

ST. JOHN'S



LUTHERAN SCHOOL

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020/21

This handbook provides policies, processes, and guidelines about *joining* our school, *learning and growing* at school, and *conducting ourselves* as St. John's Lutheran School students, parents and teachers. A signature page is included at the end to confirm understanding and agreement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
Philosophy	3
Mission	4
Vision	4
Values	4
Parent/Teacher/Student Partnership	5
Accreditation	6
II. ENROLLMENT	6
Enrollment	6
Re-Enrollment	7
Withdrawal	7
III. FINANCES	7
Registration Fee	8
Tuition	8
Tuition Assistance	9
School Supplies	9
Class Collections	9
Fines	9
IV. ACADEMICS	10
Curriculum	10
Grading Scale	11
Promotion & Retention	11
Homework, Late Work & Make-Up Work	12
Standardized Testing	12
Honor Roll	12
Field Trips	13
V. EXTRACURRICULARS	13
Athletics	13
Eagle Tech Team	13
Ski Club	13
Ineligibility	13
Parent Teacher League	14
Board of Education	14
Extended School Program	14

VI. DISCIPLINE & CONDUCT	15
Love and Logic	15
Consequences for Serious Offenses	16
Bullying - A Serious Offense	17
Weapons - A Serious Offense	17
Illegal Drugs - A Serious Offense	18
Sexual Harassment - A Serious Offense	18
Conflict Resolution	18
Technology Use	18
Dress Code	20
Lunch	21
Transportation	21
Health	22
Recess	22
Safety	23
Housekeeping	23
Lockers	24
VII. PRESENCE	25
School Hours, Arrival & Dismissal	25
Attendance	26
Tardies & Leaving Early	27
Truancy	27
Communication	27
Student Images & Names	29
Visitors	29
SIGNATURE PAGE	30

I. OVERVIEW

Philosophy

All who have been brought to faith in Jesus Christ are commissioned by Him to preserve and extend the Kingdom of God. This is done by proclaiming to all the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christian education is a vital component of every Lutheran congregation's ministry, applying Law and Gospel to all aspects of life and learning. We believe that the church can equip children and youth for ministry through full-time Lutheran schools. We purely teach God's Word, properly administer the sacraments, and carefully instruct our members according to the Confessional Standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article III).

As an important ministry of this congregation, our Lutheran school helps fulfill each of our congregation's five functions as follows:

EDUCATION in Lutheran Christian doctrine is carefully taught to all students so those who come to faith may choose to become members of a congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod at an appropriate time. Children are taught the demands of God's Law and are comforted by the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. They receive encouragement and instruction to live in service to Christ and others. To prepare for this service, they are taught how to develop and use their abilities in life. Subjects are taught by Lutheran Christians who are academically prepared to teach from the Christian viewpoint.

Using their God-given abilities, students and teachers strive for excellence in their use of current materials and methodology. Students are encouraged to become responsible stewards of their talents in a joy-filled Christian life.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

WORSHIP in a Lutheran school is not confined to the daily classroom devotion or to whole-school worship experiences but also occurs throughout the day. Children are helped to grow in their prayer lives, learning to pray privately and corporately whenever needs or opportunities arise. Students and families are encouraged to regularly attend worship services at their home congregations.

Teachers provide a Christian model by faithfully attending congregational worship and by participating in other aspects of the church. Students lead and participate in worship in their classrooms and participate in weekly chapel services. They praise God through hymns and liturgy common to us as Lutheran Christians.

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.
Psalms 29:2*

EVANGELISM is a mission of the church through its school. As students observe their teachers' confession, they learn to confess their faith. By leading a godly life, students bear testimony to each other and to their community.

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:32

FELLOWSHIP is enjoyed by all members of St. John's Lutheran Church and School. The congregation, teachers, staff, and students accept one another as fellow members of the body of Christ. They support, encourage, and witness to one another. The school is valued as an important part of the congregation.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

SERVICE is part of Lutheran school life. Teachers, staff members, and parents serve the students and others by encouraging Christ-like compassion and love, and by volunteering in the community. In turn, students are led to serve others in these ways as well.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

Mission

"Learning and Living as God's Baptized Children" The mission of St. John's Lutheran School is to nurture young people through God's word, sound Lutheran doctrine and worship, and a strong academic foundation. Our goal is to equip students to lead their lives as God's baptized children in this world wherever He puts them and also be equipped to carry out Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations." *Matthew 28:19*

Vision

The purpose of St. John's Lutheran School is to nurture young people's faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior using God's Word and Luther's Small Catechism. At the same time, students are given a strong academic foundation that prepares them for life.

Values

Sound Lutheran Doctrine – As a Lutheran School our primary job is to teach our students God's truth. We base our teachings on the LCMS doctrine, and it is carefully taught to all students so they are sure of what they believe and can defend their faith. Children are taught the demands

of God's law and are comforted by the saving Gospel of Jesus. We teach our students that: "We don't change the message, the message changes us."

Individual Attention – Our small class sizes encourage students to be participants rather than spectators. Our teachers strive to show Christ's love and forgiveness to each child. In August of every year, teachers visit with each student's family (and share information about the upcoming school year.

Loving Classroom Environment – Love & Logic® principles: (1) With Christ as our leader, we will learn and live as Christ's baptized children with the Law and Gospel as our guide. (2) Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher. (3) Students will be guided and expected to solve problems without creating additional issues. They will be given opportunities to make decisions and expected to live with the consequences.

High Level of Instruction – Using their God-given abilities, students and teachers strive for excellence as they use effective, up-to-date learning and teaching materials. Students are prepared to become responsible stewards of their talents in a joy-filled Christian life.

Friendship and Acceptance – Students and staff accept one another as fellow members of the body of Christ. They play together, support each other, encourage each other and witness to one another. Each person's uniqueness is recognized and individuals are helped to achieve their full potential. Each child knows that he or she is valued, accepted, and a respected part of the school community.

Parent/Teacher/Student Partnership



Success at St. John's Lutheran School requires a partnership between parents, teachers, and students. With God central to this relationship, we have before us a master example of love and grace.

Parents, the success of our ministry ultimately rests with you. Your active participation in the academic, social, and spiritual education of your child, and the examples and expectations you provide, impact your child's life more than anyone or anything else. Your children are God's gift to you, and you choose to share them with us each day.

Teachers are blessed by this gift of your children. Their duty is to model Christ by loving and respecting students, keeping them safe, teaching them His word, maintaining high standards for academic study and student character, and instilling a passion for learning.

Students, you are in this school to grow in God's word, develop your minds, exhibit strong character, and pursue the things in learning that excite you. Don't shy away from a challenge or experience. Make memories and friends, too! With the help of your parents and teachers, you are preparing for life beyond our building. Both your parents and teachers expect you to work to your fullest potential and treat others with respect and kindness.

Accreditation

St. John's Lutheran School is accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) organization. The accreditation process involves an in-depth self-study and yields a scheduled improvement plan. To be accredited, a school must meet high standards of excellence and maintain accredited status by working on the identified areas for improvement. Our school is committed to this ongoing improvement process.

II. ENROLLMENT

Enrollment

New families will work with the Admissions Director to enroll their child in our school by following the enrollment process. Enrollment is official and students may attend when all steps are complete.

1. Learn about St. John's Lutheran School with information in this handbook and on the school website
2. Visit
3. Apply:
 - a. Provide school records (if entering 1st-8th grade)
 - b. Meet with the administrator (if entering 5th-8th grade and as requested for PreK-4th grade).
4. Acceptance and grade placement
5. Enroll:
 - a. Complete an enrollment form
 - b. Pay the registration fee, which also includes the first month's tuition for PreK
 - c. Sign up for a tuition payment plan in TADS
 - d. Sign the Parent/Student Handbook
 - e. Provide birth certificate, immunization records, and emergency contact information

There are age requirements for the following grades:

- PreK students must be at least 3 years old before Sept. 1 and potty trained, meaning fully independent in the bathroom
- Kindergarten students must be at least 5 years old before Sept. 1
- 1st grade students must be at least 6 years old before Sept. 1

New students will be accepted only at the beginning of a school year, at the start of a new term, or when a family moves into the area. Parents who are members of St. John's Lutheran Church have the right to enroll their child at any time of the school year and do not require Board of Education approval.

The school reserves the right to place a child in an appropriate grade based on records, school documentation, and parent interviews.

The school is not fully equipped to handle students with moderate to severe special needs. Enrollment of students with special needs is dependent upon the student needs and resource teacher support available. Special needs testing is done through School District #279. If a student qualifies for an Individual Education Plan (IEP), District #279 and St. John's Lutheran School will implement the service required under this legal document. Students who qualify for special services may spend part of the school day at St. John's and be transferred to/from a District #279 school for part of the day. Students who do not qualify for special services through District #279 may still receive resource teacher support through an Individual Growth Plan (IGP) at St. John's Lutheran School.

The school admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs.

Re-Enrollment

Existing families will work with the Admissions Director to re-enroll their child in our school every year by following the re-enrollment process. Re-enrollment is official and students may attend when all steps are complete.

1. Complete a re-enrollment form
2. Pay the registration fee
3. Pay the first month's tuition (PreK only)
4. Sign up for a tuition payment plan in TADS
5. Sign the Parent/Student Handbook
6. Provide immunization records and emergency contact information (only if changes have been made)
7. Ensure no outstanding financial balances from previous school year

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from school at any time. A student may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the administrator or Board of Education if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the child.

III. FINANCES

St. John's Lutheran School is owned, operated, and maintained by St. John's Lutheran Church.

The cost of education per student is in excess of \$6000 per year. To cover that cost of education, parents pay tuition and a registration fee, and St. John's Lutheran Church members make generous financial contributions. Tuition and church contributions are recommended by the Board of Education and voted on at the St. John's Lutheran Church congregational assembly each year.

Registration Fee

A registration fee is set by the Board of Education and charged every year for every student. It is due at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment and is non-refundable. This fee is used to fund technology, curriculum supplements, field trips, and more.

Tuition

Tuition is required to be paid on a timely basis. The Board of Education has contracted with TADS Tuition Management Services to handle and administer tuition collections. All families must register with TADS, set up payment via credit card or automatic withdrawal from a checking account, and select one of the following payment plans:

- 1 payment to be made on or before Back-to-School Night mid-Aug
- 2 semi-annual payments with the first to be made on or before Back-to-School Night and the second in February
- 4 quarterly payments with the first to be made on or before Back-to-School Night, and then in November, February, and April
- 10 monthly payments with the first to be made on or before Back-to-School Night and then in September-May
- 12 monthly payments with the first to be made on or before Back-to-School Night and then in September-July (this 12 month option is not available for PreK)
- Families have the option to pay on the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, or 25th of the month when payments are due.

If a family falls behind in their tuition payments, the following steps will be taken:

1. 1 business day after a missed invoice, TADS sends an email to the family indicating the delinquency and urging payment. After a 5-day grace period, a \$35 late fee is added to the invoice and TADS calls the family.
2. Step 1 continues each month an invoice is missed, including the addition of the \$35 late fee. At this point, the family should communicate with the school's tuition coordinator if payment cannot be made current.
3. 90 days past due, the family will be considered to have a delinquent payment history. The account will be individually reviewed by the Board of Education to determine appropriate actions necessary to resolve the delinquency. Families with a delinquent payment history may not re-enroll at school unless the following payments are paid in full by Back-to-School Night:
 - a. Previous year's tuition
 - b. Current year's registration fee

St. John's Lutheran Church member children will not be denied enrollment at our school for the inability to pay tuition. However, the Board of Education expects everyone to meet their tuition obligation. If one's financial situation is such that these guidelines cannot be met on a timely basis, church members should contact a Board of Education member for a financial arrangement that will be agreeable.

Due to limits placed on class sizes and school fixed costs, voluntary or non-hardship withdrawals of students from St. John's Lutheran School are not eligible for tuition refunds or credits. Any and all tuition paid prior to a student's withdrawal is non-refundable. However, tuition refunds or credits may be granted in special or extenuating circumstances through a formal request to the Admissions & Communication Director. The Board of Education will, at its next regular scheduled board meeting, consider and act on a refund or credit request on a case-by-case basis.

Tuition Assistance

Families may apply for tuition assistance through TADS and must reapply each year. The best time to apply is Jan. through May for the next school year, and amounts will be communicated by Back-to-School Night in mid-Aug. Tuition assistance applications and amounts are kept confidential.

School Supplies

Students are responsible for his/her own materials. Each classroom list is found on the school website and contains the items needed prior to the start of school.

Class Collections

Class collection of funds shall take place only under direct authorization of the administrator or the Board of Education.

