



**Please sign this page and return with your designated child to his/her homeroom teacher by Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2011.**

As a member of the St. Jude the Apostle School community, I promise to observe all policies, rules, procedures and activities with full support and school spirit. I have read the Parent-Student Handbook and am aware that the rules and policies are formed in the best interest of the students, and will be administered fairly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature & Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature & Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature & Grade

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Student Signature & Grade

Parental permission to the **Student Computer Access and Use Policy** as given on page 34 of this handbook shall be assumed unless specifically denied. Parental/guardian permissions that are assumed include: access to the internet, permission to publish students' work to classroom web sites, and permission to have unidentified photos of students published to classroom and school web sites. *Please send a written request with your child(ren) to school attached to page 1 of the handbook should you wish to deny these permissions.*

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I am so pleased to say that this year is St. Jude School's 29th year in Catholic education. All of us at St. Jude would like to thank you for enrolling your child at SJS. We realize that in doing so, you are placing God's greatest gift to you in our care. We accept this responsibility with dedication and love, and will work with you in developing each child to his/her fullest potential.

The rules and directives in this handbook are designed to assist you in understanding the expectations of our school community. We ask that you familiarize yourself with its contents in order to give SJS informed support and active participation in your child's education. Please review the rules carefully with your child, stressing the importance of his/her cooperation.

Thank you for entrusting your child to us in carrying out the mission of St. Jude the Apostle School. With your support, we will provide an atmosphere of Catholic values that foster individual academic excellence within a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen G. Jakuback  
Principal

Mrs. Angelle C. Saia  
Assistant Principal

## **PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

St. Jude the Apostle School strives to provide an educational environment in which a student can attain his/her full potential. The school believes that each student should be treated and respected as an individual with recognized needs and differences. Through a growing understanding of their relationship with Christ, we hope to encourage each student to recognize and develop their unique talents and abilities. By providing an environment in which students can grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and intellectually, the school strives to develop well-rounded citizens willing and able to contribute to their community.

As St. Jude School provides each student an opportunity to experience the Catholic heritage, we hope to instill a lifelong commitment to the Catholic faith through teaching, liturgy and example. We believe that through the experiences encountered at St. Jude School each student will develop into a happy, productive individual ready to meet the challenges of modern life.

### **Mission Statement**

St. Jude the Apostle School, as a Catholic faith community, recognizes the need to create a family environment which will lead to the formation of a well-rounded individual. Through its philosophy, the school hopes to instill in each child an understanding of his/her relationship with Christ, thus enabling him/her to think, judge, and act in a Christ-like manner.

### **Motto**

Faith, Academics, Excellence

### **Spiritual Objectives**

- To provide religious experiences and instruction in which the child's faith becomes living, conscious and active
- To witness daily within the school and community an atmosphere of faith, love and concern for each other
- To stress the importance of Christian values as a dynamic force in our society today
- To assist faculty, children and parents in understanding the teachings of the Church in the light of continual renewal and growth

### **Intellectual Objectives**

- To provide a well-qualified staff able to address the individual needs of the students
- To provide students with the necessary academic skills to enable them to be self-supportive and productive members of society
- To meet the individual needs of each student through the implementation of different styles of teaching
- To provide a positive environment where there is both love and eagerness for learning
- To develop an appreciation of our American heritage by understanding the concepts of liberty, justice and democracy

### **Social Objectives**

- To promote a positive atmosphere throughout the school based on trust and respect for self and others
- To instill within the students the realization of their uniqueness and worth as individuals
- To help students understand and accept responsibility for their choices and resulting consequences

## **Physical Objectives**

- To provide opportunities for the physical development of each student
- To provide for the physical safety of all students
- To instill in each student an appreciation for the aesthetics
- To foster a wholesome attitude toward competition and to encourage good sportsmanship and a spirit of fair play
- To develop an understanding of good health and nutrition habits

The Principal reserves the right to make any and all amendments to the Parent-Student Handbook during the course of the school year. Notification of changes will be made via "*The Cougar*" for all parents. The school does not give the parent the right to alter the school calendar for any reason.

## **ADMISSIONS AND RE-ENROLLMENT**

### **Admissions Policy**

The schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge admit students without regard to sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of policies, scholarship or loan programs, admission policies or other school-administered programs. All students are admitted to school with the understanding and the condition that they will be able to meet the rigors and requirements of school life. A child's physical, mental or emotional condition will be considered in the admissions decision if it is thought to impact the effectiveness of teaching personnel.

### **Admissions Requirements**

- Parents or legal guardians (both of which will be referred to "parents" in the remainder of this handbook) must fully support the stated mission and educational philosophy of St. Jude the Apostle School.
- Children entering first grade must be six years of age on or before September 30 of the current school year, or have successfully completed kindergarten at another accredited school. Students entering kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 30 of the current school year, and children entering pre-kindergarten must be four years of age by the same date. This age requirement is with the approval of the Diocese of Baton Rouge School Board.
- Children entering all other grades must have successfully completed all work required in previous grades, have a record of good conduct, and submit evidence of the same. Failure to be forthright about past misconduct or academic concerns is cause for withdrawal.
- Students applying for admission to kindergarten are required to undergo readiness testing. New students applying for admission in grades 1-8 must present copies of standardized test scores and most recent report cards. Parents must answer all questions regarding previous placements and evaluations as applicable. It is our intent to identify the student's ability for successful academic placement in St. Jude School.
- Any student who is admitted to SJS is accepted conditionally for the first quarter of admission. The student's academic and behavioral response will continue to be reviewed throughout the first year.

### **Admissions Procedure for New Applicants**

The following procedure is used for registering new students to St. Jude School:

1. Applicants (baptized Catholics) whose parents are registered and participating parishioners\* of St. Jude
  - A. Siblings of students presently enrolled
  - B. Siblings/children of alumni
  - C. Non-siblings/non-alumni

*\*A participating parishioner is one who is an active participant in parish ministry (church and/or school) and is an Identified Stewardship Giver (ISG) through time, talent or treasure.*

2. Applicants (baptized Catholics) whose parents are non-parishioners of St. Jude, but are validated participating parishioners of other Catholic churches
  - A. Siblings of students presently enrolled
  - B. Siblings/children of alumni
  - C. Non-siblings/ non-alumni

3. Applicants (baptized Catholics) whose parents are non-participating parishioners of St. Jude
  - A. Siblings of students presently enrolled
  - B. Siblings/ children of alumni
  - C. Non-siblings/ non-alumni
  
4. Applicants whose parents are non-Catholic
  - A. Siblings of students presently enrolled
  - B. Siblings/ children of alumni
  - C. Non-siblings/ non-alumni

An Admissions committee comprised of the school principal, the pastor and/or their designees determine acceptance for enrollment at St. Jude School.

In the event of non-acceptance to SJS, inquiries should be directed to the Admissions committee through the school principal.

### **Required Records for New Students**

The following records are required for all new students:

- State birth certificate with certified state number
- Certificate of baptism
- First Communion and First Reconciliation certificates (grades 3-8, if applicable)
- Immunization card (health records)
- Social security card
- