

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School
“A Classical Education in the Catholic Tradition”

Student and Parent Handbook

2024 - 2025

The provisions and information set forth in this handbook are intended to be for informational purposes, site-based policies, and administrative regulations. This handbook is not considered as a substitute for state/federal law or Diocesan policy. Federal law, state law, and Diocesan policy shall prevail in the event of any conflict between them and the provision of this document. St. Patrick Catholic Classical School reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete, or modify any provisions in this handbook at any time.

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or serviceable disability in providing employment, academic services, activities, and programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following persons have been designated to coordinate compliance with these requirements.

Reverend Denzil Vithanage
Pastor
St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Charlotte Adams
Head Mistress
St. Patrick Catholic Classical School

School Information

Student Drop Off begins at 7:15 AM at St. Patrick Church

School Day begins at 8:00 AM

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM (PK3-Kindergarten)

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM (1st –8th Grade)

After School Care

PK – 8th Grades until 5:30 PM

School Masses

Monday – Thursday 7:30 AM

Friday 8:00 AM

Contact Information

School Office (936) 634-6719

Rev. Denzil Vithanage, Pastor

Charlotte Adams, Principal

Perla Flores, Secretary

School Website www.stpatricklufkin.com

Church Office (936) 634-6833

STATEMENTS

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

--To provide for the continued formation of the Christian person in a unique environment in which students, teachers, and parents experience the presence and divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. The environment stimulates and promotes a community of believers and learners in the spirit of Jesus Christ as experienced in the Catholic Church and lived out as active citizens in today's society.

--To provide opportunities for our students and staff to employ the intercession of our patroness Mary, the Mother of God – in their daily educational activities.

--To employ qualified teachers and administrators personally committed to their faith and dedicated to sharing and passing on this faith. As enthusiastic advocates of their profession, they impart in their students the love of learning.

--To provide resources, which stimulate individual growth and integrity consistent with Christian ideals.

--To provide facilities for St. Patrick Catholic Classical School, which are supported by St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Catholic Diocese of Tyler.

As a result, students and teachers are drawn to live the Gospel message, unite in worship, respond to the needs of the community with fellowship and social justice, and serve others through the sharing of their spiritual gifts and temporal goods for the betterment of all.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School exists to provide a Christ-centered academic environment designed to promote the total development of the child by serving the mission of the Roman Catholic Church through the educational process. This is accomplished by joining in community as a ministry of St. Patrick parish to educate in the formation of faith and family; to provide a quality academic foundation; to unite in a nurturing and loving Catholic community through worship, through academic formation, through service, and through recognition of the value and dignity of each individual.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of St. Patrick Catholic Classical School is to teach as Jesus taught. SPCCS strives for the development of the whole child through participation in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church and superior academic preparation through a challenging Classical curriculum. This will promote students to live the Gospel message and to meet their full potential in preparation for a life of service in society.

OUR GOALS:

- To provide a holistic, educationally oriented approach to the spiritual, physical, intellectual, creative, and emotional growth of the students.
- To stimulate and challenge students to reach their maximum potential spiritually, physically, intellectually, creatively, and emotionally.
- To present, through word and example, the Gospel message of Catholic Christian morals and values with the ultimate goal of carryover of these principals into adult life.
- To impart in our students the knowledge and skills needed to respect and maintain a healthy body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and to respect themselves and others as unique gifts from God.
- To instill in our students a love of learning, including an inquisitiveness toward new concepts and challenges, and an appreciation of education as a life-long learning process.
- To foster and direct the creative and aesthetic potential of students, encouraging the appreciation of Truth, Beauty and Goodness.
- To stimulate and nurture students emotionally to respecting all human life with dignity regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ethnic origin.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

The St. Patrick Catholic Classical School community will strive:

- To form the Christian ideal of unity through prayer, service and community involvement. This includes the involvement of the family, parish, and community in the educational process.
- To teach all subjects thoroughly, modeling learning, especially learning of the Catholic faith, as a way of life. This includes instruction in virtues that foster respect for the dignity of the person, including development of physical and emotional fitness, and lifelong health and safety.
- To develop and implement a holistic curriculum that fosters learning as a life skill, including continued growth in the area of staff development to support curriculum enhancement.
- To present a Classical Liberal Arts curriculum that embodies the development of our God given gifts. This includes curricular activities that challenge students spiritually, physically, intellectually, creatively, and emotionally.
- To present opportunities for service and mission that encompass local and national needs, including programs that help the needy, highlight a respect for life, prayer for our civic leaders and includes a Catholic perspective.

ACCREDITATION:

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School is accredited through the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Accreditation Commission (TCCB ED). We are part of the Diocese of Tyler School District. Our Superintendent is Dr. Darbie Safford.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

As parents in the educational process at St. Patrick Catholic Classical School, we ask parents:

- To set rules, times and limits so that your child:
 - ☐ **Gets to bed early on school nights**
 - ☐ **Arrives at school on time and is picked up on time at the end of the day**
 - ☐ **Is dressed according to the school dress code**
 - ☐ **Completes class assignments and turns them in on time**
 - ☐ **Has all needed materials and is prepared to learn**
 - ☐ **Respects the technology policy**
- To actively participate in school activities such as Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent Organization meetings and activities, fund-raising opportunities and required service hours.
- To read school communication, Flocknotes and check the website and FACTS – ParentsWeb (<https://factsmtg.com/>) for updated information on a regular basis and to show interest in the student's total education.
- To minimize student absences and tardies, understanding the importance of regular attendance.
- To notify the office if the child will be absent from school or late for school.
- To notify the school with a note when the student returns to school after being absent or tardy.
- To notify the school office of changes in address or important phone contact numbers.
- To meet all financial obligations to the school, in a timely and responsible manner.
- To ensure that the student pays for damage to school books or property due to carelessness or neglect.
- To inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety and health.
- To promptly complete and return to school any requested information.
- To support the religious and educational goals of the school.
- To support and cooperate with the discipline policy of the school.
- To treat teachers and staff with respect and courtesy when discussing student problems.
- To treat other students and families with respect and courtesy.

Admissions

Admissions Procedure:

- 1) Submit an Online Application for Admission including the following documentation:
 - a. Copy of official birth certificate*
 - b. Copy of baptismal certificate and other sacramental records as applicable (Catholics only) *
 - c. Copy of current signed immunization record*
 - d. Copy of medical insurance card* (optional)
 - e. School Records*
 - i. Copy of most recent report card
 - ii. Copy of final report card from the previous school year
 - iii. Copy of most recent standardized test results
 - iv. Copy of testing for exceptional students' service and Service Plan (gifted, learning disabilities, speech, etc.)
 - v. Copy of attendance record
 - vi. Copy of disciplinary records
 - vii. The child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if one exists, and the school's ability to meet the IEP or Response to Intervention (RTI)

Note: St. Patrick Catholic Classical School will request official records from previous school upon receipt of student application for admission.

If appropriate records are not available, or if there are other educational concerns, the Pastor/Principal may require entrance testing of the child and direct consultation with the previous school to determine appropriate education placement before admission is granted.

- f. Current Application Fee
- g. Copy of divorce decree or custodial guardianship if applicable*

*Documents may be scanned and uploaded as a part of the online application or they must be emailed or brought to the school office.

- 2) Admissions Steps Following Online Application
 - a. Documents will be reviewed
 - b. An admissions interview will be scheduled for all elementary and middle school candidates. Lower school candidates may require a probationary visit day.
 - c. Placement exam or essay if needed following review of records.
 - d. Once officially accepted, online registration/enrollment should be completed, and FACTS tuition plan completed.
 - e. If tuition assistance is desired, complete online FACTS Grant & Aid to apply for an ACE Scholarship grant (April and May only).