Fines

Fines will be assessed by the teachers and the administrator for damage and misuse of school property. Damage may include, but is not limited to:

- Property/Furniture
 - Damaged property such as desks, lockers, chairs, bathrooms, or other items that belong to the school will be evaluated for fee assessment.
- Textbooks
 - Students are responsible for good care of textbooks and will be charged for loss or damage in excess of usual wear. The cost of damages to textbooks or lost textbooks will be assessed based upon the value.
 - Books are to remain covered the entire year unless indicated by the teacher (consumable workbooks, etc.). Please do not use stretchable book covers as they can break book bindings.
- Library Books

- The fine for an overdue library book is 25¢ per book, per week. After one month, a replacement value of the book is charged even if the book is found. Replacement value is \$7 for paperback books, \$15 for hardcover books, and \$10 for DVDs.
- Book damage will follow textbook damage guidelines.

IV. ACADEMICS

Curriculum

Curriculum is comprised of all of the content for teaching various subjects to students. The core curriculum at St. John’s Lutheran School for PreK-8th grade includes religion and memorization, math, language arts (reading, writing, grammar, spelling, speaking), science, social studies or history, current events, physical education, art, and music.

- Handwriting is taught in K-4th grade.
- Technology is integrated into the classroom at all grade levels.
- Religion is central to bringing children closer to God in their daily living and, therefore, is integral to all subjects taught throughout the day.
- Music Opportunities
 - Choir is directed at all grade levels.
 - Recorder is taught at the 4th grade level.
 - Encore Ensembles offers weekly band and orchestra lessons to the students in 4th-8th grades. Sign-up and monthly participation fees are to be made by the parents with Encore Ensembles.
 - K-8th graders are expected to sing during church services at St. John’s Lutheran Church on three designated Sundays per school year. These dates are indicated on the school calendar.
 - Musical participation includes all students.

Curricula is reviewed by the teachers the subject so that it can be aligned vertically from grade level to grade level. Curricula is assessed in the classroom by examination of national standardized testing results and student work outcomes. Curricula can be adjusted as often as necessary within the cycle to meet current student needs.

Listed below are the current textbook publishers and sources used in our school:

Religion: *Concordia Publishing House*; Bible (ESV version); Luther’s Small Catechism

Reading: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (K-3rd grade); *Pearson* (4th-8th grade); Various novels are also used (3rd-8th grade). See teachers for complete lists.

Math: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

Social Studies: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (K-5th and 8th grade); *Prentice Hall* (6th-7th grade)

Science: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

English/Grammar: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (K-3rd grade); *McGraw-Hill* (4th-5th grade);

Pearson and *Prentice Hall* (6th-8th grade)

Spelling: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (1st-2nd grade); *Zaner-Bloser* (3rd-8th grade)

Handwriting: *D'Nealian*

Music: as selected by teachers

Art: *Arts Attack* and as selected by teachers

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used at St. John's Lutheran School:

98-100% = A+	83-85% = B-	68-70% = D
95-97% = A	80-82% = C+	65-67% = D-
92-94% = A-	77-79% = C	64% and below = F
89-91% = B+	74-76% = C-	
86-88% = B	71-73% = D+	

For K-8th grade, a traditional letter grade is not given for memorization of God's word. Students will be evaluated on their level of participation during class recitations, but the motivation for this task should simply be to love and learn God's word by heart.

For K-4th grade, traditional letter grades are not given for handwriting, PE, music, and art. Instead the following assessment measures are used:

O = Outstanding

S+ = Doing well

S = Acceptable

S- = Inconsistent

N = Needs improvement

Promotion & Retention

Pupils advance to the next grade level at the end of the school year after satisfactorily completing the course of study required in their present grade.

In cases where a student's retention (repeat of a grade level) would serve to assist the student in his/her educational experience, the parents will be informed and will have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the teacher and the administrator. Prior to this, though, the process for providing intervention for a student who is failing is outlined as follows:

- At the end of Term 1, the teacher and administrator will note any failing report card grades. If a student has a GPA lower than 2.0 or more than 2 Fs, parents and the student will be required to meet with the teacher to create a plan. With the help of the resource teacher, an IGP may be adjusted or initiated if modifications are determined necessary.
- If the status of grades has not improved prior to midterm reports for Term 2, the student will be put on "academic probation" which means that he/she is now at risk for retention.
- If the status of grades has not improved prior to the end of Term 2, the discussion about retention will take place at the spring parent/teacher conference.

- The decision for retention is made by the administrator in consultation with the classroom teacher and resource teacher. Testing may be required per an IEP.

Homework, Late Work & Make-Up Work

Homework can reinforce concepts presented in the classroom through review, practice, or enrichment and extension activities. Teachers may assign homework for these purposes. In addition, homework offers a way for parents to stay informed about the subject matter students are learning and to actively participate in student's academic growth. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with teachers' homework procedures and policies.

There is continual discussion about appropriate amounts of homework. The actual amount of homework that is finished during the school day will likely vary from student to student. Homework levels vary for students based on many factors: general aptitude per subject, student work habits, study environment at home, after-school activities, etc. If your student spends a seemingly inordinate time on homework or conversely, never seems to bring anything home, schedule a personal appointment with your child's teacher to discuss this issue. A suggested guideline is 10-15 minutes of homework per grade level (e.g., Kindergarten 10-15 minutes, 1st grade 15-20 minutes, 3rd grade 30-45 minutes).

Teachers should make every effort to offer work time to students immediately following a lesson. Teachers should contact parents if work time is habitually unused or homework completion becomes a problem - preferably within the same week of making such an observation.

Late work is defined as work turned in after the due date or following an *unexcused* absence. Late work policies vary per class and will be communicated by the teacher. In general, grades are lowered for late work. If work is missing or late, a student may be asked to give up time in their daily schedule or after school to complete it, and scores will be lowered accordingly. Missing work often results in scores that are detrimental to student success.

Make-up work is defined as work turned in after an *excused* absence. The standard school policy for make-up work is as follows: For each *excused* absence due to illness, students have two days to complete work. For each *excused* day of absence due to any other reason, students have just one day to complete make-up work.

Standardized Testing

Students are tested annually using the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress). Students in 2nd-8th grade are tested in the fall and spring in the areas of Reading, Language, and Math. Results are shared with parents after each testing period, generally accompanying report cards.

Honor Roll

Honor roll is applicable to students in 4th-8th grades for each term. Students achieve honor roll status with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Students achieve merit roll status with a GPA between 3.0-3.49. Any subject for which a student receives a letter grade is part of the calculation.

Field Trips

During each academic year, classes take field trips as part of their educational experience. A field trip is defined as any school related and school sponsored activity conducted away from the school grounds.

Field trips are a privilege rather than a right. The administrator and teachers have the right to exclude a student from a field trip for academic or behavioral reasons. School expectations for behavior still apply on field trips.

Parental permission must be given for student attendance on a field trip. Students without a written permission slip signed by a parent/guardian will be required to stay at school. Permission given via phone is not acceptable.

Students are required to wear a red St. John's T-shirt on all field trips.

V. EXTRACURRICULARS

Athletics

Athletic teams are offered for students in 3rd-8th grade. See the Athletic Handbook on the school website for all information and policies. Participation fees apply to offset the cost for officials, uniforms, and tournament entry fees.

Eagle Tech Team

A robotics club is offered for students in 4-8th grade. Parent volunteers coordinate the team including communicating, scheduling, teaching, and chaperoning. The club may include both a learning league and competition league, depending on student participation and parent volunteer support. The club generally meets from Sept. through Dec. depending on competition dates and advancement. Participation fees apply for the competition league.

Ski Club

A downhill ski club is offered for students in 5-8th grade. Parent volunteers coordinate the club including communicating, scheduling, and chaperoning 4 Friday ski trips in Jan. through Mar. Participation fees apply.

Ineligibility

A student becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities (athletics, Eagle Tech Team, and Ski Club) if his or her grade point average (GPA) falls below a 2.0 or has two or more Fs. An ineligible student will not be able to participate in practices or games/competitions for a minimum of 2 weeks and until his or her GPA improves to 2.0 or higher. The Athletic Director will use Gradelink to check GPA status on Fridays and will notify the student's classroom teacher(s) before sending email notification to the parents. In the event where modifications are being made for a student, exceptions may be considered.

Parent Teacher League

Parent Teacher League (PTL) is made up of all school parents and teachers to support the mission of the school. The goal is to improve the experience for our students, teachers, and parents by raising funds, purchasing items, planning family & student activities, and supporting faculty and staff. The PTL Executive Board and Advisory Committee are elected each year and meet monthly to plan and evaluate activities. Everyone is urged to take an active part in PTL by attending the meetings and/or volunteering for tasks as requested.

Board of Education

The Board of Education (BOE) is made up of St. John's Lutheran Church Members and school parents, with the administrator and admissions & communication director as ex-officio members. The group is responsible for the operation and administration of the school. BOE meetings are typically held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm and include the opportunity for public comments at the start of the meeting.

Extended School Program

The school offers an Extended School Program (ESP) for families who need care beyond the normal school hours. The program provides a safe environment for children to socialize and play, eat a snack provided by ESP within the first hour of the program, and do homework. The program is available for St. John's Lutheran School students in PreK-8th grade and operates on regularly scheduled school days from 2:20pm to 5:30pm, contingent on the number of students enrolled and the availability of workers. ESP may be offered on non-school days as approved and announced by the ESP Director. In the event of school closing early due to weather or another emergency, ESP will not be open.

ESP has contracted with DayCare Works online portal to administer schedules, billing, and payments:

- Parents must submit their ESP schedule online by 5:30pm Thursday for the following week. If calendars are not submitted by the deadline, a \$10 drop-in fee per child will be charged for that week. Parents are encouraged to fill out their calendar monthly if the child attends regularly. Changes may be made prior to the Thursday deadline

without penalties. If the ESP Director is not notified of changes, families will be charged a minimum of one hour per day scheduled.

- If a child is sick from school but on the ESP schedule, families will not be charged that day.
- Emergencies and last minute changes do occur, so if families need ESP and have not submitted a calendar, ESP will do their best to accommodate the need. A \$10 drop-in fee in addition to the hourly fees will be charged.
- All students at school after 2:45pm will be admitted to ESP, even if not on the ESP schedule. A \$10 drop-in fee (per family) in addition to the hourly fees will be charged.
- The fee is \$5 per hour for the first child and \$2 additional for each child thereafter. Billing is by the half hour based on the time actually used, with a minimum of one hour each day. Invoices go out monthly during the first week of the month and families are expected to pay within 30 days.
- Students will be checked into the online portal when they arrive after school each day. For pick up, parents must enter the building and sign their child out of the program. Children will only be released to persons who are listed in the parent portal as authorized. Persons on file, but not known to staff, will be asked to show identification.
- Late pick-up fees will be charged. Families will be charged \$1 for every minute per child beginning at 5:31 pm. Parents will automatically be billed on their monthly statement. Parents should call the ESP room at 763-420-2426, ext. 37 to notify staff of any extenuating circumstances.

VI. DISCIPLINE & CONDUCT

Love and Logic

St. John's Lutheran School has developed the following as their Core Principles for Love and Logic®:

1. With Christ as our leader, we will learn and live as Christ's baptized children with the Law and Gospel as our guide.
2. Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher.
3. Students will be guided and expected to solve problems without creating additional issues. They will be given opportunities to make decisions and expected to live with the consequences.

Guidelines and Code of Ethics for Discipline:

Rules in the classroom are few. We believe that all students are different, and all actions and reactions are very personal in nature. Effective discipline involves a few overriding tenets rather than a long list of specific rules. Situations are dealt with as they arise, with a focus on enabling the student to grow and learn from his or her own actions. This is how the real world works.

Guidelines for Student Behavior:

A student may engage in any behavior which does not create a problem for anyone else. If a student finds him/herself in a problematic situation, the school will adhere to the guidelines above, operating with the following principles as our guide:

- We will react without anger or haste in problematic situations. We tell the students, however, that we will do something.
- We will proceed in all situations with the best interest of the person in mind. Social, emotional, and academic well-being will be fostered.
- We will guide students toward personal responsibility and the decision-making skills they will need to function in the real world.
- We will provide consequences that are not punitive but that allow the student to experience the results of poor choices, enabling him/her to make better choices in the future. We firmly believe that mistakes and consequences pave the road to learning.
- We will deliver consequences for problem situations in such a way that the person will not be humiliated or demeaned. This does not imply that all consequences are private.
- Equal is not always fair. Consequences will be designed to fit the problem of individual student(s) and may be different even when situations appear to be similar.
- We will make every effort to ensure that students understand why they are involved or affected by the consequences. If this is ever unclear in any way, students are free to ask.
- If we act or react in a way that a child truly feels is unjust, that person need only say to us, "I'm not sure that's fair." We will arrange a private conference during which the student can express to us why he/she feels our actions were not fair. This may or may not change our course of action. We are always open to calm, rational discussion of any matter.

Adapted from Jim Fay and Dr. Charles Fay, Ph.D. All

Consequences for Serious Offenses

We must emphasize that there are certain behaviors for which clear and immediate consequences must exist. The consequences for any of the behaviors listed below (bullying, possession of weapons or illegal drugs, and sexual harassment) are immediate and non-negotiable. While we understand that intent can be difficult to decipher, any behavior that puts a person's safety at risk must be taken seriously.

- 1st offense: In-School Suspension
 - The student will spend one entire school day under the supervision of the administrator or communications director.
 - While suspended, a student may not participate in any extracurricular activities until they have returned to school for one day. This means that if a student is suspended from attending school on Friday or sent home from school on a Friday due to a suspension the following Monday, he/she cannot

participate in any of the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday games of a tournament or other extra-curricular activities.

- All homework and quizzes that would have been turned in or taken that day will be recorded as zeros. (The administrator will determine whether tests or classroom presentations will be allowed to be made up.)
- 2nd offense: Out-of-School Suspension
 - The student will remain home for two days and will not be permitted on school grounds for the duration of the assigned suspension.
 - The same in-school suspension rules listed above will apply.
- 3rd offense: Expulsion
 - The student will be expelled from school permanently.
 - Tuition will not be refunded in the instance of expulsion.

The administrator reserves the right to skip any of these steps if the situation is deemed to be severe enough in nature.

Additionally, there may be other instances where a student may be expelled from St. John's Lutheran School or parents asked to withdraw their student from the school. In cases of expulsion, the BOE will review the facts of the situation with the administrator, and reach a decision focused on preserving the best interests of the greater learning environment.

Bullying - A Serious Offense

Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time. An individual who is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself.

Bullying can take many forms:

- Physical bullying (such as hitting or punching)
- Verbal bullying (such as teasing or name calling)
- Nonverbal bullying or emotional bullying (such as intimidation using gestures or social exclusion)
- Cyber-bullying or bullying through note writing (such as sending insulting messages via email or sending insulting notes to others in the classroom)

At St. John's Lutheran School, there will be no tolerance for bullying behavior. Teachers and staff members will actively and consistently teach and model positive behavior(s), and immediately address any aggressive or harassing behavior(s). These behaviors will be immediately reported to the administrator.

Teachers and staff members demonstrating bullying behaviors will be subject to a conference and review with the administrator. An action plan will be created to address needed behavior changes. Follow-up review(s) will take place at intervals determined by the administrator and the Board of Education. Severe instances of staff bullying behavior may result in immediate dismissal.

Weapons - A Serious Offense

Weapons are not permitted on or near school grounds. "Weapons" include any object, material or substance, which in the manner it is used, designed to be used, or intended to be used, can produce death or serious bodily injury. This also includes any object which is generally used for non-violent or non-dangerous purposes, but which can be considered a weapon under this policy as a result of its use or intended use. A rendering, replica or facsimile of a weapon or violent instance is also considered under this policy.

Examples of objects that can be considered a weapon are:

- Firearms, rocks, ball bats, cigarette lighters, knives, bottles, ropes, brass knuckles, sling shots, cans, water pistols, chains, and cap guns

Illegal Drugs - A Serious Offense

The possession or use of illegal drugs or substances on school grounds is not permitted.

Sexual Harassment - A Serious Offense

Harassment of any nature is a serious offense and will not be tolerated at St. John's Lutheran School. Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- slurs, jokes, repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications, unwelcome touching, pressure, threats or ridicule

Anyone who believes that they have been or are being sexually harassed will inform the harasser that the behavior must stop immediately and, if continued, will be reported to school authorities. Information should be shared with a church or school staff member regarding incidents of possible sexual harassment.

Conflict Resolution

Whenever a parent or student has a question or concern, the following procedure based on Matthew 18 should be followed:

1. Contact the teacher first if the problem pertains to the classroom or students. For a question or conflict with another school family member, contact those involved directly before involving school authorities.
2. If the problem is not resolved, involve the administrator.
3. If the problem continues to exist, request a meeting with the Board of Education chairperson and administrator. This meeting should provide proper closure, with the hope that it can be one that is God-honoring. The Board of Education serves as the policy maker and has charged the administrator and the teachers with the responsibility to see that policies are carried out.

If this Christian procedure is followed, problems can be resolved before the situation becomes a matter of gossip and a sin against the 8th commandment.

Technology Use

Technology will be used in the classroom and students will have access to the Internet to enhance their education. With the ability to use technology comes responsibility. The school and students are expected to treat the use of technology devices ethically and responsibly. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any misuse will result in loss of privileges, disciplinary action or possible legal action.

St. John's Lutheran School:

- Maintains a content filter to help prevent access to inappropriate information and controversial material. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all of the information available. The school believes the benefits of the information and interaction the Internet provides students, in association with adult supervision, outweigh the possibility that users may encounter something not consistent with appropriate educational material.
- Provides careful direction and supervision of students, appropriate to their age.
- Enforces rules for acceptable use of technology.

Students must follow these rules for acceptable use of technology at St. John's Lutheran School:

- Treat all technology equipment with care.
- Use the Internet or other network services for education purposes with the school's policies, objectives, and Christian principles. Using the network to access illegal, obscene, or pornographic material is not allowed.
- Ask for teacher permission to use the Internet or other electronic devices, including cell phones.
- Sound should be muted unless the teacher grants permission for use of sound associated with the instructional activities. A teacher may permit the use of earbuds or other types of headphones.
- Voice, video, and image capture applications may only be used with teacher or administrator permission.
- Do not use or access personal (home) email account or social media during school hours on school computers or personal devices.
- Be a good digital citizen and represent our school well: That includes, but is not limited to:
 - Never send or encourage others to send abusive or threatening messages.
 - Never swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
 - Do not send anonymous messages or represent a message to have been written by another -- all correspondence must be clearly identifiable as to its originator.
 - Do not reveal your name, home address, phone number, names or addresses of others, or any other personal information online.
 - Observe copyright laws:
 - If you copy material, you must give credit to the author or source.

- No software may be reproduced nor can illegal copies of software be used at school.
 - Keep passwords private and respect other people's passwords and accounts.
 - Refrain from opening, deleting, moving or modifying other people's files without permission.
- The school can and may review content and messages that are sent through our network system.

5th-8th grade students are allowed to bring their own device to use in the classrooms. The recommended device is a Chromebook. The device should be in good working condition and easy to use and connect to the school's wireless network. Devices will be used to access the student's Google accounts, work on cloud-based assignments, and access the Internet. The following rules apply for their own devices:

- All rules for acceptable use of technology as noted above.
- The privately owned electronic device owner is the only person allowed to use the device.
- Devices are to be used only at teacher approved times during school hours. Devices are not to be used before or after school unless under classroom supervision.
- Internet access through the school's wireless network only, and not cellular or other connections.
- Devices are brought to school at the students' and parents' own risk. In the event that a privately owned device is lost, stolen or damaged, our school is not responsible for any financial or data loss.
- School personnel are not expected to repair, correct, troubleshoot, or be responsible for malfunctioning personal hardware or software.
- The school reserves the right to examine the privately owned electronic device and search its contents if there is reason to believe that school policies or local, state and/or federal laws have been violated.
- Teachers and/or the administrator reserves the right to withhold the device if a student is misusing it.

Dress Code

At St. John's Lutheran School, the dress of the students shall reflect the modest and good taste becoming a Christian person.

The following dress code applies both in school and at all school functions:

- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be mid-length or longer.
- Shorts can be worn from Apr. 15th to Oct. 15th.
- 5th-8th grade: Leggings or spandex shorts are not acceptable classroom dress unless worn under appropriate clothing, such as mid-length shirts, skirts, dresses or shorts.
- It is inappropriate to wear clothing advertising alcohol, cigarettes or gambling, or clothing that depicts sexual innuendos, bands/music groups, offensive language, put-downs, or inappropriate pictures (including demonic symbols or violence, skulls, crossbones, or skeletons, etc.)

- Clothing that at any time exposes undergarments, the midriff, or back is not acceptable.
- No spandex, tube tops, form-fitting tops, spaghetti straps, or low necklines are allowed.
- Clothing should not have holes in them nor be cut off with frayed ends.
- Boots and warm outerwear are to be worn when weather dictates, so that students may participate in outside classes and activities.
- Footwear must have a back strap and be worn with socks. Students must have one pair of footwear for indoors and one for outdoors.
- Tennis shoes are required for PE. Slip-on shoes are not acceptable for PE activities. Non-marking shoes are needed for indoor use.
- Hats, hoods, and bandanas may not be worn inside the building.
- Pajamas are not proper school attire.
- No unnatural hair color will be permitted.

The first violation of the dress code will result in a warning. Subsequent violations will result in a consequence as determined by the teacher or administrator.

Lunch

St. John's Lutheran School hot lunch program provides a nutritious and well-balanced lunch for students every day. Meals are prepared on-site on a daily basis. When a family's hot lunch account is low, they will be notified via email or written note. Families make lunch payments online, by check, or with cash in a labeled envelope. If a family has a negative lunch account, the child will not be allowed any seconds/extras. Non-students who wish to eat a hot lunch should contact the school by 8:30am on the day that lunch is desired.

Students may choose to bring a cold lunch to school. Refrigeration and microwaves are not available, and soda is not allowed. Milk may be purchased with cold lunch.

Transportation

St. John's Lutheran School owns and maintains a school bus. This bus is available for student transportation to and/or from school based on route availability established at the beginning of each school year. Participation fees apply.

Students living in District #279 have the option to ride District #279 buses to and/or from St. John's Lutheran School. Bus routes and procedures are established by District #279 and communicated in Aug. or Sept. each year.

Students living outside of District #279 may receive a bus reimbursement from their school district following each school year. Reimbursement amounts and policies vary by district.

Students ride the St. John's Lutheran School bus for field trips unless otherwise indicated on the field trip permission form.

All students participate in bus safety and bus rules training in the fall of each year. Bus transportation is a privilege, not a right. Students will be suspended from riding the bus, temporarily or permanently for causing a problem. Students must obey the following school bus rules:

- Listen, obey, and show proper respect to the driver at all times.
- Be at the bus stop on time.
- Wait for the bus off the roadway.
- Cross the road ten feet in front of the bus.
- Keep head and hands inside the bus.
- Keep hands and objects to yourself.
- Stay in one seat.
- Use normal conversational voice or quieter.
- Help to keep the bus clean.
- Do not eat food or drink on the bus.
- Refrain from bringing skateboards, bats, and toys onto the bus.

Health

The school nurse assists students and families with health at school.

Immunization records and emergency contact information are required for enrollment, as previously stated in this handbook.

A medication form is required for all prescription medication and over-the-counter medication to be administered at school. This form may be obtained from the school nurse and includes both a physician's written order and parent signature. All medications must be in the original pharmacy-labeled container. Whenever possible, medication should be given at home to avoid interruptions in the school day. Students may bring their own cough drops with a note from home authorizing their use at school.

Emergency stock epinephrine auto-injectors are available during the school day in a secure box in the kitchen and in the nurse's office. Each location is stocked with an EpiPen auto-injector pack which includes a junior dose for those between 33 to 66 pounds and a regular dose for those over 66 pounds. The EpiPens will be available for individuals with unidentified allergies and experience an unexpected anaphylactic reaction during the school day. These are not intended for students who have identified server allergies and a health plan requiring them to have an EpiPen available at all times, but may be used for anyone experiencing a severe anaphylactic reaction.

In the case of illness, children should be kept at home or sent home from school with a temperature over 100 degrees, vomiting, or diarrhea. Parents are expected to pick up a sick child from school within 1 hour of notification. The student is to be symptom-free without the aid of medication for a period of 24 hours before returning to school.

For illnesses and diseases, the school will follow the guidelines prepared by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department:

<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/health-medical/infectious-diseases/Specific-Exclusion-School.pdf?la=en&hash=AE35CAA5244634CEE380FE49C5F4473D7104079E>

All students will be expected to participate in recess and PE unless they have a written excuse from a parent or doctor.

Teachers and staff members are mandated reporters, which means they are legally obligated to report any signs or conversations of abuse or neglect of a child to the appropriate authorities immediately.

Recess

Students must obey the following recess rules:

- Stay inside the playground boundaries. The boundaries are defined as the fence line by pond and creek, tree line by the neighbor's camper, road leading into the cemetery, and inside PreK playground.
- Play only approved activities on the blacktop area. The activities can include 4 square, jump ropes, basketball hoops, and bouncing balls. There can be no kicking or throwing balls in this area.
- No running in front, behind or underneath other students who are swinging.
- Go down the slides only - do not walk or climb up the slide.
- Keep rocks, sticks, etc on the ground, but creative (non-weapon) play with these items is allowed.
- Keep off the baseball field during the wet season or during spring thaw.
- Play on the PreK playground is limited to PreK students only. Other grades may use the PreK playground at other times outside of recess.

Safety

Students will participate in fire, severe weather, and intruder drills throughout the school year.

Housekeeping

We will work together to keep our church and school clean and presentable, and to increase the lifespan of the facility.

- Shoes, Jackets, Backpacks & Lunch Containers
 - Shoes, jackets, backpacks, and lunch containers should be stored neatly in each class' designated area. Students will use the hooks, bins, cubes, carpeted mats, and lockers provided.
 - Shoes should be kept clean.
- Eating & Drinking

- No colored drinks are allowed in the building, except in or near the fellowship hall and gym.
- Eating is not allowed in the classrooms except during designated snack time and special occasions such as birthdays, holidays, and class parties.
- Common Sense
 - If you drop it, pick it up
 - If you see trash on the floor, pick it up and dispose of it appropriately
 - If you spill it, wipe it up or notify someone
 - Keep your classrooms, hallways, walls, ceilings, and bathrooms clean
 - If you see vandalism, report it
- Lost & Found
 - A lost and found box will be available for parents and students to check regularly. Items will periodically be cleared out and given to charity.

Lockers

The provision of a hallway locker is a privilege rather than a right. Lockers are the property of St. John's Lutheran School and are provided as a service to 5th-8th grade students. The school accepts no responsibility for the contents of any locker or lost/stolen items. The school reserves the right to search the locker, desk, person, and personal belongings of a student when it is believed to be necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of him/her or another student. A locker is assigned to each student at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment. Lockers are only available for use by enrolled students when school is in session. Each student is expected to abide by the following rules and guidelines:

- Use only the locker assigned to you.
- Do not tamper with lockers or locks.
- Keep your locker locked at all times, Always close the door, turn the combination dial, and test the door to be sure it is locked.
- Memorize your locker combination. Do not share locker combinations with anyone.
- Storage or possession of items prohibited at school such as alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, flammable liquids, weapons, explosives, and any other potentially dangerous substance or item is strictly forbidden in lockers.
- You are responsible for the care and appearance of your locker. Lockers should be kept clean and neat, both inside and outside. You may occasionally be asked to clean out your locker.
- Do not use any adhesives to attach anything to a locker surface.
- Do not keep food in your locker outside of school hours, including weekends and holiday breaks.
- Backpacks and cell phones should remain in your locker during the school day. It is advisable that you keep valuables such as money, electronic devices, etc. in your locker when not in use.
- Report locker issues to your homeroom teacher.

- All items must be removed from your locker at the end of each school year. Homeroom teachers will inspect lockers and dispose of anything left inside.

VII. PRESENCE

School Hours, Arrival & Dismissal

The Kindergarten-8th grade school day begins at 7:45am and ends at 2:20pm.

The PreK school day begins at 8:00am and ends at 2:20pm.

For arrival:

- School doors open at 7:00am. Students arriving between 7:00-7:30am will be supervised and must wait in the entrance area until they are excused by the morning bell to go to their classroom. Classroom doors open at 7:30am.
- All K-8th grade students are encouraged to arrive between 7:20-7:35am to allow time to get settled and prepare for their day.
- Students are to enter the building through the main entrance on the north side of the building (door #1). All other entrances will be locked.
 - Bus drivers dropping off children will do so at the curb in front of the building.
 - Parents dropping off children should drive to the west side of the parking lot (toward the cemetery) and pull their car up to the curb in front of the building. Pull all the way forward to allow more cars to stop along the curb. Students should quickly exit the car and come inside school. Students should not get out of the car until parked at the curb.
 - Parents parking in the lot *must escort their children* into the building using the crosswalk.
 - Parents who wish to have their children walk or bike to school must consult with the administrator first to determine a safe plan. Students must obey all traffic rules. Bikes are not to be ridden until the school day ends unless specific permission has been given by the teacher. If students need to cross County Road 101, they must walk their bikes across the road with supervision of an adult. The use of skateboards, scooters, heelys, or roller blades is prohibited.
 - Students are to report directly to their classroom or as directed by the teacher.
 - All cell phone use during this arrival process is prohibited.
- Once on school premises, students may not leave unless given special permission by a teacher.

For dismissal:

- Students must leave school by 2:45pm, unless participating in ESP or an extracurricular activity that starts by 2:45pm. Students not picked up by 2:45pm will be admitted to ESP as previously stated in this handbook.
- Students are to exit the building through the main entrance on the north side of the building (door #1).
 - Bus drivers will pick up children at the curb in front of the building and exit the parking lot before parents.
 - Parents picking up children in carline should line up in the back of the parking lot until a school official waves the first car forward to the curb in front of the building. Pull all the way forward to allow more cars to stop along the curb. Students should quickly enter the car and parents drive away from the curb, then pull out of the way in the parking lot to help with seat belts as needed.
 - Parents parking in the lots *must escort their children* from the building to the car using the crosswalk.
 - Parents who wish to have their children walk or bike home from school must consult with the administrator first to determine a safe plan. The use of skateboards, scooters, heelys, or roller blades is prohibited.
 - All cell phone use during this dismissal process is prohibited.

Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for overall student success and is expected every scheduled school day. Attendance does affect a student's academic achievement. Students who attend school regularly perform better in class.

Absences will be considered *excused* or *unexcused* and will be tracked in Gradelink.

If a student shows signs of illness, he/she should be kept at home per school guidelines. An absence in the case of illness is considered excused as long as the school secretary is contacted no later than 8:00am. Please do not rely on an email to your child's teacher to communicate an absence.

Parents are encouraged to align extended vacations with vacation days already offered during school breaks. If your child must be absent for any reason other than illness or family emergency, please inform the school secretary at least two weeks prior to the absence, and email a written request for excused absences on the date(s) in question to the administrator. Once travel or an extenuating event is *excused* by the administrator, the following protocol must be followed:

- At least two weeks prior to leaving, the parent and student should contact each teacher to determine what work needs to be completed and when.
 - Teachers may require that some work is completed prior to leaving.
 - The work that teachers determine may be finished upon a student's return must be completed according to make-up work guidelines.

Reminder: If extended travel is *not excused* by the administrator, no additional time is given to make up work and late work penalties will apply.

Please try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments during days or times when school is not in session. If a student misses 2 hours or more in any given day of school, he/she will be marked absent for half of the day. Advance notice for appointments is required in order for it to be an *excused* absence. The school secretary must be notified at least one day prior to the appointment, or the absence will not be counted as *excused*.

Tardies & Leaving Early

To encourage responsibility and to provide a successful start to the day for your child, tardiness should be avoided. K-8th grade students who are not in the classroom by 7:45am will receive a tardy. Tardy students need to check in with the secretary before going to the classroom.

When there is substantial inclement weather that affects the roads for all drivers in the morning, tardies within a reasonable amount of time will be *excused*. All other tardies will be considered *unexcused*, including those caused by traffic, road construction, poor planning, etc. Calling the school ahead of time does not excuse a tardy.

When a student accumulates 5 tardies, the teacher and the administrator will contact the parent(s) with an expected meeting time to discuss a plan of action outlining future consequences. This may be individualized according to the situation.

Leaving early for any reason outside of a previously arranged appointment per school policy is not allowed. Infractions will be handled in the same manner as tardies.

Truancy

A child is considered truant when he/she accumulates more than 5 *unexcused* absences. The school has the right to enforce truancy laws and may seek intervention from local authorities. Truant students may be subject to grade level failure.

Communication

Open, on-going communication is critical for student success at St. John's Lutheran School. Parent email and phone numbers are collected on or before Back-to-School Night mid-Aug. and must be kept up-to-date at all times.

- Gradelink
 - Gradelink is a fully integrated online system used at St. John's Lutheran School to record student information and documentation, grades, attendance, and report cards. Parents and students will be given a security code to access Gradelink as a means of communication from teachers. Parents are encouraged to set up their account to receive email alerts about current student progress.
- Report Cards

- Midterm reports and report cards are each issued 3 times per year for K-8th grade.
- Student Records
 - Your child’s records are carefully maintained as your child attends St. John's Lutheran School. Scholastic records are forwarded upon transfer to the new school in compliance with the law. St. John's Lutheran School will retain the originals of the basic information and only copies will be mailed to the transferred school. Parents may not hand deliver their child's records to the next school.
 - Test results are included in the child’s record file. These test results are used by the staff for curriculum planning and for pupil guidance. Diagnostic tests are given when necessary and advisable. An accurate record of test results is kept to show the progress of the child.
 - No individual or agency outside our school will be permitted to inspect your child's school records without your written permission. Should you wish to examine your child's record file, you may arrange to do so by making an appointment with the administrator. Any challenge of the accuracy, relevance, or propriety of an entry in the school pupil records, exclusive of academic grades (unless the grade is not accurately recorded), can be made through the administrator. Parents also have the right to insert a reasonable statement setting forth their position on any disputed information contained in the record.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - These mandatory meetings are a great opportunity to talk about each student’s achievements and opportunities for improvement.
 - K-8th grade will have a conference in Oct. and again in Mar.
 - PreK will have a conference in Jan.
- In-Person Meetings
 - “Tell the Teacher More Days” are scheduled in Aug. to initiate positive parent/teacher communication about each student.
 - Occasionally during the school year, in-person meetings will need to be scheduled to address concerns or bring new ideas. Parents, teachers, or staff members may schedule these meetings at agreed-upon times.
- Email & Phone

Most communication will take place via email, and occasionally via phone.

 - Teachers and staff commit to responding to parent emails and phone calls within 48 hours, and request that same courtesy from parents.
 - When teachers email parents, they may include the administrator in the “cc” line of the email message.
 - All-school emails will be sent sparingly to help filter key communication.
 - Text messaging between parents and teachers/staff for school purposes is discouraged to help maintain professionalism. We encourage email as the primary form of written communication.
 - Students must ask teacher permission to use phones (cell phones or school phones) during school hours, this includes field trips, concerts, and other

events. Improper use of cell phones and other electronic devices will be confiscated and returned to parents only. The secretaries are available to forward messages to students from 7:30am-3:00pm.

- Classroom Blogs & Newsletters
 - Each teacher maintains a classroom blog which may be found under Classes on the school website.
 - PreK-4th grade teachers also send home a printed daily or weekly classroom newsletter.
- All-School Newsletter
 - Every Thursday, the school publishes “The Eagle Connection” all-school newsletter. The newsletter will be sent to parents via email, posted on Facebook, and the school website.
- Social Media
 - Follow our Facebook accounts www.facebook.com/STJLeagles (public page) and www.facebook.com/groups/STJLpeople (closed group for church members and school families)
 - Follow our Instagram account www.instagram.com/STJLeagles.
- Website
 - The school website is maintained at www.stjlutheranschool.org.
- Weather & Other Emergencies
 - In case of bad weather, refer to local TV stations, email, school website, and school social media. When District #279 schools close, St. John’s Lutheran School will also close.
 - In case of an all-school emergency, refer to your email as that is the fastest way for the school to communicate to all parents. Parents may also contact Corcoran Police as they will be the school’s first contact in the event of an all-school emergency.
 - Individual health or other individual emergencies will be communicated via phone.
- Yearbook
 - A yearbook is created and distributed each year and includes individual and group pictures of each student from PreK-8th grade.

Student Images & Names

A permission form must be completed by families each year on or before Back-to-School Night mid-Aug. granting permission or denial to use student images and names for marketing purposes.

Visitors

Visitors are required to sign in at the school office when first entering the building, wear a name badge while on school property, and check out upon leaving.



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

SIGNATURE PAGE

This signature page must be signed and returned to school before a student may begin attending school at St. John's Lutheran School each year. This is a required step in the enrollment and re-enrollment process. If there are questions or concerns, please contact the administrator.

Parents: Please read the following statements carefully and sign below to indicate your agreement. (At least one parent signature is required.)

I hereby affirm that I have read the 2020/21 Parent/Student Handbook and discussed its policies with my child. I certify that I consent to, and will submit to, all governing policies of the school, including all applicable policies in the Parent/Student Handbook.

I understand that the services of the school are engaged by mutual consent, and that either the school or I reserve the right to terminate any or all services at any time. I understand that this Handbook does not contractually bind the school, and is subject to change without notice by decision of the Board of Education. Admission to the school is a privilege, not a right, and admission for one school year does not guarantee automatic admission for future school years.

Print _____ Sign _____ Date _____

Print _____ Sign _____ Date _____

PreK-8th Grade Students: Please read the following statements carefully and sign below to indicate your agreement. (Parents may sign on behalf of students in PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade.)

I hereby affirm that I have read the 2020/21 Parent/Student Handbook. I certify that I consent to, and will submit to, all governing policies of the school, including all applicable policies in the Parent/Student Handbook.

I understand this Handbook does not contractually bind the school, and is subject to change without notice by decision of the Board of Education.

I understand that admission to the school is a privilege, not a right, and that any behavior which is not consistent with the school's standards could result in the loss of that privilege.

Print _____ Sign _____ Date _____

To Consider: