- Promote the Christian view of all persons as children of God and thus worthy of our love, respect and help.
- Assert the necessity of proper use and care of all God's creatures.
- Promote honesty to oneself and peers.
- Maximize individual development.
- Achieve proficiency in basic skills.
- Develop intellectual capacities to think, solve problems, and synthesize information.
- Promote an understanding of the role and importance of a moral citizen.

SSM School follows the directives of the Omaha Archdiocese Catholic Schools Office, the Nebraska State Department of Education, and the policies set forth in this Handbook.

Section II – School Admission, Registration, and Attendance

ADMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Statement of Non-Discrimination

SSM does not discriminate against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, or gender, with respect to all aspects of the educational program generally made available to students at the school. This includes administration of the school's educational and admission policies, its teaching methods, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school sponsored programs.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: (Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade)

Prior to being eligible for enrollment in SSM, families are encouraged to be registered, active members in parish life and participate in the parish as follows:

- A. Spiritual Involvement: Regularly attend mass at SSM Church.
- B. Financial Involvement: Regularly support the parish financially through both contribution envelopes and once enrolled, timely payment of tuition for students. Tuition and church support are separate financial responsibilities. Tuition is not a substitute for regular church support and regular church support is not a substitute for tuition.
- C. Stewardship Involvement (time and talent): Regularly be involved in parish activities or perform volunteer work in the school.

Initial and continued enrollment in the school depends upon meeting the general requirements set forth above. Failure to meet any of these requirements may be grounds for denied admission or continued enrollment in the school.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: (Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade)

In addition to the general requirements, the following must be provided prior to admission to SSM:

- Students must be 3 years old on or before July 31 and independently toileting to be admitted into the 3 year old pre-kindergarten program.
- Students must be 4 years old on or before July 31 to be admitted into the 4 year old pre-kindergarten program.
- High-Fivers: 3 groups: 5 years old by July 31, or 5 years old between Aug. 1 and Jan. 31.

Birth Certificate:

Students must be 5 years old on or before July 31 to be admitted into the kindergarten program. A copy of the original birth certificate will need to be on file in the school office.

Baptismal Certificate:

A copy of the original baptismal certificate will need to be on file in the school office.

Up-to Date Health Record:

A physical examination is required prior to the start of the school year for all kindergarten students, seventh grade students, and students transferring from an out-of-state school. All incoming students must provide their last dental examine date and a vision evaluation.

Up-to Date Immunization Record:

All students must meet the Omaha Archdiocesan immunization requirements stated in our registration documents. These required immunizations must be on file in the school office before the beginning of the school year. Students transferring from another school must submit a copy of their records from the previous school.

PRIORITY FACTORS

After the general and admission requirements set forth are met, priority for admission will be determined in the following order:

- a. Students currently enrolled in the school (pre-kindergarten through seventh grade).
- b. Siblings of students at SSM.
- c. Children of faculty.
- d. Involvement in volunteer efforts in the parish and school.
- e. Length of registered membership in SSM, as determined by census card (with the greatest length being given priority).
- f. Families with children previously enrolled in the school must pay registration fees by April 15, or make payment arrangements with the school Principal or their place in the school may be given to a child on the waiting list.

The Pastor, based on the factors set forth above, will determine a waiting list for admissions. SSM reserves the right to exclude any student demonstrating he or she is unwilling or unable to handle the school's academic, religious, and discipline expectations or requirements. The decision on whether to exclude a student will be made by the Pastor and Principal.

ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL TUITION

The Finance Committee of SSM parish approves tuition. Registration fees are non-refundable and are paid at the time of registration. Tuition can be paid through the following payment methods:

K-8 Parishioner Rate:	Tuition	Registration Fee
First and Second Child	\$3,000.00 each	\$200.00
Third Child	\$2,540.00	\$200.00
Fourth Child	\$2,205.00	\$200.00
Fifth Child	\$1,980.00	\$200.00

Non-Catholic Student Tuition Rate:	Tuition	Registration Fee
One Child	\$3,540.00 each	\$200.00

Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten Programs

2 Day Program	\$1,250.00	\$200.00
3 Day Program	\$1,575.00	\$200.00
5 Day Program	\$2,305.00	\$200.00

Tuition payments begin the 10-month payment plan starting July 2018 and ending April 2019. Payments are paid on either the first or third Monday of the month based on family preference. eLunch payments (lunches, field trips, activities, etc.) begin Sept. 2018 and end June, 2019.

These payments are paid through an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) charge to a designated bank account.

Families desiring to apply for tuition assistance may do so by contacting the business office 402-861-4503. SSM uses an outside organization (FAIR), which determines need based on parents' financial information and the most recent tax returns. SSM requests families desiring assistance first apply through Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha (CSF) if the family income meets certain their requirements. CSF's website is csfomaha.org, and there is a link to the parents and family link.

Note: the registration fee is nonrefundable. If a student transfers out of the school/parish, tuition may be refunded based upon the time remaining in the school year.

WELCOME TUITION GRANT PROGRAM

SSM participates with the Omaha Archdiocese Welcome Tuition Grant Program offered for the 2018-2019 school year. Students from any public, private or homeschool are eligible to receive the Welcome Tuition Grant Program if enrolling in grades one through seven. This grant is not available for students transferring from one Catholic school to another within the Omaha Archdiocese. The total grant amount of \$1,500 represents a reduction of \$1,000 from tuition on year one and \$500 off in year two. Full tuition starts year three and beyond.

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT (REGISTRATION)

Applications for enrollment for the coming school year will be annually held in the spring .

Advance notice will be published in the parish bulletin and school newsletter. Families must complete the registration forms and pay any applicable registration fees by the deadline date. If a child **not previously enrolled is not accepted** for enrollment into the school because a class is full, the child's name will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the priority factors set forth above. The waiting list is in effect for one year and will be reviewed periodically. Parents will be notified if a space becomes available in the class for which their child is listed. If the family refuses the opening, the name is automatically withdrawn from the list. The family may re-register at the next spring registration.

TRANSFERS INTO ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SCHOOL

Parents must provide the following documents for admission:

- A review of health and immunization records from the previous school attended.
 - A release of information form for academic records must be signed by the parents before registration.
 - A baptismal certificate is required before reception of any of the Sacraments.
- The school reserves the right to contact the previously attended school.

TRANSFERS OUT OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SCHOOL

Upon request from a new school, SSM will transfer necessary information to a new school. Information is sent by mail between schools and is not given to parents to hand deliver.

NON-CATHOLIC and/or NON-PARISHIONERS

Students, who are not of the Catholic faith and/or are not parishioners of SSM parish, must attend and participate in religious activities scheduled at the school (i.e. Religion class, Mass, religious services, etc.).

ABSENCE AND TARDINESS

So that students are in their classrooms by 8 a.m. when school begins, the first bell rings at 7:50 a.m. for students to report to their classrooms. Students are tardy if they arrive after 8 a.m. **For absences and tardiness, parents can email the School Office at w.schmitt@stephen.org or call the office at 402-896-0754.** Any student late for school or any class will report to the Office for a tardy pass. A tardy student will not be allowed into the classroom without the tardy pass. An absence of 2.5 hours or more in length shall be recorded as a half-day absence.

If a student is absent for a total of ten days in a semester, it will be the student's responsibility to continue to meet with the teacher until all work is completed to the satisfaction of the teacher(s) and administration. Excessive absenteeism may result in non-promotion.

Frequent, unexcused tardiness may result in disciplinary action. If a student has more than five tardies in a semester, he/she they may need make up the academic time after school and/or at recess time. No student may leave the school premises at any time without a note from parents and permission from the Office. Permission from the Office is required for any student to leave the school premises for lunch. Periodically the school office will contact parents if there are issues with absenteeism and excessive tardies.

TRUANCY AND EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM

Regular attendance by students is essential for students to obtain the maximum benefits of the school's educational and religious programs.

If a student is not at school to attend a school-related event (e.g., speech tournament, sports event, etc.), he or she will not be considered absent.

Excessive absenteeism occurs when a student misses so many days of school that his or her educational growth suffers. If any student has accumulated a total of five (excused or unexcused) absences per quarter, the school shall take the following steps:

1. A notification to the student's parent/guardian of the excessive absenteeism problems and the need for a meeting.
2. A meeting or meetings between the Administration, the student's parent/guardian, the student, and any other school officials deemed necessary by the Administrator. The goal of such meeting or meetings will be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce the student's absenteeism. The plan shall consider the following:
 - a. Illness related to the physical or behavioral health of the student.
 - b. Educational counseling to explore curriculum changes to solve the excessive absenteeism problem.

- c. Educational evaluation to assist in determining the specific condition(s) contributing to the excessive absenteeism problems, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
- d. Referral to appropriate agencies for economic services;
- e. Family or individual counseling; and
- f. Assisting the family in working with other community services.

It shall be within the discretion of administration to determine, in light of the particular circumstances, whether a student may make up work due to excessive absenteeism. For purposes of discipline, the following absences will be considered excused:

- 1. Absence excused by a written note, indicating specific dates, from a health care professional. Documentation should be submitted in the Office upon returning to school. Documentation received after the last day of the semester will not be accepted.
- 2. Absence due to an immediate family member's death.
- 3. Two (2) days for seniors for college visits arranged through the guidance counselor's office; and for juniors, one (1) day for a college visit.
- 4. School-related activities.
- 5. Court ordered appearances, if approved by the administration in advance.

SSM will try to keep students and parents aware of any attendance concerns, but ultimately the responsibility for monitoring student attendance belongs to the student and his/her parents.

If a student is absent for more than 20 days per year for reasons other than illness, the Assistant Principal shall notify the county attorney of the county in which the student resides, along with documentation of all steps taken above, and shall also notify the Catholic School's Office. The Assistant Principal shall also notify the student's parent/guardian of the fact that the county attorney was notified of the excessive absenteeism problem.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

SSM complies with Nebraska State Law which requires 1,032 hours of instruction per year for elementary schools. The progress of each child at school depends to a great extent on the regularity and punctuality of attendance.

DISMISSAL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

SSM is a closed campus, meaning once a student has arrived on school ground, he/she may not leave until dismissal except with permission of the Principal. Those who have doctor and dental appointments or who must go home for some reason must have a written note or verbal communication from the parent. If a parent finds it necessary to withdraw a student before dismissal, then the parent or adult identified in advance by the parent, must report to the Office before taking the student. All students must be signed-out at the office prior to being allowed to leave. The Safe Environment provision for care of minors is thus transferred directly to the care of the guardian/ parent at that time.

Upon return to school, parents are asked to accompany their students to the school office to sign in and receive an admittance slip to class. This procedure helps maintain accurate attendance and guards for the safekeeping of all students.

Section III – Schedules, Staff, and Daily Operation

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is elected by the parishioners. The board meets on quarterly. The Board of Education makes recommendations to the Pastor and is advisory to the administration. The formation of policy is a major role of the Board. Current members of the Board of Education are:

President	Todd Hartz
Vice President	Joe Reding
Secretary	Jennifer Jones
Other members	Jen Carda, Anne Kalkowski, Patrick Cooley, Sarah Heller, Katie Holt, Kari Hohenstein, Leslie McFee, Natalie Osorio Skutt, Amanda Treiber

CALENDAR

The calendar is published annually, listing student days of attendance, teacher in-service days, parent/teacher conferences, holidays and activities. Dates and events may be subject to change as necessary. Timely notice will be provided whenever possible.

Calendar for 2018-2019

Aug 16, 17	Thurs/Fri	First two days of school, noon dismissal
Aug 20	Mon	First full day, hot lunch begins
Aug 30	Thurs	Parent Curriculum Night
Aug 31	Fri	Noon dismissal/Teacher Inservice
Sept 3	Mon	No School Labor Day
Sept 14	Fri	Martyr Marathon, noon dismissal
Sept 20	Thurs	Archbishop’s Dinner, Embassy Suites LaVista
Sept 24-Oct 5	Mon	Terra Nova Testing grades 3-8
Sept 28	Fri	Progress Reports
Oct 8	Mon	No school/Teacher Inservice
Oct 19	Fri	End of 1st quarter/No school- teacher retreat
Oct 22	Mon	No school/Teacher Inservice
Oct 26	Fri	Report Cards
		Vocation Awareness Day (grade 6)
Oct 29-Nov 1	Mon-Thurs	Scholastic Book Fair
Oct 31	Wed	Halloween parade and parties K-5
Nov 1	Thurs	No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences,all grades,
Nov 2	Fri	No school-Parent/Teacher Conferences, all grades,
Nov 5	Mon	No school

Nov 16	Fri	Noon dismissal/Teacher inservice
Nov 21-23	Wed-Fri	No school Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30	Fri	Progress Reports
Dec 3	Mon	No school/Teacher Inservice
Dec 3-4	Mon/Tues	First Reconciliation
Dec 21	Fri	Noon dismissal/Christmas break begins
Dec 24-Jan 6	Sat-Sun	Christmas Break
Jan 7	Mon	Classes resume
Jan 11	Fri	Report Cards
Jan 21	Mon	No school/Teacher Work Day/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 28-Feb 2	Sun-Fri	Catholic Schools Week
Feb 1	Fri	Noon dismissal/Catholic Schools Week
Feb 8	Fri	Progress Reports
Feb 8-14	Fri-Thurs	Scholastic Book Fair
Feb 12	Tues	Parent/Teacher Conferences grades K-8
Feb 13	Wed	Parent/Teacher Conferences grades K-8
Feb 14	Thurs	Valentine Party K-5
Feb 15	Fri	No School
Feb 18	Mon	No school/Teacher inservice/ Presidents' Day
Feb 25-26	Mon/Tues	Preschool Open House
Feb 28	Thurs	Kindergarten Parent Night
Mar 4	Mon	Spring Break begins/No school
Mar 11	Mon	Classes Resume
Mar 14	Thurs	Author/Science/History Fair Middle School
Mar 14	Thurs	Kindergarten Experience Day for students
Mar 15	Fri	End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 18	Mon	No School/Teacher work day
Mar 21	Thurs	Report Cards
Mar 22	Fri	No School/Teacher Inservice
Apr 12	Fri	Noon Dismissal/Inservice
Apr 17	Wed	Progress Reports
Apr 18	Thurs	Martyr Marathon Day Off
Apr 19-22	Fri-Mon	No School/Easter break
Apr 23	Tues	Classes Resume
May 17	Fri	No school/Teacher Work Day/ 8th grade graduation 5 p.m.
May 22	Wed	Last Day of school/10 a.m. Dismissal

FACULTY AND STAFF 2018-2019

Principal	Mrs. Julie Perrault
Assistant Principal	Dr. Joe Greco
Admin. Asst.	Mrs. Wendy Schmitt
School Secretary	Mrs. Courtenay Swanstrom
School Secretary	Mrs. Amy Maroney
Pre-kindergarten	Mrs. Margie Crowe
Pre-kindergarten	Mrs. Julie Gorup
Pre-kindergarten	Mrs. Michelle Foster

Pre-kindergarten	Mrs. Kerrie Tabaka
KA	Mrs. Sheila Keller
KB	Mrs. Kerry Erickson
KC	Mrs. Lisa Schaffer
First Grade A	Mrs. Rose Fitch
First Grade B	Mrs. Mary Jackson
First Grade C	Mrs. Catherine Keller
Second Grade A	Mrs. Mary Gill
Second Grade B	Mrs. Marlene Roduner
Second Grade C	Mrs. Angela Lowry
Third Grade A	Ms. Katie Garret
Third Grade B	Mrs. Joanne Vamosi
Third Grade C	Mrs. Tricia Figura
Fourth Grade A	Mrs. Kaitlyn Trout
Fourth Grade B	Mrs. Diane Haack
Fourth Grade C	Mrs. Jamie Christiansen
Fifth Grade A	Mrs. Susan Roche
Fifth Grade B	Mrs. Megan Jones
Fifth Grade C	Ms. Jennifer Freeman
Sixth Grade A	Mrs. Jennifer Hoover
Sixth Grade B	Mrs. Melanie Kaufhold
Sixth Grade C	Mrs. Deanna Mullen
Seventh Grade A	Mrs. Shelisa Mabeus
Seventh Grade B	Mr. Jay Hentzen
Seventh Grade C	Mrs. Sunni Potach
Eighth Grade A	Mr. Adam Harvey
Eighth Grade B	Ms. Jeanna Pestel
Eighth Grade C	Ms. Jolynn Oliver
Middle School Math/English	Mrs. Kristina McCarthy
Art	Ms. Amy Hannibal Cowman
Library	Mrs. Gail Blanchard-Helton
Computer	Ms. Babe Rogers
Music	Mrs. Jessica Tucksen
Music	Mrs. Susan Smith
Band	Miss. Kristen Parent
Physical Education	Mrs. Kathy Jones
Physical Education	Mrs. Nicole Verraneault
Resource A	Mrs. Connie Bredemeyer
Resource B	Mrs. Cindy Vann
Spanish	Ms. Kathryn Rosinsky
School Counselor	Mrs. Lucy Kincaid
School Counselor	Mrs. Margaret Berentson
Kitchen Manager	Mrs. Missy Ziola
Maintenance	Mr. Dave Wattier, Mr. Andy Secora, Mr. Robert Faulhaber, Mr. Scott Dethlefs
KidZone Director	Mrs. Charlotte Townsend

Pastor	Fr. Dave Belt
Assoc. Pastor	Fr. Padraic Stack
Facilities Mgr.	Deacon Marty Warwick
Stewardship Director	Deacon Ernie Abbott
Religious Education Director	Mrs. Mary Maguire
Pastoral Minister	Deacon Denny Dethlefs
Social Justice Ministries	Sr. Clarice Faltus
Parish Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Debi Fairfield
Parish Office Asst.	Mrs. Angie Carnazzo
Liturgy Coordinator	Karen Hardy
Director of Evangelization	Catherine Ashton
Business Manager	Mrs. Juli Han
Computer/Tech Support	Mr. Tom Marble

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The purpose of St. Stephen's Home and School Association is to promote better understanding, cooperation, and service between school and home. It is not a policy-making organization, however; input into various aspects of school activities is expected and welcome. All parents are encouraged to be involved in the Association and its activities and should make an effort to attend the meetings.

Home and School Association Officers:

Co-presidents: Shelly Kalin, Sara Baker, Katie Baumker

Co-vice presidents: Marcia Tauriella, Amy Pugh, Jen Kobza

Treasurers: Kim Kula, Sarah Doty

Co-secretaries: Ashley Hinze, Sara Dejano

HOT LUNCH

SSM serves a nutritious hot lunch. Students select their choice for hot lunch or cold lunch when attendance is taken in the morning. Families are charged based upon the morning selection, unless the child becomes ill before lunch. The program is subsidized by the government and is strictly conducted according to government guidelines. Opportunity for Free and Reduced Price meals is provided for those who qualify. Information is sent home in the fall. Active participation in the Hot Lunch Program is vital to its success.

Any outside food that you bring in must be in a plain sack or bag. No identifying fast food sacks or containers are allowed. The state considers this competition with the hot lunch program.

A separate table will be established as the "Nut Free" table for students with nut allergies. See Section VII Health and Safety for more details on the school's Nut Policy.

No student may leave the school premises at any time without notification from the parents and permission from the Office. Permission from the Office is required for any student to leave the school premises for lunch. In order to join a child for lunch, parents must call the school office by 9am Please delay joining students for lunch until after Labor Day allowing students to adjust to the new school year lunchroom expectations.

Students in the upper grades are assigned various duties in the kitchen and dining room during the lunch hour (they receive a complimentary lunch).

There are four lunch periods to accommodate all students.

11:00 - 11:25	Kindergarten and First Grades
11:30 - 11:55	Second and Third Grades
12:00 - 12:25	Fourth and Fifth Grades
12:30 - 1:00	Middle School

LUNCH PRICES

Hot Lunch (per meal) Grades K-8	\$3.65
Staff	\$3.85
Extra Entrée	\$1.85
Milk (per meal)	\$ 0.55

The cost of student lunches are EFT'ed on either the first or third Monday of the month. If the lunch EFT's are returned by the family's bank, the family must pay for the rejected EFT by month-end. Failure to do so will result in the school asking the family to have their children bring cold lunch until the balance is paid. The family also has the option to apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals through the National School Lunch Program. These forms can be obtained confidentially in the kiosk outside of the school office and returned to the school office when completed. **NOTE: school lunch prices are subject to change with notice.**

In the operation of school nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against, write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

TREATS

Students wishing to bring birthday treats should make arrangements with the teacher in advance. All treats must be individually wrapped and ready to be distributed at the end of the day. No gum is to be given as a treat. The government lunch program prohibits the distribution of treats at lunch time. For the safety of all those present, **treats should not contain nuts or nut products and should not be processed where other nut products are prepared.** These should be given sometime during the last hour of school.

HOURS: OFFICE

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on school days or by appointment.

HOURS: SCHOOL DAY

Kindergarten through Eighth Grade:

Class Begins:	First bell	7:50 a.m.
	Second bell	8 a.m. (after 8 am Tardy)
Dismissal:	Kindergarten	3:15 p.m.
	Grades 1-8	3:20 p.m.

Pre-Kindergarten 3- and 4-year-olds:

Class Begins: 8 a.m.

Dismissal: 3-year-old 10:30 a.m.; 4-year-old 11 a.m.

Pre-Kindergarten 5-year-old – High Fiver

Class Begins: 12:10 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:10 p.m.

HOURS: TEACHER

Teachers are present at school between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

KIDZONE

KidZone is a before and after school program for K-8 grade students of SSM . KidZone services are available before school 6:50 to 8 a.m., after school to 6 p.m.,and scheduled days off. Please contact the KidZone Director for program details.

LITURGY OF THE MASS

The Mass is the focus of SSM’s public worship of God and the focus of the parish worshipping community. Students are taught about the Mass and given opportunities for Mass participation appropriate to their grade level.

8:15 a.m. Mass Schedule for Grade Levels:

Monday	No School Mass
Tuesday	Grades 1,2
Wednesday	Grades 3, 4, 5
Thursday	Grades 6, 7, 8
Friday	All School Mass

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT POLICY

Unless such rights are restricted by a legally-binding instrument or court order, the non-custodial parent:

- is entitled to exercise all parental rights regarding student records;
- may obtain information from their child’s records on a regular basis; may receive general notices; and may attend regularly scheduled teacher conferences or have separate conferences scheduled.

A child may not be released during the school day to anyone except the custodial parent unless written permission is provided by the custodial parent.

If the parents are separated and/or neither is the primary custodian of the child, the school may release the child to either parent unless the school has evidence of a legally-binding instrument or court order to the contrary.

Any contact by the non-custodial parent with the child during the school day will be governed by the legally-binding instrument or court order in effect unless the school has received permission from the custodial parent providing for contact. Such permission must specify the type of contact. If the parents have joint custody, each parent shall be afforded all parental rights, unless restricted in some way by a legally-binding instrument or court order.

The school may require custodial and non-custodial parents to provide a court certified copy of the court document in effect that sets forth the rights and restrictions pertaining to parental rights.

ROOM PARENTS/CLASSROOM COORDINATORS

Room Mothers and Fathers, or Classroom Coordinators, volunteer to assist teachers for special activities, including annual Halloween and Valentine's Day room parties.

LOCKERS, DESKS AND COMPUTER FILES

Lockers, desks and computer files are school property. The school reserves searching rights.

MARTYR MESSENGER

The Martyr Messenger is a bi-monthly newsletter, distributed through email, intended to communicate school information and activities with parents and students. The school office coordinates publication. Any requested fliers, handouts or information needs to be pre-approved by the Principal and delivered to the school office by noon on the day prior to publication.

MEDIA/PUBLICATION RELEASE/PHOTOS

Occasionally, the students of SSM are chosen to publish their writing/ artwork in contests and events. Additionally, events arise where students may be photographed or recorded for television, newspaper, website or radio coverage. If a parent or guardian objects to this, he/she must write the Principal a note indicating that objection by Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

SOLICITATIONS

Students should not solicit teachers and staff for various fundraising programs and projects. While we support the goal of these various activities and organizations, it can place an undue obligation upon teachers and staff.

PETITIONS

Students are not authorized to petition other students and/or staff for support or signatures. If a student desires to effect change in school policy or operations, he/she is directed to meet with the school administration to discuss the possibility of initiating a change process. The school administration's decision on the issue in question is final.

MEDICATIONS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

The school will not purchase, prescribe or provide any medication to any student. If a child must take medication during the school day, a written, signed and dated school medication form must be completed by the child's physician and by the parent.

The medication must be brought to school by the parent in the original container which has been labeled by the pharmacist. The medication will be kept in a safe area in the health office and administered by a designated school personnel member. Unused medication must be picked up by the parent or it will be destroyed.

Students are not allowed to carry their own medication while in school (with the exception of inhalers in the middle school grades). The school will not assume responsibility for medications a student carries and takes on his/her own.

ASTHMA-SELF ADMINISTRATION

Occasionally, a student's parent or guardian will request that the student be allowed to self-manage his or her asthma or anaphylaxis condition while at school during school-related activities. In such instances, the school will adhere to the following steps:

1. Require and receive a written request from the student's parent or guardian that the student be allowed to self-manage his or her asthma or anaphylaxis condition.
2. Develop, with the student's parent or guardian, along with the student's physician, an asthma or anaphylaxis medical management plan for the student for the current school year. This plan must:
 - (a) identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to such condition;
 - (b) evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his or her asthma or anaphylaxis condition;
 - (c) permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his or her asthma or anaphylaxis condition by an appropriately credentialed health care professional;
 - (d) include the name, purpose, and dosage of the prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication prescribed for such student;
 - (e) include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication; and
 - (f) be signed by the student's parent or guardian and the physician responsible for treatment of the student's asthma or anaphylaxis condition.
3. The medical management plan must be kept on file at the school.
4. The student's parent or guardian must sign a Release and Indemnification form before the student is allowed to self-administer his or her asthma or anaphylaxis medication.
5. Once the medical management plan is in place, the student shall notify the Assistant Principal (or, in the Assistant Principal's absence, the School Secretary) when the student has self-administered prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication to be used according to the plan.
6. Once the medical management plan is in place, the student shall be allowed to self-administer his or her asthma or anaphylaxis medication on school grounds, during any school-related activity, or in any private location specified in the plan.
7. If the concerned student uses his/her prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication other than as prescribed, he or she will be subject to discipline and his/her parent or guardian will be notified; however, the method of discipline shall not include a restriction or limitation upon the student's access to asthma or anaphylaxis medication.

DIABETES-SELF ADMINISTRATION

Occasionally, a student's parent or guardian will request that the student be allowed to self-manage his or her diabetic condition while at school and during school-related activities. In such instances, the school will adhere to the following steps:

1. Require and receive a written request from the student's parent or guardian that the student be allowed to self-manage his or her diabetic condition.
2. Develop, with the student's parent or guardian, along with the student's physician, a diabetes medical management plan for the student for the current school year. This plan must:
 - (a) identify the health care services the student may receive at school relating to such condition;
 - (b) evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his or her diabetic condition;
 - (c) permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management of his or her diabetic condition by an appropriately credentialed health care professional;
 - (d) be signed by the student's parent or guardian and the physician responsible for treatment of the student's diabetic condition.
3. The medical management plan must be kept on file at the school.
4. The student's parent or guardian must sign a Release and Indemnification form before the student is allowed to self-administer his or her diabetic condition.
5. Once the medical management plan is in place, the student shall be allowed to self-manage his or her diabetic condition on school grounds, during any school-related activity, or in any private location specified in the plan.
6. If the school determines that the student has endangered himself, herself, or others through the misuse of such medical supplies, it may prohibit the student from possessing the necessary medical supplies to manage his or her diabetic condition, or place other necessary and appropriate restrictions or conditions on the student's self-management. In addition, the student may be subject to discipline. The school shall promptly notify the parent or guardian of any prohibition, restriction, or condition imposed, as well as any disciplinary action taken against the student.

MOVIES/VIDEOS

There are times during the school year where a teacher may choose to enhance the learning experience for their class by utilizing various forms of media-films, videos, etc. Movie ratings will be either G or PG.

NUISANCE ITEMS POLICY/CELL PHONES

Students are asked not to bring personal items from home to school or school-related events. These items can be a distraction to the school environment and, if of any value, could also be broken, lost or misplaced. SSM is not liable for any of these personal items brought from home.

Nuisance items include, but are not limited to: fidget spinners, radios, laser pens, iPods, iPads, CDs, DVDs, collectible cards, playing cards, questionable books and pictures, or anything that detracts from the learning environment. These items are not allowed at school at any time.

School personnel reserve the right to confiscate and hold any such items. Items will be returned at the discretion of SSM personnel.

Students are not to have **cell phones** on their person during the school day. Students found using a cell phone within the building during school hours will have their phones confiscated.

Confiscated phones will be released to a student's parent or guardian. It is highly recommended that when parents want their students to carry cell phones to school for safety purposes, they instruct their students to turn them into the school office when they arrive. If cell phones are not turned into the office, they must be turned off when left in lockers or school bags during the school day. Any cell phones going off during the school day will be confiscated and turned into the office. A parent will need to come to the office to have the cell phone returned to him/her them. While on school property, cell phones may not be used for unauthorized photography.

Note: exceptions can be made in the event there is permission given and proper storage arranged.

PARENTAL CONCERNS AND PROCEDURES

A parent with a question or concern regarding a situation involving a student is urged to follow these procedures in this order:

1. Contact the student's teacher to discuss the situation and work with the teacher to arrive at possible solutions. Appointments with the teachers will be made by writing a note requesting a conference, emailing, or by calling the school office to ask a teacher to return the call to the parent.
2. If the concern cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent should then request a conference with the Principal or Assistant Principal. After discussing the situation with both parties, the Principal will act as a facilitator, making every effort to resolve the problem and initiate reconciliation between the two parties.
3. If resolution and reconciliation have not been achieved after discussion with the teacher and Principal, and the parent still feels the issue has not been addressed, the Pastor may be asked to assist in the resolution and reconciliation of the problem.

Every effort should be made to resolve questions, concerns, and problems at the earliest possible stage in a manner appropriate for Christians. The SSM administration is eager to work with parents when problems or difficulties arise.

SSM views a student's education as a partnership between parents and the school. Parents and students are expected to comply with the school rules, policies and consequences for inappropriate behavior. Parents and students are expected to accept and support the authority of school officials. Just as the parent reserves the right to withdraw a child, the school has the right to cancel enrollment of a student if the administration determines that the parent or student demonstrates a refusal to maintain a partnership with the school.

PARTIES

Parties are held at certain times of the year. Generally, there are two parties, Halloween and St. Valentine's Day. Classroom coordinators help the teacher coordinate the activities. Middle school generally takes a field trip in lieu of the classroom party. Any other parties require prior approval of the Principal. Parents are directed to ask individual classroom teachers for their approval if they wish to bring siblings when volunteering for a classroom party or function. Please consult the **Nut Policy** in this handbook when bringing food items to school.

PETS

SSM School and Church are considered pet free, gum free, smoke free and drug free. There are to be no pets in the building.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL

School pictures are taken each year in the fall by a commercial photographer as a service to parents. Students may purchase these photographs but are under no obligation to do so. Students should dress in nice clothes on that day.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATION

The school adheres to the Omaha Archdiocesan policy regarding immunization and physical examinations. Nebraska State Law requires that all students be immunized for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, varicella, mumps and rubella. The school must have a record of the dates of these immunizations prior to the first day of school. The school has the right to exclude the child from school until the information is submitted. State Law requires a physical examination of Kindergartners and Seventh graders and for all transfer students from out of state within 60 days. Any parent who chooses to refuse immunizations for his/her child due to religious or medical reasons should request the appropriate forms from the Principal.

PLAYGROUND

Students must remain in view of the teacher or person supervising at all times. No one may leave the schoolyard without permission. Appropriate Christian behavior is expected at all times. Students are made aware of the rules concerning behavior and equipment use. Playground supervisors have complete authority to redirect inappropriate student behavior. Students who take playground equipment out to recess are responsible for bringing it back into the school. A rotating schedule provides K-5 grade-students an opportunity to use the playground equipment.

PRAYER

Daily prayer is an integral part of the school day, beginning and ending with prayer. Students daily use formal and spontaneous forms of prayer s. Prayer services are planned for special feasts and liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent.

RECESS

Regular recesses are scheduled for K-5 grade-students. Parents should make sure students are appropriately dressed for the weather. When there is a wind chill below 10 degrees Fahrenheit, or other weather concerns, students will have indoor recess. Inappropriate behavior or failure to accomplish assigned tasks may determine a students' recess participation.

Note: A doctor or parent note is required if a student should stay in during recess time or have limited participation in physical education. A note for the child to resume activities must also be provided.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT POLICY

The placement of students with classroom teachers at SSM is an administrative responsibility. Many factors are considered when determining how students are placed each year. These factors deal with the child's academic and social development, a teacher's teaching style, a child's learning style, the boy/girl ratio in the classroom, and balanced academic grouping. It is a very time-consuming process for both the teachers and administration. Classroom assignments will be made known at the Back to School night(s). This is due to the need to add and remove students

from class lists and to update teachers assigned to classes throughout the summer. Due to these and other factors, requests for information about classroom assignments prior to our Back to School night(s) cannot be honored.

BACK TO SCHOOL FALL OPEN HOUSE

School families of all students are invited to a Back To School Night open house Monday, Aug. 13, from 6-8 p.m.

Event Times:

6-7 p.m.:	K-8 Students, A-M Last Names
7-8 p.m.:	K-8 Students, N-Z Last Names
6-6:30 p.m.:	T/TH Pre-K Students
6:45-7:15 p.m.:	MWF Pre-K Students
7:30-8 p.m.:	High Fiver Students Class lists will be posted at that time in the gym.

Parents and students are welcome to visit classrooms and meet teachers during the scheduled time. School volunteers will be present to meet and greet families.

COUNSELORS

SSM employs two part-time counselors. School counselors spend time with the students in the classroom addressing various issues and expectations while remaining faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. They also see students individually and in small groups. Students may visit with the counselor for an initial visit with or without parental permission. If a parent does not want his/her child individually to visit with our counselor, please provide a request in writing to the counseling office.

CLASSROOM SIZE-TEACHER ASSOCIATES

Teacher associates will be assigned in the following manner:

- one full-time teacher associate for pre-kindergarten.
- one full-time teacher associate per classroom for kindergarten through second grade.
- one full-time teacher associate per grade level for third-eighth grades.
- a teacher associate may be assigned to specials (music, physical education, computer, library) when deemed necessary to maintain quality instruction.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Students should not arrive before 7:45 a.m. and are expected to leave the school ground by 3:35 p.m. Playground supervision is not provided before and after school, however; teachers are on door duty before and after school beginning at 7:45 a.m. The children are expected to keep off the grass before and after school. Students exit the school through doors designated for their classroom. Middle school students are to enter at 7:50 a.m. and exit through the east entrance. They may enter and exit school at other times through the main north and south entrances to the school commons. Children should go home/to their ride or carpool upon school dismissal. Students electing to walk to the YMCA across 168th Street after dismissal must cross at designated crosswalks for their safety.

In the event a child is not picked up by 3:35 p.m., he/she will be taken to the Office and asked to contact a parent by phone. If after a reasonable period of time, no parent arrives, the student will

be placed in KidZone (before and after school care program). Families will be charged a special drop-in rate for such instances.

E-LUNCH

SSM handles all financial transactions such as tuition, lunches, field trips, etc. electronically.

E-lunch forms are completed when registering students for the upcoming school year. Statements are sent home on the Friday before the first or third Monday. All banking information must be completed before students are enrolled into the school.

BICYCLES

A bicycle rack is provided by the school but the school accepts no responsibility for bikes parked on parish property. Bikes may be used for transportation only to and from school and are not to be ridden on the playground, sidewalks or parking lot at any time. The students must adhere to the guidelines for entering and leaving the school premises to ensure safety for everyone

GUM/CANDY

St. Stephen's is a gum-free environment. No gum is allowed in the school. Candy received as rewards in the classroom must be eaten in that teacher's classroom or taken home. No open candy will be allowed in the hallways or other teachers' classrooms. Be sure to consult the "Nut Policy" in Section VIII Health and Safety for safety guidelines regarding the exposure and consumption of nut products.

STUDENT RECORDS

In compliance with the Federal Family Rights and Privacy Act, SSM recognizes the right of the parent/guardian to be given access to their child's educational records and prevents the school from allowing information to be released to others without parental consent unless a valid exception is applicable.

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

When any person has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall make a report by calling the State of Nebraska, Department of Social Services at 1-800-652-1999. The person making the report shall also inform the Pastor and Principal of the alleged misconduct. SSM cooperates fully in the investigation of such cases.

TELEPHONE

The school telephone is a business telephone. Students may use the phone free of charge in emergency situations. Permission to use the phone may not be given depending on the reasons given for the call. At no time is a student to use a teacher's classroom telephone. Student telephone use is restricted to the school office area.

Teachers are not called from their classrooms for telephone calls, except in case of emergency. Teachers' phone numbers are not given out. If it is necessary to speak with a teacher, leave your name and phone number and Office personnel will ensure that the teacher gets the message.

A teacher can easily and effectively be contacted by email. All teacher's email addresses is his/her first initial, followed by a period, his/her last name and then @stephen.org. Example: Principal Julie Perrault is j.perrault@stephen.org.

VACATIONS

Families are encouraged to schedule vacations during times when school is not in session. This helps promote the value of education to the students. During the school year there are many designated holiday/vacation times.

Note: students will be expected to make-up any missed schoolwork while gone. Requests for homework prior to any vacation will be given at the discretion of the student's teacher.

VOLUNTEER PARENTS/ALL VISITORS

As mandated from the Archdiocese of Omaha, volunteers who "have regular contact with children," are required to participate in the Safe Environment Training session and undergo a background check, prior to their assistance in the school.

After completion of the session the following applies:

- Volunteers provide support for the teachers by working in the classroom or at home.
- All volunteers are asked to sign-in before working in the building.

All volunteers must wear an identification badge available in the school office.

Visitors are always welcome. When parents wish to visit the building during lunch periods, they must conform to all school rules, including those with regard to the bringing in outside food in unmarked bags and the unauthorized use of cell phones. The Administration must know when people are in the building. Visitors, including parents, should report to the Office to register before going anywhere in school.

VISITORS DURING LUNCH PERIODS IN OUR DINING ROOM

Acceptable times for former students, who are minors, to visit staff are limited to teacher lunch periods when teachers are not on duty. In the interest of ongoing instruction and our Safe Environment guidelines, access to classrooms and other locations is restricted. Student visitors, who are minors, must have a Safe Environment cleared adult who accepts responsibility for them while they are on campus. All visitors must sign in and sign out in the office. Since available empty seating is very limited in our Dining Room during our lunch periods, SSM welcomes adult guests only in the Dining Room during lunch periods. All visitors are reminded that outside food must be in plain wrapper containers and drinks are limited to water and milk. Sodas are not to be brought into the Dining Room during lunch periods.

WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

SSM observes the school closing policies of the Millard Public Schools. If the Millard Public Schools are not in session, SSM will follow the closing procedures of the Omaha Catholic Schools Office. The announcement to close schools due to inclement weather will be released no later than 6 a.m. at which time the local radio and television stations are notified. School closing information may be heard on television Channels 3, 6 and 7 and radio station KFAB. Usually, school will not be dismissed once it is in session. However, parents may come to the school to pick up children if there is threatening weather at any time during the day. Please check the

website for school closing information. If school is closed, meetings and practices will also be cancelled.

Section IV – Academics

SPIRITUAL DIMENSION

The mission for the Catholic Church is identified by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Jesus' last words to the apostles:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Mt 28:19-20)

Thus, the teaching mission of the Church comes from Christ himself. The responsibility for fulfilling that mandate passes on unchanged to the bishops and to all Catholics. Within each Catholic diocese, the diocesan bishop is its principal teacher, assisted by clergy, religious, and lay men and women, who serve as educators and catechists. Catechesis is the act of handing on the Word of God intended to inform the faith community and candidates for initiation into the Church about the teachings of Christ transmitted by the Apostles. It also involves the lifelong effort of forming people into witnesses to Christ and opening their hearts to the spiritual transformation given by the Holy Spirit. The teaching authority of the Catholic Church, called the Magisterium, lies with all of the bishops who are led by the pope and guided by the Holy Spirit.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

The traditions and teaching of the Catholic Church and the values of Christian living permeate the school day. This high priority is expressed through worship, prayer, religion classes, and the general climate of the school. Catechesis for justice, mercy, and peace is an integral part of the curriculum and school environment because of our need to live this in our daily lives.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Each student receives daily instruction in religion. The instruction follows Archdiocesan Curriculum guidelines. Content includes Doctrine, Scripture, Tradition and Church History. Topics are taught using methods appropriate to the various age levels. Integrated with instruction is attitude formation. It is important that children have pleasant, joyful, religious experiences and positive attitudes about faith, practicing faith, Church personnel, and being a Catholic. The Associate Pastor teaches regularly in the classrooms.

REPORT CARDS AND GRADE REPORTING

Report cards are provided at the end of each quarter in November, January, March and May. Parent/Teacher Conferences are held immediately after the first report card period and in the spring if requested by the teacher or parent. Other conferences are called as needed for individual students. Progress reports are provided after the first five weeks of each quarter.

SSM communicates with school families through the *Sycamore Student Information System*. Parents and students will be able to check academic progress with a personal login as before. Efforts will be made by teachers to keep grade reporting up-to-date. Other information sharing

options are available through the Sycamore system. Log-in information will be provided to parents by the time progress reports for the first quarter are processed.

THE MARKING CODES

The Kindergarten report card is achievement based. It will reflect when students have mastered the skills.

Conduct

Conduct/behavioral skills/Special Classes, along with first and second grades will be assessed using the following scale:

- S Satisfactory (meets goals)
- N Needs Improvement
- U Unsatisfactory
- E Excellent
- S+ More than Satisfactory
- S Satisfactory
- S- Less than Satisfactory
- U Unsatisfactory
- + Strength
- Weakness

Grades

Grade Marking Scale for grades three through eight (includes Music, PE, Spanish, Computer and Art)

- A 93-100
- B 86-92
- C 78-85
- D 70-77
- F Below 70.0
- I Incomplete
- E Excellent
- S Satisfactory
- U Unsatisfactory
- + Strength - Weakness

RETENTION

A teacher may recommend retention of a student after conferring with the Principal and the parents.

The final decision to retain a student rests with the parent/guardian in consultation with the principal and teacher.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a normal part of learning and is given at the teacher's discretion. It is appropriate for teachers to consider weekends and holidays when giving homework, but long-range assignments,

make-up work and practice are an acceptable part of school and home study. Time occupation with extracurricular activities, including sports and clubs, does not excuse students from homework assignments. All students in grades three through eight are required to have a SSM assignment book. If no homework is assigned, it is suggested that students review material appropriate for their grade level. It is very important that the student comes to school prepared with their completed homework in hand. Please refrain from dropping off forgotten work for students as it is their responsibility to bring their own work.

When students in the third through eighth grades have failed to bring completed daily homework assignments to school, it will be marked as a late assignment on their behavior card and may result in a demerit if multiple late assignments are accrued.

When a repetitive pattern of frequently missed assignments occurs, alternative responses may be made by the teachers.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are sent to parents of students at mid-quarter. Progress will be reported for each subject. This is ample time for a student to improve before report cards are distributed. Regular communication between teachers and parents is necessary at all levels of instruction. Formal Parent/Teacher Conferences are held after the first nine weeks. Third quarter conferences will be at the request of the teacher or parent. The teachers are always available for conferencing during the school year.

HONOR ROLL

Students in six, seven and eight grades will be eligible for the Honor Roll. Students achieving an average of 93 percent and above will be on the Gold Honor Roll. Students averaging grades between 86 and 92 percent will be on the Red Honor Roll. Any student who has earned a F in any subject will not be eligible for Honor Roll.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Student artwork is hung around the building and each month selected artwork will appear in the “Artist of the Month” gallery on our first floor. The Artist of the Month student recognition and art program is supported by the members of the Home and School Association.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE (T.E.A.M.)

T.E.A.M. is an interdisciplinary support team whose primary purpose is to assist the general education teacher with academic and/or behavioral needs through the development of classroom interventions. The statutes of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51-Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs relating to SAT teams are as follows:

006.01C Student Assistance Team (SAT) or Comparable Problem-Solving Team

006.01C1 For a school age student, a general education student assistance team or a comparable problem-solving team shall be used prior to referral for multidisciplinary team evaluation.

006.01C2 The SAT or comparable problem-solving team shall utilize and document problem solving and intervention strategies to assist the teacher in the provision of general education.

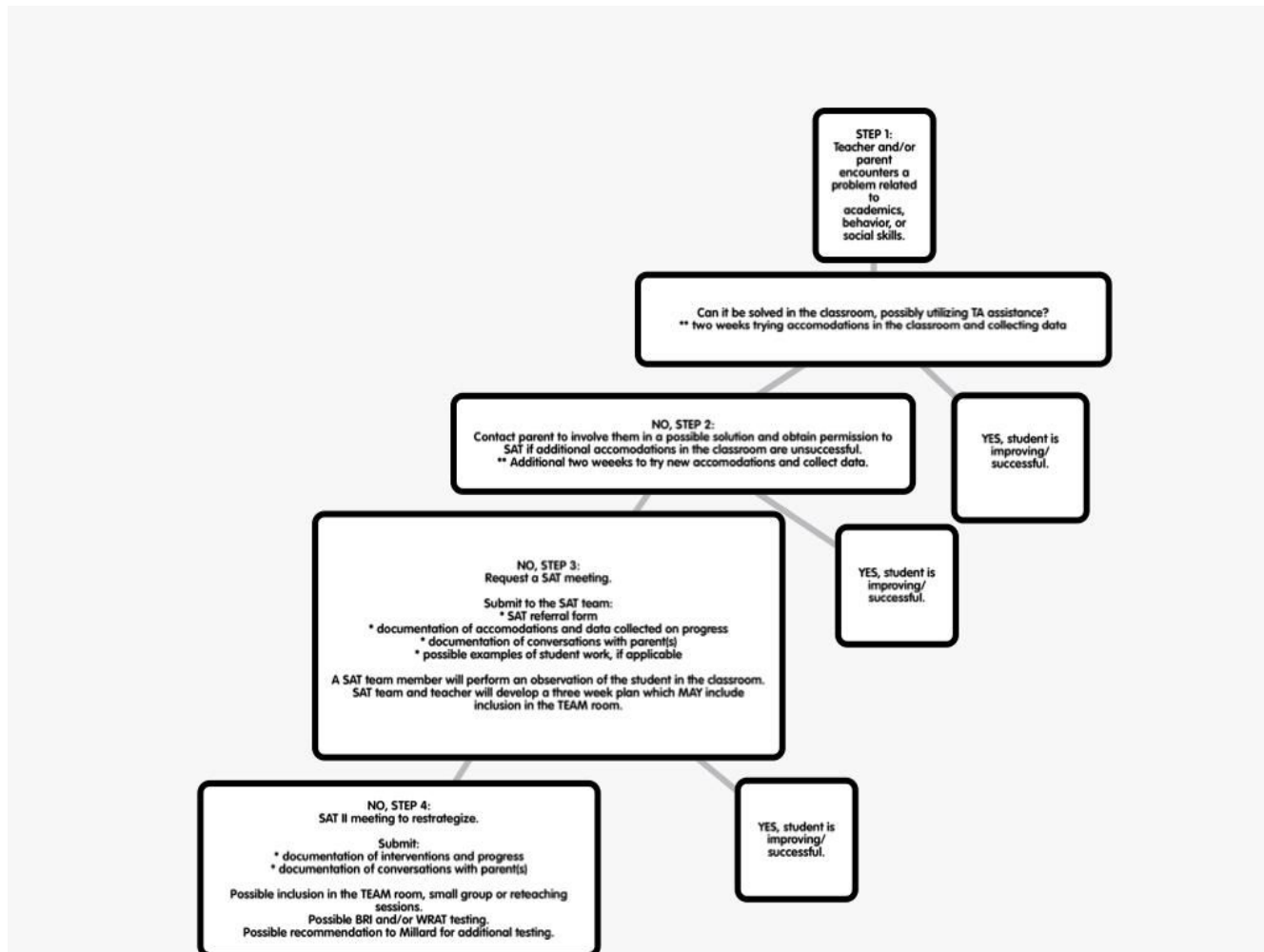
006.01C3 If the student assistance team or comparable problem-solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation shall be completed. A referral shall include information from the SAT or comparable problem-solving team, meeting the requirements of Subsection 006.01C and a listing of the members of the SAT or comparable problem-solving team.

Recognizing that individual differences exist among students, reasonable adjustments and accommodations are to be made to help students develop skills affecting academic growth. When developmental delays and behavioral impairments exist to the degree that school adaptation is difficult, the Principal, after consultation with parents, will initiate a referral to the appropriate agency or resource. After diagnosis by qualified persons, suggestions for helping the student will be implemented by support personnel in the school. If this assistance does not result in significant progress within a specified time, the Principal will assist parents in locating a more helpful educational situation for the student. Note: Diagnostic testing services are available to students through the public school system. Referrals are arranged through the Principal. A certified resource teacher will work with those students who are identified as needing additional assistance in academic courses. Teacher recommendation, class output and testing results will be used to determine a student's level of need.

The SSM SAT team, which includes the school Principal, resource specialist, and other general education teachers, will problem solve, offer suggestions and strategies, and review and evaluate interventions the general education teacher has implemented in the regular classroom. If the SAT team determines that the general education interventions are not successful, a referral to the appropriate public school district multidisciplinary team will be made. The SSM SAT team strives to offer the best possible instruction programs for all students.

A flow chart depicting the **Steps to Student Intervention** has been developed by the T.E.A.M. teachers. These steps are to be followed when either a parent or a teacher encounters a problem related to a student's academics, behavior, or social skills. The goal is to determine what is causing the problem and what assistance or accommodations can be provided so that improvement is made.

STEPS TO STUDENT INTERVENTION



TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT: ONE TO ONE COMPUTING

SSM provides computing equipment for student use. An individual device (tablet or laptop) is assigned to students entering the sixth grade to be used throughout their middle school years. These devices remain at school at all times and are returned to the charging cart each afternoon. Other devices are purchased for student use in pre-k through fifth grade classrooms to aid instruction. All computing devices are the property of SSM . Any effort by students to misuse or operate the device beyond normal use guidelines, by opening the device through sealed panels, or efforts made to enter the inside of the device is strictly forbidden and violates its warranty. Students violating this trust to use school property in good faith and cause damage to computing devices will be held responsible for the damages and, if necessary, the replacement of the item.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Students receive special, intense preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. This is done in cooperation with the parent/guardian. Students will receive the sacraments only if

they are adequately prepared. Reception of the sacraments is celebrated jointly by families in both the school and religious education program. Fees are assessed to families to cover the cost of materials shared for student instruction of the sacraments.

The sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist are ordinarily received for the first time by second graders. Meetings are scheduled during the year so that parents may review the content of preparation, deepen their own understanding of the sacrament being received, and help prepare their children for receiving these sacraments.

Preparation for confirmation involves grades seven to eight and requires candidates to participate in special retreats, service hours and activities. Confirmation is received in the spring of the 8th grade year. There are also parent meetings held in preparation for receipt of this sacrament.

SERVICE

Service to others is one way children learn the responsibilities of belonging to a caring community. Each classroom participates in service projects during the year, either as a class or in conjunction with all-school projects. Students are trained for service on the Altar beginning in fourth grade. Middle school students serve as sacristans for our daily masses. Children in all grades are given the opportunity to perform one of the ministries as their class prepares their mass. A committee of teachers is responsible for the planning and implementation of school service projects each year.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

Standardized norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests of achievement are given annually. The CTB McGraw Hill Terra Nova standardized exams are administered in late September and/or early October. The Terra Nova exams are administered to students in grades three through eight. An individual student report is sent home to each family once the school has received the reports. Aggregate scores for SSM will become part of a profile of scores compiled by the Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic schools. No individual student scores are released to the Archdiocese. Individual scores are kept in the student's cumulative record file.

SSM has adopted the goal of implementing guided reading. Benchmarking reading assessments take place multiple times each year in kindergarten through fifth grade, measuring progress and differentiate instruction in language arts. This assessment program replaces the Aimsweb assessment previously administered in grades kindergarten to three. Students in grades three to eight will also participate in MAP testing for reading..

All students in grades three to eight take MAP assessments in math several times a year. Students in grades kindergarten to eighth will complete Archdiocesan assessments in the spring.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are approved by the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Office and may be provided through the state legislated Textbook Loan Program, that is locally administered by the district of school residence. Some textbooks are purchased by the school. Since textbooks are loaned to students and not purchased by them, they will be reused from one year to the next. Therefore, all books are to be covered. We ask that you not use contact paper book cover material. A fine is assessed for loss or unreasonable damage done to books.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are intended to be a learning experience with preparations and follow-up as to the effectiveness of the educational experience. The purpose is to enhance the curriculum and specific units being taught and to expose the students to cultural opportunities, community service, and resources in the community. Field trips are a privilege; not a right. Plans for field trips will be coordinated with the Principal. Parents will be notified as to the details of the field trip at least one week prior to the trip. Bus transportation is the mode of travel. Parents of students are not authorized to transport students other than their own to any school sponsored event. A signed permission slip must be on file before a student may participate in a field trip. Phone calls or email permissions are not accepted.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Students may have an opportunity to participate in a number of academic competitions. These may include the annual Spelling Bee, Speech Team, Art Shows, Science Olympics, Quiz Bowl, Wits Clash, Geography Bee, Archdiocesan Math Competition, and other inter-school activities and competitions. Parents of students are not authorized to transport students other than their own to any school sponsored event.

Section V – Code of Conduct: Defined

SSM tries to do everything possible to help each student be successful. SSM makes every effort to maintain an appropriate and safe learning environment for all students in the school. If the behavior of one student disrupts the learning or safety of other students on a regular basis, action must be taken to prevent this from continuing. The teacher will work with the student and parents to help him or her change the behaviors. If these efforts are not successful, the student will be referred to the principal and a meeting set up with the teacher(s), student, and parent(s) to determine if the student’s needs can be met at our school or if a transfer is in order.

A. INTRODUCTION: CODE OF CONDUCT: DEFINED

1. Policy Statement

Every SSM student has the right to an education. The following standards have been instituted to ensure that right. Each student and their parents are required, on their own, to become familiar with these standards, and to help provide an atmosphere conducive to learning.

SSM primarily uses the **Boys Town Social Skills Model** as a framework for their discipline. In keeping with the mission and goals for SSM, a school wide discipline system is in place. This system is reviewed annually for effectiveness. It is intended to provide an age appropriate, respectful, self-discipline system based on a Christian philosophy on a continuum from grades kindergarten through eight. It allows consistency and continuity that will enable students opportunities to accept personal responsibility to grow socially, academically, spiritually and physically. There are three levels: Primary (kindergarten-two); Intermediate (three-five) and Middle School (six-eight). Please note: **A student can be held accountable for conduct inside or outside of school that is detrimental to the school, the school image, or against Catholic Church doctrines or teachings.**

2. Levels of Consequences

Consequences for disrespectful and irresponsible behavior include, but are not limited to, the following. Consequences are defined in more detail below.

- Demerit
- Detention
- Parent Conference
- In-School Suspension
- Students Assistance Team
- Behavior Contract
- Suspension
- Expulsion

3. Definitions

Demerit—When a demerit is issued, the student will be required to take the information home to the parent as directed by the teacher. Each subsequent demerit in a quarter will result in further disciplinary action to be determined by the teacher and/or the Principal. The teacher and/or the Principal determine when a violation requires a demerit and/or a detention.

Detention—A detention is a time spent in school under the supervision of an adult on staff. Detentions will vary in length. Parents will be notified of a detention. When assigned, the detention will be served by the student regardless of whether a parent/guardian signature has been acquired on the notice provided. Failure to serve any of the detention may result in additional time to be served. **Several missed detentions can be transmuted by the Principal to an in-school suspension.**

Parent Conference—A parent/guardian conference is a meeting between school personnel and the parent/guardian of the youth experiencing behavior problems. Failure of a parent/guardian to attend a scheduled conference without an acceptable excuse makes it difficult for the school and parent to work together for a workable solution to an existing problem. The school and parent will need to make arrangements for rescheduling the missed meeting.

In-School Suspension—A student who earns an In-School Suspension (I.S.S.) will report to the school office, and will be isolated from his or her peers for the duration of the suspension. While in I.S.S., the student is responsible for all class work missed.

Student Assistance Team (SAT)—A conference with a team of teachers can be convened in a case when a student repeatedly shows disregard for the school rules despite disciplinary action. The team will be made up of teachers, the Principal, and possibly the Pastor. Creation of a Behavior Contract may be implemented at this time.

Behavior Contract—The Behavior Contract will detail acceptable behaviors for the student and expected outcomes. Students breaching the Behavior Contract will be reviewed by for possible revision of the Contract, withdrawal, or expulsion of the student from school. Behavior Contracts may also be written for other students as is needed.

Suspension—Suspension is the temporary exclusion of a student from school. SSM personnel strive to resolve discipline problems in a Christian manner with parent and student involvement and cooperation. Suspension may be one of two types, In-School Suspension (I.S.S.), or Out-of-School Suspension (O.S.S.). Parents are notified prior to the suspension of every student.

The following procedures will be followed for suspension:

1. The decision to suspend a student rests with the Principal and or Assistant Principal, but the Pastor may be notified. The majority of suspensions will be in-school suspensions.
2. The student will be removed from the classroom or other setting and taken to the Principal.
3. The Principal will investigate by discussing the circumstances and situation with the person(s) making the complaint of misbehavior and the student accused of the misbehavior.
4. If suspension is necessary, the parent/guardian will be called and informed by the Principal. The student and parent/guardian will be notified of the reasons for the suspension, the length of the suspension, and the conditions for returning to class. The student will be expected to complete all missed schoolwork.

Expulsion—Expulsion is the permanent exclusion of a student from school and school activities. SSM will expel a student when the conduct of the student is a hindrance to the welfare, safety, or progress of the school community and/or evidence of repeated disregard for the philosophy, policies, rules and regulations of the school. The following procedures will be followed for expulsion:

1. The decision to expel a student rests with the Principal.
2. The student will be removed from the classroom or other setting and taken to the Principal. The student may be asked to immediately leave the school premises.
3. The Principal will investigate by discussing the circumstances and situations with person(s) making the complaint of misbehavior and the student accused of the misbehavior.
4. Parent/guardians will be notified within three days of the expulsion.
5. If requested in writing from a parent/guardian within three days of the expulsion, the expulsion may be reconsidered by the Pastor.
6. The Principal will notify the necessary public school authorities.
7. The Principal will notify the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

4. Penalty to be Followed

If minimum and maximum penalties are not specified for a specific prohibited act, the recommended penalty shall be imposed. **The Principal retains the authority to review the facts associated with any incident and determine a penalty or consequence for an action other**

than that presented as a guide in this handbook when, in the Principal's discretion, it is deemed necessary.

5. Mandatory Compliance

Students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are hereby notified that compliance with the School's Standards for Student Conduct is mandatory. It is the responsibility of all students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) to become familiar with these Standards.

6. Bullying/Harassment

Offensive Conduct and Harassment

Student offensive conduct, bullying or harassment (repeated incidents of such conduct) on the basis of a person's gender, sexual orientation, race, color, age, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability is prohibited. Offensive conduct, bullying, or harassment may result in suspension or expulsion.

Examples of offensive conduct which when repeated constitute harassment include but are not limited to the following:

1. Explicit and offensive sexual references or gesture.
2. Unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature and unwelcome verbal, written, or physical advances or suggestions of a sexual nature.
3. Name calling, or taunting on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability.
4. Language of any kind, including graffiti, epithets, vulgar or profane jokes, which is disparaging or demeaning to others on the basis of their gender, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability.

References:

Student Offensive Conduct, Bullying or Harassment (Archdiocesan Policy #5032) Procedures for Reports and Investigations Relative to Offensive Conduct, Bullying or Harassment (Archdiocesan Policy #5033)

PROCESS TO ADDRESS BULLYING

Purpose:

SSM is a Catholic-Christian school. We strive to create an environment where our students can grow in Christian virtues of love for one another, compassion, kindness and respect toward others. In order to maintain this Catholic-Christian environment, incidents of bullying, which are contrary to these values, will NOT be accepted. **All students represent the SSM community.** This means that student behavior must reflect the school values on and off campus. Student conduct off-campus can have a detrimental effect upon our school's

reputation. The administration reserves the right to discipline students for conduct away from school that has a negative impact upon individuals within our school. These incidents will be acted upon when they are related to school activities or school-sponsored activities on or off campus.

What bullying IS

The definition of bullying is when an individual or a group of people with more power, **repeatedly** and **intentionally** cause hurt or harm to another person or group of people who feel helpless to respond.

What bullying is NOT

- Single episode of social rejection or dislike
- Single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- Random acts of aggression or intimidation
- Mutual arguments, disagreements or fights

(National Center Against Bullying, 2018).

Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of everyone, including parents, to report suspected bullying to the appropriate authorities; the appropriate authorities include:

- Teachers
- Teacher Associates
- School Counselor
- Administration

It is then the responsibility of these authorities to take the appropriate steps necessary to deal with the situation, using the guidelines listed below.

Bully Prevention Plan

SSM utilizes a Bully Prevention Plan to promote positive peer relationships. This plan revolves around educating students, parents, and teachers about the true definition of bullying and how they can best prevent it. The school depends on timely reporting by bystanders and teaching students to report and equip themselves with strategies research has shown to best eliminate bullying incidents.

The role of parents is to stay in close and open communication with teachers if bullying concerns exist. Open communication between the home and the school is important in eliminating a bullying issue. Open communication includes thorough and timely discussions and dealing in a straightforward manner with students involved. Parents should understand that the consequences involving other students are private and will not be discussed.

Procedure for Reporting

- Incidents of bullying/harassment any time over the course of the entire calendar year may be reported to SSM school.
- If a student feels that he/she is the object of bullying/harassment, that student should first confront the individual causing the harassment if possible. A report may still be filed with the school.
- Students or parents/guardians may report an incident of bullying/harassment at any time. One may file a report as a victim or witness, with or without the reporter's identity being revealed.
- An individual who has complaints of bullying/harassment which occurred student-to-student or faculty-to-student will report such conduct to the principal/assistant principal. If the principal/administrator is thought to be involved in the offensive conduct, the student or parent/guardian should report the matter to the Pastor of SSM .
- An individual who complains of bullying/harassment also will be expected to file a written complaint.
- If an anonymous report is filed, no formal disciplinary action will be taken; however, the administration will review the report and take appropriate action (alert teachers, increase vigilance, confront accused, etc.) The identity of the reporter will remain confidential if possible.
- If a signed report is filed, formal disciplinary action will be taken following an investigation by administration. The identity of the reporter will remain confidential if possible.
- To file a written complaint, a student or parent/guardian may fill out a Bullying/Harassment Reporting Form found in the guidance counselor's office, or on Sycamore. Completed reports are turned in to the central office. Alternatively, a student or parent/guardian may bring the signed complaint to the principal/administrator, or, if the principal/administrator is thought to be involved, to the Pastor.

Procedures for Investigating

- All reports will be taken seriously and will be promptly investigated by the administration.
- All involved parties (victim, accused, witnesses, teachers, etc.) will be interviewed individually.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted.
- The administration will determine the veracity of the report and follow through with the appropriate consequences.
- A student in violation of this policy may or may not be given a warning prior to incurring discipline. Regardless of the severity, any further violations will be subject to discipline, including suspension or expulsion.
- More egregious violations of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion for a student or termination from employment for a staff or faculty member.
- Any suspected violations of the Safe Environment policy will be reported to the Archdiocese.

Instances of Retaliation

- SSM School will not tolerate retaliation against any student or employee who files a complaint in good faith of bullying or harassment, or who, in good faith, provides information in connection with any such complaint.
- Instances of retaliation will be subject to discipline, including suspension or expulsion for a student or termination of employment for a staff or faculty member.

Filing False Charges

- The school will take disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, if sufficient evidence substantiates the guilt of a student who falsely alleges bullying or harassment.

The school will assist persons falsely accused of violating the bullying/harassment policy, making known to appropriate parties, the false complaint.

Confidentiality:

Reasonable efforts will be made to keep a report of bullying and the result of the investigation confidential; however, student confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. All parties involved in the situation will be informed of the confidential nature of the situation and be asked to refrain from disclosing any information about the situation to others.

B. VIOLATIONS AGAINST PERSONS

1. Firearms, Explosives, and Weapons

Knowingly possessing, handling, transmitting, using, intimidating with, or threatening with any firearm, explosive, destructive device, pipe bomb, or stun gun is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Firearm means any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, or the frame or receiver of any such weapon, or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device.

2. Other Weapons

Using or threatening with a knife, throwing star, brass knuckles, chemical substances (including, but not limited to, mace, pepper guns, and bleach), and any other object that could be used to injure a person is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

3. Restraint and Seclusion

Physical restraint and seclusion of students for behavior management shall be used in circumstances and under conditions that are in the best interests of students.

Physical restraint is appropriate when a student is displaying physical behavior which presents substantial imminent risk of injury to the student or others, and the student is demonstrating the intent and the ability to cause injury within a matter of seconds or minutes. The degree of physical restriction employed should be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident, the

size and condition of the student, and the potential risks for injury to the student or others. Physical restraint does not include: (a) taking away a weapon; or (b) breaking up a fight.

Seclusion is appropriate when a student is displaying physical behavior that presents substantial imminent risk of injury to the student or others, and the threat could be diminished if the student were placed in a safe environment away from other students and staff. Seclusion should only be used as long as necessary and should be discontinued when the student is no longer a threat to himself/herself or others. Time out procedures which do not constitute seclusion are permitted in school.

Immediately after the student has restored emotional and behavioral control following the use of physical restraint and/or seclusion, a staff member not involved with the incident shall examine the student to ascertain if the student has sustained any injury. The President or Assistant Principal will verbally notify the parent/guardian as soon as possible (no later than the end of the school day in which the physical restraint or seclusion occurs).

All use of physical restraint or seclusion must be documented in a memorandum within one school day of the incident. The President or Assistant Principal will send a copy of the memorandum to the parent or guardian within two school days following the use of the restraint or seclusion.

Section VI- DISCIPLINE RESPONSE BY GRADE LEVEL

INTRODUCTION

SSM recognizes the benefits of consistency among those disciplining. The administration retains the authority to review the facts associated with any incident and determine a penalty or consequence for an action other than that presented as a guide in this handbook when it is deemed necessary.

In accordance with the philosophy of the school, which emphasizes deep respect for the human dignity and uniqueness of every individual, each student will be considerate of the rights of others in the interaction of the school day. All students are expected to cooperate with the spirit and policies of the school, which are designed to foster mature development and personal responsibility. This requires courtesy in all personal relationships, promptness in fulfilling obligations, concern for the environment, and many other factors which the students' sense of appropriateness will indicate to them.

Our **Primary** grades utilize a card system. Should the student fail to comply with the rules governing behavior, the student will be verbally warned. In the case of second offense within the day, the student will have their card flipped on the classroom discipline chart. On this chart the student has colored cards with each card representing a different consequence.

In the **Intermediate and Middle School** we are recognizing the student's efforts and successes in assuming responsibility for academic work, organization and personal choices. To quickly identify improvement areas and develop a plan for improvement, students are issued a new behavior card each quarter. These cards provide a written record of each student's progress which will aid in communication between home and school. The purpose of the Student Behavior Card is to provide immediate and consistent logical consequences for irresponsible behavior. Students

are given a signature by any teacher who witnesses an infraction. Any staff member can give signatures to any student. Students can receive multiple signatures in a day.

When a student accumulates five signatures, they will serve a detention. If a student gets to a third detention, a conference will be arranged. The card, to which is attached a list of missing assignments, requires a weekly parent signature. Five missing assignments will result in a signature. Extracurricular activities may be jeopardized by frequent misbehavior, and repeated detentions may result in suspension from school. It is important for students to be aware of what behaviors result in developing a positive school climate, which is neither teacher-dominated nor student controlled, but rather is a joint effort to learn, relate, and experience.

Depending on severity of the demerits, the behavior consequence for every five demerits will be as follows:

- 5 demerits= 30 min detention
- 10 demerits= 1-hour detention
- 15 demerits= in-school suspension and conversation with parents about behavior plan
- 20 demerits= short term suspension from school and school related activities
- 25+ demerits= meeting to determine enrollment status

Students will receive new behavior cards quarterly, however demerits **will not** reset. At the end of each week, the teacher also attaches “missing/ incomplete assignment” notices to inform parents about what was not handed in during that particular week. These cards AND the behavior cards must be signed by the parent each week. No parent signature is an automatic teacher signature at the beginning of the week.

Students are recognized and encouraged for making good behavior choices by earning a **free dress day** when they have earned **2 demerits or less by the close of the month.**

Parent involvement is key to affecting change in student behavior. Parent meetings with a teacher throughout the discipline process are held at designated intervals as needed.

Escalation Process: In general, the school’s discipline cycle has an escalation process based on a 3-tier system described below:

Tier 1

Incidences that are handled within the classroom by the instructor

Tier 2

Involves the necessity of the instructor contacting the parents/guardians

Tier 3

Student is sent to the office and the instructor completes a Behavior Referral
This involves principal intervention

Repeated Tier 3 offenses may result in discussion if SSM is the appropriate school for this child.

Tier 3 Behavior Referral

A referral is a written documentation, which results in a student meeting with the principal or assistant principal to discuss the offense.

The age of the child, circumstances affecting the situation, and severity of the conduct will determine the level at which the process begins. The exact level of supervision and corresponding punishment will be left to the discretion of the principal. A serious offense may result in an immediate in-school suspension or expulsion. Behaviors leading to a referral/suspension/expulsion include, but are not limited to:

- Physical/emotional abuse or threat
- Inappropriate actions or language
- Disrespect/defiance
- Repeatedly breaking rules
- Cheating
- Harassment
- Damaging school property
- Stealing
- Pulling the fire alarm or setting a fire
- Smoking/taking drugs/selling drugs
- Weapons violation
- Inappropriate displays of affection
- Cyber bullying

Section VII – Uniforms and Dress Code

UNIFORMS AND DRESS CODE

School uniforms give students a sense of identity, that they are collectively part of something bigger than just themselves as individuals. The uniform gives the student a greater sense of purpose in being at and emphasizes being dressed for success. The following dress code is to be followed. All shirts, shorts, slacks, sweaters, jumper, skorts and skirts can be purchased at Dennis Uniform Company, Educational Outfitters, or by online ordering through our link (that can be found on our website for Land's End).

BOYS

Trousers/pants:

- Need to be worn at the waist (cargo pants are not acceptable)
- Navy blue pants
- Navy blue corduroy pants for winter months (optional)

Shirts:

- Light blue or white knit shirt (short or long sleeved), grades **six to eight also has the option of gray or white shirt**- SSM logo optional
- SSM Logo uniform sweatshirts (optional)- crew neck
- **Grades six to eight Logo quarter zip uniform sweatshirts (optional)- navy or red**
- Grades kindergarten to five only: navy blue uniform vest or uniform cardigan sweater
- Navy blue uniform cardigan sweater (optional)

Note: Official Scout uniforms on meeting days are allowed

Shorts:

- Navy blue walking shorts
- Shorts are optional attire that may be worn during daylight savings time.
- Knee length to 2-inches above the knee

Socks:

- All students need to wear a single pair of socks.
- Color: solid blue, solid black, solid gray, or solid white socks
- o beads or ornaments, team logos or strips up the back, small discreet shoe logos are acceptable.

Shoes:

- Tennis shoes
- Dress shoes
- Shoes must have closed heel and closed toe
- No sandals, air pumps, black soles that leave marks, light-up shoes, boots during school hours, and shoes with wheels
- Shoes need to be visibly tied at all times

Belts:

- All middle school boys are required to wear a belt
- Need to be solid black, brown or navy blue in color

GIRLS

Jumpers/Skirts:

- Grades kindergarten to five: plaid jumpers, navy and plaid skorts
- Grades six to eight: laid skirts (bib can be removed from jumper) and skorts
- Length of skirt/skorts: knee length to 2-inches above the knee

Slacks:

- Cargo pants are not acceptable
- Navy blue slacks-pleated or flat front are allowed
- Dark navy blue corduroy for winter months is optional

Shirts:

- White knit shirt (long or short sleeved) with/without banded bottom: middle school only
- Gray knit shirt (long or short sleeved) **grades six to eight only**, white blouse with a pointed, button-down or peter pan collar (SSM logo optional)
- White turtleneck optional during the winter months
- SSM Logo Sweatshirts (optional)- crew neck navy or red
- **Grades six to eight SSM Logo quarter zip sweatshirts(optional) navy or red**
- K-5 navy blue uniform vest or uniform cardigan
- 6-8 navy uniform cardigan (optional)

Note: Official Scout uniforms on meeting days are allowed

Skorts:

- Navy or plaid skort is optional attire that may be worn all year
- length of skort: knee length to 2 inches above the knee

Shorts:

- navy walking shorts are optional attire that may be worn during daylight savings time
- length of shorts: knee length to 2 inches above the knee

Socks:

All students need to wear socks.

- color: solid blue, solid black or solid white plain socks (no beads or ornaments, no team logos or strips up the back, small discreet shoe logos are acceptable)
- knee highs: solid navy, solid black or solid white
- tights: solid navy, solid black or solid white
- leggings: optional attire, solid color, navy blue, must be Dennis Uniform and they have to be fitted (tight at ankle)

Shoes:

- tennis shoes
- dress shoes
- shoes must have closed heel and closed toe
- no sandals, no air pumps, no black soles that leave marks, no light-up shoes, no shoes with wheels, no boots during school hours
- shoes need to be visibly tied at all times

MARTYR MONDAYS

Beginning in September most Mondays throughout the school year will be “Martyr Mondays”. On these days, students can wear a “spirit” sweatshirt/T-shirt purchased through the 8th grade fundraiser or another approved SSM spirit top. Students will wear uniform bottoms/socks/ and shoes. We will inform you ahead of time if it is a regular uniform day or an earned dress down day (Holy Days, special events, incentive/rewards, etc.)

FREE DRESS DAYS/PICTURE DAY

On occasion, the students are given the opportunity to dispense with uniforms and dress casually. These days will be on specific days throughout the year.

Attire for free dress days may consist of **blue jeans and pants** in good condition and shirts appropriate for school. Shorts may be worn when uniform shorts are allowed. If shorts are worn, they will be the length of the uniform shorts. Stomachs, backs, and shoulders must be covered. Girls wearing jewelry must follow the guidelines of the handbook (no hoop earrings). If girls wear leggings or tights, tops/tunics must be worn over the leggings and must be at least the length of mid thigh. Open toe shoes can be worn with dressy clothes but students are advised to avoid all shoes with slick or smooth soles that slide on surfaces and can lead to injury.

The following are NOT allowed on a Free Dress Day: Short-shorts, running shorts, and flip-flops, slides, tank tops or t-shirts with inappropriate words, messages, or pictures (including those of some rock bands), pants with writing on the backside (the seat of the pants), boys wearing earrings or jewelry, girls wearing scarves or bandanas, hats, pajama pants for boys and girls, and leggings, yoga pants, or tights cannot be worn with regular length shirts or tops (only mid-thigh shirts are acceptable). The Principal has the discretion to determine what is appropriate free dress attire. Students may be required to change into a school uniform.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

All middle school students (6th, 7th, 8th grades) are required to purchase a SSM PE (physical education) uniform from Educational Outfitters. This PE uniform will be the only acceptable attire for physical education classes in the middle school. Students are not allowed to wear colored tee-shirts or tee-shirts with lettering/writing under their uniform shirts. Students' clothing and other personal belongings must be marked with the last name and first initial. Any materials found will be placed in the Lost and Found Box near the office. If purchasing used uniforms, remove prior owner's identification and replace with your own.

HAIR/MAKEUP/JEWELRY

Hairstyles must be kept neat and trimmed. Hair must be out of the student's face. Other extremes in dress and hairstyles such as shaved lettering, tails, etc. are prohibited. Extreme hair color variations will not be allowed. Makeup is not worn until eighth grade and then only moderately. No fake fingernails are allowed. Nail polish may be worn in 6th through 8th grade and it must be one color and neatly kept and trim. No tattoos, temporary or permanent, are allowed. Girls (K-8) may wear one earring (not dangling) per ear, except when activities would warrant them dangerous. No cartilage earrings are allowed. Faddish and extreme adornments are prohibited (such as *Livestrong* style and Jelly bracelets) and would require special permission from administration. Boys may not wear earrings or jewelry, and their hair length must be above the collar. The Principal has the discretion to determine whether hair, makeup, and jewelry is appropriate.

Section VIII– Health and Safety

ASBESTOS

SSM School, originally built in 1992 and added onto in 1998, is an asbestos free building. Our school contains no asbestos of any form. In accordance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations, a management plan submitted to the State Department of Health is available in the school's administrative office for you to review.

ASTHMA PROTOCOL

SSM School adheres to the State Mandated Implementation of Rule 59, "Emergency Response to Life – Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions Protocol." The protocol involves the use of an IM Epi-Pen and nebulized albuterol. The protocol is to be administered by trained responders to ANY student showing life-threatening asthma attacks or other allergic reactions. Responders will be available during the course of regular school hours. If you do not want your child to be treated for these life-threatening emergencies you need to send the Principal, written notification prior to August 29, 2014.

HEALTH NURSE

The Creighton University School of Nursing will provide Nebraska state required health services. They will review immunization dates, physical exams, dental dates, vision evaluations, and other health data. They will also direct all health screenings

STUDENTS WITH NUT ALLERGIES

It will be the policy of **SSM School** to do its best to eliminate or minimize the risk of exposure to nuts for our students and to have a plan in place to respond to an emergency. A parent or guardian should inform the school of any peanut or tree nut allergies of their child. Communication between the school and home is important to ensure the continued safety and welfare for all of our students. Ultimately, all students with dangerous allergies must be educated in how to protect themselves.

To minimize the risk of exposure to nuts for our students, our school will:

1. Designate tables as NUT FREE in the Cafeteria. Students with allergies to nuts may invite a non-allergic friend to join them with a nut-free lunch.
2. Direct the school lunch program to limit its offering of peanut butter products and items containing other nuts.
3. Discourage students and parents from bringing treats to school that contain nuts or were processed and packaged in places where other nut products are prepared. The school encourages students who have nut allergies to bring their own supply of snacks to school to lessen the risk of exposure.
4. Promote the implementation of guidelines from the www.attackonasthma.org site which directs the response to severe asthma or anaphylaxis (severe allergies) and requires any parent who has a student with severe asthma or anaphylaxis to have an Action Plan on file with the school. This plan will contain Action Plan forms completed by the physician or school nurse and by the parent or guardian.
5. Discourage the use of candies and other products (ex. M&M's) that were processed and packaged in places where other nut products are prepared in projects or activities in school and communicate to parents that items brought for the completion of projects should be checked that they do not contain nuts and were not processed in a factory that manufactures nuts.
6. If requested by a parent or guardian, provide an allergy-free computer (or more, if necessary) for use by students with nut or other life-threatening allergies.
7. In classrooms of students with life-threatening allergies, educate the other students and their parents about the allergy and ways to minimize exposure of nuts or other life-threatening foods to affected students.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Students with a medical condition, which may be passed on to others in the classroom, must be excluded from school until they are no longer contagious. These conditions include, but are not limited to:

Chickenpox - Students may return after the chickenpox has scabbed over.

Fever - Students should remain home until 24 hours after a fever breaks.

Vomit – Students, who vomit at school during the school day will be evaluated to determine if this is due to illness. Students, who are ill, must be removed from school for the remainder of that day.

Antibiotics (for communicable or contagious diseases)

It is recommended that students should be kept home for a minimum of 24 hours after starting on a new medication.

Some conditions may require a doctor's attention and note before returning to school.

Examples: If the test is positive, the student will need to stay home at least 24 hours for: Pink Eye; Skin Rashes - which may include impetigo, scabies and fifth disease; Strep Infections such as scarlet fever and strep throat. Note: Students who have taken a strep test must remain home until the results of the test have become known. If the test is positive for ringworm, the student will need to stay home at least 48 hours.

When students are detected as having Head Lice, they are sent home immediately and isolated from others in school. They may return after treatment with head lice shampoo.

SAFETY PLAN

SSM has a written school Safety Plan in place. The faculty and staff have been trained and will utilize our Safety Plan if and when needed. Periodic drills concerning lockdowns and evacuations will take place during the school year.

All guests that enter SSM must sign-in at the front desk. A visitor badge will be issued upon entering and signing-in. All SSM staff will wear identification badges

Video cameras are installed in the main entryways and exterior of the building. These cameras cover the playground areas, entrances and parking lots. These are there to enhance student and parishioner safety.

SAFETY CODES

In order to insure the safety of every student, it is necessary to have safety procedures to protect the well-being of students during emergency situations. Students shall follow these procedures when a Lockout or Lockdown is announced:

Lockout

When a Lockout is announced students will comply with the instructions of the teacher or staff member who is supervising the area of the building where the student is located. Unless told otherwise, the general procedures for students to follow under a **Lockout** are:

1. All building exterior doors are locked down manually.
2. Students will remain in the classroom and continue with the activities of that classroom. Lights will be kept on.
3. The door will be locked, but the teacher may admit students who are in the hallway or have been in other areas.
4. Students may not leave the classroom.
5. Students may not be allowed to use cellular phones and computers.

6. Students who are between classes are to immediately report to their next class.
7. Students who are in other areas of the building are to follow the plan for that area of the building.
8. Determine if External Communication Coordinators will send email/text message to parents/stakeholders and execute decision.

Failure of a student to comply with the instructions of a teacher or staff member during a Code Yellow will result in disciplinary action.

Lockdown

When a Lockdown is announced, students will comply with the instructions of the teacher or staff member who is supervising the area of the building where the student is located.

Students, who are between classes, are to immediately report to their next class or to the closest possible safe location.

Teacher Associates will be expected to join a teacher in their assigned classrooms or move to the nearest classroom as time permits. Teacher Associates will follow the direction of the teacher and assist them during all lockdowns.

Common Sense Rule: As in all emergencies, adults in charge will respond in the best manner possible taking necessary precautions and using good common sense measures to maximize the safety of all students. Unless told otherwise, the general procedures once a **Lockdown is announced are:**

1. Students will remain in the classroom and take cover in the classroom away from windows or doors. All window and blinds are closed and lights are off.
2. The door will be locked and students will not be admitted to the room once a Lockdown has been announced.
3. Students may not leave the classroom.
4. Students may not be allowed to use cellular phones and computers.
5. Students who are in other areas of the building are to follow the plan for that area of the building.
6. Teachers will take attendance and make efforts to account for the location of all missing students by contacting the office.
7. Teachers assigned to the Crisis Response Team will remain with their students during a Lockdown unless otherwise notified.
8. **All building interior doors accessed through key cards will be locked when the RED Button is engaged. All exterior doors will have been locked manually during the Lockdown.**
9. **Call 911 if not contacted previously.**
10. The EMERGENCY RED BUTTON will be disengaged once it has been officially verified by authorities that it is now safe to resume our normal daily routine.
11. Determine if External Communication Coordinators will send initial or updated email/text message to parents/stakeholders and execute decision.

Failure of a student to comply with the instructions of a teacher or staff member during a Lockdown will result in disciplinary action.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency Cards are on file in the School Office. The information must be kept current at all times. School should be alerted to any known allergies the child may have and other health problems which could influence the child's performance and learning ability in the classroom. This is done by returning the **Student Health Updates** at the beginning of the school year. All students are to return this form.

In case of illness or injury, parents will be contacted by phone. Parents must arrange for the child's transportation home. If the parent cannot be reached, emergency phone numbers will be called in order to obtain necessary help for the child. Children are not allowed to walk home during school hours if sick or injured.

In the event of an emergency, which requires immediate medical attention, the parent will be notified and the child will be transported by ambulance if necessary, to the hospital at parent's expense

FIRE AND SEVERE WEATHER DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted throughout the year. Students are instructed verbally in the classroom concerning the route to be taken to get outdoors quickly. Silence and order should be maintained at all times. Severe weather drills are conducted once a year. Students are instructed as to routes and safe location areas. Silence and order should be maintained. **ALL REMAIN IN THEIR DESIGNATED PLACES UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS TURNED OFF.** Designated routes and procedures are listed at the end of this handbook.

SAFETY PATROL

All fifth and sixth graders are members of the Safety Patrol and will take their turns on the weeks assigned. All students must obey the Safety Patrol. They will be reported to the Office if they fail to adhere to the simple rules of safety. Safety Patrol is scheduled for each semester. All assigned Safety Patrol students must find their own substitute if they are unable to report for duty.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Directions and diagrams for evacuation due to fire and severe weather are posted in each classroom, school office, the kitchen, the dining room and the church. They are also in the Safety Plan.

Section IX – Extra-Curricular Activities

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All activities and programs should support SSM's mission.

In order to be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities, students are expected to maintain a satisfactory academic standing as well as satisfactory conduct. Students must be in attendance in school on the same day as participation in any school activity. If a student does not earn eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities, SSM will notify the student's parents or guardian.

As an enrichment to our daily school instruction and activities, the school offers extracurricular activities for students. The largest of these invitational events includes our annual spring musical sponsored by our Home and School Association. Students in 1st-8th grades are eligible to participate in the spring musical. Chess Club is now offered. Students are encouraged to bring their own inexpensive chess boards to meetings. Other extracurricular activities are offered at various times throughout the year and include: 6th grade to Outdoor Education, and 7th grade to Science City in Kansas City. Sixth graders attend a Vocation Awareness Day. Other middle school events include: Student Leadership Council, Speech Team, Geography Bee, Math Club, Quiz Bowl, Bible Bowl, Show Choir, Readers Quiz Bowl, Music in Catholic Schools (offered during the day for 5th -8th graders), retreats, and Robotics. Many other extracurricular experiences, not sponsored by the school, may be available to SSM students.

ATHLETICS

SSM Parish is committed to Christian competition which is an extension and an expression of the values upon which our religious beliefs are based. Through love of God and love of neighbor, our intention is to provide programs and direction that allow all members and participants to maximize the talents which God has bestowed. Student are offered the opportunity to participate in athletic programs through the Parochial Athletic League (P.A.L.). For information please contact the school office.

BAND

Instrumental instruction begins in Grade 5. The school band is operated under the direction of Music in Catholic Schools. It is funded by a separate parent-tuition which can be paid monthly, quarterly, by semester or yearly. Classes for band take place during the school day. Students in band are expected to keep up with their studies. A band meeting is held early in the fall.

STUDENT COUNCIL (Leadership Council)

Student council is an organization of middle school student representatives selected to represent SSM school in a variety of school functions. These members must meet the extracurricular grade requirement (C grade average or higher). The mission of student council is to foster school spirit, promote a better communication between faculty and students, and encourage Christian values.

Section X – Traffic Routing

TRAFFIC DROP-OFF AND PICK –UP

There are two routes to drop off students.

1. In the mornings, if you enter the NORTH lot, you need to follow the NORTH traffic route off of 168th street heading east to enter the parish drive past the roundabout and head east toward the exit at the top of the hill. This is one-way traffic on school mornings from 7:30-8:00 am. Cones will be set up to block parking in the first tier nearest the building to aid with drop off. Parking is available on the north side on the 2nd and 3rd tiers north of the school building. The 1st tier is intended for staff and visitors. Large vehicles such as vans must park on the third tier. Cars can be parked on the second or third tier. The first tier is to be left free for staff and visitors. The first parking space on each side of the steps is to be left unused on all three tiers.
2. Those entering the SOUTH lot leaving 168th Street toward “V” Street will head north as they turn into the parish. Follow the roundabout drive for drop off of students. Families with

pre-kindergarten students should use the SOUTH entrance. Parking is available in the south lots **except** for those directly in front of the Parish Center and Pre-Kindergarten modular buildings

We do ask that when parking to pick-up students to back into the parking stalls. This allows the driver to have a wider range of vision.

Section XI- Technology Use Policy

Technology is a valuable and important tool to improve student learning and enhance the academic curriculum taught at the school. SSM School's objective is to provide students and employees with a wide range of information technology to support higher-level learning and instruction in and outside of the classroom. All SSM School employees and students are expected to contribute to a safe and productive learning environment while using technology and related network resources. The rules and guidelines governing the use of SSM School's technology are outlined below.

Technology and Network Resources

For purposes of this policy, the term "technology" or "network resources" refers to all aspects of SSM School's owned or leased electronic equipment (including computers, tablets, printers, scanners, cameras, etc.), email, internet services, servers, software, network files and folders and all other technology-related equipment and services. These rules apply to any use of SSM School's technology or network resources, whether this access occurs in school or outside of school. Students are expected to use technology and network resources in accordance with this policy.

Access to the SSM School wireless network WILL be restricted to SSM School approved electronic devices from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm on school days. It may also be restricted entirely or at certain additional times whenever deemed necessary. The use of personal electronic devices may be allowed in the classroom (or library) at the sole discretion of faculty/staff. The use of personal electronic devices as a "hot spot" for students and others to bypass the school network is prohibited while on school premises.

Student Responsibilities and Acceptable Use

Student access to technology is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to use technology in a responsible manner consistent with SSM School's educational and religious objectives. The following list provides some examples of student responsibilities and acceptable uses of technology:

1. All technology must be used to further the educational and religious mission of SSM School, and should be respected at all times. Students are responsible for reporting any misuse.
2. Students must use his/her real identity when using SSM School's network resources.
3. The network is to be used to store and transmit school-related data only.
4. Students may be assigned unique email and login usernames and passwords to protect the information on the network. Do not access or use other people's accounts. Do not access or use other people's computers, or folders, or any other electronic device without express permission from the owner.
5. Do not share passwords with any other person. SSM School faculty and parents should be

the only exceptions. If a student believes his or her password has been compromised, the student must immediately report this concern to a faculty member.

6. Students are responsible for all actions taken under a student's username and password.
7. With the exception of an Apple ID, students should always use his/her SSM School email address or username when utilizing online resources for digital storage or collaboration.
8. Electronic communications (emails) between faculty and students **must** be made via SSM School internal email system. Electronic communications between faculty and students through personal accounts may be deemed inappropriate and result in disciplinary action.
9. Students should obtain permission before accessing, posting, or transmitting information belonging to others.
10. Students must respect network security and should not attempt to bypass any technological blocks placed on computers to protect students and filter content that the school has classified as objectionable. Faculty may request to unblock a website if the website is appropriate and relevant to school activities.
11. There is no privacy online. Students should never provide personal information online or share any information the student does not want made available to the public.
12. Students should back up his/her work often. Do not use technology as an excuse. If your computer fails at home, you are still responsible for completing all assignments on time.
13. If applicable, students are responsible for regularly checking his/her SSM School email account and teachers' course pages to stay updated on information shared electronically by the school or his/her teachers.
14. All student files stored on the network may be deleted at the end of each school year.

Unacceptable Uses of Technology and Network Resources

The use of technology and network resources must be consistent with the educational and religious objectives of SSM School. Examples of unacceptable uses of technology include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To access, post, publish or store any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, sexually-oriented, threatening, racially offensive or illegal materials that are inconsistent with the objectives and/or teachings of the school.
- To harass, intimidate, threaten or bully others, whether inside or outside of school.
- To steal or borrow intellectual property without permission.
- To plagiarize the work of others, or to use the work of others as your own without giving proper credit.
- To breach copyright laws by using unlicensed software or pirating audio or visual materials.
- To bypass SSM's content filter or network security.
- To knowingly spread computer viruses or malware.
- To send out "chain" emails, mass emails, and/or surveys not approved by faculty or staff.
- To misrepresent one's own identity or the identity of others.
- To take a photo, record through video or audio any student or faculty member without his/her knowledge and consent.
- To express profanity or any other inappropriate content online, including SSM School's website, email program, social media or other internet sites.
- To share personal information or information about any student or faculty member to anyone via the Internet.
- To access another user's account or invade the privacy of others.

- To store or download unauthorized software programs, music, videos, game files or personal photos on SSM School computers.
- To play games, chat on-line, or watch videos during the school day unless associated with a class and permission from a teacher is explicitly given.
- To utilize encryption or software to hide activity that violates SSM School's Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- To violate any federal, state, or local laws.

Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, Texting, Blogs etc.)

Although social networking and texting normally occurs outside of the classroom, it may have a negative impact on the school community. If a student uses social networking or a personal electronic device to convey offensive or disrespectful communications inconsistent with this policy and/or the objectives of the school, SSM reserves the right to take any disciplinary action it deems necessary to protect students and faculty. SSM School encourages parents to routinely view and monitor their student's personal networking sites and electronic devices to ensure the information and content does not place any student at risk.

Guidelines for social networking:

- Be aware of what you post online. Social media venues, including wikis, blogs, photo and video sharing sites, are very public. What you contribute leaves a digital footprint for all to see. Do not post anything you would not want friends, parents, teachers, future employers, or God to see.
- Follow SSM School's code of conduct when posting online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions; however, do it in a respectful manner. Make sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
- Be safe online. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, first and last names, phone numbers, addresses, exact birth dates, and pictures. Do not share your password(s) with anyone besides your teachers and parents.

No Expectation of Privacy

SSM School sets the terms and conditions of technology use. Students should have no expectation of privacy or anonymity while using technology and network resources provided by SSM School. All content created, sent, accessed or downloaded using any part of SSM School's technology or network resources is subject to the rules stated in this policy. SSM School reserves the right to monitor the network and examine or remove electronic files and/or materials whenever it deems necessary. Students should never assume that emails, files, or other content created or stored on SSM School's network will be maintained as private or confidential. Should SSM School determine there is a reasonable need to do so, it reserves the right to search students' personal electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) brought on to school grounds.

Disciplinary Action

Violations of this Technology Acceptable Use Policy may result, at minimum, in the loss of technology and network privileges as well as appropriate disciplinary action (up to and including suspension or expulsion). Any violations of federal, state, or local laws will be reported to the appropriate authorities. Students who receive or learn of any harassing, threatening, or inappropriate electronic communications or postings should immediately notify the faculty member supervising the activity or SSM School's administration.

Access to Inappropriate Materials on the Internet/Disclaimer

SSM School currently utilizes an internet content filtering system that reduces student access to offensive and pornographic materials. However, no filtering system is foolproof and SSM School cannot entirely control what students may or may not locate on the internet. While SSM

allows students to access the internet for educational purposes only, students may have the ability to access inappropriate materials. SSM School is not responsible for the content of the information or materials students may retrieve from the internet. Students who inadvertently access inappropriate materials must report the incident to the supervising faculty member or the school's administration immediately.

The Principal/Pastor reserves the right to amend the handbook for just cause. The school reserves the right to add, modify, or abolish any of the handbook provisions without notice. Parents/guardians and students will be informed of any changes.

Parent/Student Signature Page

I have read the 2018/2019 SSM School Family Handbook and agree to follow the school policies and procedures as stated.

_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent Signature	_____ Date

Please sign and return this form to the school office by Curriculum Night on August 30, 2018.