Admission of Special Needs Students

Students with mild to moderate special needs shall be given the same consideration as all applicants. We are not suited to educate students with severe and profound difficulties. Prior to

admitting a student with diagnosed special needs, St. Patrick Catholic Classical School shall make a determination as to whether or not it feels it can provide an appropriate education for that child.

Each child will be considered on an individual basis. St. Patrick Catholic Classical School will consider:

- The severity and degree of the disability
- The level of support needed from special services and any special equipment the student may require
- The number of students with disabilities currently enrolled in an assigned class
- The school's resources, such as available support personnel, class size, and accessibility of school facilities.
- The required accommodations, if any are necessary, and the school's ability to meet those accommodations.

Parents and/or the public school district in which the student resides shall be responsible for any additional Special Education services that a student may require.

Re-Enrollment Process of Returning Students:

Students who are enrolled for the current year, and who are in good standing, may be Re-Enrolled for the next school year.

- Re-Enrollment will be done via an online re-enrollment through FACTS.

Enrollment fees must be paid annually to ensure registration. The enrollment fee is non-refundable and due with re-enrollment.

- After review of current year's tuition contract compliance, student's academic progress and compliance with all school rules and regulations outlined in the Parent Student Handbook, a re-enrollment packet for the next school year may be offered, provided that all current contract obligations have been met. This review will include:

- o Current tuition payments
- o Fund-raising obligation
- o Participation in Parish and School life
- o Current service hours recorded
- o Report card

Circumstances That Require Further Review:

Administration will make appropriate recommendations and determinations concerning a student's continued enrollment at St. Patrick Catholic Classical School using criteria that is consistent with Gospel values and church teachings.

- Students demonstrating an inability to progress satisfactorily due to physical, emotional, or mental disability, and any situation or circumstance deemed necessary by the Principal and/or Pastor.
- Failure to meet financial obligations.
- Inability to meet academic expectations even with accommodations.

Racial Nondiscriminatory Policy

In accordance with the federal program of Chapter IX, we at St. Patrick Catholic Classical School admit qualified students of any race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available at all schools. St. Patrick Catholic Classical School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions scholarship programs and athletic and other administered programs.

New Student Probation Period

New students will be on probation throughout their first 9 weeks at St. Patrick. After the nine-week period students who do not meet academic and behavioral expectations as determined by the school administration may be asked to seek other educational situations and may not be permitted to remain at St. Patrick School. If deemed necessary, the probation period can be extended another 9 weeks at the discretion of school administration. Due process is given with appeals made to the Pastor who is the final authority in all admission decisions.

Age Requirements Per Diocesan, TCCB ED, and State Policy:

Age requirements for classes are as follows:

PreK 3 - must be 3 years old on or before September 1st of current school year.

PreK 4 - must be 4 years old on or before September 1st of current school year.

Kindergarten - must be 5 years old on or before September 1st of current school year.

1st Grade - must be 6 years old on or before September 1st of current school year.

Bathroom Needs

All students enrolled at St. Patrick Catholic Classical School must be able to take care of their personal bathroom needs. If your child has a bathroom accident, you will be contacted to come to school or send a representative to change your child. These situations will be handled in accordance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy. Class schedules have ample opportunities set up to visit restroom facilities throughout the day. Parents should talk to their children about not waiting until the last minute to communicate their bathroom needs to their teacher. PreK 3 and PreK 4 students must be potty trained and able to clean themselves.

Applications

Applications are accepted throughout the school year based on availability. Parents may pick up an application at the school office or download the appropriate form from the website.

Required Forms and Fees

For admission to St. Patrick, parents are required to present:

- Application packet and nonrefundable application fee
- signed tuition contract
- signed volunteer hours contract

- copy of child's birth certificate
- copy of baptismal certificate, if applicable
- evidence of compliance with immunization requirements or a letter documenting his/her medical exemption signed by a licensed physician (MD or DO) authorized to practice medicine in the state of Texas.

Students applying for grades 1 thru 8 must also provide a copy of their current report card and standardized test scores (if applicable).

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Tuition and Fees - New

The St. Patrick Catholic Classical School current tuition and fee schedule is available by contacting the school office or via the website, www.stpatricklufkin.com

Enrollment fees are NON-REFUNDABLE unless the child is not accepted for admission or moves outside the Lufkin area. Enrollment and Registration all take place through the FACTS Family Portal. Contact Perla Flores office@stpatricklufkin.com for additional information. To qualify for the Catholic parish subsidy in tuition rates, Catholic families must be registered with a Greater Lufkin Area parish, practicing their faith, and supporting their parish. Families will need to submit a signed Parish Subsidy Form each year to qualify for the Catholic discount.

Additional information on registration, tuition amounts, and possible tuition financial assistance is available through the school office (936) 634-6719.

A tuition contract is signed by each family through your FACTS registration. This is an annual contract that binds the signee to payment of the full annual tuition and fees. A monthly payment plan does not change the obligation to pay the full annual tuition and fees. Tuition fees may be set to draft on the fifth or twentieth of each month. Fees will be assessed through FACTS for any returned drafts. Tuition covers only a portion of the cost of education of each student. Additional school funds are generated by parish tuition assistance and donations.

It is the responsibility of the St. Patrick School Advisory Council with the assistance of the Pastor and Principal to set annual tuition and fees. The annual tuition does not completely cover the true cost of educating a student at SPCCS.

Required Adult Service Hours - New

Each PK-8th grade student's family is required to complete twenty-five (25) family service hours. All service hours must be fulfilled through pre-approved volunteer activities. For service hours not completed, each family will pay, as a Tuition Obligation, the sum of \$25.00/hr., up to \$625 for all 25 hours. All service hours not entered by the Monday after the Spring Gala will be added to the May tuition statement at \$25.00 per hour for those not served or not recorded. The office staff reserves the right to verify hours entered with the project coordinator, teacher, or committee head in charge of the activity. It is the responsibility of the family to keep a record of all hours served and record these service hours in the school office. Committee chairs or activity coordinators are not responsible for turning in your family's service hours.

Helping Our School – Helping Our Kids: Service Opportunities

Coordinated/cleared with the principal to receive credit

- Substituting for After School Program from 3:30pm – 5:30pm (Safe Environment Training required)
- Assisting Office Staff (Safe Environment Training required) (During or after the school day)
- Answering phones in office if needed or office secretary is absent
- Serving as room parent or assistant to organize volunteers
- Help during field day or with special school events
- Substituting partial/full day for teacher (Safe Environment Training required)
- Providing transportation/chaperone for events (Safe Environment Training required)
- Assist with supervision during after school practices (Safe Environment Training required)
- Cleaning classrooms and hallways
- Volunteering for projects involving general upkeep of the school buildings
- Campus Clean Up Days
- Coordinating or assisting with special events and fund-raisers
- Chairing or helping with an event (Spring Gala, Pumpkin Patch)

Change of address and phone numbers

The school office should be notified immediately concerning a change of address, phone number, or other vital information needed in case of an emergency. This is necessary so that we can adequately care for your child should an emergency arise, and so that we are able to communicate effectively with you concerning school information. Parents may also change their own address and phone information in FACTS through the Parent Portal, but must notify the office if they do so.

Communicable Diseases

As members of the St. Patrick's community, we have a responsibility to protect our children from illness as much as possible. Parents of students with a communicable disease (including but not limited to chicken pox, measles, lice, pink eye, impetigo, scabies, a COVID 19 variant, flu, etc.) have a responsibility to contact the office so that the teacher can be alerted. Students with contagious diseases are not allowed to come to school while they are contagious and are not allowed to return to school without a doctor's release.

A student may **not** remain at school with a fever, diarrhea, or while vomiting. A child must not return to school unless he/she has been free of symptoms and fever for 24 hours. If an illness requires an antibiotic, the child should receive the medication 24 hours before returning to school. Please adhere to this rule for the

protection of all our children and staff. Your child will not be allowed to enter the building before the 24-hour period expires.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Standardized Testing

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School follows Diocesan curriculum guidelines and TCCB ED policy, with standardized testing administered as one of several means of assessing pupil performance. Standardized tests (IOWA Test of Basic Skills and the CogAT Cognitive Abilities Test) are administered each spring during the designated testing week to students in grades K – 8th. St. Patrick Catholic Classical School administration and staff analyze the results of these tests to continue to develop academic excellence.

An assessment of religious knowledge (ARK) is given to all students in grades 2-8.

This test gives an evaluation of scriptural, social, and moral growth.

Conferences

Two Parent/Teacher Conference Days are scheduled each year. For the 2024 – 2025 School Year these will be on Oct. 11, 2024 and Feb. 14, 2025.

Information on scheduling conferences will be sent in early October and February.

Parents who see problems developing should contact the teacher immediately. Additional conferences may be arranged by the parent or the teacher at any point in the academic year.

Permanent Records

Permanent records are kept for all students who attend St. Patrick Catholic Classical School. A permanent record consists of quarter and semester grade records for classes taken as well as standardized testing results.

Records may not be removed from the office by any person. Students over the age of 18 and parents (both custodial and non-custodial) of students under the age of 18 have a right to view the student records or obtain copies of school records for the reasonable cost of copying, provided financial accounts are current and Records Release of Information forms are signed. Parents and students must give the school minimally forty-eight (48) hours notice for copies of these records. Teachers and other school personnel, who have legitimate interest in a student's record, will have access to the permanent records.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

GRADING POLICY FOR 2024-2025 - New

Grade books are the property of the school and all grade information for students is confidential and must be treated according to the Buckley Amendment protocols. Under no circumstances are a child's grades to be shared with any other students or parents. Teachers are required to post grades at least weekly on FACTS. Parents and students may access those grades electronically through their FACTS account. Report cards will be sent home every nine weeks. The final report card for the year will be emailed to parents/guardians shortly after the close of the academic year. A copy of the student's final report card will be added to the cumulative folder/portfolio.

Grade Scales:

The following is a guide to the grade scale at St. Patrick Catholic Classical School:

Grades 1 – 8, PK3, PK4, Kindergarten

A 90-100 S Satisfactory

B 80-89 N Needs more time

C 70-79 U Unsatisfactory

F Below 70

Other Codes

E Excellent N Needs Improvement

S Satisfactory U Unsatisfactory

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Grade levels Early Childhood (EC) – 4

All grades are weighted equally

Grades 5 - 8

Tests/projects 40%

Daily grades/homework 60%

RETENTION POLICY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Grade Advancement

Students must pass all 5 core classes (Religion, Math, Language Arts, Science, and History) with a grade of 70 or above to advance to the next grade level. Any student with a final grade of 69 or below must retake courses during the summer in order for the student to advance to the next

grade level. Final grades are based on the average of two semesters. Credit recovery coursework must be approved by St. Patrick Catholic Classical School and is at the cost of the parent.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students will be placed on academic probation for failure at the end of the 9-week grading period.

- Students will not be eligible for any extracurricular activities including field trips.
- Teacher(s) will conference with parents weekly regarding grades/progress.
- Teacher(s) will work with parents to arrange for tutoring if recommended.
- Accommodations may be implemented.
- Further testing/observation may be requested.
- Parents/teachers will meet every 3 weeks to evaluate progress.

STUDENT MASTERY POLICY

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School will use the following as criteria for assessment: SPCCS expects that 70% of students will attain 80% mastery on any given skill in order for the class to move to another skill. If this mastery is not achieved, the teacher will reteach, enrich and enhance until the learning expectation is met.

Students that are not achieving success will be offered independent or group tutorial to achieve mastery. Parents may be asked to reinforce skills at home in order to promote success.

In order to provide fair and consistent assessment of mastery, all classes (grades 1-8) will comply with the following:

- Papers with no heading will result in a deduction of 5 points campus-wide.
- Late Work will only be accepted at the discretion of the teacher.
- Teachers will update missing work in the gradebook with an “M” on the day that the work is first missing. The teacher will generate an automatic email, notifying the parent(s) of missing work. If the gradebook still says “M”, the work is still missing. The teacher will update the gradebook to a “P” for grade pending when late work has been submitted, even if it has not yet been graded.
- St. Patrick Catholic Classical School does not allow for Extra Credit Work. SPCCS does, however, allow for enrichment or reteaching assignments to promote mastery or academic depth.
- A minimum of 2 daily grades will be recorded weekly for each subject area.
- A minimum of 1 test grade will be recorded every three weeks.
- Test grades may not count twice in the same class, but grades may count in more than one class if the learning is cross-curricular.
- All core content areas will receive a numeric grade during each reporting period except for Pre-K.
- The pedagogical rationale for assigning homework and for giving assessments is for the students to master the content. Rather than re-doing an assignment for a better grade, SPCCS recommends providing students with the opportunity to complete an additional assignment to work toward mastery. That assignment may be factored in as an additional assessment or may be used to replace or average with the existing grade (teacher

discretion). Students will not be allowed to “correct to a 70%”.

- Students in grades 5 and 6 will take final semester exams in May. Students in grade 7- 8 will take final semester exams in December and in May. A low semester exam grade may fail a student for the semester. Students should take the time to prepare well for semester exams. Teachers will provide semester reviews to assist students with preparation.

Homework Policy

The time required for homework will vary with grade level and from student to student. General guidelines being ten minutes of homework for each subject (Pre-K and Kindergarten may have required reading minutes and may have daily or weekly enrichment). This is approximate and will vary.

Homework is based on material that has been presented. Homework is more likely to be completed if students perceive it as beneficial and parents provide encouragement and support at home.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are sent to parents at the mid-point of each nine-week period, and at other times as needed. The purpose of the report is to inform parents of student progress in each academic subject, as well as in conduct. Visitation with teachers concerning a child’s progress is encouraged. Grades will available at all times for the parents via the FACTS parent portal.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week period. They should be reviewed by parents, signed, and returned to school by the Monday after they are received.

Physical Education

A note from a parent is required to excuse a student from Physical Education for one class period. A physician’s note is necessary to excuse a student from Physical Education for two or more days for medical reasons. Physical Education credit is required and the expectation is active participation. Athletic footwear and socks are mandatory.

Guidance Programs

The Diocesan Office has defined guidance in our schools as the organized effort of a school to assist the individual in developing his/her maximum potential. Students need guidance to become aware of the gifts they can give and receive. Knowledge and experience ultimately lead to an appreciation of self and others. The guidance program components at SPCCS strives to fulfill the mission of the school for all students, as they make progress toward the fulfillment of God’s plans for them.

The Virtues in Practice Program presents a virtue of the month and highlights a saint that is a role model of that virtue. Classes discuss ways to exemplify the virtue and examples of how to put the virtue into practice.

Christian Service is discussed in homeroom and Religion classes. Grade level classes are encouraged to pick one service project per year in the service of others.

The Theology of the Body Program helps students to see the dignity of the human person in the areas of human sexuality and self-awareness. This includes emotional regulation and empathy for others.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

SPCCS expects all students to abide by ethical academic standards.

Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating or copying the work of another, using technology, including AI, for illicit purposes, or an unauthorized communication between students for the purpose of gaining advantage during an examination – **is strictly prohibited**. St. Patrick Catholic Classical School Academic Integrity Policy covers all school-related tests, quizzes, reports, class assignments, and projects, both in and out of class. The purpose of SPCCS’s Academic Integrity Policy is to prepare students for the reality created by the technology explosion, for the world of college and beyond, where cheating and plagiarism have dire consequences.

Plagiarism is not the same as cooperation or collaboration. Teachers often expect, even encourage, students to work on assignments collectively. This is acceptable, as long as it is clear whose work is being presented.

- **Collaboration** is to work together (with permission) in a joint intellectual effort.
- **Plagiarism** is to commit literary theft; to steal and pass off someone else’s work as one’s own ideas or words, and to create the production of another. When you use someone else’s words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by citing the source. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else, if you use someone else’s ideas, you must give the author credit. Some Internet users believe that anything available on-line is public domain. Such is not the case. Ideas belong to those who create and articulate them. To use someone else’s words or ideas without giving credit to the originator is **stealing**.
- **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, copying or giving an assignment to a student to be copied (unless explicitly permitted by the teacher). Cheating also includes using, supplying, or communicating in any way unauthorized materials, including textbooks, notes, calculators, computers or other unauthorized technology, during an exam or project.
- **Forgery** or stealing includes, but is not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to exams or answers to an exam, altering computer or grade-book records, or forging signatures for the purpose of academic advantage.
- The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on specific evidence provided by the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from others.
- Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary as

well as academic penalties.

LEVEL 1 VIOLATIONS

- Copying another student's homework, classwork, or ideas without the instructor's permission.
- Allowing another student to copy homework or classwork without the instructor's permission.
- Not acknowledging another writer's ideas or direct words within a given assignment. A list of resources alone is not sufficient.
- Copying or paraphrasing an excerpt from the Internet or any other resource without citing the source.

LEVEL 2 VIOLATIONS

- Cheating on exams, tests, or quizzes, including failure to follow behavioral and procedural guidelines before, during, and after testing situations.
- Copying or buying an essay, lab report, project and submitting it as one's own.
- Using an assignment from a student who previously took the class and submitting it as one's own. Providing that assignment to a current student.
- Obtaining information about the content of homework, an exam, a test, or a quiz from a student who has already completed that work.
- Providing information about the content of homework, an exam, a test, or a quiz to a student who has not yet completed that work.
- Making up a source to use as a citation in an assignment.
- Utilizing any Artificial Intelligence tool to write all or part of an assignment or paper.
- Any behavior that violates gospel values of honesty and integrity as deemed by principal, parent and pastor.

CONSEQUENCES for VIOLATIONS

Level 1 Violation:

1st offense:

- Teacher confers with student and notifies parent.
- 0 on assignment.

2nd (or subsequent*) offenses:

- Teacher confers with student and notifies parent.
- 0 on assignment
- Disciplinary referral to administrator.
- Suspension from Boards or positions that represent our school. These may include Student Council, Honor Society, or any other position that represents SPCCS. Probation means that any other character infractions will lead to removal of the honor.

Level 2 Violation:

1st Offense:

- Teacher confers with student and notifies parent.
- 0 on assignment
- Disciplinary referral to administrator.
- Student may receive In School Suspension.

2nd (or subsequent*) offenses:

- Teacher confers with student and notifies parent.
- 0 on assignment
- Disciplinary referral to administrator for Out of School Suspension or other disciplinary

consequence deemed appropriate by pastor and/or principal.

- Removal from Boards or positions that represent our school. These include Student Council, Honor Society, or any other position that represents SPCCS.

*Offenses are cumulative throughout a student's upper school career at SPCCS. A student's disciplinary record is considered when completing recommendation letters for scholarships, and other programs.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Absences

Parents should notify the school by 9:00 AM. if a student will be absent from school. Requests for assignments should be made at this time. When a student returns to school after an absence, a doctor's note or parent note of explanation should be given to the homeroom teacher. A student is allowed a maximum of 18 absences (10% of the total number of instructional days) for the entire school year. If a student exceeds 18 absences, that student may have to repeat that grade level. An Attendance Committee hearing is required for students who have missed more than 18 days. Based on grades and test scores, a decision will be made to recommend the student be retained or placed in the next grade level. Evidence that the absences did not adversely affect student academic performance is necessary to place a student with excessive absences in the next grade level.

Students are expected to make up missed work within one week after returning to school. If more than one day is missed, additional time may be allotted to make up work at the discretion of the teacher. Work for partial day absences is due on time. It is left to the teacher's discretion to distribute make-up work in advance due to an upcoming absence.

Parent are able to check attendance records via the FACTS parent portal. If you see your child was mistakenly counted absent, please contact the school office to have the information corrected.

Tardiness

It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to see that their children arrive to school on time. The school day begins at 8:00 am.

Students arriving after **8:00** a.m. are tardy and must report to the office. **Students arriving late must be escorted to the office by a parent or guardian and signed in.** This ensures the safety of everyone on the campus. It is the duty of all students to be on time for class. Tardiness interrupts the learning environment and should be avoided.

Five (5) tardies equal one (1) unexcused absence. **Tardiness is never acceptable and is considered a discipline issue.** If parents are having an issue with getting students to class on time, they should meet with the principal and explain the situation. Students are responsible for making up any missed work when they are not in class.

Departure From School During the Day

Students will be released during the school day only when the parent, guardian, or authorized pick up person listed in FACTS comes to the office and signs them out. Do not call the office to authorize a person by phone who is not listed in FACTS to pick up your student. You must add any person who is to pick up your student to the authorized pick up list in writing. Please plan ahead.

Please limit asking for your child to wait in the office for your arrival. He or she needs to spend that time in class. The office will call your student for dismissal when you arrive to collect your child for departure.

Morning Drop-Off Procedure

Mass will be offered daily at 7:30 AM Monday through Thursday in the Church. Parents are welcome to attend, but may not sit in the school sections of the Church. Children may be dropped off as early as 7:15 AM. at the Church. To drop off your child, pull up to the South entrance to the Church (across from the Faith Formation Hall). A school representative will be outside or inside the Church (in bad weather) to take attendance and your child will be escorted to where they are to sit. If you want to come into the Church with your child, park in the Church or school parking lot and walk your child to the Church. At 8:00 AM, Mass will be over and the students will be escorted to their classroom. If you arrive after 8:00 AM, bring your child to the office to sign-in before going to class. Do not drop your child off at the elementary building. Friday Mass will be at 8:00 AM and all students are required to attend.

Afternoon Pick-Up Procedure

Students are dismissed at 3:30 PM. The children in Pre-K-8 will be taken to the cafeteria to wait for their pick up. To pick up your child from your car, use the cafeteria entrance to pull up in front of the cafeteria and your student will be escorted to your car. If you need a conference with a teacher, call the office and the secretary will let the teacher know that you will be coming to see them.

Bus Rider Notice

The bus will be leaving Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Nacogdoches at 7:00 AM. so the students and bus driver can arrive at St. Patrick Church in time for 7:30 AM daily Mass.

The bus will depart St. Patrick Catholic Classical School around 3:20 – 3:25 PM to arrive at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Please be there waiting to pick up your child by 3:45 PM. sharp. Mrs. Ibanez has a student to pick up from her school on time. Please be courteous to her and be there WAITING before 3:45 PM. Late parent pickup may result in late pickup bus fees. See Bus Rider Handbook for more details.

School Visitation

Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit the school. For the safety of our children and to comply with state law, we require all visitors to sign in at the school's office. Visitor name tags must be worn at all times while on campus. We encourage all parents to take the Diocese of Tyler's Ethics/Safety class to participate in a greater way at the school.

Non-Custodial Parent

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

Birthday Celebrations

Birthday celebrations should be limited to lunch. Parents may arrange lunch, such as pizza, or dessert type items, such as cake, to be eaten at lunch, but only after making sure that it is acceptable with the child's teacher and providing that each child in the class receives a treat. Parents should discuss plans with the teacher at least a week in advance. Parents should also be aware to include alternative plans for students with food allergies. No birthday invitations may be distributed at school unless the entire class is invited.

FACTS

Parents have 24-hour access to student grades and attendance records via FACTS. Login information may be obtained from the school office. FACTS will also be used for admissions and payments.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Teachers are responsible for maintaining a proper Christian learning environment in their classrooms. They will establish basic rules for proper behavior. These basic rules will be based upon the following premises:

- Students will not stop the teacher from teaching.
- Students will not prevent another student from learning.
- Students will show courtesy and respect at all times.
- The teacher and school must be able to exercise discretionary authority. Therefore, each classroom teacher will send home class rules at the beginning of the school year to be signed by both parent and student as a means of communicating their rules.

HALLWAY ETIQUETTE

While changing classes, students are to walk quietly and report to the next class immediately. If the teacher for the next class is not in the classroom when the students arrive, those students will wait quietly in the hallway until the teacher arrives and invites the students into the classroom.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

The church building is a sacred place; hence we act with reverence when we are there. Some guidelines to help our children remember the correct behavior are:

- Be respectful at all times
- Walk in a quiet line with the teacher to and from church
- No conversations or inappropriate talking in Church; students are expected to participate in verbal responses and singing during Mass

- Use Holy Water appropriately.
- Genuflect and make the Sign of the Cross properly.
- Use kneelers properly (do not prop feet or stand on kneelers).
- Stay in line as you enter and leave the pew.
- Avoid bathroom breaks unless absolutely urgent and definitely **not** during the consecration.
- When entering the Church during Mass, at the Consecration or Elevation of the Blessed Sacrament, students will kneel until those moments are over and Father continues with the Mass.
- Honor Sacred Space through words and actions at all times.

PLAYGROUND AND GYM RULES

Children are to play in areas designated by their teachers. This is for the safety and well-being of the children. Rules are designed to protect our children as much as possible. We ask that parents and families reinforce the importance of playground and gym safety, so that children learn to take responsibility for their actions and treat each other with respect at PE and recess times.

General playground conduct:

1. If a problem should arise, tell the teacher or adult on duty
2. Share playground and gym equipment
3. Use playground equipment properly
4. Use appropriate language on playground
5. No fighting, inappropriate physical contact or verbal abuse
6. Stay within school boundaries
7. Display good sportsmanship
8. Permission is needed to leave the playground or gym area
9. Respect playground equipment and nature
10. Play appropriately
11. Clubs that exclude students are not allowed
12. Follow the directions of the teacher on duty
13. Be mindful of actions that could cause harm to others

Playground Games/Use of Equipment

Swings: Children are not to stand in the swings; sit only. Only one child on a swing at one time. There is to be no twisting or bumping with the swings. Children are to exit the swings properly – no jumping out of the seat while in motion. Those not swinging should stay clear of the swinging area.

Slide: Children are to go down the slides seated face front, feet first. Children are not to climb/walk back up the slide surface.

Monkey bars: Younger students are not allowed to use the monkey bars. No standing or sitting on top of the bars or playing games to push others off the bars. Do not walk or stand under the bars when someone is using them.

BULLYING/HARASSING

The SPCCS's faith community of students and adults should respect, protect, and share the God-given life, worth and dignity of every person, regardless of ability, gender, appearance, cultural

background, or interests. St. Patrick Catholic Classical School, through its administrators, faculty, and staff, creates an environment that encourages and supports learning, expresses a heightened concern for the student who may be isolated, bullied, harassed, alienated, or the target of inappropriate conduct.

Such behaviors can include, but are not limited to: teasing, poking, biting, hitting, or extorting money, food, favors, or other possessions from another person. Further, such behaviors can range from mild to severe, and include physical, verbal, written, or graphic aggression, as well as social isolation and alienation. It includes, but is not limited to, epithets, slurs, stereotyping, name-calling, sexually-suggestive, insensitive, or vulgar comments, as well as written or graphic material that is circulated within the school or placed on walls, bulletin boards, or elsewhere for public display. Behavior that targets an individual or group (or relatives, friends, or associates) is harassment when it:

- Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, abusive, or offensive environment
- Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance or emotional health.

Students who are determined to have engaged in bullying or harassment will be subject to progressive discipline, from mandatory counseling and suspension from participation in school-related activities and privileges, to disciplinary actions, up to and including expulsion.

SPCCS asks that parents closely monitor their children on all technology, social media, and online platforms. While St. Patrick Catholic Classical School does not assume disciplinary responsibility for bullying which occurs off campus or through online platforms during non-school hours, all bullying, even in off campus settings, impacts the Christian environment and relationships within the school community. Parent supervision is an important aspect of our educational partnership.

THE ST. PATRICK'S SAINTS LAW

A SAINT is expected to behave in the following manner at all times:

The SAINT Law

- ❖ I will treat others with dignity and respect at all times.
- ❖ I will demonstrate good judgement in dress, communication, and conduct.
- ❖ I will be excellent in my academic effort and meet all of my responsibilities as a student.
- ❖ I will live by the example of Jesus, seeking justice, peace, and a close relationship with God.
- ❖ I will represent my school and my Church with pride and honor in all that I do.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

All teachers will document all behavior issues. Teachers may assign Demerits and Merits, depending on the situation. Demerits/Merits are intended specifically for behavior, not for academics. For example, a teacher may issue a demerit if a student is talking out of turn or comes to class without the appropriate supplies, but a demerit will never be the consequence for not knowing the answer to a question or for not completing homework. Merits should be issued when a student goes above and beyond expectations. For example, observing a student making a special effort to include a new student in a student activity could result in a merit, but a merit

would not be earned for expected behaviors such as picking up trash in the hallway or holding a door for a teacher. Of course, a teacher will use his or her own discretion and knowledge of particular students to determine if a particular action is “above and beyond” for a given student, keeping in mind that fair does not always mean equal.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Discipline for minor infractions will be determined by the classroom teacher. Any severe behavior warrants an office referral.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

As in the elementary school, middle school teachers should strive to address behavioral issues through effective classroom management. The following provides guidelines for a consistent program to support the teachers in their classroom management. These guidelines are subject to teacher discretion and are not intended as legal code, but rather a starting point.

1 minor infraction earns 1 demerit

Examples (not a complete list):

- Missing a belt/other occasional uniform infraction
- Speaking without raising a hand
- Chewing gum
- Leaving a mess behind in the classroom or the cafeteria

1 moderate infraction earns 3 demerits

Examples (not a complete list):

- Talking back to a teacher
- Habitual uniform infractions
- Intentionally destroying school property

1 severe infraction could earn an automatic detention (9 demerits)

Examples (not a complete list):

- Cell phone violation
- Fighting
- Name-calling
- Not first offense bullying behavior
- Cheating
- The accumulation of 9 demerits will result in a detention referral. Detentions will be served from 3:30 PM to 3:45 PM in the library. For severe infractions detention will be served from 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM.
- If a student misses a scheduled detention, he or she will serve a make-up detention the same day, if possible. If a student misses the make-up detention, he or she will have one day of In School Suspension the next school day at the cost of \$50 to the parents added to their FACTS account to pay for their supervision.

OFFICE REFERRAL

If the classroom teacher has exhausted all classroom management options or if a behavioral infraction is so severe that it warrants referral to the office, the Administrative Assistant in collaboration with the principal (as needed) will determine the consequences.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT CELL PHONE POLICY FOR SPCCS STUDENTS

No cell phones, Apple watches, or other texting or personal internet device is allowed to be worn or used on campus. It is recommended to parents not to allow students to bring them to school. Any violation of the electronics policy will result in confiscation of the equipment and possible loss of future privileges. The school retains the right to scrutinize the contents of confiscated electronic devices. Students must enter or release locks or password protection from devices when confiscated upon request. All confiscated equipment will be returned to the parent after the first offense. On the second and subsequent offenses, confiscated equipment will be returned to the parent with a monetary fine of \$20.00.

No student is allowed to video or audio record any teacher or other student unless given explicit permission. Any violation of this nature will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action including expulsion.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM RULES FOR ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CLASSICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. You must show respect for all teachers at all times.
2. Shirt tail must be tucked in at all times.
3. No talking unless you have permission.
4. Stay seated unless you have permission.
5. Come to class prepared and ready to begin when the bell rings.

CONCERNS

In keeping with the Church's principle of partnership, problems should be solved at the most direct level whenever possible. Persons having a problem with another individual should go directly to that person before going to that person's supervisor.

Protocol – Principle of Subsidiarity

If a parent has a complaint about a teacher or staff member, the parent will need to discuss the difficulty with the teacher or staff member first. Procedurally, parents must go to the principal before going to the pastor. The following is the protocol for discussing your child's progress academically or behaviorally:

1. The parent must make an appointment with the teacher first to discuss the matter. At this meeting, the parent/guardian, teacher(s), and student, if requested, will attempt to resolve the matter in question. The teacher will submit a written form to the Principal summarizing the meeting within 24 hours.
2. If the parent, student, and teacher(s) cannot come to an agreement, they should then seek a meeting with the principal.
3. If, after the meeting with the principal a resolution cannot be reached, the pastor will hear the concerns with all present and take the matter under advisement and make a final ruling. The pastor's decision will be final.

RESTORATIVE DISCIPLINE

Whenever possible, proactive measures and restorative practices will supersede punitive consequences. The goal of St. Patrick Catholic Classical School is to help our students to grow and to develop into disciples of Christ, sharing the faith with those they encounter. Students will

first be redirected and encouraged to learn from their mistakes. If mistakes become habitual challenges, appropriate consequences will ensue.

Referral

Student referrals are made to the office when a repeated disregard of basic rules occurs. A teacher may give a referral at any time if a child's behavior is so severe as to warrant such action.

Isolation (In-School Suspension)

Isolation prevents the student from attending classes and extracurricular activities during the suspension. Parents will be notified of this occurrence. During this time, the student must spend his/her day in total isolation from other students. A sack lunch should be sent for the student to eat while in isolation. Alternative arrangements for supervision will be made. Any in-school suspension will require the parents to pay for a substitute to supervise the child at \$50.00 per day of ISS.

Suspension (Out-of-School)

This is the temporary dismissal of a student from school. This extreme disciplinary action should follow only after other means of motivation have failed, or if the circumstances warrant suspension. Suspended students may not be on the school premises or participate in any school-sponsored activity. Suspended students are expected to keep up with academic work covered in their absence. Upon their return to class, students should have completed the work missed during a suspension.

Due Process for Misconduct

Due Process is provided to all students of the school as soon as possible after the incident in question. The misconduct should be clearly stated to the student with full opportunity for his/her reply or explanation.

First, a conference with the parent/teacher/and student involved will be held, as the gravity of the matter dictates. Then, if the matter is not resolved, the student has the right of appeal—first to the Principal, then, if necessary, to the Pastor.

VALUABLES ON CAMPUS

Students should not bring money, electronics or other items of value to school. SPCCS is not responsible for personal valuables or money on the school campus.

DRESS CODE

In keeping with our belief that the moral, spiritual, and academic aspects of the education offered at St. Patrick Catholic Classical School are of the utmost importance, we believe that all students should be allowed and encouraged to focus on those areas, and that growth and development in those areas should be allowed without distractions whenever possible. Therefore, in the spirit adopted by Catholic schools throughout history, all students attending SPCCS are required to wear school uniforms each day unless permission from the Principal or Pastor is obtained. Since uniforms are a positive part of our school environment, every school day is in general a uniform day. Being in uniform is part of being ready for class. It is the parent's

responsibility to have the student in the proper attire. Dress uniforms are always worn for Friday Mass and special events. Uniforms will be worn for field trips to the zoo and other outdoor activities. The specified dress code will be noted on the event permission form sent home by the teacher.

Grooming

All students are expected to be neatly groomed.

Consequences

Students are responsible for observing the dress code and parents are responsible for enforcing it. The school's responsibility is to reinforce the parent's choice of Catholic school by enforcing those expectations. Parents will therefore be contacted if a student is not ready for class.

Negligence or indifference towards this policy shall lead to disciplinary action. Parents may also be called to pick up a student or to bring a change of clothing. Parents should always check what the student is wearing before he or she leaves the house to determine if it is appropriate uniform dress for the day.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Land's End is our school uniform provider. You can order either online, or over the phone. Our School Code is 900157553.

General Dress Code Guidelines

- All students are always expected to be neatly groomed
- All students from 1st through 8th grade are expected to wear belts.
- Skirts, shorts, and skorts must be of approved lengths (no shorter than 2 inches above the knees).
- Caps and hats are not permitted.
- Administration reserves the right to enforce additional dress code policies as necessary.
- Jewelry and other accessories should not present a "safety" issue with physical activity at PE and recess or make an anti-Christian or gang related statement.
- Athletic (tennis) shoes suitable for P.E. and recess must be worn for safety purposes at school. NO boots of any type are allowed.
- All uniforms must be in good repair with no holes or rips,
- NO HOODIES are allowed. No sweatshirt jackets with a pull over hood is allowed under any circumstance.
- In extremely cold weather outerwear may be worn OUTSIDE. Once a student arrives at the Church or classroom, students are requested to please remove outerwear. If the classroom is too cold for student comfort, students may bring a navy-blue sweater with the St. Patrick's logo embroidered on it.
- Reminder: Please label sweater, tie and suit coat with your child's name.

Girls Dress Code

Daily Uniform

- Green polo shirt with an embroidered St. Patrick School logo.
- Navy shorts or pants (not capris). Navy plaid A-line skirts or jumpers. Bike shorts should be worn under skirts and jumpers for modesty. No spandex legging type pants are allowed.
- Black or navy belt (solid or woven only) must be worn with shorts and pants. (No studs, grommets, patterns, or decorations.) Required for Grades 1st-8th.
- Tennis shoes or comfortable close-toed shoes in a solid color with no writing or graphics (no light-ups, sandals, crocks, flip flops, cleats, boots, heels or shoes with wheels).
- White or dark-colored socks must always be worn.
- Tights in white or navy can be worn with skirt. Leggings are not allowed
- Navy cardigan sweaters with school logo are appropriate to wear in classroom.
- On days that are exceptionally cold, heavy, front opening, (no slip on over head) non-uniform jackets may be worn outside but must be removed when entering the Church or school buildings. They must not contain questionable pictures or lettering. The school sweater with embroidered logo should be worn inside the classroom.
- Long-sleeved shirts are NOT to be worn under the uniform. Only short-sleeved, plain white undershirts may be worn under the uniform shirt. Students may wear a navy-blue sweater in the classroom. NO pants will be worn under skirts.
- Pants may not be spandex material or tight fitting.

Friday Mass Uniform

- White oxford shirt tucked in with the embroidered St. Patrick School logo.
- Navy blue tie from Lands End.
- Plaid jumper or plaid skirt.
- White or navy tights. White or navy knee-high socks.
- Must wear black dress shoes.

Girl's Grooming-

- Shirts must always be fully tucked in.
- Skirt lengths should be at the knee or no higher than 2 inches above the knee as measured from the back.
- No make-up or nail polish are allowed.
- Hairstyles should be neat and clean and not distracting. Subtle highlights and natural accents are permitted provided only natural hair colors are used.
- Earrings cannot be longer or larger than a quarter for safety purposes and no more than one per ear. No other body piercing is permitted.
- Regular watches may be worn. **No** smartwatches are permitted.

- Excessive jewelry is not permitted. A bracelet may be worn. The brown Scapular is encouraged.
- No body ornamentation is allowed (including, but not limited to tattoos, piercings, polish, etc.).
- Hair bows or hair bands that are not distracting and in solid, uniform colors (must be white, navy-blue, or green).
- The uniform should be neat, in good condition and of proper size.

Boys Dress Code-

- Green polo shirt with the embroidered St. Patrick School logo.
- Navy uniform pants, slacks, or shorts (in appropriate weather). No cargo pants are allowed.
- Black or navy belt (solid or woven only) must be worn with shorts and pants. (No studs, grommets, patterns, or decorations.) Required for Grades 1st-8th.
- Tennis shoes or comfortable close-toed shoes in a dark, solid color with no writing or graphics (no light-ups, sandals, flip flops, boots or cleats).
- White or dark-colored socks must be worn at all times.
- Navy cardigan sweaters with school logo.
- On days that are exceptionally cold, heavy, front opening (no slip on over head), non-uniform jackets may be worn outside and removed when entering the Church or school. They must not contain questionable pictures or lettering. The school sweater with embroidered logo should be worn inside the classroom.
- Long-sleeved shirts are NOT to be worn under the uniform. Only short-sleeved, plain white undershirts may be worn under the uniform shirt.

Boys Friday Mass Uniform

- White oxford shirt tucked in with embroidered St. Patrick School logo.
- Navy blue tie.
- Navy long dress pants (No Bermuda pants).
- Navy blue suit coat.
- Black belt.
- Black shoes (NO tennis shoes or boots).

Boy's Grooming-

- **Shirts should always be fully tucked in.**
- No facial hair.

- Hair should not be covering any part of the ears or touching the collar. Hair must be above the eyebrows. Ponytails, buns, mohawks, shaved heads, or designs cut into hair are not permitted. No bleached or dyed hair is allowed.
- Regular watches may be worn. Smartwatches are **not** permitted.
- No other jewelry is permitted. The Brown Scapular is encouraged.
- No large belt buckles.
- No body piercing, tattoos, fingernail polish, or makeup is allowed.
- No body ornamentation is allowed (including, but not limited to earrings, tattoos, piercings, polish, makeup, etc.).
- Haircuts are required within 3 days from notification of noncompliance. Dyed hair, designs cut into hair and mohawks are not permitted.
- Pants may not sag or sit at the hip. Pants may not be tight fitting.

School Closing Information

If Lufkin ISD closes because of weather, St. Patrick Catholic Classical School will likely close, as well. In the event that the school must close due to some other situation that affects St. Patrick Catholic Classical School, information may be found by Flocknote and FACTS parent communications and teacher classroom communication apps. Bus riders from Nacogdoches may be unable to ride the bus on occasions due rare circumstances. Parents may call the school office for more information.

FOOD AND DRINK

SPCCS does not provide lunches. Every student must bring a lunch. While there are microwaves in the cafeteria available to heat up student lunches, microwave use must be limited to 2 minutes per student so all students can heat up their food. All students must eat in the cafeteria. There will be no food or drink in the classrooms with exceptions made on a case by case basis. Students may **bring popcorn that has already been popped**. Popcorn is not allowed to be cooked in the microwaves. Food in glass containers is discouraged. Glass containers get very hot in the microwave and can produce a burn or present a hazard from being dropped.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency and fire drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. Posted escape routes and procedural information are located in each classroom. Students should follow their teacher's directions regarding emergency routes during an emergency procedure. Students should remain silent and cooperative through all drills and emergency procedures.

GYM

Students must obey all gymnasium rules. Students are not permitted in the gym without faculty or staff supervision/permission.

LIBRARY

The library is a place for reading and quiet study. Borrowed books are to be returned on time and in good condition. Books damaged or lost must be paid for by the student before any other materials may be checked out.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

All Christians are called to serve God and to serve others, especially those who are less fortunate.

COMPUTER USE GUIDELINES

Internet Access

All students must complete an Acceptable Computer Use Agreement signed by their parents or guardians prior to receiving access. This should be done annually.

SCHOOL SOCIAL NETWORKING

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School uses social media to communicate and connect with alumni, parents/guardians, students and the community through the school facilitated Facebook account about events, and news.

CHAPERONES

Chaperones are necessary for supervising class trips, classes, activities and events.

- Chaperones must be approved by the school administrators and be willing to adhere to the school's philosophy and enforce school rules and expectations. All chaperones must minimally have completed the Diocese of Tyler Safe Environment Training. Not everyone who volunteers to chaperone may be selected.
- Chaperones for events and trips must follow the written guidelines provided by the school; they must also have completed the Diocese of Tyler Safe Environment - Virtus (3 hour) Training and agreed to the Code of Conduct.
- Chaperones for over-night class trips must have completed the Diocese of Tyler Safe Environment - Virtus (3 hour) Training prior to the trip.

MEDICATION

All medication should be given outside of school hours if possible. Three times a day medication should be given before school, after school, and at bedtime for optimal coverage. If necessary, medication can be given at school only under the following conditions:

1. All prescription medicine must be in the original container, labeled with a current pharmacy prescription label, and must be prescribed by a doctor or dentist for the current illness or complaint. The pharmacy can supply two labeled bottles for this purpose. All "over the counter", for minor aches and injuries must also be in the original container and be age appropriate in dosage. This includes cough drops. Medications sent in baggies or unlabeled containers will not be administered to students.
2. The parent **MUST** bring all medication to the office and pick up unused medicine. Children should not have any medications in their possession at any time while on campus. Any medications left in the office at the end of the year will be returned to the parent or destroyed.

3. No medication will be administered without a signed Medication Permit Form (available in the school office).

Conduct

General Guidelines

- Students are expected to be courteous and respectful to all students, staff, and visitors at all times.
- Items not directly used in the educational process should **NOT** be brought to school (this includes, but is not limited to trading cards, toys, CD players, hand-held video games, weapons, animals, smartwatches and devices that can connect to the internet, etc.). Items needed for a particular class should be taken directly to the teacher. The school is not responsible for any items or toys brought from home.
- Recreational use of cell phones, smartwatches or internet devices are not allowed on the school grounds of St. Patrick Catholic Classical School. If a cell phone is brought to school for emergency after school use, it must be turned off and left in the student's backpack. If a cell phone or other personal electronic device (i.e.-iPod, tablet, etc.) is seen out of the backpack, it will be confiscated and brought to the office where it can be picked up after school by the parent. Continued violation of this policy will result in a fee of \$20.00 to get the phone back.
- Students are expected to be reverent and attentive during Mass and prayers.
- Students will rise from their seats and greet visitors that enter the classroom.
- Students will walk in a line in a quiet, orderly fashion during fire drills, walking from one classroom to another, and going to and from Mass.
- Chewing gum is not allowed on campus.

Inappropriate Behavior -

The following behaviors may result in disciplinary action. This could include a warning, seat time, community or school service, detention, in or out of school suspension, expulsion, or requiring the student's withdrawal from St. Patrick Catholic Classical School:

- Violation of the dress code.
- Actions or inappropriate behavior unbecoming to a Christian student.
- Fighting, disruption, or interference in curricular or extra-curricular activities (including but not limited to fist fights, kicking, pushing, shoving, and biting.)
- Damage or destruction of school or private property.
- Stealing school or private property.

- Showing disrespect or being insubordinate toward a teacher, school employee, student, or guest of our school (including but not limited to rude gestures, behaviors, or foul/profane language).
- Assault on a school employee, student, or other persons while at school or traveling to/from school on the school bus.
- Disregarding or ignoring requests or directions by teachers and school personnel.
- Using any form of profanity, written or verbal (words, signs, pictures, publications, or music).
- Engaging in an act which intimidates, threatens, degrades, or disgraces a fellow student, visitor, administrator, or member of the school staff by verbal or written means.
- Engaging in any act of hazing.
- Violating attendance rules.
- Leaving the classroom without permission or the school grounds without being signed out.
- Not following rules specified in the Student & Parent Handbook.
- Bringing or wearing smartwatches, phones or devices that can be connected to the internet.

Cafeteria Policies

Parents are welcome to join their students for lunch but must sign in at the office before entering the cafeteria. At lunch students should:

- Talk quietly to their neighbors.
- Remain seated.
- Keep areas neat and clean.
- Arrive and leave in a quiet and orderly fashion.
- Practice good table manners and etiquette.
- Pray before and after meals.
- Clean and tidy their areas before they leave the table.

Aftercare

Aftercare is an after-school program that runs from 3:30 PM-5:30 PM. A separate fee is charged of \$4.00 per hour if a student enrolls in this program. It is offered to every registered student. Any student still on campus at 3:45 is automatically included in our Aftercare program for the day. When a child is being picked up from Aftercare, parents/guardians are required to sign them out. Monthly payments must be made in order to participate the following month. The after-school program ends at 5:30 PM. **Please do not be late picking up your child.** Pick-up after 5:30 PM will be billed \$20.00/half-hour per child. Aftercare is not offered on early release days.

Annual Health Screenings

Vision and hearing screenings are conducted annually. Vision and hearing tests are given to students in all grade levels. Parents will be notified of potential problems.

Scoliosis screenings are given to students in grade seven. Parents will be notified if their student exhibits noticeable signs of this problem.

SPCCS Parent Organization

The St. Patrick Parent Organization was created to provide a way for parents to help our school. Participation is encouraged. Meetings are held once a month. The SPPO is in charge of organizing fundraising activities, teacher appreciation activities, and other activities that contribute to the success of the school mission.

Field Trips

Field trips can enhance the learning experience and are privileges afforded to the students. **Students must have permission slips signed by a parent/guardian for field trips in order to leave campus.** Telephone calls will not be accepted in lieu of proper forms. Parents or guardians reserve the right to refuse to allow their child to participate in a field trip.

Parent Support Policy

St. Patrick is a partner with the parents in the education and spiritual formation of their children.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: Asbestos Management

St. Patrick Catholic Classical School facilities are reinspected every 3 years by an Accredited Asbestos Inspector. A copy is kept in the school office.

STUDENT/PARENT GRIEVANCES

All schools shall follow the grievance procedures outlined below.

PURPOSE

A “grievance” is a complaint based on any alleged violation, any inequitable application of policy, or any dispute over the meaning, or interpretation of the terms of a contract at the local or diocesan level.

The primary purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible administrative level, equitable solutions to problems which may arise. The procedure is intended to resolve grievances

in informal proceedings in a cooperative Christian atmosphere. The proceedings are not intended to be of an adversarial nature. No participant is entitled to legal representation in these proceedings. All parties shall agree that grievance proceedings shall be kept appropriately confidential.

NONDISCRIMINATION

No person shall be discriminated against because of filing or participating in the grievance procedure, and no reprisals of any kind shall be taken by the council or the school administration against any person because of participation in the grievance procedure.

LOCAL RECONCILIATION

Before allowing differences to become formalized into grievances, every effort should be made to resolve local-level disputes, by way of a free and open discussion, between the grievant and the immediate authority.

Without exception, an informal settlement between the grievant and the immediate authoritative person shall be attempted prior to formal grievance proceedings.

1. Any individual having a grievance shall first discuss the same with the immediate authoritative person.
2. If the immediate authoritative person is not the principal, the grievant must meet with the principal before the grievance is brought to the next level.
3. If a satisfactory decision is not reached, or if the principal fails to, or refuses to, discuss the grievance promptly, the grievant shall present the grievance in accordance with the procedures outlined herein.

LEVEL ONE – SUPERINTENDENT

If a satisfactory solution has not been reached during Local Reconciliation, the following procedure is to be used:

1. The aggrieved party shall submit a complaint in writing to the superintendent within ten (10) business days following the grievant's last meeting with the principal.
2. The superintendent will arrange a meeting within five (5) business days following receipt of the written statement. The meeting is an attempt to informally resolve the issue and reach a solution.

This meeting is to be in an atmosphere of cooperative Christian dialogue and not adversarial.

3. If a satisfactory solution was not reached, the grievant will notify the superintendent of the intent to appeal, in writing, within five (5) business days. Failure to give such written notice will cause the decision to be final.
4. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the grievant's letter, the superintendent will arrange a meeting with the grievant.
5. The principal will be instructed to give the superintendent all documentation relating to the matter.
6. The grievant will have the opportunity to explain, defend, or refute the documentation presented by the principal.
7. The superintendent will review all the information presented and notify both parties of the decision within ten (10) business days of the appeal hearing.

LEVEL TWO – DIOCESAN SCHOOLS APPEALS BOARD

If a satisfactory decision has not been reached at Level One, the grievant may appeal to an ad

hoc Diocesan Schools Appeals Board, consisting of three members, appointed by the Bishop as needed. One member will come from the bishop's curia, one will be a teacher (from another school system in the diocese) and one will be a principal (from another school system in the diocese). The chairperson will be the curia representative.

1. The grievant shall have five (5) business days, after receiving the superintendent's decision, to appeal to the Diocesan Schools Appeals Board.
2. The notice of appeal is sent in writing to the superintendent.
3. The superintendent will set a hearing within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the appeal notice.
4. The grievant will be notified of the hearing at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing.
5. The principal will be notified at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing.
6. Both parties will be heard on the same day, but at separate times.
7. The superintendent will not attend the hearing but will be the official timekeeper and be available to clarify diocesan policies and procedures.
8. At the hearing, each party will have a maximum of one (1) hour to present their position to the board.
9. The principal and, if necessary, the teacher will present evidence, reasons for actions taken, and demonstrate sufficient cause for the decision.
10. The grievant will be given an opportunity to rebut the evidence and to offer proof and evidence.
11. The Diocesan Schools Appeals Board will consider only the merits of the case based on relevant and reliable documentation based on diocesan policies and procedures.
12. The Diocesan Schools Appeals Board will deliberate in private.
13. The decision will be the result of a simple majority vote.
14. The chairperson will send a letter stating the decision to the grievant, the superintendent, and the principal within five (5) business days from the date the hearing was held.

Updated Grievance Policy Approved by the Catholic Diocese of Tyler, Texas, June 2023

School Principal's Right to Amend Handbook

The St. Patrick Principal/Headmistress and/or pastor retain(s) the right to amend the handbook for just cause or necessity at any time during the year. Parents will be given prompt notification of changes as they are made.

Agreement Signed by Parents and Students

This handbook is considered part of the contract which exists between St. Patrick School, parents, and students. It is required that both the students and the parents read and understand the policies and guidelines set forth and agree to abide by its provisions.

Please sign and return the attached form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, August 16, 2024.

Approved by the Diocesan School Advisory Council on May 23, 2005

Original Date Ratified: June 21, 2005

**By: The Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, S.J.
Bishop, Diocese of Tyler**

Revised Date Ratified: July 17, 2013

**By: The Most Reverend Joseph. E. Strickland
Bishop, Diocese of Tyler**

Pending - Revised and approved by the St. Patrick Classical School Advisory Council