



**Immaculate Conception
School**

**Parent/Student
Handbook
2025-2026**

**7263 W. Talcott Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
Phone: 773-775-0545
www.iccowboys.net**

(Updated August 2026)

Welcome

The education of each child is the joint responsibility of the home and school. Respectful communication and cooperation between the school and home will help ensure a quality education for each child enrolled at I.C.

As a Catholic school, our highest priorities are in the areas of faith formation, religious instructions, and moral development, along with the building of the Christian community within the school and parish. Faith is a gift from God, and is the inheritance and bond that unites us together as a community.

At Immaculate Conception School, we follow the example and teachings of Christ. We believe in service to others and kindness to all.

We agree to act in accordance with Catholic values. Failure of a student or family member to act in a truly Christian manner, or to cooperate fully with IC School, may lead to behavioral consequences.

While our objective is to create a helpful guide for parents and students, please keep in mind that statements in this handbook are subject to amendment with or without notice. The principal will attempt to keep the school families informed of all changes. Some changes might have to be made immediately due to unforeseen circumstances.

The best interest of children is always realized when faculty, staff and parents work together. We anticipate a long and productive partnership.

Parent/Guardian Conduct

As partners in the education of children, the parent/guardian in the local school community is expected to demonstrate respectful behavior at all times with faculty, administration, support staff, students and volunteers whether on or off school grounds or at school-related events. If, in the opinion of the principal, that partnership is no longer viable, the school reserves the right, in accord with policies of the Office of Catholic Schools, to require the parent/guardian to either remove their child(ren) from the school or not accept registration for the next school year.

Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to: harassment, verbal abuse, assault of or threats to the faculty, administration, staff, students and volunteers of the school. Parents/guardians who post defamatory or threatening statements about the school, its staff or students on social media can be required to remove the offensive materials or withdraw their child(ren) from the school.

Ordinarily, a student is not to be deprived of a Catholic school education on grounds relating to the actions/attitudes of a parent/guardian. However, one of the following actions may be required to permit the continuation of the student in the school:

schedule meetings between school staff and the parent/guardian outside of regular school hours in a monitored setting; conduct school business with the other parent/guardian of the student.

When, in the judgment of the principal, as confirmed by the pastor, the behavior of a parent/guardian seriously interferes with teaching, learning or a positive school environment, the administrator may: inform the parent/guardian of their right to be present on school grounds is temporarily or permanently suspended; dismiss the child(ren) of the parent/guardian temporarily or permanently from the local Catholic school.

Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools Mission Statement

Our Mission

The mission of the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools is to educate the whole child - academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally - through a faith-based learning environment. Our Catholic schools are igniting the light in future leaders.

Mission Statement

Immaculate Conception School is a vibrant and growing Catholic community. We take pride in giving each student an excellent Catholic education which promotes academic and spiritual growth. We prepare students to become involved citizens by instilling leadership, personal responsibility, and social awareness led by faith.

Philosophy of Education

We believe that education and formation of children into mature witnesses to Christ is the fundamental reason for the existence of our Catholic School.

It is our goal to prepare the child to live in an ever changing, global society within the context of a Christian Educational Community. Children develop their unique gifts, which enable them to actively participate in the transformation of society through peace and justice.

We will assist our students in the attainment of their goals by providing religious instruction, opportunities for liturgical worship, and integrating Catholic ideals into all facets of daily school life.

We offer students the opportunity to explore cultural heritage, utilize technology and acquire the spirit of service to others. We encourage the development of meaningful relationships and responsible leadership. We nurture spiritual, intellectual, physical and social growth.

Parental cooperation and interest is expected. The school is but one aspect in the molding of a whole, productive individual. Home, church, and community must contribute to the educational foundation of each child.

Accreditation

Immaculate Conception School is fully recognized and accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Office of Catholic Schools.

Non-Discrimination Statement - I.C. School is operated under the auspices of The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole, in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Administration & Staff Governance

Pastor

The Pastor is the primary spiritual leader of the parish and, as such, has the responsibility of fostering, guiding, and coordinating the education ministry in the parish. The pastor will be an ex-officio member of the School Board. All Board decisions and policies shall be subject to his approval.

Principal

The principal is the administrator of the school. The principal is responsible for implementing Archdiocesan policies and policies that ensure the fulfillment of the educational program at Immaculate Conception School.

School Advisory Board

Immaculate Conception School Advisory Board shall assist the administration in the development of policies to govern the operation of the school. All such policies must be in accordance with those established by the Archdiocesan School Board and subject to the pastor's approval. The pastor, in collaboration with the Board, shall screen, interview, and hire the principal. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to review and advise on the annual prepared budget. Final approval of this budget is the responsibility of the Pastor. The Board shall also be responsible for working with the pastor and the principal to set tuition rates and develop and support fund-raising necessary for operating the school.

School Personnel

All teachers are required to meet the professional standards set by the Archdiocesan School Board..

Non-Discrimination Statement

I.C School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex or national or ethnic origin in the admission policies, hiring practices, administration of educational policies, loan programs, athletics or other school administered programs.

If you feel you have been discriminated against, please contact the school principal or the Parish Pastor.

Admission Policy

General Information –

Immaculate Conception School is operated under the auspices of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole, in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Immaculate Conception School is open to children who:

- Are in compliance with the age requirements of the State of Illinois and whose parents want academic excellence, religious education and traditional discipline for their child(ren).
- Space availability: a maximum of 30 students per homeroom in Grades 1-8 is set.
- Appropriateness of program: students will be admitted as long as their individual needs can be met within the framework of our current educational program.

Age Requirements-

The Illinois State Law of September 1 will be upheld.

A Child entering P3 must be three by September 1.

A child entering P4 must be four by September 1.

A child entering kindergarten must be five by September 1.

A child entering first grade must be six by September 1.

Admission of New Student-

For the admission of a new student, parents shall present:

- An official copy of the child's birth certificate.
- The Baptismal record (if applicable).
- A record of compliance with local and State of Illinois health requirements.
- Admission to grades first to eighth also requires a report card from the previous year and records from the previous school.

Priority of Admission-

In an effort to maintain acceptable class size in each grade, it is sometimes necessary to limit enrollment. When this is the case, the following priority scale is followed in accepting registrations:

- Students currently enrolled in grades P-8 whose tuition payments are up-to-date
- Siblings of students currently enrolled in grades P-8
- Children of registered parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
- Children of Catholic non-parishioners
- Children of non-Catholics

Non-Catholics In Our School-

The non-Catholic applicant should understand, accept, and be willing to support the philosophy and goals of the school. They should realize non-Catholic students will attend and actively participate in liturgy, programs of service, and religion class, as these areas are

integral parts of the life of the school. The staff should be sensitive to the ability of the non-Catholic student to understand, and be respectful of the child's religious convictions. All students will be respectful of each other's religious beliefs and practices. Non-Catholic students do not receive the sacraments of the Catholic Church.

Enrollment of Non-Citizens

Catholic schools shall admit students regardless of their citizenship status, provided that the student(s) meet all other admissions requirements in accordance with applicable state and federal laws to the extent that such anti-discrimination statutes do not conflict with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Preschool/Kindergarten Options

Immaculate Conception offers 5 full day programs for kindergarten students.

Preschool students (P3 and P4) may choose full days (either 5 or 3) or half days (either 5 or 3). The 3 day options are Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday or Monday/Wednesday/Thursday. Whichever option is selected at registration, will be in place for the entire year. Days may not be added.

Toilet Trained

Children must be toilet trained prior to school entry. Accepting children wearing diapers or disposable pull-ups requires that the program have a designated diapering area with an accessible hand washing sink (IL DCFS Licensing Standards 407.340). Therefore, accepting children who are not toilet trained compromises the license-exempt status of our early childhood programs.

Enrollment Procedures

For every child enrolled in a Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Chicago, a written notice must be given to the person enrolling the child that within 30 days, he or she must provide either: (1) a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or (2) other reliable proof, as determined by the Illinois Department of State Police of the child's identity and age and an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. Other reliable proof of the child's identity and age shall include a passport, visa or other governmental documentation of the child's identity.

When the person enrolling the child provides the school with a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, the school shall promptly make a copy of the certified copy for its records and return the original certified copy to the person enrolling the child.

Once the school has been provided with a certified copy of a child's birth certificate as required, the school need not request another such certified copy with respect to that child for any other year in which the child is enrolled in the school.

FAILURE TO PRODUCE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR OTHER RELIABLE PROOF

Upon failure of a person enrolling a child to comply with the required birth certificate or other reliable, acceptable proof, the school shall immediately notify the Illinois Department of State Police (IDSP) or the local law enforcement agency of such failure, and shall notify the person enrolling the child in writing that he or she has 10 additional days to comply. The school shall immediately report to the Illinois Department of State Police (IDSP) any affidavit received pursuant to the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, which appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content.

Student Records

A file of attendance, achievement test scores, health records, and report cards is kept in the school office. Parents/guardians are welcome to review this information. Requests to examine a file should be made to the principal.

The Office of Catholic Education has established guidelines for school records of students.

Right to inspect: In accordance with local school procedures, parents/guardians have the right to look at the child's records maintained in the child's permanent record. A prior appointment must be made with the principal.

Right to prevent disclosures: The school will not disclose anything to third parties from the child's records unless:

- The parent/guardian consents in writing prior to the disclosure;
- The information is directory information which the parent/guardian has not requested be kept confidential;
- Request for information is from a school to which the child is transferring and the school has received a written request for release;
- The request for the information meets one of the limited circumstances described in the Guidelines for School Records.

Right to request correction: The parent/guardian has the right to present evidence that the school should amend any part of the child's record which the parent/guardian believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of student rights. If the school decides not to change the record. The parent/guardian may insert an explanation in the record.

Transfer Student Requests:

1. Certified copies of transfer students' records are requested within 14 days of enrollment.
2. Immaculate Conception will send unofficial records of students transferring to another school within 10 days of the received request.

Immunizations and School Physicals

In accordance with Illinois State Law all students entering school for the first time at the preschool or kindergarten level, sixth grade students, and any new student K-8 shall present proof of having had a physical examination and received such immunizations against communicable diseases required by the Department of Public Health. These records are to be presented to the school before the first day of school.

Any students not in compliance by Oct 15 must be excluded from school until the child presents proof of having had the physical examination and required immunizations.

Dental Examinations

All children in kindergarten, second, and sixth grades must have a dental examination by a licensed dentist. He/she must sign and date the proof of examination form.

Vision Examinations

All students enrolling in kindergarten and any student enrolling for the first time at IC, must have an eye examination. The eye exam must be performed by a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye exams.

Custody

The school office requires court certified copies of all legal arrangements affecting I.C. School students including, but not limited to, custody arrangements, guardianships, and foster care. If no court orders are on file, ordinarily both parents are assumed to have equal custody.

I.C. School abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, a school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of that court order.

Financial Obligation

Tuition

Immaculate Conception School uses Blackbaud for tuition billing.

Tuition accounts that are 60 days past due may result in student exclusion from school.

For tuition questions, contact Lisa Kessler at 773-775-3833 or through Parent Square. Parents may also contact Blackbaud Customer Support at 888-868-8828.

Tuition Payments

Tuition may be paid in one full payment or in ten or eleven monthly payments. A Blackbaud administration fee is billed with the first tuition payment.

Fees and Billing

All school fees are billed with the September tuition payment. These fees include: family security, student technology, student sacramental and student graduation.

The September tuition discount reflects the registration fee paid in January of the prior school year.

The January tuition payment includes a non-refundable family registration fee for the following school year. This fee is credited to tuition in September of the next school year.

Eighth Grade Requirement

Families with eighth grade students must have tuition paid in full by May 15. Students with unpaid balances will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Parishioner Tuition Requirement

Families with students in grades K-8 must be registered parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish and meet the minimum annual donation of \$832 between July 1 and June 30 to qualify for the parishioner tuition rate. If this donation is not met, a family fee of \$1,200 will be added to tuition.

Materials

Textbooks, some workbooks, all tech devices, library books, desks, chairs and any shared materials used in STEM lab, music, art, physical education, and computer are considered “rented”. If a student loses or damages any of these items, they must pay for the replacement or repair.

Supplies

A list of required supplies is given to the parents in the Spring. Prepackaged supply kits are available for purchase through a company called SchoolKidz for the next school year. Parents should check weekly that students have the necessary supplies. All supplies should be labeled prior to the first day of school. Paper products (tissues and paper towels) may need to be replenished during the school year.

Other Fees

A few additional charges including class pictures, field trips, hot lunch, etc., occur during the school year.

Individual Student Support Plans

Immaculate Conception School will formulate and implement an Individual Support Plan for students who have been diagnosed with defined learning/behavior needs that require educational accommodations/interventions. The Support Plan shall outline the precise nature of the special needs(s) and all strategies, accommodations, and interventions that shall be implemented. Support Plans require the affirmation of both the student's parent/guardian as well as school officials.

Individual Support Plans are generally established following the creation of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) by a local public school district. IEPs are typically written when students are diagnosed with learning/behavioral needs by a public school district or licensed private practitioner.

School personnel shall not attempt to diagnose students with a defined learning/behavioral need.

If a student is enrolled for the first time with an existing IEP or a Support Plan from another school, the assistant principal (or designee) shall meet with the parents to discuss the IEP/ICEP, and formulate a new, local Support Plan.

Support Plans represent a mutual agreement for services between the parent/guardian and the school. Catholic schools are not legally obligated to implement all services recommended on an IEP. Support Plans shall be reviewed, modified (where necessary), and re-signed by the school and parent/guardian on at least an annual basis. The assistant principal (or designee) shall ensure that Support Plan goals, strategies, accommodations, and interventions are shared with all relevant school personnel, and that relevant school personnel receive appropriate training and support in implementing the Support Plan.

School Hours

The school day begins at 8:00am and ends at 3:10pm except on Wednesdays when the school day ends at 2:00pm. The office opens at 7:45am and closes at 3:30pm. Voice mail accepts messages before 7:45am and after 3:30pm.

There is no supervision on school grounds prior to 7:45am unless students attend the Extended Care Program which begins at 6:45am on days when school is in session. When weather is not a concern, the students will enter the building at 8:00am and go directly to their homerooms.

Preschool enters building through Door #17N (facing Talcott)
Grades K-1 enter building through Door #15E (facing Rectory)
Grades 2 & 3 enter building through Door #16N (facing Talcott)
Grades 4 & 5 enter building through Door #19E (ramp door)
Grades 6-8 enter building through Door #1N (Main Door)

In inclement weather, rain or extreme cold (temperatures below 15°), the students will enter the school building at 7:45am using either Door 15E or Door 19E.

Parents Accompanying Children to the Classroom Door-

While it is understandable that some parents may wish to accompany their preschool children to the classroom door inside, it is disruptive to the school routine. Please cooperate by saying your goodbyes at the entrance door of school.

Once at school students may not return outside or leave the school premises until dismissal. Parents who are late picking up their children from school will typically find them waiting near the office, in the school lobby.

Attendance

Illinois Compulsory attendance law requires all children ages 6-17 to attend school. Failing to attend school has significant short- and long-term effects on a child's academic, social and emotional growth.

Daily attendance is expected of all Immaculate Conception School students. Students are excused from school because of illness, injury, death in the family, or family need. The child is responsible to make up any work missed while absent. Teachers will provide reasonable assistance in bringing an absent student up to date. The absent student's assignments and books may be picked up from the main office at the end of the school day.

Whatever the reason for a student's absence, the school must be notified.

Parents are responsible for calling the office to report an absence before 8:00 A.M. each and every day a child does not attend school. Please call 773-775-0545 to report all absences.

Calls to Confirm an Absence

In the event parents neglect to notify the school of a child's absence, the school will make every effort to confirm the whereabouts and safety of each absent child. After daily attendance is recorded, the office personnel will call parents who have not yet accounted for their child's absence. If parents are inaccessible, the school uses the student's emergency card to locate a responsible adult. If a family connection is not made, the child's attendance record is marked unexcused absence.

Late Arrival, Early Dismissal, or Partial Absence

Any absence, at any part of the day, is disruptive to the homeroom or classroom setting. Late arrivals can impact the structure of the class and disrupt the continuity of the lesson being taught. A partial absence is defined as missing less than half a day of school.

Family emergencies, unavoidable doctor or dentist appointments, or special circumstances may occasionally require a student to arrive at school after 8:00 am, leave prior to 3:10 pm or miss part of the school day. When this is the case, parents must contact the school to explain the reason for late arrival, early dismissal, or partial absence. If medical attention was required, the student must bring a confirmation note from the physician's office. When arriving late, the child must report to the office to receive a tardy slip to enter the classroom.

In the event of an early dismissal, the teacher sends the child to the office. For the safety of the child, parents must pick up their child at the front door and sign them out. Students will not be permitted to wait outside for their parents.

If the student returns to school after the appointment, he/she must report to the office before reentering the classroom. The child is responsible for making up any work missed while absent.

Extended Care

Extended day care is available for students in grades Preschool - Grade 8 from 6:45am- 8:00am before school and from 3:10pm (2:00 on Wednesdays)- 6:00pm on full-session school days. Registration information is available in the school office and under Files in Parent Square.

Tardiness

Students who arrive after 8:05am are marked tardy. Tardy students report to the school office where they will receive a late slip allowing late entry into the classroom. Frequent tardiness is not acceptable due to the disruption it causes both to the student and the class. Three unexcused tardies in one trimester may result in a detention.

Truancy

Except for serious illness, frequent absence is not acceptable and could result in serious consequences including retention the following academic year. This applies to all students in kindergarten- grade 8.

Vacations During the School Year

Immaculate Conception School discourages family vacations or trips during the academic year. Making up work is not a worthy substitute for the ongoing classroom experience and teacher instruction.

If parents do arrange a vacation that conflicts with the school calendar, advanced written notice stating the exact days the student will be absent must be sent to the office and homeroom teacher. The teacher is not obligated to provide work for the student to complete while on vacation. The teacher is not responsible for re-teaching the subject matter that is missed. Upon returning to school, parents are responsible for helping their child obtain missed assignments, learn the material, make up the work, and prepare for tests.

Dress Code

All Immaculate Conception School students in grades K-8 are expected to be in uniform on all school days unless otherwise noted. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their children are in proper uniform.

General Uniform Rules & Regulations

- Uniforms must be clean, without tears or holes and fit properly
- Hats of any kind are not permitted inside of the school
- Skirts and shorts must be worn no higher than 3 inches above the knee.
- Skirts and shorts should not be rolled at the waistband
- Students may wear a t-shirt under their polo. The shirt must be a plain white shirt with no lettering, and the sleeves may not extend below the sleeves of the uniform shirt
- Uniform shorts (regular and P.E.) may be worn from August – October 31st and from May 1st – June
- No hooded sweatshirts may be worn during the school day. Only the approved Immaculate Conception fleece or sweatshirt may be worn during the school day, and each student must wear the proper uniform underneath
- Hair dyed any unusual colors is not allowed, including on out of uniform days
- The wearing of jewelry is limited to items like simple watches and one pair of earrings (for girls only)
- Girls may not wear make-up of any kind. Fake or acrylic nails should not be worn to school.
- Hairstyles must be neat, clean, and well groomed. No shaved portions of the head will be allowed. Boys' hair should be above the shirt collar. All students' hair should be kept out of the eyes
- We do not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.
(IL Public Act 102-0360)
- Boots are encouraged to be worn to and from school during inclement weather, but they are not allowed to be worn during the school day.
The student must bring a change of shoes
- Neither "Uggs" nor cowboy boots are to be worn during the school day
- Flip flops, "Crocs," non-soled moccasins or backless shoes are never permitted
- I.C Spirit Wear is not part of the official uniform and cannot be worn during the school day unless it is Spirit Day
- Gym shoes may be worn. Gym shoes should be plain with no lights, wheels, sequins, or other embellishments. Gym shoes should provide good support
- In grades 6-8 white, navy blue, grey, or black socks are acceptable. Knee high socks are acceptable

Each year parents are invited to participate in several used uniform sales. Schoolbelles Uniform Company is located in the Harlem-Foster shopping center (7254 W. Foster) and is the official site for our school uniform. Land's End (Harlem & Dempster) is an alternate place to purchase uniform pieces

Uniform Requirements for Boys (K-5)

- Pants: Navy, cotton twill pants or navy shorts. No Cargo pants or cargo shorts
- Shirt: Light blue polo shirt with IC logo, short or long sleeve (logo for grades 4 & 5)

Uniform Requirements for Middle School Boys (6-8)

- Pants: Navy (Dockers style) cotton twill pants or Navy shorts (not cargo)
- Shirt: Grey polo shirt with I.C. logo, short or long sleeve

Uniform Requirements for Girls (K-3)

- Jumper: Plaid IC Jumper. Tights or leggings to the ankle are acceptable under the jumper, no sweatpants under the jumper
- Pants: Navy, cotton twill pants.
- Shirt: Navy polo shirt, short or long sleeve

Uniform Requirements for Girls (4-5)

- Skirt: Plaid IC skirt. Tights or leggings to the ankle are acceptable to wear under, no sweatpants under
- Pants: Navy, cotton twill pants.
- Shirt: Navy polo shirt with I.C. logo, short or long sleeve

Uniform Requirements for Middle School Girls (6-8)

- Pants: Navy, cotton twill pants.
- Skort: Navy skort. Tights or leggings to the ankle (navy or black) are acceptable to wear under the skort, no sweatpants under the skort
- Shirt: Gray polo shirt with I.C. logo, short or long sleeve

Physical Education (Gym) Uniform Requirements Boys and Girls (K-8)

- P.E. Uniforms should be worn to school on days that your student has a scheduled P.E. class
- Students who are not in the proper P.E. uniform will not be allowed to participate in physical education class. In grades 5 – 8, this will result in the lowering of their “Daily P.E. Grade.” P.E. uniforms may not be altered in anyway. This includes, “tying” up shirts or cutting sleeves off
- Gym Shorts: navy blue with IC logo on the left leg including shorts purchased through Lands End. Spirit or Athletic wear shorts are not acceptable
- Gym Shirt: oxford grey (short or long sleeve) with IC-approved logo on the chest
- Gym sweatpants: navy blue with I.C. logo on leg
- Gym sweatshirt: navy blue with I.C. logo on the chest
- We allow a student athlete to modify his or her athletic or team uniform for the purpose of modesty in clothing or attire that is in accordance with the requirements of his or her religion. A modification to the uniform may include, but is not limited to, the wearing of a hijab, an undershirt, or leggings. The student is responsible for all costs associated with the modification of the uniform. School must approve the request from a student to modify the uniform to ensure that the modification does not pose a safety hazard to the student or to other athletes and players.

Optional Uniform Pieces

Both Boys & Girls in grades K-8 have the option of wearing uniform fleece pullover or uniform moisture wicking quarter zip pullover. Both options may be purchased through School Belles.

Out-of-Uniform Policy

Out-of-Uniform days will be scheduled throughout the school year. Parents and students will be notified in advance when an out-of-uniform day will be scheduled.

On an Out-of-Uniform day, students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner. Clothing should be free of inappropriate slogans (cigarette, alcohol, etc). Strapless, spaghetti-strap, cut-offs, or bare-midriff tops should not be worn to school. Skirts and shorts, when worn, can be no higher than 3 inches above the knee. Leggings are not acceptable by themselves. They must be worn with a longer shirt that goes to mid thigh. Hats of any kind may not be worn inside the school except when it is announced to be acceptable. Shoe policy is still in affect; students cannot wear any shoe that is not permitted on regular uniform days.

When using an Out-of-Uniform Pass, students are expected to follow the general rules and regulations for Out-of-Uniform days.

Spirit Day will be held once a month (normally on the 1st Friday of the month). On Spirit Day, students are asked to wear: gym shirts, Student Council t-shirts, Battle of the Books t-shirts, Intramural t-shirts, National Junior Honor Society t-shirts, choristers, drama, Daddy-Daughter, or any Spirit Wear shirt.

Students should come to school appropriately dressed for recess. This includes coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc. during the winter months.

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear is not part of the regular IC Uniform. During school hours, spirit wear is not allowed to be worn. The only exceptions would be on an Out-of-Uniform day, especially when we have Spirit Day. (usually observed on the first Friday of the month.)

Student Placement

At IC School, teachers and administrators determine student placement to achieve the following goal: a diverse student group that achieves a balance of genders, abilities, gifts, talents and personalities. Any requests need to be directed to the administration and must be supported by a valid educational reason. These requests must be made by May 15.

The final decision regarding a student's placement always rests with school personnel.

Curriculum

The school curriculum is designed to foster the development and growth of the whole child-learner. The academic standards and curriculum are periodically reviewed and revised. Core curriculum includes: religion, mathematics, language arts (English grammar and composition, reading/literature, spelling/phonics/vocabulary), science and social studies. The enrichment curriculum includes art, technology, music, physical education and Spanish. We also have a Resource & Enrichment Program.

KINDERGARTEN RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATIONS (minutes per week)

SUBJECT	MINUTES PER WEEK	MINUTES PER DAY
SEL/Morning Meeting	40	8
Religion	60	20 (3 days only)
Reading Readiness	150	30
Language Development	75	15
Writing	30	10 (3 days only)
Mathematics	150	30
Science	20	10 (2 days only) or 20 (1 day)
Social Studies	20	10 (2 days only) or 20 (1 day)
Health	20	10 (2 days only) or 20 (1 day)
Music	50	10
Art	50	10
Physical Education	75	15

GRADE 1-8 RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATIONS (minutes per week)

CORE CLASSES	GRADES	MINUTES PER WEEK
Religion	1-8	200
English/Language Arts	1-3	900*
	4-8	450
Mathematics	1-8	300
Social Studies	1-2	60
	3	90
	4-8	200
Science	1-2	60
	3	90
	4-8 (labs are encouraged)	200
Technology	1-3	60
	4-8	Integration with all core classes is recommended

*= More minutes are provided to ELA in grades 1-3 to allow teachers to address the foundational skills required by the Reading Standards. Literacy is not the sole responsibility of ELA teachers but should be developed and assessed across the curriculum.

Faith Life

Students express and celebrate their Catholic faith through daily community prayer and weekly liturgy. The day begins with communal Morning Prayer. Prayer precedes lunch. The school day ends with communal prayer led over the P.A. Students in grades 1-8 attend weekly Mass on Wednesday at 8:30. Beginning in October, Kindergarten students attend Mass bi-monthly. Students also participate in Advent and Lent activities, living Rosary, and service opportunities.

Sacraments

Reconciliation – Second graders receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in February. Students in grades 3-8 receive reconciliation twice a year.

Eucharist – Second graders receive the Sacrament of Communion for the first time in May. Students in grades 3-8 receive Eucharist at weekly mass.

Confirmation – Eighth graders receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in November. Service is an added component for this sacrament with preparation beginning in sixth grade.

Departmental Classes

Preschool through third grade children are taught in “self-contained” classrooms by homeroom teachers who teach children in all subjects except the enrichment classes. In fourth through eighth grades, the departmental system is in place for all subjects.

Homework

Homework is assigned regularly. Assignments include written work as well as reading and studying. The purpose of homework is to:

- Give students opportunities to practice and reinforce skills
- Strengthen school-home link
- Enhance classroom learning
- Help students develop study habits
- Communicate to students that learning takes place outside, as well as inside, school

Teachers in grades 3-8 instruct students to record all assignments and due dates in an assignment book which is provided by the school. Parents can help their child by regularly reviewing the assignment notebook and corresponding homework. Parents are encouraged to help their child establish a study routine by providing a quiet place where homework can be given the attention it deserves.

The amount of time to be spent on homework each day will vary depending on several factors: the age, ability, and the attitude of the learner, the atmosphere in which the learner studies, the degree to which study skills are applied, etc. What takes one student 5 minutes may take another student 15 minutes to do the same activity. If a parent or guardian feels that the student is spending an excessive amount of time on homework or that the student is receiving no homework, contact with the teacher(s) is recommended.

While the student is responsible for making up all homework missed during an absence, teachers will provide reasonable assistance in bringing an absent student up-to-date. Homework will be available for pick-up in the school office from 3:10-3:30 on each full day of school. Homework assignments can also be obtained by visiting the teacher's assignments on Google Classroom.

For homework to be effective, it should be carefully planned, take into account abilities and needs of students, and strengthen the link between home and school.

Grading Scale

100-99	A+
98-95	A
94-93	A-
92-91	B+
90-87	B
86-85	B-
84-83	C+
82-79	C
78-77	C-
76-75	D+
74-71	D
70-69	D-
68-0	F

Grades/Report Cards

Immaculate Conception School uses a traditional letter grade system to evaluate academic progress. Using Power School, parents can be continually informed of their child's progress. Parents are formally notified of their children's achievement, behavior, and effort through trimester report cards.

Permanent Records

I.C. School maintains a permanent record of each student's grades, attendance, and standardized test results. Parents have access to these records.

Requests to view records must:

- be in writing,
- state the specific record(s) desired,
- state the reason for the request.

Within three business days of receipt of the request, an appointment will be made with one of the authorized school personnel to interpret the record for the parent. Records will be reviewed in the presence of the principal or assistant principal. Copies will be available upon reasonable requests. Requests to view the records will remain in the permanent records.

Upon request by law enforcement officials and state agencies, I.C. School will flag the permanent record of persons identified as missing in order to provide information regarding inquiries and requests for transcripts of those records.

Immaculate Conception School maintains copies of birth certificates for each student enrolled. The school notifies parents or guardians that such documentation must be submitted within 30 days of enrolling the student.

Certified copies of transfer student's records are requested within 14 days of enrollment. Immaculate Conception School sends records of students transferring to another school within 10 days of the request.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences give parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss the student's progress, provide insight about the student, and discuss any matters of concern. Formal Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in October and March. Parent-Teacher conferences take place via zoom or in person. Additional conferences may be arranged at the request of parents or teachers. Please use Parent Square to request an additional conference.

Honor Roll

Students in grades five through eight who maintain an average GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 and above are recognized on the Honor Roll.

4.0 I.C. Scholar
3.9-3.6 High Honors
3.5-3.0 Honors

A point system where A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1 is used to calculate academic standing. All graded curriculum areas are considered. The sum of the grades is divided by the number of Grades to determine the GPA. We do not round up or down, we just cut off at the tenths place. Grades of D or F, as well as inappropriate behavior, automatically eliminate a student from the Honor Roll.

Enrichment Program

I.C. has an Enrichment Program for students in grades 1-5. In this program students work at an accelerated pace on Math and Reading activities. Inclusion is based on scores from standardized testing, report card grades & teacher recommendation.

Resource Services

When a child is struggling to learn and/or is consistently unsuccessful at school parents and/or teachers may suspect a problem exists. If hearing, speech, or vision screening does not reveal a problem, it may be advisable to professionally assess a child's learning development. Teacher observations combined with a series of diagnostic testing are valuable in assessing learning development and deficits. Once a learning development issue is professionally identified, Immaculate Conception School may provide onsite educational assistance through our Resource teachers. Classroom teachers may provide instructional accommodations in the regular classroom. If diagnostic testing and recommendations indicate educational support programs beyond the spectrum of the I.C. educational program, then an alternative educational site may be recommended to meet a student's special needs.

Standardized Testing

Three times a year the iReady assessment is administered to students in grades K-8. Subjects covered are Math and Reading. Results are used to address students' learning needs, examine the efficiency of the school's overall academic program and drive the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

Summer School

It is a fact that all subjects build on their previous year. If a child has not "mastered" a core subject, they are not ready to be promoted to the next grade. If a student receives a grade of "U" in any 2 of the 3 trimesters in the same core subject, he/she must attend summer school. (A high school or college tutor is not acceptable.)

Any student who is required to attend a summer school program will not receive a promotion in June. The report card will state: Student will be promoted upon successful completion of a summer school program. If desired, upon verification of successful completion, the student may return his/her report card to his/her teacher to indicate the promotion.

Retention

The decision to promote or retain a student will generally be cooperative, made by parents, teachers and administrators. Parents will be notified of the possibility of retention no later than mid-year. The decision to retain a student will be made only if there has been adequate documentation indicating that the student would most likely benefit from retention.

Retention in Preschool will only occur upon recommendation of the teacher.

Graduation Requirements

Eighth grade graduation is contingent on certain requirements. In order to graduate from I.C. School, a student must have a passing GPA for the second and third trimesters in 8th grade. Students must have achieved a passing grade on the Illinois and United States Constitution Examinations, adhered to the school's code of conduct, be in good standing with attendance, and returned all school materials. Diplomas will not be awarded until financial obligations are paid in full. This includes tuition, athletic fees, library fees, etc. If tuition is not paid in full, students may be excluded from 8th grade activities including the graduation ceremony.

Field Trips

Field trips are a valuable source of cultural experiences and enrichment for students. Field trips are offered according to the age level, social needs, and academic follow up for each class. Parent signed permission slips provided by the school must be in the school office before a student may be permitted to attend any trip. A child without permission to attend a field trip remains in school and is not excused from the school day. Field trips normally incur a fee to cover the cost of the activity and the bus. Any parent chaperones must follow procedures listed under "volunteers".

Library

Students in Kindergarten can check out one book per week.
Students in 1st through 5th Grade can check out two books at their reading level per week.
Students in 6th through 8th Grade can check out four books at their reading level per week.
Reading level will be determined by the teacher.

The lending period is one week. If a student would like to renew a book, the student is required to check it out again. Books can only be renewed if there is not a hold on the book.

To help students learn responsibility, a fine of 10 cents per school day, per book, is assessed to overdue books. Students in grades K-3 will receive notes home about late books.

Late fines are used to buy and replace books.

No new books will be permitted to be taken out until the overdue books are returned and fines are paid.

If a student is absent on his/her library day they are expected to bring their books back the next day they are in school and no late fees will be charged. However, if they do not return it the next day a late fee will be charged.

If a book is lost, payment for the original cost of the book is due.

Students are expected to treat their books with respect. If a book should come back with excessive damage, then payment for the original cost of the book is due. Discussion on how to treat a book will be discussed on the first scheduled library day.

Extracurricular Activities

Students can participate in a number of extracurricular activities. Some take place during school time and some are held after school. A student's conduct must reflect earning the privilege to participate. Some activities are by invitation only, some require try outs or election and for some you simply sign up. These activities include, but are not limited to:

Altar Servers

Athletics- soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, softball, track, cheerleading

Band

Choristers

Drama

Future City

National Jr. Honor Society

Scouting

After School Groups

Students who are in an after school group are walked to the front hall after school by a teacher or aide. Here they meet the principal who walks the group to their meeting spot (ex. Parish Center, cafeteria, etc.) These groups include, but are not limited to:

Dance

Art

Sports

Cooking

Creative Building/STEM

Chess

Choir

Gum

Due to the mess it can create, gum chewing is not allowed in school or outside before school or at recess. There is a \$10 fine for any student caught chewing gum.

Behavior Program

Merit/Demerit System

The Immaculate Conception School Merit and Demerit System is a positive means to ensure the best possible learning environment for all students. Both Merits and Demerits serve as a record of a student's behavior, and a communication tool for when a student does not follow school policy or goes above and beyond their responsibilities. This system is one of the tools used in operating our school in the best interest of all involved.

Merits

Students who display consistent, positive behaviors and go above and beyond their normal responsibilities have the chance to earn Merits. Every student has an opportunity to earn these merits over time. To earn merits, students must exhibit these positive behaviors on a consistent basis. By using Merits as part of our program we are reinforcing positive character traits in students.

Merits can be earned for a student who displays these qualities on a consistent basis:

- Trustworthy - able to be relied on by being honest and truthful
- Respect - values other's opinions, property, & privacy, listen to peers & teachers
- Responsibility - always doing what is right, even when no one is watching
- Fairness - be accountable, cooperate, be willing to do what is best for everyone
- Citizenship/Service - involved in trying to make the school a better place
- Caring - displays kindness and concern for others
- Random Merits - school spirit, general & consistent positive behavior

Demerits

Demerits will be given for repeated classroom offenses, non-classroom offenses and more severe offenses. Non-classroom includes areas such as hallways, cafeteria, bathrooms, recess grounds, etc. A student can receive a demerit for any disrespectful, defiant, or irresponsible behavior. Demerits are cumulative for each Trimester. Consequences will be given based on the total number of demerits an individual student receives.

Students are responsible to have their Behavior Card with them the entire school day. Their Homeroom/House teacher will give it to them at the beginning of the school day and it must be returned to their teacher at the end of the day.

Demerits will be given for offenses such as:

One Demerit Offenses

- Candy, Gum, Food, or Drink (other than water) in class
- Possession of Gum also warrants a \$10 fine
- Disobedience
- Electronic Misuse (Ex: Games, Phone Use, Online Search, etc.)
- Disorderly Conduct

- Inappropriate Language (not profanity)
- Horseplay(rough play where students push & hit each other)/Goofing Around
- Lying to a Teacher
- Inappropriate Contact with another Student
- Presence of a student in unapproved locations
- Repeated Classroom Disturbances
- Teacher's Discretion

Three Demerit Offenses

- A Three Demerit Offense results in an automatic Detention

- Disrespect (Blatant or repeated disrespect)
- Forgery of a Parent/Guardian Signature
- Vulgarity and/or Profanity
- Cheating
- Fighting (Verbal and/or Physical)
- Teacher's Discretion

Five Demerit Offenses

- A Five Demerit Offense results in an out of school suspension

Out of School Suspension

- Any of the following offenses will result in an automatic Out of School Suspension

- Fighting – initiating or participating (Excessive, Malicious)
- Sexual Harassment (includes Sexting)
- Verbal Harassment (includes racial or homophobic slurs)
- Possession of Fireworks, Matches, Lighters, and/or Pocket Knife
- Stealing
- Vandalism
- Possession of Inappropriate Images and/or Videos
- Possession of a Weapon
- Possession or Distribution of Drugs and/or Paraphernalia
- Vaping/Smoking
- Administrator's Discretion

Demerit Consequences

Level (Based on total demerits for each Trimester)	Consequences
1	- Parent/Guardian will be contacted
3	- Detention
6	- Second Detention & 1 Week Suspension from Extra Curriculars
9	- Third Detention & 2 Week Suspension from Extra Curriculars
10-14	- In-School/ Out- of-School Suspension & Administrative Meeting

- The issuing teacher will contact the parent/guardian of the student who received a Demerit/ Detention
- If difficulty continues and Demerits are still being issued, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian and set up a meeting

In certain cases, the administration will look at different factors before coming to a decision on a consequence. In these cases, the decision of an individual student's consequence will be left to an administrator's discretion.

Detention:

When a detention is issued, it will be served on an assigned date, designated by the assistant principal. A detention will last for an hour after school (3:10pm – 4:10pm). The student (and parent/guardian) will be provided at least a twenty-four hour notice to make arrangements to serve the detention as scheduled. Students will be given a written assignment to complete during the detention. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is not allowed, and students will not be permitted to work on homework or other assignments.

Failure to serve a detention without notifying administration will result in a second detention which may lead to extra curricular probation.

Extra-Curricular Consequences:

Certain expectations must be met in order to participate fully in extra curricular activities. Any student who does not meet these expectations will receive the following consequences:

Extra Curriculars (including Athletics)

- 6 Demerits (2 Detentions) = 1 Week Suspension (includes games and/or practices)
- 9 Demerits (3 Detentions) = 2 Week Suspension (includes games and/or practices)
- 12 Demerits (4 Detentions)= Removal From Team or Activity

NJHS

National Junior Honor Society is a part of extracurricular activities but it has different standards for students who are involved. These standards are listed in the NJHS rules and regulations.

Athletic Eligibility Policy for Student Athletes

Athletics are an integral part of our school's program. Representing Immaculate Conception School on an athletic team is both a privilege and a responsibility. Each student athlete is expected to maintain a good academic and behavior record in school. Appropriate behavior is expected during practices and competitions. Failure to fulfill any of these expectations may result in the student athlete's suspension/removal from the team. Absence from school on a given day excludes an athlete from participating in a school athletic activity.

Three weeks into the start of the school year and every two weeks thereafter, grades will be pulled by the administration for every student who is involved in athletics. Any student-athlete who has a grade average below a 76% in any subject will be placed on Academic Probation for two weeks. During the probation, the student-athlete may participate in both practices and games, but is required to raise their grade above a 76%. An Academic Probation Notification will be issued to the student-athlete. This form must be signed by the student, their parent/guardian, and their coach to notify all parties that the student is on Academic Probation for two weeks. Once signed, it must be returned the following day to the assistant principal.

After two weeks, if the student has not raised their grade(s) to a 76%, he/she will be placed on Academic Ineligibility for two weeks. During this time, the student-athlete may not participate in any practices and/or games. They must use this time to make the necessary academic improvements. An Academic Ineligibility Notification will be issued to the student-athlete. This form must be signed by the student, their parent/guardian, and coach to notify all parties that the student is now Ineligible to participate in athletics. Once signed, it must be returned the following day to the assistant principal.

After the two weeks of ineligibility, if the student-athlete has completed the necessary academic improvements to meet all eligibility standards, they may request an Eligibility Note from the Assistant Principal to present their teachers, verifying that eligibility has been achieved. Once all teachers have confirmed the Eligibility Note, the Assistant Principal will notify the Athletic Director and coaches the student-athlete will be allowed to return to full participation.

Bullying

As Catholics we believe in the dignity of each individual created in the image of God. Bullying is contrary to Gospel values and has no place in our Catholic school community. We are committed to creating a community where all students are welcome.

Immaculate Conception School expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with the existing school rules and with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff.

Bullying is any intentional, repeated, hurtful act or conduct (physical, verbal, emotional or sexual) including communications made in writing or electronically. It can occur on school grounds or off school grounds during non-school time.

Bullying acts may be

- Physical which includes, but is not limited to, punching, poking, stalking, destruction of property, strangling, hair pulling, beating, biting, spitting, pinching, and excessive tickling, theft, destruction of property;

- Verbal which includes, but is not limited to, name-calling, teasing, taunting, gossip, and threats whether in person, through any form of electronic communication or social media, the Internet or written communication;
- Emotional which includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, rejecting, terrorizing, extorting, defaming, humiliation, blackmailing, rating/ranking of personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity, perceived sexual orientation, manipulation of friendships, isolation, ostracizing and peer pressure;
- Sexual which includes, but is not limited to many of the emotional acts or conduct described above (in person or through electronic communication or social media) as well as exhibitionism, voyeurism, sexual propositioning, gestures, sexting, sexual harassment and abuse involving actual physical contact or sexual assault.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool. These tools include: sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, chats, snap chats, text messages, digital pictures or images or website postings (including blogs).

Bullying is directed toward another student and has, or can be reasonably predicted to:

- place the student in reasonable fear of harm to their person or property
- cause a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health
- interfere substantially with the student's academic performance
- interfere substantially with the student's ability to participate in, or benefit from, the services, activities or privileges provided by the school

Children are unable to eliminate acts of bullying or harassment without adult support, guidance and intervention. Therefore, school personnel have a responsibility to see that:

- all allegations and incidents of bullying are taken seriously
- parent/guardian and/or student reports of bullying must be addressed immediately
- written documentation must be prepared and maintained by the school on the Bullying Complaint Report Form. Appropriate disciplinary consequences are applied to the offending student(s)

When disciplinary action is taken against a student(s) as a result of a bullying complaint, the documentation should indicate what happened and what action was taken. This written documentation must be placed in the students file.

Consequences for students who bully others will depend on the results of the investigation and may include:

- counseling
- parent conference
- detention
- suspension
- expulsion

In cases of reported bullying, the Principal or Assistant Principal may interview all students involved (aggressor, victim and bystanders) as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents and school staff and review of school records. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying may be subject to appropriate consequences.

Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the Principal may also report incidents of bullying to law enforcement if appropriate.

Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying may be subject to appropriate consequences.

Hazing

Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited at IC. Anyone with knowledge of hazing activities needs to report such activities to the school administration immediately. The Illinois Compiled Statutes (720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1) defines hazing as follows: “A person commits hazing when he or she knowingly requires the performance of any act by a student or other person in a school, college, university, or other educational institution in Illinois for the purpose of induction or admission into any group, organization, or society associated with the institution, if: the act is not sanctioned or authorized by that educational institution; and the act results in bodily harm to any person.

Hazing is a Class A misdemeanor, except that hazing that results in death or great bodily harm is a Class 4 felony. “Failure to report a hazing incident occurs when a school official (any and all paid school administration, teachers, counselors, support staff, and coaches, as well as any and all volunteer coaches employed by a school, college, university, or other educational institution in the state of Illinois) commits failure to report hazing when: 1. While fulfilling his/her official responsibilities as a school official, he/she personally observes an act which is not sanctioned or authorized by that educational institution, 2. the act results in bodily harm to any person, and 3. the school official knowingly fails to report the act to supervising educational authorities or, in the event of death or great bodily harm, to law enforcement.

Failure to report hazing is a Class B misdemeanor. If the act which the person failed to report resulted in death or great bodily harm, the offence is a Class A misdemeanor. “It is an affirmative defense to a charge of failure to report hazing under this Section that the person who personally observed the act had a reasonable apprehension that timely action to stop the act would result in the imminent infliction of death, great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, or permanent disability to that person or another in retaliation for reporting. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to allow prosecution of a person who personally observes the act of hazing and assists with an investigation and any subsequent prosecution of the offender.” IC defines hazing as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate.

Some practices associated with hazing carry the potential for serious bodily harm or even death. These practices may include: tattooing, piercing, head-shaving, branding, sleep deprivation, physical punishment (paddling and “red-bellying”), “kidnapping,” consuming unreasonable/unacceptable foods or beverages, being deprived of personal hygiene and/or inappropriate sexual behavior.

Sexual Harassment

The Archdiocese of Chicago and I.C. School are committed to maintaining a school environment free of sexual harassment. Physical contact of a sexual nature, lewd or suggestive remarks and such conduct that serves to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment may be considered sexual harassment on the part of adults or children. If any individual believes that he or she has been subjected to conduct which may constitute sexual harassment, that individual is to immediately report the offensive conduct to the pastor or principal. Sexual harassment of any form, (verbal, touching, etc.), may result in detentions, suspension or expulsion.

Probation

Probation is the disciplinary action that may be taken for serious misconduct or when previous misconduct has been repeated. Disciplinary probation affords the student the opportunity to continue education in the school setting contingent upon cooperation and satisfactory behavior. Further infractions of school regulations may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

Suspension

Suspension is the temporary removal of the student from some or all school activities including sports & extra curricular activities.

Except in unusual cases, the suspension shall not exceed 5 days of school. Suspension is ordinarily invoked to prevent disruption of the school environment or to assist the affected student in overcoming a disciplinary problem. A student who has been suspended from school will not be re-admitted to school without a parent conference and the completion of a viable, feasible contract on the part of the student for good behavior in the future. Days of out-of-school suspension are indicated on the student's permanent attendance records. The suspended student is responsible for making up any missed class work or assignments for the time of their suspension.

Expulsion/Withdraw

Expulsion from a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Chicago is the most serious sanction that can be imposed on a student. An expulsion is the termination of a student's privilege to attend the school and requires a transfer to another school. Reasons include: poor academics; inappropriate/unacceptable behaviors; lack of improvement during a probationary period; substance abuses; bullying; lack of respect for school authorities; serious damage to school or student property; theft; physical harm to student/staff; and any other harmful misconduct to individuals in the school/parish community. Students may also be mandated to withdraw due to his/her parent's/guardian's failure to pay tuition or other school fees, lack of parental cooperation with school policies, or chronic unacceptable conduct with staff and/or students.

Except in appropriate cases, expulsion will be imposed after a period of suspension.

Search of School Property

All property of the school, including student desks and lockers, as well as contents, may be opened, searched or inspected at any time without notice. School personnel have an unrestricted right to search this property as well as any containers, book bags, purses, or articles of clothing that are left unattended on the school campus.

Cigarettes and E-cigarettes/Vaping

Students are prohibited from possessing or smoking cigarettes or using e-cigarettes/vaping anywhere on school property (both inside the school building and out). This includes but is not limited to before, during or after school as well as for any activities held on school grounds. This will result in a two day suspension (either in-school or at home).

Drugs and Alcohol

Students are prohibited from using or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while at school or any school-related function. Included within the prohibitions set forth in this policy are the following:

- Use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol on school premises or with respect to school-related activities.
- Storing in a locker, desk, or other repository on school premises or in connection with any school-related activity any drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol.
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises or in connection with any school-related activities.

School Procedures for Handling Violations:

- Notify the parent/guardian and suspend the student during the investigation.
- Conference with the principal, parent/guardian, student, pastor, and other appropriate persons.
- Notify the police as directed by law.
- If the violation is founded, professional evaluation and, if necessary, treatment shall be provided by the parent/guardian.
- Based on the results of the certified clinical evaluation, the status of the student for continued attendance in the school will be determined by the principal. Options include, but are not limited to, continued suspension and/or expulsion.

The administration of Immaculate Conception School will report instances of drug violations to the local law enforcement officials as required by the School Reporting of Drugs Violation Act. (105 ILCS 127) The administration shall also notify the Illinois State Police through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS) in IWAS.

Possession of Weapons/Firearms

To uphold the dignity of the human person, the sacredness of human life, and provide a safe, secure environment:

- Students shall not carry, possess, or use weapons in school, or on school premises.
- Weapons include but are not limited to the following: knives, handguns, brass knuckles, "billy clubs," bats, pipes, sticks, and any other object that can be used to cause bodily harm.

Parents/Guardians of the students involved shall be notified as soon as possible. Students who violate these directives are subject to suspension and/or expulsion.

School officials are required to report weapons violations to the local police. The weapon is turned over to the local police jurisdiction.

The administration of Immaculate Conception School will notify the local law enforcement officials of firearm incidents at school. The principal will also notify the Illinois State Police of such incidents through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS) in IWAS.

Threatening to Use a Weapon

We will take any suggestive language regarding use of a weapon seriously. In order to protect our students and faculty/staff, we must err on the side of caution. This will include, but is not limited to:

- talking to student/s
- meeting with parents
- calling police

- informing Archdiocese and Pastor
- requesting a letter from a health care professional that the student is not a threat to himself or others

The student will be suspended while the investigation is ongoing. If it is determined that there is a credible threat, the student will be expelled.

Gangs and Gang Related Activities

I.C. School is a gang free environment. Gangs include individuals who associate with each other primarily for criminal, disruptive and/or activities prohibited by law and/or by the school's rules and regulations. Gangs, gang-related activities and secret societies are not acceptable in a school setting. Their presence interferes with the educational process and the maintenance of appropriate discipline and also may foster anti-social behaviors, attitudes, and practices that may endanger the health, safety, and welfare of all students.

The following may be subject to disciplinary action:

- Intimidation and threat of physical harm to others
- Symbols that may be gang related in the manner displayed, including but not limited to jewelry, jackets, sweatshirts, caps, or other clothing.
- Displays of sign/symbols on paper, notebooks, textbooks, and other possessions that may be gang related.
- Conduct on or off premises that may be gang related.

Parents will be notified if their children are either suspected of being involved in gang related activities or are a victim of gang related activities.

Gang activity may result in probation, suspension, and/or expulsion.

The principal has the authority and responsibility to report suspected gang activity to local law enforcement.

Battery of Personnel

The principal of Immaculate Conception School will immediately notify the local law enforcement officials of written complaints from school personnel concerning incidents of battery committed against school personnel at the school. The principal shall also notify the Illinois State Police within three days of each incident through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS) in IWAS.

School Incident Reporting System (SIRS)

Illinois Compiled Statutes mandate that certain types of incidents (drugs, weapons, and attacks on school personnel) occurring in or on school property be reported. In order to satisfy the reporting of incidents to the ISP (Illinois State Police) requirement, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), in conjunction with the ISP, have created the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS). The SIRS is a web-based application used by schools to report incidents electronically but which does not satisfy the requirement to report incidents to local law enforcement authorities.

Mental Health Protocol and Assessments

IC School takes all indications of self-harm, suicidal thoughts and other significant mental health concerns seriously. When we have concerns about a student's emotional well-being, we will ask for the student to receive a mental health assessment from a licensed mental health professional (licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist) prior to the continuation of academics and co-curricular activities at IC School. Below are the steps parents/guardians should follow to determine the most appropriate level of support for their child and to coordinate a smooth re-entry back to school.

1. Arrange for their child to be assessed in the community by a private licensed mental health professional as soon as possible. The school can help provide referrals to clinicians, agencies, hospitals and services who may be able to assess the student.
2. Follow the recommendations provided by the clinician, which may include but is not limited to: outpatient therapy, partial or inpatient hospitalization and/or medication management.
3. Sign a consent for release of information and arrange for the clinician to share the recommended treatment plan with the school to coordinate the student's re-entry back to school.
 - a. Student/family confidentiality is adhered to as dictated by the Ethical Code of the American School Counselor Association
 - b. All documentation should be faxed or emailed to the attention of the principal or school designee.
4. If the assessment and recommended treatment plan results in an immediate return to school, please see #6.
5. If the assessment results in a recommended extended absence defined as more than five days (or as designated by the school) from school, the parent/guardian should contact the school principal or designee to communicate the preliminary treatment plan as outlined by the treating clinician. The principal or designee will communicate with any treatment facility and our faculty to collaborate on the therapeutic and academic needs for the student. The principal or designee will coordinate the provision of necessary information for the student's return to learn in a sensitive and confidential manner. The principal or designee should utilize the assessment information to begin drafting the Student Support Plan that will be finalized at the re-entry meeting.

6. Re-entry back to IC School academics and co-curricular activities requires the following written statements from the evaluating clinician, which can be shared via fax or email to the principal and/or designee:
 - Evaluation date and outcome/diagnosis
 - Safety statement: the student is not at risk of self-harm or of harming others and it is appropriate for the student to return to school
7. Therapeutic recommendations, treatment plan, discharge summary and a plan for the transition back to the school environment.
8. Upon receipt of documentation, the principal or designee will review the documentation of assessment and any relevant treatment plans to determine if the school has the capacity to provide a safe learning environment for the student.
9. If school determines sufficient resources, schedule a re-entry meeting.
 - This meeting will occur on the morning on the school day the student will return to classes and will include the student, parent or guardian, principal/designee and teacher. Please know other stakeholders may attend this meeting if needed.
 - The purpose of this meeting is to review the recommendations from the assessment and treatment plan to determine the most effective support system for the student's continued personal well-being, an understanding of commitment to continued services and the school support process should be achieved. Collaborate with the student and parent in creating and implementing a safety plan.
 - Once all aspects of the re-entry meeting are accomplished and meet expectations, the student is authorized to return to classes and co-curricular activities.
10. Following the re-entry meeting, the principal or designee will schedule a meeting to review the Student Support Plan which identifies the schoolwork that needs to be made up, accommodations and supports.
 - This meeting would occur in the morning or after school on a school day shortly following the re-entry meeting (3-7 days) and should include the student, parent or guardian, school counselor (if applicable), teachers and all other appropriate faculty or staff members as needed.
 - The purpose of this meeting is to allow the student and their parents/guardians an opportunity to share details and provide an update about the cognitive, physical, social, emotional and academic challenges associated with the extended absence. In addition, all stakeholders should review the school support plan. This meeting should be one that reassures the student and family that staff will be available to help the student with any academic issues, and that it will be important for the student to reach out if he or she is feeling worried about their schoolwork.

Emergency Cards

In the event of emergency, injury or illness, it may become necessary to immediately locate parents or a responsible adult. At the start of each year, the school requests that parents/guardians complete and return one emergency card **per family** and one, emergency release form **per child**. Parents are strongly encouraged to update the school regarding changes in emergency contact information.

Medical Treatments

In the event a student shall become ill or injured or otherwise need immediate medical attention that is not contained in the Medical Authorization Form on file with the school, the school shall attempt to contact the student's parent/guardian utilizing the information provided. If the student's parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the school shall attempt to contact the person identified by the parent/guardian as the student's emergency contact. In either event, such contact shall be made to advise of the observed illness or injury or need for medical attention and to obtain further instructions from the student's parent/guardian or emergency contact. Therefore, it is important to have school emergency forms filled out completely and to be updated throughout the year as needed. The Principal or other certified school personnel may call local emergency medical services before or after attempting to call the student's parent/guardian or emergency contact if, in the exercise of school related supervision of the student, the student's illness, injury, or need for immediate medical attention is perceived to be in need of emergency medical care.

Illness and Injury

A student should remain at home when ill or injured and must not return to school until completely recovered. Children who return to school too early frequently experience a relapse or spread illness to others. Parents should follow the criteria below when deciding whether or not to keep a child home from school:

- The child should be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of a fever-reducing medicine (ex: Tylenol)
- The child should be symptom free from vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.
- If there has been a serious injury such as a break, bump on the head, or cut that required stitching, the child should not attend school the following day.

A doctor's note is required for a child to return to school after hospitalization or absence due to a serious illness. Parents are notified of exposure to a contagious disease in school, such a strep throat. Students, who are sent home due to illness, are not allowed to return that evening to participate in athletic or extra-curricular activities.

Concussion Protocol

A concussion is a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain induced by traumatic biomechanical forces. Several common features that incorporate clinical, pathologic and biomechanical injury constructs that may be utilized in defining the nature of a concussive head injury include:

- Concussion may be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an “impulsive” force transmitted to the head.
- Concussion typically results in the rapid onset of short-lived impairment of neurologic function that resolves spontaneously.
- Concussion may result in neurologic changes, but the acute clinical symptoms largely reflect a functional disturbance rather than a structural injury.
- Concussion results in a graded set of clinical symptoms that may or may not involve loss of consciousness. Resolution of the clinical and cognitive symptoms typically follows a sequential course. It is important to note that, in a small percentage of cases, post-concussion symptoms may be prolonged.
- No abnormality on standard structural neuroimaging studies have been seen in concussion.

What are signs and symptoms of a concussion?

A diagnosis of a concussion can include one or more of the following clinical domains: headache, feeling in a fog, lack of concentration, memory loss, unstable, loss of consciousness, amnesia, loss of balance, irritability, acting abnormally for them, slowed reaction times, slower movements, sleep disturbances, drowsiness, slurred speech, double vision, dizziness, nausea, spots before eyes, sensitivity to light and sound.

What should I do if my son or daughter has one or more of the above signs and symptoms?

- If they can rest comfortably and all signs and symptoms are stable, allow to continue rest or sleep.
- Call your physician to seek advice and for an appointment.
- Monitor the signs and symptoms for any change.
- Make comfortable.
- If condition becomes unstable or are unable to rest comfortably, seek immediate medical assistance (emergency room).

PROTOCOL

This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests/matches/ events when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion. For the purposes of this policy, appropriate health care professionals are defined as: physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois and certified athletic trainers.

POLICY

1. During the pre-game conference of coaches and officials, the official shall remind the head coaches that a school-approved appropriate health care professional will need to clear for return to play any athlete removed from a contest for an apparent head injury, unless that injury is the result of the student-athlete losing consciousness for any period of time. In such a situation, the student athlete shall be removed from the practice or contest

and will not be allowed to return to activity that day and will be subject to the Association's Return to Play policy.

2. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious situation where a player is unconscious or apparently unconscious as is provided for under the previous rule. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise the coach that the player should be examined by the school-approved health care provider.

3. If it is confirmed by the school's approved health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may re-enter competition pursuant to the contest rules.

4. RETURN TO PLAY POLICY With the start of the 2010-11 school term, the NFHS implemented a new national playing rule regarding potential head injuries. The rule requires "any player who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a Revised October 2023 59 concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional." In applying that rule in Illinois, it has been determined that only certified athletic trainers and physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois can clear an athlete to return to play the day of a contest in which the athlete has been removed from the contest for a possible head injury. In cases when an athlete is not cleared to return to play the same day as he/she is removed from a contest following a possible head injury (i.e., concussion), the athlete shall not return to play or practice until the athlete is evaluated by and receives written clearance from a licensed healthcare provider to return to play. For the purposes of this policy, licensed health care providers consist of physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois and certified athletic trainers working in conjunction with physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

5. Following the contest, a Concussion Special Report must be filed by the contest official(s) with the IESA Office through the Officials Center.

6. In cases where an assigned IESA state finals event medical professional is present, his/her decision to not allow an athlete to return to competition may not be overruled.

MANDATORY CONCUSSION COURSE FOR COACHES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ATHLETICS: Senate Bill 7 (Public Act 99-245) amends the School Code and will go into effect for the 2016-2017 school year. The legislation requires ALL interscholastic athletic coaches to take a training course from an authorized provider at least once every 2 years. The IESA makes the IHSA online concussion awareness and education program available to IESA member schools through the IESA Member Center. The program includes information on concussion awareness training, concussion recognition, best practices for avoiding concussions, return to play guidelines, and sub-concussive trauma. The presentation and other supplementary materials included in the presentation should be reviewed by ALL interscholastic athletic coaches prior to taking a required exam over the curriculum.

Lice

Head lice is not a disease, but is a nuisance. Infestation caused by head lice occurs in students of all ages. Most commonly, head lice is directly transmitted through close contact from a person who is infested or indirectly transmitted through contact with an object that has been contaminated with the lice (hairbrushes, combs, shared clothing or towels). The symptoms of infestation include an itchy scalp as well as evidence of nits that adhere to the scalp. The period of communicability lasts as long as lice or eggs remain alive on the infested person or clothing. Those who have become infested with head lice are to be excluded from school. Parents are advised to seek treatment for their child/ren from either their family physician or through over-the-counter medicated shampoo recommended by a pharmacist. The student may return to school when the child/ren have been treated. Students are re-checked for head lice before readmission to the classroom.

Reporting Child Abuse

By law, the state of Illinois requires school personnel to inform the Department of Children and Family Services of any allegation/suspicion of child abuse.

Administration of Medication

Parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the administration of medication to their children. The administration of medication to students during regular school hours and during school related activities is discouraged unless necessary for the critical health and well being of the student. No school personnel shall administer any prescription or non-prescription medicine unless a completed Medication Authorization Form (provided by the school) has been received by the school secretary.

The school retains the right to deny requests to administer medication to the students provided that such a denial is indicated on the Medication Authorization Form. If the school denies a request and authorization for the administration of medication, parents/guardians must make other arrangements for the administration of medication to students, such as arranging for medication to be administered before or after school or having the parent/guardian or designee administer the medication in school.

Students who suffer from asthma, allergies, diabetes or seizures that require the immediate use of medication (ex. Epipen or inhaler) shall be permitted to carry such medication and to self-administer such medication only if a completed Medication Authorization Form and Physician Request for Self-Administration Form has been completed and has been received by the school secretary. Every student must have on file in the school office the medical form "Medical Information & Emergency Form" which is sent home during the first week of school each year.

The school and school personnel shall incur no liability for injuries occurring when administering asthma medication, an epinephrine auto-injector or an opioid antagonist.

Appropriate Medication Containers

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide the School with all medication in appropriate containers that are prescription-labeled by a pharmacy or licensed prescriber (displaying Rx number, student name, medication, dosage, direction for administration, date and refill schedule, pharmacy label, and name/initials of pharmacist) or manufacturer-labeled for non-prescription over-the-counter medication.

Medication received by the School in accordance with a completed Medication Authorization Form and in an appropriate container shall be stored in a locked cabinet. Access to the locked cabinet shall be limited to the school Principal and her designees.

Medical Cannabis

Students are not permitted to use or possess cannabis in our schools except in accordance with the law, school policy and permission of the superintendent. School policy provides that if a parent/guardian of an elementary student who demonstrates his/her son or daughter is a “registered qualifying patient” and has an individual who is a “registered designated caregiver,” both of whom hold medical cannabis registry identification cards, then the parent/guardian or registered designated caregiver will be permitted to administer a medical cannabis product to the student (non-smoking/non-vaping form) at school.

A parent or guardian or other individual may not administer a medical cannabis product in a manner that, in the opinion of the school, would create a disruption to the school's educational environment or would cause exposure of the product to other students.

Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists Policy

In accordance with applicable State law, the School will make all reasonable efforts to maintain a supply of undesignated prescribed opioid antagonists in the name of the School and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law.

To the extent the School is able to maintain a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists, they will generally be available during school hours.

However, no one should rely on the School for the availability of opioid antagonists. This Policy does not guarantee the availability of undesignated opioid antagonists.

An opioid antagonist is defined as a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effect of opioids acting on those receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated opioid antagonist to any person that they, in good faith, believe is having an opioid overdose while in school, while at a school-sponsored activity, while under the supervision of school personnel, or before or after normal school activities. The School shall maintain a list of trained personnel. Prior to the administration of an undesignated opioid antagonist, trained personnel must submit to the School's administration proof of completion of a training curriculum to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.

Upon any administration of an undesignated opioid antagonist, the School must immediately notify the student's parents or guardian or emergency contact.

Within 24 hours after the administration of an opioid antagonist, the School must notify the health care provider who provided the prescription for the opioid antagonist of its use.

Within three days after the administration of an opioid antagonist, the School must report the required information to the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, an Illinois corporation sole, the School, their employees and agents are to incur no liability or professional discipline, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the administration of an opioid antagonist, regardless of whether authorization was given by the student's parents or guardians or by the student's physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse. A student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must indemnify and hold harmless the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, an Illinois corporation sole, the School and their employees and agents against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of the administration of an opioid antagonist, regardless of whether authorization was given.

The parents or guardians of the student must sign a statement acknowledging that the School and its employees and agents are to incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as school hours: after-school hours: maintained in the following designated secure locations: a result of any injury arising from the administration of opioid antagonists, regardless of whether authorization of was given by the student's parents or guardians or by the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, and that the parents or guardians must indemnify and hold harmless the School and its employees and agents against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of the administration of an opioid antagonist, regardless of whether authorization was given.

Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies

Allergies can be life-threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students.

Allergies

If a child has a known allergy that requires the use of epinephrine (epi-pen), parents must complete a Food Allergy Action Plan. This plan will be kept on file in the school office and in each individual student's classroom. Two epi-pens must be sent to the school for emergency use as well as any additional medication that is needed. It is important for parents to discuss this plan with the teacher at the start of every school year.

Family's Responsibility

- Educate the child in the self-management of his/her food allergy including: safe and unsafe foods, strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods, symptoms of allergic reactions, how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem, and how to read food labels.
- Notify the school of the child's allergies and provide medical documentation.
- Work with the school to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school, including in the classroom, the lunchroom and after-care programs.
- Work with the child's physician to develop a Food Allergy Action Plan. Submit the plan to school.
- Complete necessary written medical documentation as required by the Archdiocese. These forms include: Medication Authorization Form/ Parent/Guardian Permission and Authorization Form, and Medical Information and Emergency Notification Form. (found under LINKS in Fast Direct)
- Replace medications after use or upon expiration.
- Review policy/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide the child with a safe snack to be eaten at snack time.
- Provide a plastic ziplock bag (labeled with the child's name) containing the Food Allergy Action Plan sheet, and Epi-Pen (auto-injector) or Benadryl (if necessary). The individual bag will be kept in the black emergency bag maintained in each classroom that follows each class.
- Agree to have 911 called at the discretion of school staff.

School's Responsibility

- Review health records submitted by parents and physicians.
- Assure all staff who interact with the student on a regular basis understand the food allergy.
- Provide a separate table in the lunchroom/classroom for those students with food allergies to reduce the possibility of accidental exposure. This table should be appropriately cleaned prior to each use.

- Ensure that all medications are appropriately stored.
- Notify all faculty and staff of those students who have food allergies.
- Designate school personnel who are properly trained and authorized to administer medications in accordance with Archdiocese policies, State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.
- Discuss field trip with the family of the food-allergic student to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.
- Ensure that substituted teachers understand the food allergy, can recognize its symptoms, and know what to do in an emergency.
- Maintain black emergency bag in each classroom equipped with students' Epi-Pens/medications and other emergency documentation. The bag accompanies the class to specials, recess, lunch, and other areas the class may visit, including field trips.
- Call 911 if necessary.
- Pictures of student with allergies or dietary restrictions are posted in the kitchen.

Students' Responsibility

- Should not trade food with others.
- Should not eat anything that is not safe for them. Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.
- Should make sure the black emergency bag is travelling with the class.

Responding to Anaphylaxis

- A. Student-specific orders that are on file should be followed for students with known life-threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis. Know when to act. Follow school procedures and the individual's Emergency Action Plan to respond to suspected anaphylactic reaction for a student with a known allergy.
- B. If there is a suspected case of anaphylaxis, instruct someone to call 911 immediately.
 - a. Stay with the person until EMS arrives.
 - b. Monitor the person's airway and breathing
 - c. Implement local emergency notification to active trained personnel to respond, call school nurse/front office school personnel immediately and advise them of the situation.
 - d. Direct someone to call the parent/guardian.
 - e. Administer CPR, if needed
 - f. EMS transports the individual to the emergency room. Document individual's name, date, time of symptoms, and possible allergen.

Wellness Policy

I.C. School supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition and an active lifestyle and recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity and the capacity of students to develop and learn.

- Students in grades P-2 will break mid-morning for a nutritious snack
- To keep hydrated, students must bring a reusable water bottle which can be refilled at our bottle filling stations. Our drinking fountains are not turned on.
- All students shall participate in regularly scheduled physical education classes
- When the weather is appropriate (when the air temperature and/or wind chill is above 15°F), students enjoy a supervised recess period outside. Students should be dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Health curriculum- Students in grades 6-8 participate in Health classes during their PE classes. Topics covered include:
 - Grade 6: Health and Wellness, Personal Hygiene
 - Grade 7: Mental and Emotional Health
 - Grade 8: Alcohol and Drug Use and Abuse, Prevention and Spread of AIDS

Excuses from Physical Education for Medical Reasons

- If a student needs to be excused from participation in physical education class for medical or safety reasons, a written note from a doctor stating the reason and duration must be presented to the homeroom teacher who will inform the physical education teacher. The notice will be filed in the child's medical folder.

School Lunch Program

- School meals may be purchased through Marla's lunch or brought from home
- Students eat in the cafeteria, which is supervised
- Students have an adequate amount of time to eat lunch
- No soft drinks are available in school but milk can be purchased
- Access to any area involved in storage, preparation, or service of food shall be limited to authorized personnel
 - Ordinarily, we cannot provide supervision in the building for students during lunch/recess when their classmates are outside. If a child is too ill to be outside for recess, the child should be kept home. On certain occasions, parents may request that their children remain indoors during recess. Each request will be handled individually.

Traffic Safety Program

To protect the safety and welfare of each child, a Traffic Safety Program is in effect every school day. It is every adult's responsibility to follow the drop-off and pick-up directions and rules listed below:

- No Parking is allowed on the East lot during student drop off from 7:45 A.M.-8:15 A.M. but parents may park their cars in the West lot and walk their children to the East lot using the sidewalk in front of school, along Talcott. Do not walk behind school during morning drop off.
- All vehicles will enter the East Entrance of the East lot (this is the entrance between Oconto and the Church portico)
- Vehicles will proceed forward to the drop-off zones
- Students should NOT exit the vehicle until they are in a drop zone
- Once the student exits, the vehicle will continue behind the school to the West lot and exit at Odell Avenue
- Parking is available on the East and West lot at dismissal. Enter the West lot via Talcott Avenue. Drivers must be parked in a space ten minutes prior to the dismissal bell. This will ensure that no cars are in motion when the children walk onto the lots. No cars are allowed to move until the parking lot supervisor gives the OK!

Bicycles

There are many potential traffic hazards in the vicinity of Immaculate Conception School. Parents should exercise great caution in allowing their children to ride bicycles to and from school. The school assumes no responsibility for mishaps to bicycles. Bicycles must be walked on the parking lots and locked on the appropriate bike racks (one is on the East lot and one is by the Parish Center). Bikes are never to be left in piles causing safety issues for others.

Dogs

An animal's behavior may be unpredictable when placed in a confusing or frightening situation. Because of the inherent activity of hundreds of children and adults around the school buildings at arrival and dismissal times, dogs are not permitted on school property.

Safety

Student safety is very important at I.C. The following safeguards are in place:

- All outside doors to gain entry to IC are locked.
- Students are instructed to never open the outside doors for anyone.
- Any parent, visitor, etc. has to go to the front doors and ring the bell.

- The office has a monitor to see who is at the door before being buzzed into the school.
- There is a working camera at every outside door which records 24 hours a day.
- We have off-duty police officers working security for either the morning or afternoon shift
- The security guards have access to all the camera views and an iPad to carry with them to access camera views.
- Outside doors are covered with film that is shatter proof.
- Each classroom has a black out curtain on the door
- We use 2-way radios to communicate during drills or emergency situations.

Emergency Drills and Evacuations

Fire drills (evacuation) are regularly held in compliance with Chicago Fire Department directives. Tornado drills (shelter-in-place) are held in the spring. Lock Down drills are held throughout the school year. One is practiced with the Police Department and others with our Security Officers. School bus safety and evacuation drills are held in the fall to provide students with preparedness in the event of a bus accident or emergency while on a field trip. In the event of a true emergency where our school building is not safe to re-enter, students will gather in the church. If this location is not safe, we will walk to Resurrection High School.

Emergency School Closings

If conditions warrant a decision to close school on a regularly scheduled school day (excessive snow, broken water pipe, etc.), parents are notified through two systems of communication:

- Parent Square will be engaged to contact parents using the phone numbers submitted by parents to the school
- Information about emergency closings can be found on Parent Square

School may be open at times when the weather is inclement. Student's safety should govern the parent's decision regarding attendance on these days.

Please do not call the rectory for school closure information.

Federal Asbestos Program

In accordance with the U.S. EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Immaculate Conception School has been inspected and some asbestos containing material has been identified. The materials are distributed in various locations and include

pipe insulation and mechanical areas not readily accessible to building occupants or students.

Copies of the inspection report and management plan are on file in the school office and may be examined during school hours.

Volunteers

A private school depends on volunteers. Examples include: field trip chaperones, room parents, library helpers, etc. Volunteers should sign in at the office and wear a visitor's pass. It is necessary for adults who volunteer with children to:

- Set up an account and register at Virtus.org – be sure to select IC SCHOOL TALCOTT as your primary location.
- Once your account is set up- you will be instructed to complete the following
 - CBC: Criminal background check run through Virtus online as part of the Virtus registration process. Rechecked every three years through Virtus
 - CANTS 689: Yearly check of the central registry of Department of Children and Family Services. (Policy 603.5) English CANTS 689 Form. Please return to the School
 - PGC: Virtus's Protecting God's Children training session. Register and attend within 15 days of beginning work or volunteering
 - MRT: Mandated Reporter Training from State of IL training website. Recertified every three years including resigning the Acknowledgement Form (CANTS 22 or CANTS 22A for clergy). Certificates and signed forms are to be kept on file.
 - ASB: Archdiocesan Standards of Behavior for Church Personnel Working with Minors and Vulnerable Adults (formerly Code of Conduct). Read and signed

Parent Involvement Opportunities

Athletic Committee
Parents Club (social and fundraising)
School Board
Room Parents
Library volunteers

Addressing Parent Concerns

Parents sometimes have concerns about a teacher's decision, a child's grade, or a school-related incident. If a conflict arises from such a concern, it should be rectified in a manner consistent with the values of a Christian Educational Community. In this way, parents and

teachers provide children with a positive model for conflict resolution. When addressing a concern, I.C. School recommends:

- Communicate with the child. When a child is involved, reassure him/her that the teacher and parents will work together to address the concern. To spare a child confusion or anxiety, refrain from disagreement or criticism of a teacher in the child's presence. Instead, provide appropriate information to assist in a resolution.
- Communicate with the teacher. Rather than talking with others who may not have all the information, promptly arrange for a meeting with the teacher directly involved. Most concerns can be quickly resolved when the parent and teacher have a clear and complete understanding of the situation.
- Communicate with the Principal or Assistant Principal. If a resolution with the teacher is not attainable, contact the administration. Parents who contact the administration before conferring with the teacher are redirected to communicate with the teacher first.

Familygram

An electronic weekly newsletter, called the Familygram, is sent to all families via Parent Square. The newsletter offers more details regarding special events as well as new information and updates on the week ahead.

Calendar of School Events

Each new school year, families receive a magnetic school calendar. Parents are encouraged to integrate their personal and school calendars to stay informed about upcoming events. Parents are encouraged to review the school calendar which can be found in Parent Square.

Press Releases

On occasion, Immaculate Conception School uses photos and/or academic work of students in school to share information about the school. School publications include, but are not limited to: the website, school yearbook, school Facebook page, advertisements, annual reports, posters, parish bulletins, and other public relations material. In addition, local news organizations may hear of our activities or events, and our school may invite or allow them to photograph or record our events. If any parent objects to having their child's photo used for promotional purposes, please let the principal know in writing.

Phone Calls

The office phone will be available to students in an emergency or when conveying messages from school personnel. Students should be made aware of their afterschool plans before arriving at school. During the school day, any unexpected information should be given to the secretary who will pass it on to the student.

Calls to the teachers can be placed through the school office since teachers do not have a direct number. The secretary will relay the message to the teacher, who will return the call at her/his earliest convenience. Neither teachers nor students will be called out of class to receive phone calls.

Forgotten Items

Once the school day begins (8:10am), instructional time will be protected from unnecessary interruptions. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for each school day with homework, projects, materials/supplies, lunches, library books, band instruments, etc. Ordinarily, students are not permitted to call home for forgotten items during the school day. Unavoidable deliveries of forgotten items are to be dropped off in the school office, not to the child's classroom. As always, parental cooperation in minimizing unnecessary interruptions to the academic day is greatly appreciated.

Technology Acceptable Use Policy

The goal in providing technology resources is to promote education. The use of these resources is a privilege, not a right. All devices are school property and are provided to the student for school use.

Appropriate behavior, as it relates to the use of computers, iPads, chrome books and other forms of technology, is no different from the behavior expectations in all other aspects of the learning and instructional program. All users are expected to use the available technology in a responsible and ethical manner.

The undersigned must comply with and agree to all the following:

- The Student and the Undersigned are expected to protect school technology equipment from damage at all times.
- The Undersigned will be monetarily responsible for any hardware or software damage that may occur.
 - Chrome book \$275
 - Chrome book charger \$30
 - iPad \$325
 - Pad Charger/cable \$25
- The Student and Undersigned are reminded that the equipment may have camera capabilities. Storing personal photos, videos, and documents on the equipment is

prohibited. The use of the camera should be limited to curriculum related tasks, classroom meetings, etc.

- Equipment should not be used near water, food, or any liquid

Use of technology resources that are prohibited include, but are not limited to:

- Violating student rights to privacy/confidentiality, or unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information
- Attempting any unauthorized access, including hacking of any computer system
- Downloading unacceptable materials
- Re-posting personal communication without the author's prior consent
- Violating copyright laws
- Using school technology resources for financial gain, credit card fraud, electronic forgery, or other illegal activity
- Downloading, installing or storing software on a school computer without the approval of appropriate school personnel
- Changing or attempting to alter any configuration, program or password on a computer or system
- Using a school computer or device without knowledge or approval of school personnel responsible for the computer
- Using inappropriate language, pictures or gestures in any form on the Internet –
- Using the Internet for unauthorized purchases
- Student-owned computers/iPads/chrome books when used in school, must follow the same procedures as school owned equipment. Student-owned computers and other electronic devices cannot be used on school premises without the expressed consent of the principal

Unauthorized costs incurred for online purchases charged to the school are the responsibility of the student and his/her family.

Violations

Violation of the Acceptable Use Policy rules shall be subject to consequences including but not limited to loss of system privileges and referral to law enforcement authorities or other legal action as deemed appropriate.

Technology Materials

Technology materials, (iPads, Chrome books, MacBook Air, cords, etc.), are considered "rented". If a student loses or damages any of these items, he/she must pay for the repair or replacement.

Technology Use Outside of School

Parents/Guardians are primarily responsible for the student's appropriate and ethical use of technology outside of school. However, the inappropriate use of technology outside of school may subject the student to disciplinary action from school. Inappropriate use of

technology may include, but is not limited to: harassment of others, use of the school name, remarks directed to or about teachers or staff, offensive communications including texts, videos/ photographs, threats, and sexting (consensual or not).

Cell Phones/Smart Watches/Personal Electronic Devices

- Any cell phone, smart watch or other personal electronic devices brought to school must be powered OFF and turned into the teacher.
- Cell phones or smart watches may not be used during school hours. This includes the hours that a class may be on a field trip, unless specific directions are given by a teacher.
- If cell phones are used before or after school hours, calls must be made outside of the school building.
- If a cell phone or any electronic communication device is confiscated for misuse, the device must be picked up in the school office by a parent/guardian.
- If a cell phone is not turned in, the student will be subject to consequences including but not limited to loss of phone privileges, referral to law enforcement authorities or detention or suspension from school.
- I.C. School is not responsible for damage to or loss of any electronic devices that are brought to school.

Laser Pointers

Laser pointers of any type are not allowed on school grounds. If your child has one in their possession, it will be taken away and not returned. This will result in a detention.

Social Media Investigations

Will be conducted in accordance with (105 ILCS 75/) Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act:

The school may not request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website or app.

The school may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is sufficient evidence to suggest the student's social network account violates the school's disciplinary policy and therefore the school administrators may require the student to share content in the course of the investigation.

Video Camera Footage

Immaculate Conception School has video installed in entryways, hallways and within the outdoor perimeter of our building. Video footage is reviewed in the event there is an incident that requires law enforcement to be contacted or the school to take disciplinary action. The school uses the footage as evidence that supports disciplinary action. In such cases, footage would be a school record and access would be allowed under FERPA to the student disciplined. However, in these cases, other students appearing in the video would be blurred out if possible. If the police request footage, the Archdiocesan legal department will be called to determine if the footage may be released without a subpoena

General School Compliance

Immaculate Conception School will comply with applicable state and federal laws or regulatory requirements.

Right to Amend

Statements in this handbook are subject to amendment with or without notice and serve as a guide. The school will attempt to keep you informed of all changes, additions, or deletions as soon as practical. Some changes might be made immediately due to unforeseen circumstances. Situations can be handled on a case by case basis and the pastor and administration can determine the outcome.