

ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024

FAMILY HANDBOOK

**124 First Street
Monument, CO 80132**



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Website: <https://www.petertherockschool.org>

School Office Hours: 7:45 - 4:00

School Hours: 8:00 - 3:15

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Dear Parents and Students,

***“What greater work is there than training the mind and
forming the habits of the young?”
St. John Chrysostom***

Welcome to St. Peter Catholic School! In choosing St. Peter Catholic School, you have demonstrated a commitment to the values and philosophy of a Catholic education.

The Parent/Student Handbook reflects the policies of St. Peter Catholic School for the 2023-2024 school year. Please read this document carefully and sign the attached agreement. This agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of St. Peter Catholic School during the 2023-2024 school year.

The faculty and staff of St. Peter Catholic School look forward to working with you to promote academic excellence and spiritual development in the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Together let us pray that God, who has begun this good work in us, may carry it through to completion.

God bless you,
Debbie K. Brook
Principal

INTRODUCTION

St. Peter Catholic School (SPCS) is a Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 Catholic Elementary and Middle School under the Diocese of Colorado Springs Total Catholic Education Office. The curriculum stresses academic achievement within a Christian community where the child feels that he/she is loved and respected by his/her peers as well as the teacher. Vatican II texts are used so that our theology is in compliance with the bishops of the world. United with each other in meaningful liturgy and prayer, the students can further come to an understanding of the Christian life. At St. Peter, we are attempting to "Teach as Jesus did."

HISTORY

St. Peter Early Childhood Education Center was opened in September of 2003 under the direction of Monsignor Robert Jaeger and Peggy McFarland, Director. There were six preschool classes and one kindergarten. The first-grade class was added for the 2005-2006 school year, and subsequent grade levels were added almost every year after that. The first eighth grade class graduated in May of 2014.

VISION STATEMENT

St. Peter Catholic School forms the whole child through a Christ-centered, integrated Catholic classical education based on Truth and virtue. Our faith community equips students to become leaders in the Church and world, with salvation as the ultimate purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Peter Catholic School is to partner with parents who are the first and primary educators of their children. Our challenging classical curriculum encourages students to achieve academic excellence and grow in their Catholic faith through virtue and Truth. We strive to form future leaders and disciples who demonstrate integrity, compassion, and respect to all.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

St. Peter Catholic School provides a safe and secure environment where children can discover their world around them. We strive to provide a Christian atmosphere in which each student is encouraged to grow in spiritual values, sound judgment and academic knowledge. Staff members recognize that each child is a unique individual entitled to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically to his or her greatest potential. Each child matures and progresses at a different rate; therefore, our program is developed to meet the needs of each individual child. We are committed to help each child apply the teachings of Jesus Christ by ministering to others and caring for each other, their community and changing world. We provide a Christian Catholic environment. Our primary goal is to "Teach as Jesus did" by work and example. However, the school can only supplement, not replace, the religious education provided by the family, who has the primary responsibility for their child's Christian formation.

We encourage family involvement in our program and provide opportunities for classroom observation and volunteering. Our school has an “open door” policy and parents are always welcome in their child’s classroom.

St. Peter Catholic School provides opportunities to meet and work with other parents, caregivers and childcare providers who have as their common concern, the interests and needs of the student.

ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING

All Diocesan schools are accredited by Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and certified as Catholic through the Catholic School Endorsement of the Office of Total Catholic Education. The purpose of accreditation is to acknowledge the professional educational standards of the school. The accreditation process is intended to act as a means of on-going planning and school improvement.

All Catholic preschool and elementary schools’ before and after school care programs are licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The School Advisory Council is comprised of parents and parishioners who provide the pastor and principal with insight on school policy and evolving issues. The council can have up to 11 members and is representative of the school population and parent community. The council is not a grievance board and does not have any decision-making power. Members do serve as a sounding board for the administration and as a resource to the school community to present comments, issues, and suggestions for consideration. A number of subcommittees assist in the positive growth and enrichment of the school each year. Parents and teachers are invited to observe the monthly school advisory council meetings. The committee chair needs to be contacted 10 days prior to each meeting to have an item placed on the agenda.

ADMISSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Notice of students' non-discrimination policy: The elementary Catholic schools of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, under the jurisdiction of Bishop James Golka and at the direction of the Director of Total Catholic Education, state that all their Catholic schools must admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. These schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, age, handicap, color, national or ethnic origin the administration of their educational policies, employment practices, scholarship and loan programs or athletic or other school administered programs.

The purpose of this policy is to clearly state and consistently administer the admissions and withdrawals policy of SPCS.

No person will be admitted as a student of SPCS unless that person and his/her parent(s) subscribe to the school's philosophy and agree to abide by the educational policies and regulations of the school and the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Applications for admissions are accepted continuously and student names are placed on a wait list if room is not available. All students attend religion classes and religious activities in the school and church, whether Catholic or non-Catholic. The education of your child is a partnership between you and the school. If, in the opinion of the administration, that partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require you to withdraw your child.

Current class sizes are capped at twenty-four (24) students per class. Please be advised that SPCS will increase the class size to more than 25 if other siblings are invited to attend the school.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS: The following official documents are required for admission: An immunization record and a birth certificate. A Baptismal certificate, if baptized Catholic, is required for students in the 2nd grade. Physicals are required for Preschool and Kindergarten.

PRIORITY established for admission or progression:

- ☐ Students currently enrolled.
- ☐ Siblings of students currently enrolled.
- ☐ Children from families who are registered members at St. Peter Catholic Parish.
- ☐ Children from families registered in other Diocesan parishes.
- ☐ Children from families of other non-Diocesan Catholic parishes or faiths. Participation in Catholic religious instruction and activities related to the Catholic character of the school is required.

Students seeking admission with the intent of proceeding on to subsequent elementary and middle school programs will also be given priority.

Students admitted to the school must have a reasonable hope of successfully completing the school's program. **All new students admitted are on academic and behavioral probation for one year.** The administration reserves the right to require you to withdraw your child.

Students will not be denied admission to SPCS because of disability unless this disability seriously impairs the student's ability to successfully complete the school's academic program, or unless the school cannot provide sufficient care or make reasonable accommodations for the disabled child.

AGE REQUIREMENTS – Students enrolling in kindergarten must be five years of age by October 1st. No exceptions will be made to this regulation.

Students entering first grade must be six years of age by October 1st. Exceptions to the first-grade age limit may be made at the discretion of the principal when the students are transferring from another school and have successfully completed a kindergarten program. All incoming students will receive an academic assessment.

STUDENT PERMANENT RECORDS (CUM FILES) – A cumulative record is the student’s official record and will contain only academic transcripts including attendance and test results.

The student’s parents or legal guardian have the right to inspect all the student’s records in the presence of the principal and his/her delegate. Upon written request, schools shall release official transcripts to another school in which the student intends to enroll or in compliance with a court order to release information concerning a student. Some schools require copies of the cumulative records as part of the application process. Request should be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the due date to insure timely arrival.

Buckley Amendment – St. Peter Catholic School adheres to the Buckley Amendment (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) regarding student records and the rights of non-custodial parents. It is the responsibility of the parents to share any official custodial information determined through the courts. Official custodial agreements will be kept in a confidential file in the office of the principal. In the absence of any court document, the school will view each parent as having full legal custody of his/her child. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, non-custodial parents have the right to receive records about their child’s academic progress or lack thereof. The school reserves the right to charge a shipping and processing fee for extra records sent to more than one home address. Be advised that if a teacher is subpoenaed to testify in a child custody case, the parent will need to pay the cost of a substitute teacher and any other costs associated with the testimony.

STUDENT WITHDRAWALS – After the school has made every attempt to meet their individual needs in condition with parents, students clearly unable to profit from the school by reason of academic and/or behavior problems or emotional difficulties may be required to withdraw from the school. Normally a child is not to be deprived of a Catholic education or otherwise penalized for actions of parents; however, the school administration, reserves the right to remove the parent and child from the school. However, parents may so significantly reduce the school’s ability to effectively serve its students that the parents may be requested to remove their student from the school for any of the following reasons:

- ❑ Refusal to cooperate with school personnel; or
- ❑ Refusal to adhere to Diocesan or local policies and regulations; or
- ❑ Interference in matters of school administration or discipline.
- ❑ Inappropriate actions or actions deemed unreasonable/unacceptable against staff members, parents, students, and outside guests.

TRANSFERRING STUDENTS – Students entering grades K – 8 will be assessed and the results will be a factor in determining acceptance into the school.

Students seeking to be admitted or readmitted into St. Peter Catholic School must meet the following entrance requirements:

- ❑ All new students will be placed on probation for one year,
- ❑ SPCS must see reasonable hope that your student will complete our program through 8th grade,
- ❑ All students who enter school during the academic year should shadow for one day, if possible,
- ❑ Students who enter school during the academic year will interview with a teacher and an administrator, receive academic assessments, and submit letters of recommendations from their current principal and teachers.

VOLUNTEER HOURS - Parents for children in grades K-8 (or a parent representative 18 years of age or older) are expected to volunteer 30 hours during the school year. Families are expected to record their volunteer hours.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Upon enrollment, all families are charged a \$150.00 scrip fee. The scrip program offers you the convenience to purchase gift cards online and receive credit for your purchases. The credit you earn will be applied to your child's tuition. For more information about SCRIP, contact the school office or view the school website: <https://www.petertherockschool.org/scrip-program.html>

Scrip Purchase Options -

You may order:

- Physical/Plastic gift cards – The school places bulk scrip orders at least twice a month.
- Plastic gift cards are delivered to the school office for you to pick up. There are over 750 brands to choose from.
- eGift cards –eGift cards are perfect for last-minute or unplanned purchases. You may purchase eGift cards from ShopWithScrip.com at any time. eGift cards are available for over 400 brands.

If you pay online for your eGift cards, they are available immediately. Print the eGift cards and present them like a physical gift card in the store or redeem them from the RaiseRight app.

eGift cards may also be sent to anyone, anywhere, with an email address.

If you pay for your eGift cards by cash or check, you will receive your eGift card once the school coordinator releases your order.

Reload Funds – Add funds to physical cards you have already purchased through ShopWithScrip.com or the RaiseRight app.

TUITION

Tuition paid by the student's parent may vary by family depending on the amount of tuition assistance received.

Tuition in Preschool – Eighth grade is paid online through FACTS. Parents will receive a welcome email from FACTS to complete the set-up of the tuition agreement. Parents must sign the tuition agreement and make the appropriate payments based on that agreement. Preschool monthly tuition is based on 9 ½ school months (August - May). Kindergarten – eighth grade tuition is based on ten months (August - May). Tuition may be paid in full. A 2% discount is given for tuition paid in full by September.

Enrollment fees will be paid in full before the start of the school year. Enrollment fees are non-refundable.

Parents are required to remain current with their tuition. If a family becomes two months behind in their tuition, they must contact the office to make payment arrangements. A child may be dis-enrolled if tuition payments cannot be met.

St. Peter Catholic School requires at least two weeks notice if you dis-enroll your child during the school year. Two weeks tuition will be assessed if two weeks' notice is not given.

Tuition is based on a yearly schedule, so credit is not given for scheduled days off and holidays.

Delinquent Accounts, or past due tuition, may result in a child(ren) being withdrawn from school. These accounts may be referred to a collection agency or an attorney for recovery.

TUITION ASSISTANCE – Tuition Assistance is available through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. You will complete an application in FACTS. An objective confidential determination is made for each family. Applications are available in February for the following school year and are completed online. Applications need to be completed by the **annual deadline** in order to qualify for financial assistance. All applications received after the deadline will be considered at the discretion of the principal.

Annual Registration - Annual registration begins in February for the following year.

Withdrawals – If you register your child but your child does not attend the school, or if you withdraw your child prior to the end of the school year, all fees, including tuition that your child/ren was in attendance is **non-refundable**.

ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM – INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM - The primary goal of the program of instruction in the schools of the Diocese of Colorado Springs is to provide learning experiences which most effectively inculcate worthwhile attitudes and impart the knowledge and skills necessary for the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical development of the student.

The Office of Total Catholic Education provides courses of study/curriculum guides for mandatory use in all Diocesan schools. St. Peter Catholic School follows the curriculum that has been established by the Diocese of Colorado Springs in conjunction with the Core Knowledge Curriculum.

SPECIALS/ARTS - The arts include: Art, Physical Education, Music, Spanish and Band (Parents are responsible for equipment rental.)

Specials/Arts classes are an integral part of a student's education. Appropriate school behavior is expected in all arts classes. Students may have homework assigned and students are expected to follow homework guidelines as they would for any other class.

AWARDS - Grades Kindergarten – 8th Appropriate awards will be given at the end of each trimester.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES - Students are expected to have the supplies listed on the school supply list. Parents are asked to mark supplies (PLEASE see supply list as not all items need to be marked) and personal property such as lunch boxes and sweatshirts with the student's name and grade. Please bring the requested supplies during Supply Drop Off and teachers will store them. Please replenish supplies when necessary.

FIELD TRIPS – A field trip is recognized as a valuable extension of the classroom experience. The educational value of the trip should support and reinforce Diocesan curriculum guidelines and justify the time, distance, and expense involved. Only field trips that have a specific goal clearly related to the curriculum and significant educational value will be considered. Field trips are a privilege and conditions for participation in the activity must be established and communicated with parents and students. The principal must give approval and sanction arrangements for all field trips. Parental approval for field trips must be obtained in writing on the form provided by the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Students who do not have the signed Diocesan permission form **may not** participate in the planned trip. Verbal permission is not acceptable.

Field trips may require a fee for the activity. These fees must be collected before the field trip so expenses can be paid. Parents are encouraged to contact the principal if the family needs financial assistance to attend the field trip. **Fees will not be refunded if the student does not attend the field trip for any reason such as illness and other unforeseen situations.** If the students will be gone during lunchtime, the teacher will inform parents. It is the parent's responsibility not to order hot lunch if it is being offered that day. **Lunch money will not be refunded because of a field trip.**

If a student will not be attending a field trip, it is the responsibility of the parents to notify the office of the student's absence in order for it to be considered an excused absence.

GRADING - Academic grades are based solely on scholastic achievement.

Students in K- 2 have the following grading scale:

S = Secure

P = Progressing

E = Emerging

Students in grades 3 through 8 use the following grading scale:

A = 93 – 100

B = 85 – 92

C = 77 – 84

D = 70 – 76

F = 69 and below

Progress reports are available online a week after the end of each trimester. If you have any questions concerning your child's progress, please make an appointment to talk with your child's teacher.

Students will receive a grade for each subject each trimester.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY - Students involved in sports will have their core subject grades checked every Thursday during the season. If a student has an "F" in any core subject area, they will be ineligible to play for the following week. The Athletic Director will contact parents and coaches who have students who are ineligible. Students must have a current physical to participate in athletics.

HANDWRITING - The basic skills of penmanship will be taught in grades K-5. Every teacher is expected to demand the best handwriting regardless of whether or not he/she teaches handwriting. Students are expected to complete assignments in cursive beginning in third grade. Students may be asked to redo an assignment if it cannot be read.

HOMEWORK – Homework is essential to the learning experience and is assigned for the following reasons:

- ❑ To reinforce concepts and skills that have been presented.
- ❑ To foster creativity and discipline through enrichment projects and research.
- ❑ To train students to work independently and to accept responsibility for completing a task.

Assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, and homework assigned while a student is present at school is due on the assigned due date. In the event the student is absent at any time between the date given and the due date, the **assignment is still due on the originally assigned due date**. If there is a concern about time required to complete homework, please contact the homeroom teacher or the teacher assigning the homework. A student's missed work may be requested after a student has been **absent for two or more consecutive days** by calling the office. Advanced assignments will not be given before absences occur whether they are excused or not.

Homework will be given to the student when he/she returns to school after an absence. **Homework will not be given prior to trips, vacations, etc;** therefore, do not ask teachers for assignments prior to stated events.

PARENT CONFERENCES - Conferences will be held in early October and mid-February. Although the time given to individual conferences is limited, it is time well spent. A parent may request additional time at a later date. Conferences may be scheduled at other times during the year at the request of the parent or teacher. Any parent wishing to see a teacher is requested to call for an appointment. Teachers are not free for unplanned appointments, conferences, conversations, or classroom observations during the school day. To ensure quality time with a teacher, please be sure to make an appointment. Please do NOT call teachers at home unless a particular teacher has given you his/her phone number. Carline is NOT an appropriate time for an impromptu conference as teachers are supervising students.

POLITICAL ISSUES – The teaching of political matters should evoke faithful citizenship, an obligation to study the issues and political involvement. However, advocating a specific political stance, party affiliation and/or political agenda is not to be exercised by faculty, parents, or students in the building, in the name of the school or during school sponsored activities. The posting of political materials in Diocesan schools is strictly prohibited. Catholic school administrators and teachers have the obligation of teaching and advocating Church doctrine, which is contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or in the authentic teaching documents of the Catholic Church, relevant to any controversial issue being considered.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – All students enrolled at SPCS will participate in all religious education classes and celebrations. Opportunities will be given to students in grades 3-8 to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least twice a year. It is important that parents of our students

understand that we exist to support you in your responsibility to educate your child in the doctrine and practices of the Catholic faith. Sacramental preparation for Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation are provided.

LITURGY: SPCS provides an atmosphere in which students, families and teachers have the opportunity to experience aspects of Christian/Catholic religious education: message, community, worship, and service. Parents are the most significant influence in a child's religious development. Recognizing this, the school supports the continued religious growth of students and encourages them to be involved in the school's religious programs and in the parish activities. Sacraments are reserved for practicing Catholics.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTIONS: Religion is seen as an integral part of each school day. There is a daily period for formal religious instruction. Teachers, staff members and children are encouraged to pray and read the Bible often. Classes and experiences are designed to increase students' understanding of the sacraments, particularly Reconciliation and Eucharist. Eucharistic liturgies are planned and celebrated so that the school community can better understand and participate in the Eucharist. Classroom prayer times are at the beginning and end of the day and before lunch. Teachers plan these prayer experiences carefully so that children are exposed to a variety of prayer styles. Care is taken to create an atmosphere in the classroom conducive to prayer. Traditional devotions include, but not limited to; weekly Mass, Holy Days of Obligation, First Friday Mass, Ash Wednesday, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Adoration and May Crowning are part of the religion program. No principal, teacher, staff member or student will be exempted from participation in religious observances that are deemed part of the school program. Classes will begin with prayer, music, scripture, etc.

RETENTION – All decisions regarding retention are the responsibility of the principal in consultation with the teacher(s) and parents. In cases of slow progress, each student shall be considered individually. Any decision concerning retention must be made after considering all the factors related to the student's development (emotional, physical, social as well as intellectual and academic) collected from a wide range of sources throughout the year. Excessive absences and/or tardies may be cause for retention or withdrawal from the school. Ordinarily, a student should not be retained more than once while in elementary school (K-5) and once in middle school (grade 6 – 8).

ACADEMIC SUSPENSIONS – All work assigned during suspension is to be completed to prove mastery. Work during an in-school suspension will be turned in and graded. For out of school suspensions, students will be given an opportunity to complete missed work; however, the grade for the assignment will remain a zero. Any missed tests, due to suspension, will be given at school when they return. Students who have been suspended will not be allowed extra time to prepare for tests or to turn in assignments. A student may not participate in any activities during a suspension.

TESTING – Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will be administered annually to students in grades 1st – 8th. The Office of Total Catholic Education will not make available individual school or classroom results to anyone except other appropriate officials of the Diocese. Individual test scores will be available to their parents, guardians, and teachers. The Office of Total Catholic Education will use an individual school's test scores only for the purpose of improving instruction within the school. All students will participate in the assessment program. Accommodations for test taking for students with active written IEP's/SAP's may be made at the discretion of the school principal. Cognitive Abilities Test (COGAT) testing is given to grades 3 and 5.

TUTORING POLICY – Teacher recommendations for tutoring must be approved by the principal. If a person employed by SPCS tutors a student, the tutor is working independently and not as an employee of the school at that time.

VIDEO/MUSIC USE – Prior approval from the administration is necessary if a teacher plans to use educational videos longer than 15 minutes or movies in the classroom. Copyright and relevance to the curriculum will be considered. Parents will be informed of videos to be shown through the individual class newsletters. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the teacher in writing if they do not want their children to watch a specific video. Music and videos must be appropriate and conform to the Catholic Church's teachings on sexuality, violence, and language.

NON-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS – Parents who wish to enroll their children in programs outside the school, academic or otherwise, during the school day, may do so only with the written consent of the principal and pastor, and the approval of the superintendent. Such requests shall be judged on a case-by-case basis and if granted shall be for a period of no more than one academic year.

ATTENDANCE

The state of Colorado provides, by law, for compulsory school attendance of all children between the ages of seven and sixteen. The responsibility for compliance with this law belongs to the parents. The school must notify parents if there is a problem with attendance. The school is obliged to keep an accurate record of daily attendance. This record is placed in the student's permanent record and kept on file indefinitely. Any recurring pattern of tardiness/absence requires administrative intervention. Excessive tardies and/or absences may be cause for retention or request for withdrawal. Truancy is a violation of Colorado law.

ABSENCES – An absence consists of failure to appear at school and remain there throughout the entire day. Students arriving after 10:00am or leaving before 2:00 PM are considered absent for ½ day. Students leaving before 3:00 PM will be considered either early dismissal excused or early dismissal unexcused.

As previously stated, classroom work will be given to the student when they return to school after an absence. If a student is still ill, the parents may request homework from the teacher(s)

after the child has been absent for two or more consecutive days. Homework will not be given prior to trips, vacations, etc.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES –Unexcused absences include those resulting from suspensions and expulsions. Zeroes will be recorded for missed work as a result of out of school suspension.

Notification of absences and tardies – It is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school of absences. Please call the school office by 8:00am the day of the absence or tardy. If children are sick, please provide details of the sickness as these conditions are kept on file for the school nurse.

Habitually Truant Students - School-aged children who have four or more unexcused absences from school or class in a one-month period, or ten or more unexcused absences from school or class in one trimester, or thirty-six days in a school year are considered to be habitually truant **under state law.** Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be considered for purposes of determining habitual truancy. Once a student is determined to be habitually truant, school personnel will notify the student's parents or guardian in writing of the unexcused absences and of the fact that the student is habitually truant. At that time, the principal, student, and parent or guardian will develop a plan with the goal of assisting the student to remain in school.

VACATIONS – SPCS discourages taking vacations when school is in session. Please schedule vacations when indicated on the school calendar.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS – In the event that school has to be closed due to weather or other emergency conditions, local TV stations will be notified. The school will also notify you of the delay or closure through Flocknotes, a telephone broadcast service that enables SPCS to contact all parents by text within minutes. When closure exceeds a reasonable number of days, then SPCS may require days be added to the calendar in order to maintain the level of instruction.

Normally, school will not be dismissed early. Emergency conditions, which may warrant early release, require the permission of the pastor or principal prior to the dismissal of students. Parents may come at any time during threatening weather to sign their child out. Written permission, from the parent, must be given to the school before a student will be released to anyone else. If school does close early, students will remain in their classrooms until parents come to pick up their child. We will notify you through Flocknotes, if there is an early closure due to weather or emergency.

If District 38 is on a 2 hour late start, SPCS will be on a 2 hour late start. If District 38 closes, SPCS will also close. When SPCS is on a delay, students should arrive no earlier than 9:45 AM unless they participate in the before school program, which begins at 9:00. *Preschool students will also be on a 2 hour late start.* Half-day preschoolers will be dismissed at 1:00 PM and need to bring a sack lunch. **When SPCS has a scheduled half-day and there is a 2 hour late start, SPCS will close.** In case of an emergency, where the building needs to be evacuated, every

effort will be made to contact parents via phone, television, and radio. Before and aftercare information will be sent out on Flocknotes.

All after school activities, including sports, will be cancelled if school is dismissed early or if school has been closed due to an emergency or severe weather situation.

NON-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS – Parents who wish to enroll their children in programs outside the school, academic or otherwise, during the school day, may do so only with the written consent of the principal and pastor, and the approval of the superintendent. Such requests shall be judged on a case-by-case basis and if granted shall be for a period of no more than one academic year.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SCHOOL HOURS: Grades K–4 8:00 – 3:00
 Grades 5-8 8:00 – 3:15

ARRIVALS – Morning carline occurs from 7:45 AM – 8:00 AM.

NOON RELEASES: Grades K–4 11-50 12:00
 Grades 5-8 12:00 - 12:15

PICK-UP AND DROP OFF PROCEDURES – All drivers picking up and/or dropping off students at SPCS must follow the designated route through the parking lot. Drivers must enter the parking lot from Jefferson Street, follow the carline route, and exit the parking lot onto Lincoln Street (see attached map). Please do not make a left hand turn off of Jefferson; it causes traffic to back up. Parents may not park in the pick-up/drop off carline parking lots. If you need to park, please use the north parking lot. Please display car signs when picking up children. Parents must follow the designated times for pick-up to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

If parents do not want to drop off and pick up using the carline, they must drop off and pick up their child(ren) at the back gate. No students will be dropped off or picked up at the main door at the normal start or end of day. Parents are not allowed to park in the church circle to drop off their children or drop their children off at the north alley way of the school entrance.

Please be courteous and attentive in carline -- NO cell phone use. Please advance in carline quickly but cautiously.

TARDIES - Students not in the gym for morning prayer at 8:00am are tardy and must report to the office before going to their classrooms. Parents are expected to sign in their child in the office if the gate is closed when you arrive. If your child is going to be absent, please notify the school by 8:00am at 719-481-1855.

Students may not be on the playground before or after school without adult supervision.
Students may not be on the playgrounds after school unsupervised.

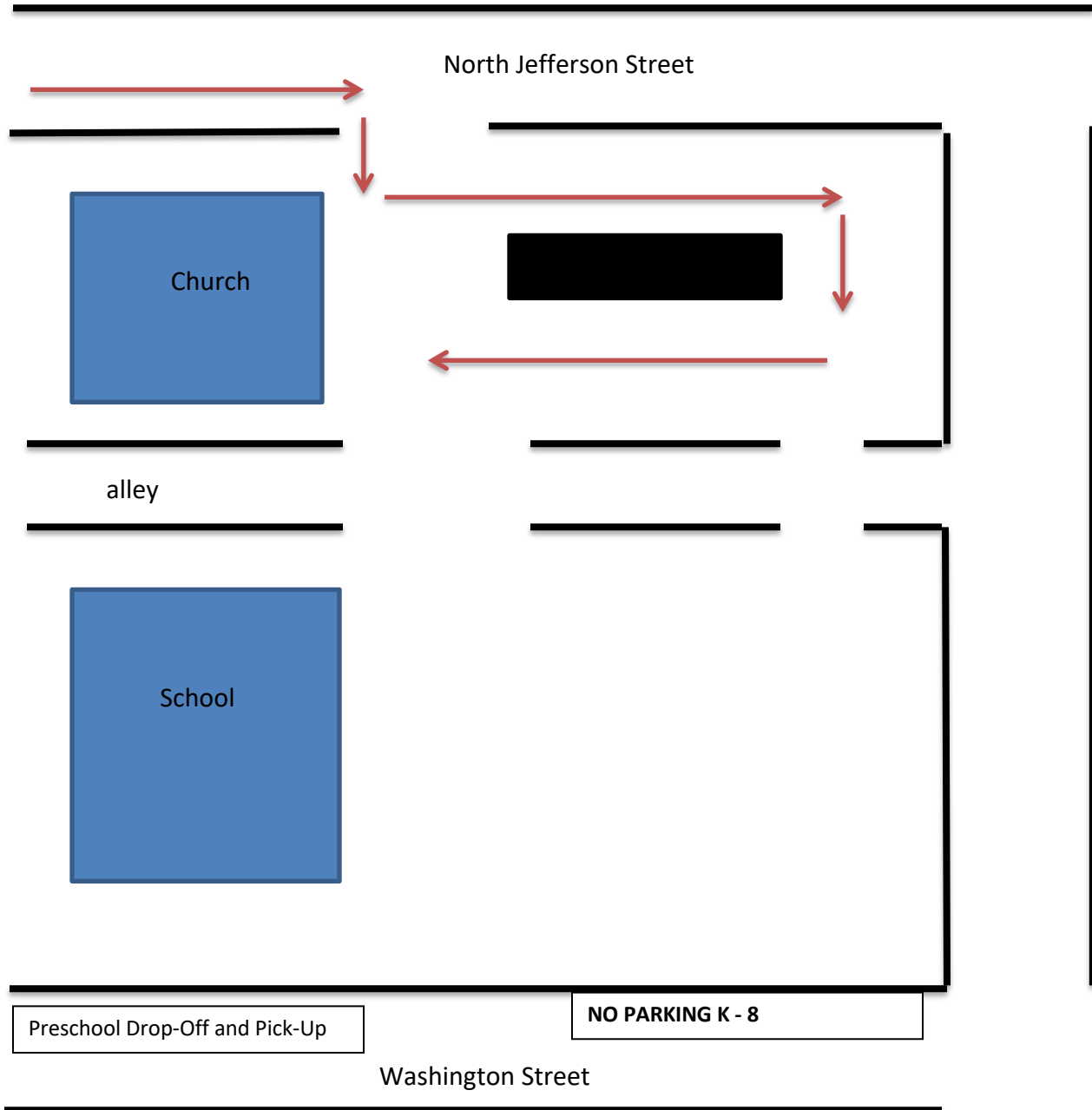
Arrangements between parents and student(s) regarding after school plans must be made before the student(s) is/are dropped off in the morning. An alternative plan should be in place if parents are not in carline. Should pick up plans change during the school day, please notify the office NO LATER than 2:30pm to ensure that your child receives the information. Calls/messages received after 2:40pm may not be delivered as students are preparing to leave for the day and may not be located in time.

Students and/or parents are not to return to the classroom after school, unless accompanied by their classroom teacher, for materials/homework.

EXTENDED DAY CARE – Before care is from 7:00am – 7:45am Monday - Friday. After care hours are 3:15pm - 5:30pm Monday - Thursday and 3:15pm - 4:30pm on Fridays. Students will stay with their classroom day teacher during the dismissal. Following dismissal, students will be escorted to the After Care room. When picking up from After Care, parents should park on Washington Street and come to the outside door of the cafeteria or the playground, depending on the location for After Care that day.

FAMILIES WITH SIBLINGS IN THE ALL DAY PRESCHOOL – Siblings in Kindergarten through Eighth grade will come to the hallway outside of the Kindergarten classroom at dismissal time. Drivers will pull up to the pick-up line on Washington Street. The teacher will bring out all family members to the car.

St. Peter Catholic School
PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF MAP
NO LEFT-HAND TURNS INTO LOT



COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Faculty, staff, parents, and students are committed to the creation of a strong school community based on trust, respect, loyalty and support. Parents and staff members who have complaints or issues of concern are asked to address those issues promptly and directly to the person involved. Discussion and gossip with persons who cannot resolve the issue are destructive to the school community and are in direct conflict with the values being taught and modeled for the students.

CONFIDENTIALITY – Sharing any school information is on a need-to-know basis only. For the protection of every individual, information will be limited to what any one individual needs to know.

CONTACT WITH PARENTS/FAMILIES – Teachers are expected to document all conversations with parents regarding student progress, parent's concerns and/or issues concerning policies and procedures.

Parents with concerns should (in most situations):

1. Talk with the other person(s) that are directly involved first.
2. If the person(s) is/are a teacher(s) and the issue(s) cannot be resolved, then the teacher(s), parent(s) and/or student(s) will meet together with the principal.
3. If the situation is still not resolved, the teacher(s) and/or parent(s), and/or student(s) will meet with the principal and pastor.

INTERRUPTIONS TO CLASSROOMS – Teachers have requested that the number of classroom interruptions be kept to a minimum during the school day. The following procedures will be observed:

1. **Miscellaneous Items:** Students often forget lunches, homework, sports equipment, books, coats, etc. Please bring all items to the office and we will be glad to hold the items in the office until your child can pick them up. Deliveries sent to students for special occasions, such as birthdays, etc. will be delivered to the student based on the teacher's guidance.
2. **Phone Calls:** Students must have permission from a teacher before they will be permitted to call home. ***Please do not call the school office asking to speak with your child UNLESS it is an absolute emergency.*** Arrangements for after school should be known before the student arrives in the morning. Each family should have an alternative pre-arranged plan.
3. **Early Appointments, Carpool Changes, etc.:** The office staff will make every possible attempt to contact teachers regarding these situations. Please let the teacher and office

know if your student will be leaving early for an appointment via a written note or email.

INFORMATION FOR TWO HOUSEHOLDS – Please inform your child’s teachers if you need information sent to two different households. If necessary, parents are responsible for supplying self-addressed envelopes or for making arrangements to pick up the information.

MEDIA POLICY – Before the use of name or likeness, whether in still, motion pictures, audio or video tape, photograph and /or other reproduction of a student including voice and features with or without name of student for any promotional purpose involving the Diocese of Colorado Springs or parish/school, news or feature stories in any media or other purpose whatsoever, written permission for publication of this information must be secured from parents, unless the student is in a group photo (example: Christmas Program/concert), which includes various students in the school. Every attempt will be made to remove students from group photos, if possible, with limited permissions to publish. This permission shall be kept on file for the length of the time the student is at the school. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school if changes need to be made.

NEWSLETTERS – A newsletter will be sent home once a week via email. It will contain upcoming important information about the school.

WEBSITE/WEBPAGE –SPCS has a web page that is updated continually. Written permission must be given by a parent or guardian for a student’s work to be published.

DISCIPLINE

St. Peter Catholic School has adopted the Virtue Based Restorative Discipline program. Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline is a spiritual approach to disciplining that cultivates virtue and provides a rich foundation for fostering faith both at home and at school. This is a truly Catholic approach to assisting our students in growing holy habits that make them like God and leading them to heaven.

There are four guiding principles:

1. We will dedicate ourselves to living virtue.
 - We will challenge the students to practice living virtue so they can grow these holy habits.
 - Students are expected to use God’s name and the name of Jesus Christ only with respect, and never in a careless, abusive, or angry manner.
 - They will respectfully participate in prayer and worship.
 - They are expected to be truthful, understanding, open-minded, gracious, reliable, and respectful.
 - They will uphold and support God’s plan for sexual relations.
 - They will promote chastity in dress, speech, and action.

- They will not use alcohol, tobacco, and/or any form of illegal drugs.
 - They will not use profanities or act in a disruptive manner.
 - Students will not cheat or steal.
 - Students will not disrespect the property of others: personal and institutional.
- 2. We will support others in living virtue.**
- We will cultivate a language of virtue in the school where we will recognize when students are practicing a virtue and hold them accountable when they are not.
 - Students will honor and respect the personal dignity and boundaries of others.
 - Students will report immediately to a responsible adult anytime they see the safety of another in jeopardy.
 - Students will promote and maintain a safe environment for peers
 - Students will not threaten or use behavior that leads others into disobedience, disrespect for others, or illegal behavior.
- 3. We will commit to constructive thoughts, words, and deeds.**
- Students will commit to positive and encouraging thoughts and words with adults and peers.
 - Students will not gossip, slander, or use malicious speech or jokes.
 - Students will not use sexual language or jokes that demean God's gift of sexuality or demean the dignity of another.
 - Students will not use physical aggression and/or harm.
 - Students will not use language that insults, bullies, intimidates, or humiliates.
 - Students will not isolate or exclude others.
 - Students will not cooperate in harmful behavior/harassment, either by encouraging or supportive observation.
- 4. When faced with challenges or conflict, we will find solutions that cultivate virtue for ourselves and for one another.**
- We will use restorative practices to address harm and to repair relationships.
 - Students will make restitution for any damages they may cause.

It shall be an expectation that each student behaves in a manner both on and off campus that is consistent with the Catholic principles of the school. The school will work cooperatively with guardians and students to assist students in meeting the academic, moral, and behavioral expectations of the school.

Parents and students, as members of SPCS community, agree to comply with the policies and regulations of the school and the Diocese of Colorado Springs. In accordance with the Diocesan policy, the school reserves the right to dismiss any student whose conduct or effort is unsatisfactory. The administration, faculty and staff are committed to establishing a school atmosphere permeated by Gospel values and a spirit of mutual respect, order of responsibility and self-discipline. Self-discipline is the key to good conduct and leads to consideration of the rights and dignity of others.

At all times, discipline is to be conducted according to Gospel values and with the dignity of the student and the general welfare of the school community in mind.

The principal may impose other disciplinary measures, such as probation, suspension, in-school detention, and expulsion. These disciplinary procedures may be imposed separately or progressively as the situation indicates. Reasons students will be expelled include, but are not limited to, a lack of progress after all other efforts of motivation and counseling have failed or if a student is a threat to the physical or moral welfare of other persons.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Suspension** – Is defined as a temporary dismissal from the school. Suspension is a drastic consequence that should be used rarely and only in response to an action of a very serious nature or after other remedial measures have been employed without success. A student may be placed on suspension for serious misconduct occurring on campus, during school related activities off campus, or for continued misconduct after having been placed on probation. Suspension may last from 1-5 days. Parents will be contacted by phone or in writing as to the nature of the suspension and the duration. Students who receive in school suspension **will not** be permitted extra time to make up work or prepare for tests. They may not participate in school activities during the suspension. Students who receive out of school suspension will receive a zero for all work missed.
2. **In-School Suspension** – Is defined as a temporary dismissal of a student from his/her classes. The student will serve in-school suspension in the school office. In-school suspension may last from 1-5 days. Parents will be contacted by phone or in writing as to the nature of the in-school suspension and the duration. The student will work on his/her assigned schoolwork during their in-school suspension.
3. **Probation** – A student may be placed on probation by the principal for a specified time for serious or continued misconduct or serious academic deficiency. The procedure followed may include: a parent conference, written account and conditions, and written notification of termination or extension of probation.
4. **Expulsion** – Is defined as the permanent dismissal of a student from school. Reasons students will be expelled include, but are not limited to, a lack of progress after all other efforts of motivation and counseling have failed or if a student is a threat to the physical or moral welfare of other persons.
5. **Student withdrawal on grounds of parental behavior** – Is defined as a parent's refusal to cooperate with school personnel, policies, and regulations in matter of school administration or discipline. In accordance with Diocesan policy, parents who significantly reduce the school's ability to effectively serve the students or who continuously undermine the role of the administration and/or the teachers may be asked to withdraw their child

from SPCS. If the parents refuse to honor the request for withdrawal, the procedures for expulsion will be followed.

Corporal punishment is forbidden in the schools of the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

Student discipline is the responsibility of each teacher at all times and in all places where any student is present. Children who are disruptive, inattentive, or non-productive should be corrected quietly and unobtrusively, but firmly. Employees will avoid name-calling, teasing, sarcasm, or any other public correction, which only humiliates students. Employees should be aware of the tone of his/her voice and ensure that students are not embarrassed in front of others. Teachers should exact consequences that are consistent and effective for each student and that follow the school behavior plans. Placing students in the hall is unacceptable. Students may be sent to another teacher's room for a time out. A student will not be the subject of critical conversations in the presence of others who are not directly responsible for the improvement of the situation. Teachers must work together patiently but persistently to provide an effective method of dealing with difficulties so all concerned experience mutual respect. Teachers and staff members are responsible for discipline anywhere on school property or at any school event. Staff members will refer behavior problems to the nearest teacher or principal.

BACKPACKS – Backpacks are to be used for the sole purpose of carrying homework, books, and supplies to and from home. Students are responsible to keep backpacks with them before and after school. At any time, school personnel have the right to search backpacks with reasonable grounds or suspicion that the search will turn up evidence of wrongdoing without prior parental or student notification.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM POLICY – Plagiarism is defined as submitting assigned work as one's own which has not been properly cited from sources or is the work, in whole or in part, of another person or persons.

Cheating is defined as being dishonest or deceitful. This includes but is not limited to:

- Copying another student's work – with or without the student's permission.
- Having a parent or another person complete homework or projects.

Consequences for plagiarism or cheating may include the student's work being confiscated by the teacher who assigned the work, the student receiving a zero on the assignment, the student receiving an office referral, a call to the parent or a parent conference, the student placed on disciplinary probation. The student consequences will be grade level appropriate.

CHEWING GUM – Is not permitted on the school grounds, in church or in the school building at any time. When students are representing SPCS at other schools, we ask that gum not be chewed, especially while playing sports. Failure to comply will result in further disciplinary action.

CONDUCT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL POLICY – As St. Peter Parish and School stand for Catholic values, whether inside or outside of our physical boundaries, we must constantly be aware of

the effect of our actions. Positive behavior further helps us to evangelize our Catholic message to others. Negative behavior reduces the effectiveness of our reputation and the total Catholic message in the general community. Our Catholic standards must not be compromised. Our pastor and school principal will look at each individual's negative behavior and determine an appropriate response as the need arises.

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES - A controversial issue is defined as a current problem or subject which has publicly evoked opposing viewpoints on the part of any mass medium or communication or of any organized group, or as any subject that arises in the classroom on which strong emotional bias is expressed by members of the classroom group.

Catholic school administrators and teachers have the obligation of teaching and advocating Church doctrine, which is contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or in other authentic teaching documents of the Catholic Church, relevant to any controversial issue being considered.

DESKS/LOCKERS – A student assigned a desk or locker has use of, but not proprietary right, to the desk or locker. Students are expected to keep lockers and desks in an organized and orderly fashion. Teachers and staff have the right to regulate pictures, photos, and any other material used to decorate lockers. Food is not allowed to be stored in desks at any time. School personnel have the right to search lockers and desks with reasonable grounds or suspicion that the search will turn up evidence of wrongdoing without prior parental or student notification.

DRESS CODE VIOLATION- A dress code violation form will be sent to parents and a copy retained for documentation when a uniform violation has occurred. Please see the dress code requirement section for specifics on the consequences.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION (PDA) –Public displays of affection are unacceptable behavior at SPCS. Public displays of affection include, but are not limited to holding hands, kissing, touching affectionately, blowing kisses, sexual gestures, etc. If students are caught engaging in public displays of affection consequences can range from detention, in-school suspension, or out of-school suspension. In the most extreme cases, or if a student repeatedly breaks the rules, he or she could be expelled.

RESTITUTION – Any damage that is caused to property of SPCS, intentional or not, becomes the responsibility of the person causing the damage. This includes but is not limited to textbooks, desks, lockers, windows, carpet, and plumbing.

TEXTBOOKS – Are the property of SPCS. Students must show reasonable care for the textbooks by having all textbooks covered and by carrying them to and from school in a backpack. Consumable and paperback books should be shown extra care; covers should not be written on or torn. Sticky book covers may not be used on hardbound books; they ruin the books. Students are responsible for textbooks that are issued to them. Any damage to a book when a student receives it should be noted and brought to the attention of the teacher. Families are responsible for the replacement cost of books that are lost or damaged. Fines may be charged

for textbooks that are damaged, but useable. The school administration has the final say in what constitutes useable.

BULLYING AND CYBERBULLING

St. Peter Catholic School attempts to provide a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken very seriously. Students making such threats (seriously or in jest or online) face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

STUDENT HARASSMENT POLICY – SPCS does not tolerate harassment of any kind. Student harassment is any verbal or physical conduct on the part of students that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive education environment. Student harassment is the act of tormenting or attacking a person; it may be focused on, but not limited to, physical, emotional, sexual or gender issues. Harassment can be the use of words, spoken or written, or actions that torment, intimidate, or physically harm a person. Behaviors may include, but are not limited to, physical threats, teasing through looks, comments or gestures, name calling or taunting remarks, kicking, hitting, biting, pushing, touching, gossiping about others, bullying, other forms of disrespectful contact, or not following reasonable requests by school staff members. All allegations of harassment will be taken seriously and will be promptly investigated. Harassment should be reported to a teacher or administrator immediately, and no later than within three days of the incident. All teacher reports will be sent immediately to an administrator who will investigate the allegation. If harassment is in fact determined, appropriate reporting will then be provided to the pastor, Office of Total Catholic Education, and possibly the police. Parents should also report to the administrator immediately when a child has been harassed. Reports are confidential and are not shared with others who are not involved.

An investigation may include the following steps:

1. Statements taken from those involved including witnesses.
2. If evidence indicates a violation, parents of all children involved will be contacted.
3. If evidence indicates that no violation was committed, no further action will be taken.
4. If a violation has occurred, consequences/penalties for harassment will be imposed.
5. A student who is a repeat offender may be recommended for expulsion.

Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated by the administration of SPCS. Consequences will reflect the seriousness and frequency of the offense. They may include, but are not limited to, the following interventions: Detention, suspension, required counseling, withdrawal or dismissal, charges filed and/or expulsions.

False accusations will not be tolerated. The consequences will match the severity of the accusations and may include detention, restitution, suspension and expulsion.

DRESS CODE

Clothing worn to school should reflect the seriousness and importance of the learning environment; therefore, student attire is expected to be clean and neat at all times. The uniform code is based on modesty, neatness, cleanliness, good taste, and safety.

It is designed to promote neatness, discipline, a sense of school identity, and to provide an atmosphere of learning, free of emphasis on clothing. Students are expected to observe the ordinary rules of neatness and cleanliness in dress. The school reserves the right to call or send home any student whose dress is deemed inappropriate for school. Please be aware that many retail outlets advertise uniform apparel, however, the clothing must follow the St. Peter Catholic School dress code.

PERSONAL HYGIENE – Please ensure that your child is practicing good personal hygiene at home. Hair is to be clean, combed, and off the collar and above the ear for boys. Bangs may not extend beyond the eyebrow. It is the policy of St. Peter Catholic School that students come to school with their natural hair color. Any form of dyed hair, including highlighting, is not acceptable or permitted. Hair bows, barrettes, and headbands should include colors from the plaid uniform jumper or skirt. They should not distract in the classroom.

JEWELRY - Boys and girls are limited to the following: an authorized watch (once again, no Smart, Gizmo, or advanced Fit-Bit watches), a religious medal or crucifix, girls may wear earrings that do not hang beyond the earlobe. No other jewelry may be worn with the uniform.

MAKEUP - Girls in 6th – 8th grade may wear mascara. Girls may wear clear nail polish. Nail polish with color is not allowed.

OUTER WEAR - During cold weather, students may wear the uniform navy cardigan sweater, approved fleece wear with the St. Peter Catholic School logo, the half zipper sweatshirt, or the approved Spirit Wear zip-up hoodie in the classroom. Students MAY NOT wear sweatshirts on Tuesdays, Mass Day. Middle school students may wear their fleece jackets in the classroom on Mass Day. Students may not wear non-school uniform items, i.e. jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies, etc. in the classroom. Students may wear their non-uniform hoodie or non-uniform jacket when going to lunch and/or recess.

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS – Teachers will work with students and parents to ensure students abide by the dress code. Teachers will follow this cycle for uniform violations:

1. The first infraction will include an email to the parents from the teacher who identified the infraction and a completed Dress Code Violation Form. The form is sent home and

should be returned the following day with the parent signature to the teacher who issued the violation.

2. After the second infraction for the same violation, the student will be sent to the office and the parents will be called. The infraction should be corrected by the next school day.
3. After the third infraction for the same violation, the student will serve 3 days of lunchtime detention.
4. After the fourth infraction for the same violation, the student will be sent home until the issue is corrected.

Examples of dress code violations include:

- ❑ Wearing make-up with the exception of mascara.
- ❑ Earrings – stud earrings only are allowed for girls. Boys are not authorized to wear earrings.
- ❑ Other Jewelry – Rings are not allowed. Only medical and religious bracelets and necklaces may be worn. Hair scrunchies may not be worn as jewelry.
- ❑ Shoes – Students may wear white, gray, navy blue or black for daily attire (including Mass) and gym. Gym shoes must be all white, gray, navy blue or black tennis shoes/sneakers with light colored soles. Boots, Crocs, flip flops, sandals, and clog style shoes are not permitted. Snow boots are not allowed in Mass or class.
- ❑ Nonuniform Hoodies - are not allowed to be worn in church on Tuesdays or in the classrooms/hallways.
- ❑ Undergarments – must not be visible.
- ❑ Shirts – must be tucked in at all times.
- ❑ Failure to wear a black belt, except gym days, for students in 3rd – 8th grades.

DRESS DOWN DAY DRESS CODE – Dress Down Day is a casual, non-uniform day if you choose to participate; however, uniforms may be worn. Inappropriate items of clothing that are not allowed include but are not limited to the following:

- Clothing with obscene slogans, pictures, or gestures.
- See through clothing.
- Gang or gang type related dress attire, include bandanas.
- Sleepwear of any kind (e.g. pajamas/lounge bottoms or tops.)
- Halter, tube tops, backless tops or bare midriffs, necklines cut too low to provide adequate coverage, half shirts, strapless clothing, string/spaghetti straps or tops with less than two-inch-wide shoulder straps.
- Jeans with holes or ragged hems.
- Pants that drag the ground, jean shorts, warm-ups, spandex, yoga pants, or leggings as a substitute for pant

- Skirts, dresses, or shorts that are immodest or fall less than two inches above the knee. In most cases, the bottom garment should be longer than the tip of the middle finger on the fully extended arm.

All clothes must be neat and clean, not torn or ripped. Overalls, corduroy, and khaki pants may be worn on designated dress down days. In cases of questionable dress, the administration will have final word on what is appropriate. Students in violation of this policy will be asked to change. Parents may be called to bring appropriate clothing to finish the school day.

SPIRIT DAY DRESS CODE: Spirit Day uniform is the green St. Peter spirit wear t-shirt with uniform bottoms only. Athletes have the option to wear their St. Peter seasonal sport's jersey, i.e., volleyball or basketball jersey, or sport t-shirt.

LOST AND FOUND – Clothing and other items left at school are placed in the lost and found bin. Items not claimed will be donated to the poor at the end of each trimester. It is the family's responsibility to check the lost and found bin.

HEALTH

The academic success of students is strongly correlated with their health. With this in mind SPCS pledges to provide a healthy environment for all students, employees, volunteers and visitors. This pledge encompasses the physical environment of the building along with the physical, mental, and social health of the students. Teachers and staff members are concerned with the health of every student. The buildings are subject to health department regulations. Adequate ventilation, sanitation and lighting are provided.

SCHOOL NURSE –School nurse services are provided through SPCS by a licensed registered nurse. Staff and faculty are current with CPR and first aid training. Several staff also have taken medication administration training which allows medication administration to be delegated when school nurse is not on the premise. The school nurse supports and promotes the connection between health and academic achievement. This is accomplished by supporting the well-being of both the students and staff. Some of the school nurse's responsibility include but are not limited to:

- ☐ To monitor the health of students, to evaluate complaints of illness, and to administer first aid for injuries. When the school nurse is not available, an office staff member will provide these services.
- ☐ To coordinate vision and hearing screening and coordinate appropriate referrals when needed
- ☐ To assist in health education in the classrooms.
- ☐ To maintain health files on each student, including health history, proof of immunization and health screening.
- ☐ To be a Community Health Resource Person for parents and teachers in matters of health, health education, and life education.

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS AT SCHOOL – The Principal, school nurse, teachers and other school personnel are responsible for the handling of accidents and sudden illnesses occurring at school or during school sponsored activities. The procedures for responding to a sudden illness or injury are:

- ☐ Assess the situation and make sure scene is safe. Render appropriate first aid quickly and if thought to be serious call 911.
- ☐ Notify the child's parent or guardian.
- ☐ If the parent or guardian cannot be reached the school will contact the emergency contact as listed on the student's emergency card. If they cannot be reached the school will consult with the student's primary care providers office and appropriate actions will be taken. If at any time during the school year there is a change of address, phone number or living arrangements, please notify the school office immediately to assure we have the most up to date information.
- ☐ School personnel will not transport seriously injured or ill students to medical treatment.
- ☐ If a child is injured or ill at the end of the school day, he/she will not be allowed to go home unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other parent delegate.
- ☐ After a serious accident or emergency illness of any sort, a record of the incident and the procedure taken will be made and filed in the school office.
- ☐ The school reserves the right to act as deemed necessary by the principal, school nurse or principal designee in a life-threatening situation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – Teachers are informed of children needing special consideration due to health issues and plan in coordination with the school nurse is made. The school observes state and local fire regulations. Tornado and lockdown procedures are practiced.

ILLNESS – Children frequently become mildly ill. St Peter uses the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment "How Sick is Too Sick?" as a guideline to help determine whether a student should stay home. We understand that sometimes that decision can be difficult as the student is acting normal or symptoms seem mild. The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school:

****The below symptoms are for non-COVID related illnesses**

SYMPTOM	IS EXCLUSION NECESSARY?
Mild Cold Symptoms: Stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough	No – student may attend if able to participate in school activities
Upper Respiratory Complications: Nasal discharge of yellow or green, productive cough, extreme sleepiness, ear pain, fever above 100 degrees or higher by mouth	Yes – seek medical advice and decide whether your child should be in school
Vomiting/Throwing Up	Yes – Unless related to a chronic condition. If a child has thrown up, keep him/her home. A child will be sent home if vomiting occurs at school
Diarrhea with illness (vomiting, fever)	Yes
Fever (100.4 degrees or higher by mouth)	Yes – 24 hours with no fever or fever reducing medication
Chicken Pox	Yes – Children with uncomplicated chicken pox may return the 6 th day after the start of rash or not until blisters are crusted over
Strep Throat	Yes – Until 12 hours after treatment and child has been fever free for 24 hours
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Yes – Until judged not infectious by the health care provider

ILL STUDENTS IN THE HEALTH OFFICE – If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, the student will be sent home from school. Also, if a student has vomited, they will be sent home from school. Students may not return to school until they are free from fever/vomiting for 24 hours without medication.

HEALTH RELATED POLICIES – Any student, teacher, or other staff member with a suspected or confirmed infectious disease will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If reportable, the school nurse will work in collaboration with El Paso County Department of Health to determine course of action to reduce transmission and identify those exposed. The superintendent must be consulted prior to any action on the part of the pastor or principal. In all cases, due consideration will be given to the needs and well-being of the individual(s) involved, those with whom they have contact and the broader school/parish community being served. The federal

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) will be followed in conveying any information.

IMMUNIZATIONS – Colorado law requires all students attending Colorado schools and licensed child cares centers to be vaccinated against certain disease unless they have a certificate of medical or nonmedical exemption on file. For new students a current vaccination record must be provided to the office by the child’s first day of school. **If proof of immunization is not received, your child will not be allowed to attend class until documentation is provided.** Vaccination records only need to be provided again if the student receives additional vaccines.

Prior to entering kindergarten all students must show proof of the following:

- DTP/DtaP – 5 dose series (unless 4th dose is given after age 4, then only 4 doses are required)
- Hib- 4 dose series
- OPV/IPV – 4 dose series (unless 3rd dose is given after age 4, then only 3 doses are required)
- PCV 3 dose series
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella – 2 dose series
- Hepatitis B – 3 dose series
- Varicella – 2 doses

Parents who are filing for an exemption, will need to submit annually at every new school year, a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption. There are two options:

1. A Certificate of nonmedical exemption downloaded from the Vaccine Exemption page (<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions>) and signed by an immunizing health care provider OR
2. A Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption provided to the parent after the Online Immunization Education Module has been completed.

SCHOOL AND MEDICATIONS – Students are not allowed to self-carry prescription medications unless they have a signed self-carry contract for epi pen or inhaler. Over the counter medication, including cough drops, are also not allowed to be carried by student. Medications found on students will be kept in office until parents retrieves them.

MEDICATION GIVEN AT SCHOOL - No medications, including Tylenol, cough-and-cold medication, decongestants, cough drops or other over the counter or prescription medications shall be administered by school personnel, including a nurse, except under the following conditions:

- ☐ **Medication Administration** – Medications may be administered by the school nurse or their designee to any student with the written order of a physician, nurse practitioner or

dentist and the written authorization of a parent/guardian. All medication permission forms are located in the office.

- ☐ **Over-the-counter medication** – will be given if both the parents and physician have completed the medication administration form and this documentation is in the child's medical record in the health office. No verbal permission will be granted.
- ☐ **Prescription medication** – must have a physician signed order that the child is to receive medications at school. Parent authorization and signature is also required.
- ☐ **Parent/guardian is responsible for transporting the medication to and from school. At no time is a student allowed to bring medication to and from school. All medications must be in the original labeled container.**
- ☐ Medications will be kept in a locked place in the office to which students do not have access.
- ☐ The person designated by the nurse to administer medication is to keep a log of medicine administered will be kept with students file.
- ☐ If a student has a condition that might require medication on an emergency basis, such as asthma, individual health care plans will be completed by the physician and direct specialized care that will be provided in a school setting. Health Care Plans for severe allergies and asthma will be written and overseen by the nurse.
- ☐ All medications including inhalers will be kept in the office. If a physician deems it necessary for a student to carry medication, then the appropriate physician's orders and documentation must be completed.
- ☐ Essential first aid supplies shall be available at all times. First aid kits must be taken on all field trips. First aid kits may be purchased or developed using typical first aid supplies. Rubber gloves must be included and worn when there is a possibility of exposure to blood or body fluids while administering first aid.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & SPORTS - A Health Care Plan and any nurse delegation related to a Health Care Plan are for use during regular school hours. If a parent can attend a before/after school activity, they assume responsibility for the medication. Medication questions outside of regular school hours will be referred to the child's parents or 911.

PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT FORMS – All new students admitted to SPCS must submit a current physical evaluation form prior to admission for PreSchool or Kindergarten. All students participating in sports must have a current physical. All physicals must be within the calendar year.

HEALTH SCREENINGS – Children in primary grades will be screened each year in vision and hearing. Older children will be screened if requested by the teacher and/or parent. Parents will be notified of any screening failures. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange follow up with an appropriate provider. Results of evaluation should be returned to the office to be placed in the student's file.

SUNSCREEN – When appropriate, sunscreen should be applied by parents in the morning before school.

LUNCH AND RECESS

Parents must pack a lunch for their child every day. When available, lunches may be purchased ahead of time. The 8th grade fundraiser lunches will be available on Thursdays and Mondays. Information will be provided via Flocknotes.

Note: The USDA Lunch Program cancelled the free hot lunch program effective July 2022.

Recess – Lunch times:

6th – 8th Grade Lunch/Recess: 12:00-12:45

3 – 5th Grade Lunch: 11:30 – 12:00 Recess: 11:00-11:30

K – 2nd Grade Lunch: 11:00-11:30 Recess: 11:30-12:00

Lunchroom Etiquette - Each teacher will walk his/her class to the cafeteria and pick them up from recess at the end of their designated time. Students are expected to:

- ☐ Walk into and out of the cafeteria in a single silent line.
- ☐ Be polite to the adults serving and monitoring.
- ☐ No saving seats.
- ☐ Use good table manners.
- ☐ Eat his or her own lunch and not share lunch with another student due to food allergies.
- ☐ Clean up areas and push in chair.
- ☐ Keep food in the cafeteria.
- ☐ Inform a supervisor if the trash container is full.
- ☐ Wipe tables and clean up floor around your seat.
- ☐ Speak in 6" voices.

Students are expected to use their best manners in the cafeteria. This includes being courteous to the staff and volunteers serving lunch in the cafeteria.

Recess – There will be two staff and/or adults members monitoring the playground area during recess.

Playground Guidelines - Safety First:

- ☐ Playground equipment is to be used properly
- ☐ No jumping off equipment

- ❑ No climbing on top of equipment
- ❑ No hanging from basketball hoops
- ❑ If a ball goes over the fence – only an adult may retrieve it
- ❑ No personal toys or electronics may be brought to recess
- ❑ Students may not throw rocks, sticks, ice, or snow at any time
- ❑ Any rough/horseplay of any kind will NOT be tolerated – included but not limited to: tackling, pushing, shoving, dog piles, wrestling

SAFETY

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN – SPCS is asbestos free.

BABYSITTING (HIRING OF TEACHERS) – Employees of SPCS must notify the principal prior to babysitting or being a nanny for any family enrolled at SPCS. Employees are obligated to inform the principal before making a home visit to any SPCS family.

CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT – Colorado law requires the school personnel to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to the appropriate county department or law enforcement.

CONTACT WITH STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS – Persons (other than custodial parent/legal guardians), agencies, or organizations desiring to contact individual students during the school day must first receive permission from the principal.

COURT ORDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE – No person can perform court ordered community service hours or court ordered work release at SPCS.

CUSTODY ISSUES – The school recognizes custodial parent/legal guardians as the primary decision-maker for their children. Legal documentation regarding custody and visitation will be provided to the school by the custodial parent(s)/legal guardian(s) at the time of registration. The school must be notified immediately regarding any changes to custodial provisions. Non-custodial parents will have access to school records, conferences, and information unless otherwise restricted by court order. It is the obligation of parents to properly inform the school of limit of access to children, records, or other information. Non-custodial parents may not use the school for the purpose of circumventing custody orders or visitation rights.

DRUG FREE ZONE – Schools in Colorado, by law, are Drug Free Zones. This means tobacco and alcohol are not allowed on the school premises.

Possession and/or use of tobacco, possession, use or being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs, is prohibited on school premises and at all school sponsored activities. The possession, use, sale or attempted sale of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, or electronic cigarettes may result in expulsion from the school and notification to the proper authorities.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: FIRE, TORNADO, EARTHQUAKES, INTRUDERS, ETC. – The emergency crisis plan contains provisions for a variety of crises including but not limited to intruders, fire, tornado and earthquake. It will be reviewed annually. Written standards of procedures for emergency drills (fire, tornado, etc.) shall be posted in each classroom, gymnasium, cafeteria, and all other occupied areas of the building. The school currently uses the below procedures:

STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL PROCEDURES

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close and lock the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard Safety Strategy

Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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MONEY – Money brought to school for a particular reason must be placed in an envelope marked clearly with the **student's name, homeroom, activity, and amount enclosed**. Students may not bring money to school unnecessarily. Money should never be left in desks or wall lockers.

Raptor Visitor/Volunteer Management System

St. Peter Catholic School uses the Raptor Visitor/Volunteer Management System as part of our campus safety program for students and faculty. Persons without legitimate reason, or written authorization to be on school grounds, will be asked to leave by school personnel. If a person refuses to leave upon request, the police will be called.

A key part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our building at all times, and the Raptor system allows us to track visitors and volunteers greatly enhancing the security of our school. School parents are added to the Raptor System once their drivers' licenses are scanned in the school office. Visitors entering the school must also have their drivers' licenses scanned in the Raptor System prior to entry. Visitors/parents must sign in and out of the building so an accurate assessment can be made of the number of people in the school in the event of an emergency. All personnel will wear the Raptor tag/badge received upon sign-in.

All outside doors must remain closed and locked at all times. Doors may not be propped open for ease of access at any time. Students are not allowed to open doors for guests or visitors.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – Parents are asked not to collect any money from students or other parents for fundraising, class parties, or any other school event unless a request has first been made and approved by the administration.

The Diocese of Colorado Springs Risk Management Office requires that any non-employee doing manual labor (i.e. clearing snow and ice, painting, plumbing or electrical work) must have a certificate of insurance on file in the office. Therefore, only employees of SPCS or contracted services will be allowed to help with such projects. Volunteers, who are in the school on a regular basis, including all coaches and assistants, must sign a copy of the Diocese of Colorado Springs Sexual Misconduct Policy (available in the school office).

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The co-curricular programs offer our students an opportunity to participate in activities in addition to their academic curriculum. SPCS is proud to be represented by our students in a number of activities beyond the required school curriculum. It is the responsibility of the Office of Total Catholic Education to direct Diocesan-wide co-curricular organizations and activities. The office of Total Catholic Education will establish policies and procedures regarding the activity, conduct, scheduling, financial accountability, supervision of students, and qualifications of leaders.

All non-academic co-curriculars must be self-supporting. The fee for participation will be set each school year. A fee will be charged per student, per activity.

Achievement in academics is a goal of our school. The co-curricular programs offer our students opportunities to participate in activities in addition to the academic curriculum. The expectations that must be met to participate in any co-curricular are:

- ❑ Students involved in sports, drama, musicals, and/or plays will have their core subject grades checked every Thursday during the time of the activity. If a student has an “F” in any core subject area, they will be ineligible to play for the following week. The athletic director will contact parents and coaches who have students who are ineligible.
- ❑ Students who have an office referral during a week’s time may lose their eligibility to participate in co-curriculars the following week of school. Students who have in-school suspensions cannot participate in activities the day(s) of the suspension or the following week.
- ❑ **PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL FUNCTIONS ON DATE OF ABSENCE:** Students who are absent from school for 4 or more academic periods may not participate in any athletic practice or contest or any social or school sponsored event that same day. Violation of this procedure will make the student ineligible for the next scheduled game or event.

Students who do not abide by the rules may not be allowed to participate.

ATHLETICS – All athletics through the Christian Schools Athletic League (CSAL) will be overseen by the School Athletic Director. Opportunities for Saint Peter teams include: Basketball, track, volleyball and wrestling. There is a cross country running club offered at St. Peter; however, this organization does not fall under CSAL.

FUNDRAISING – No organization may promote a fundraising project in the school’s name without prior approval of the school principal and pastor in parish schools. All funds collected by the various activity groups of the school shall be deposited in an authorized school/parish account in a timely manner in accordance with the Parish Office Accounting A/R policy. All funds will be disbursed by the school in the approved procedure for purchasing and disbursements. The fundraising revenues are monitored and administered by the principal and pastor.

PARENT SUPERVISION – Students must be under the direct supervision of a parent or adult designee when at school during non-school times. This includes sporting events, sponsored events, special programs and co-curricular events. Students are expected to follow the rules set forth in this handbook during these events. Parents are responsible for the actions of their child and financially responsible for any damage their child may cause to school or parish property.

PARTIES – Classroom parties are scheduled during the school year. Some of the holidays traditionally celebrated are Halloween, All Saints Day, Christmas and St. Valentine’s Day. Parents may be asked to help plan these parties.

The celebration of birthdays is at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Please make arrangements prior to the day you plan on celebrating. Treats brought into the school cannot contain nuts or nut oil. All snacks/treats must meet the Wellness Policy. Floral or balloon bouquets may not be sent to the school for students. Please check with the teacher to see if there are any classroom restrictions due to allergies or diets.

Invitations to private parties may NOT be distributed at school unless EACH child in the class is included. If only a select few children are invited, please mail the invitations. Please be advised that the school office is NOT permitted to provide addresses for current or former students. Other resources include the Parish Directory, the local phone book and the student themselves. Gifts exchanged between friends should be done outside of the school. This includes Christmas and birthdays.

NO CONFETTI – The use of confetti is prohibited in school facilities for any function.

TECHNOLOGY

All electronic communication to or from SPCS shall reflect the Christian principles upon which the school is founded, in support of its mission, Catholic identity and educational goals. All computes, iPads, and chrome books at the school are school property. The school and/or The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) reserve the right to view e-mails sent from or to the school and/or any internet sites accessed on school computers/technology, or via school networks. There is no reasonable expectation of privacy for any activities performed on school computers or networks.

Students will have adult supervision while accessing the Internet. Misuse of the Internet will cause a student to lose this privilege. Students are not allowed to e-mail other students while at school. All e-mail sent to the school must include your name or the students’ name and e-mail address when using personal home emails.

If a student is caught accessing inappropriate websites, downloading games, or sharing inappropriate photos to or with other students, parents will be notified immediately. Consequences can range from detention, in-school suspension, or out of-school suspension. In the most extreme cases, or if a student repeatedly breaks the rules, he or she could be expelled.

CELL PHONES (Personal Use) - If a student needs a cell phone after school due to walking home from school, entering a house where no one is home, or attending sport practices or games, he/she should bring the cell phone to the office upon arrival in the morning. The cell phone must be in the off position for the day. The cell phone may be picked up by the student at dismissal. At no time during the day should a cell phone be in a student's locker or in his/her possession. The administration reserves the right to search the contents of a confiscated cell phone.

WATCHES AND TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION DEVICES (Personal Use) - Students are not authorized to wear Smart watches, Gizmo watches or any form of advanced Fit-Bit devices. Parents who have questions about if their child's device is acceptable should contact the Principal.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES - Radios, headsets, earpods, cell phones, Ipads, tablets, game devices, smart or gizmo watches, advanced watches and fitbits or any other like electronic equipment will be confiscated and given to the principal when they are at school. Parents must come to the office to pick up the item.

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS – Parents, parishioners, and persons in the community are encouraged to support the school through a variety of volunteer efforts. Volunteers are needed in the school office, library, cafeteria, playground, and various classrooms. The chairperson for each committee will contact any parent expressing an interest in volunteering. Please check with the office for the procedures. Parents for children in grades K-8 (or a parent representative 18 years of age or older) are expected to volunteer 30 hours during the school year. Families are expected to record their volunteer hours.

Safe Environment Training

Safe Environment Training is mandatory for all new and returning adult volunteers over the age of 18 working/interacting with minors per the Diocese of Colorado Springs and USCCB. Volunteers new to the diocese must complete the initial online training through VIRTUS in addition to the online volunteer application. Returning volunteers must complete the online update training as assigned by VIRTUS.

Click here for more information and training guidance:
www.petertherock.org/safe-environment-training.html

COACHING – Anyone wishing to coach must submit an application for the position. The final decision of coach selection will be made by the athletic director and principal. People selected to coach must complete a background check, safe environment training, and attend a mandatory meeting. All coaches will follow the philosophy of the Christian Schools Athletic League (CSAL). A copy of the CSAL handbook is available from the Athletic Director.

APPENDIX 1A

DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS WELLNESS POLICIES –

Diocese of Colorado Springs School's Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition.

Preamble

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

Whereas, good health fosters student attendance and education;

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

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

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

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

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

Thus, the Diocese of Colorado Springs Schools are committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the Diocese of Colorado Schools that:

- The Diocese will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing district-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.

- All students in grades Pre-School - 12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.

- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the *U.S Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

- Those trained in nutrition will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

- To the maximum extent practicable, all schools in the Colorado Springs Diocese will participate in available federal school meal programs.

- Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. School Health Councils

The schools within the Diocese will create, strengthen, or work within health councils to develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The councils also will serve as resources to school sites for implementing those policies. (A school health council consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and should include parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.)

II. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

School Meals

Meals served through the National School Lunch will:

- be appealing and attractive to children;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes;
- offer a variety of fruits and vegetables
- serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (to be defined by USDA); and
- ensure that a portion of grains served are whole grains.

Meal Times and Scheduling. Schools:

- will provide students with 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch;
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, *e.g.*, lunch should be scheduled between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM;
- should not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtime, unless students may eat during such activities;
- will schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools);
- will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and
- should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (*e.g.*, orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff. Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the school's responsibility to operate a food service program, we will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and /or training programs for child nutrition directors, school nutrition managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages. Schools should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Foods and Beverages Sold Outside of School Meals (including fundraisers).

Elementary Schools. The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverages sales to students in elementary schools. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food in elementary schools should be sold as balanced meals. If available, foods and beverages sold individually should be limited to low-fat and non-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables.

Middle Schools. In middle school, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte {snacks} lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day, will meet the following nutrition and portion size standards:

Beverages

- Allowed: water or seltzer water without added caloric sweeteners; fruit and vegetable juices and fruit-based drinks that contain at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; unflavored or flavored low-fat or fat-free fluid milk and nutritionally-equivalent nondairy beverages (to be defined by USDA);
- Not allowed: soft drinks; sports drinks; iced teas; fruit-based drinks that contain less than 50% real fruit juice or that contain additional caloric sweetener; beverages containing caffeine, excluding low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk (which contain trivial amounts of caffeine).

Foods

- A food item sold individually:
 - Will have no more than 35% of its calories from fat (excluding nuts, seeds, peanut butter, and other nut butters) and 10% of its calories from saturated and trans fat
 - Will have no more than 35% of its *weight* from added sugars;
 - Will contain no more than 230 mg of sodium per serving from chips, cereals, crackers, french fries, baked goods, and other snack items; will contain no more than 480 mg of sodium per serving per serving for pastas, meats, and soups; and will contain no more than 600 mg of sodium for pizza, sandwiches, and main dishes.
- A choice of at least two fruits and/or non-fried vegetables will be offered for sale at any location on the school site where foods are sold. Such items could include, but are not limited to, fresh fruits and vegetables, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, fruit-based drinks that are at least 50% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners, cooked, dried, or canned fruits (canned in fruit juice or light syrup), and cooked, dried, or canned vegetables (that meet the above fat and sodium guidelines).

Portion Sizes

Limited portion sizes of foods and beverages sold individually to those listed below:

- One and one-quarter ounces for chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, or jerky;
- One ounce for cookies;
- Two ounces for cereal bars, granola bars, pastries, muffins, doughnuts, bagels, and other bakery items;
- Four fluid ounces for frozen desserts, including, but not limited to, low-fat or fat-free ice cream;
- Eight ounces for non-frozen yogurt;

- Twelve fluid ounces for beverages, excluding water; and
- The portion size of a la carte entrees and side dishes, including potatoes, will not be greater than the size of comparable portions offered as part of school meals. Fruits and non-fried vegetables are exempt from portion-size limits.

Fundraising Activities. To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school fundraising activities will not involve food or will use only foods that meet the above nutrition and portion size standards for foods and beverages sold individually. Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The schools will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

Snacks. Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other considerations. The schools will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

- If eligible, schools that provide snacks through after-school programs will pursue receiving reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program.

Rewards. Schools will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). The schools will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion. The Diocese of Colorado Springs Schools aim to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction across the curriculum.
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise);
- Includes training for teachers and other staff.

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting. For students to receive the nationally recommended amount of daily physical activity (i.e., at least 90 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- Classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spend on sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons; and
- Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate

Communications with Parents. The schools will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. Schools should encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the above nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. The schools will provide parents a list of foods that meet the district's snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities.

The schools will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

Food Marketing in Schools. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, schools will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually. School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages is prohibited. The promotion of healthy food, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

Staff Wellness. The Diocese of Colorado Springs Schools highly value the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Each school should establish and maintain a staff wellness committee composed of at least one staff member, school health council member, local hospital representative, dietitian or other health professional, recreation program representative, and employee benefits specialist. (The staff wellness committee could be a subcommittee of the school health council.) The committee should develop, promote, and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness. The plan should be based on input solicited from school staff and should outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among school staff. The staff wellness committee should distribute its plan to the school health council annually.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

K-8. All students in grades 1-8, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive physical education (or its equivalent of 90 minutes/week for elementary school students and 90 minutes/week for middle school students) for the entire school year. All physical education will be taught by a certified physical education teacher or in the case of kindergarten and preschoolers, the 45 minutes of teaching of the curriculum standards may be directed by certified teachers at that level. Student involvement in other activities involving physical activity (*e.g.*, interscholastic or intramural sports) will not be substituted for meeting the physical education requirement. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Daily Recess. All elementary school students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

Schools should discourage extended periods (*i.e.*, periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School. All elementary and middle schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. Middle schools will offer interscholastic sports programs. Schools will offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including boys, girls, students with disabilities, and students with special health-care needs.

After-school childcare and enrichment programs will provide and encourage – verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and activities – daily periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity for all participants.

Physical Activity and Punishment. Teachers and other school and community personnel will not use physical activity (*e.g.*, running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity for all participants.

Safe Routes to School. The schools will assess and, if necessary and to the extent possible, make needed improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. When appropriate, the schools will work together with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments in those efforts.

V. Monitoring and Policy Review

Monitoring. The Director of Total Catholic Education or designee will ensure compliance with established Diocesan-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance to the Diocesan Director of TCE or designee.

School food service staff, at the school level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent (or if done at the school level, to the school principal). In addition, the schools will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the school has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible. The Director of TCE or designee will develop a summary report every three years on district-wide compliance with the Diocese's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the Diocese. That report will be provided to the Diocesan board and also distributed to all school health councils, parent/teacher organizations, school principals, and school health services personnel in the Diocese.

Policy Review. To help with the initial development of the Diocesan wellness policies, each school in the Diocese will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies. The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the district level to identify and prioritize needs.

Assessments will be repeated every three years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the Diocesan schools will review the nutrition and physical activity policies, provision of environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity, and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. The Diocese, and individual schools within the Diocese, will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.

Adopted on April 10, 2007

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BELIEF STATEMENT

DIOCESE OF COLORADO OF SPRINGS

The Diocese of Colorado Springs Catholic Schools Response to Secularism and Human Sexuality

Belief Statement

Catholic education is committed to the pursuit of truth and promotion of the Gospel. Central to its mission is the integral formation of students' minds, hearts and bodies in truth and holiness.

From a biblical vision of the human person God made both man and women in His image, of equal and immense dignity, existing as a unity of body and soul and destined for union with Him according to His plan.

The Church teaches that our differences as male and female are part of God's creation plan and that our bodies, including our sexual identity are gifts from God. According to church documents the human person is a body-soul union, and the body, created male or female is an integral aspect of the person and as such everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his or her God-given biological sex and the sexuality that corresponds with that gift. (CCC, 2333)

The Catholic Church and its Catholic schools today face serious challenges arising from the secularism and an increasingly secular society, including growing threats to religious freedom specifically from society's views on Human Sexuality.

"The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology. Also, valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different. In this way we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment. It is not a healthy attitude which would seek to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it." Pope Francis⁵

"Catholic education's proclamation of the full truth of humanity requires both sensitivity and courage. It requires clarity, charity and integrity. It requires loving pastoral responses and clearly articulated beliefs that are based on Church teaching and on a sound Christian anthropology." Lansing, 2021

While the Church has a duty to teach the truth about the human person (anthropology) and human sexuality, and incorporate this teaching into her policies and procedures, the Church has compassion and empathy toward all her members who suffer from confusion about their identity, including their sexual or gender identity.

It is the policy the Diocese of Colorado Springs all diocesan Catholic schools shall respect the biological sex of the human person as given by God and shall apply all policies and procedures in relation to that person according to that person's God-given biological sex and sexual identity. To this end, below are some examples of how these Guiding principles apply to organization that teach children and youth in the name of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

1. All employees, parents, students and volunteers shall conduct themselves in accord with their God-given biological sex.
2. All school policies, procedures, resources, employee training and assistance given to families are consistent with the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person, including human sexuality.
3. A student diagnosed with gender dysphoria should not be denied admission to a Catholic school as long as the student and his or her parents/guardians agree that the child will abide by the school policies relating to sexual identity.
4. Schools communicate with parents or guardian about their child's behavior at school and inform them of any concerns relating to the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health, safety, or welfare of their child, except when advised otherwise by law enforcement of a social service agency.
5. Student's name and pronouns usage will correspond to his/her sexual identity.
6. Maintain names in school records according to the student's biological sex.
7. The school will interact with students according to their biological sex as based upon physical differences at birth.
8. Expression of a student's sexual identity are prohibited when they cause disruption or confusion regarding the Church's teaching on human sexuality.
9. Students are eligible to participate on/in school athletic teams and all other school sponsored extra-curricular activities, where applicable be in accordance with biological sex.
10. Students enrolled in Catholic schools who suffer from gender dysphoria be treated with sensitivity, respect, mercy and compassion.
11. Catholic schools support and encourage counseling for those who suffer from or are diagnosed with gender dysphoria by licensed counselors or other medical professionals who hold a correct Christian anthropology of the human person and who understands and adheres to Catholic teaching.
12. While the Catholic Church does not support transgender therapies and/or surgeries that assist a person in "transitioning" his or her gender, the church recognizes that

appropriate medical care may be necessary in rare cases of true genetic or physical anomalies, such as hermaphroditism or intersex.

13. In the case of a specific request, the school shall consider in a compassionate way, on a case-by case basis, the physical and psychological needs of a student based on the following questions:

- a) What is the specific request of the student and/or parent?
- b) Is the request in keeping with the teaching of the Catholic Church?
- c) Is the school reasonably able to accommodate the request?

Non-discrimination statement:

Our school recognizes the inherent value and dignity of all members of the human family and values equal opportunity for members of all races, cultures, and ethnicities. Our school prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Our school reserves the rights and protections granted to it in the areas of admissions and employment practices by applicable laws and constitutional provisions to act in furtherance of its religious objectives.

**St. Peter Catholic School
2023-2024**

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

St. Peter Catholic School provides each family with the Parent and Student Handbook. Please read and discuss as a family. Each student and their family are responsible for understanding and complying with the policies and procedures contained in the handbook.

Please sign and date this form and return to the school office.

We have read and understand the information contained in the Parent and Student Handbook and will abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook.

Student Signature and date

2nd Student Signature (if more than one student in family) and date

3rd Student Signature and date

4th Student Signature and date

5th Student Signature and date

Parent(s) Signature and date

Print Name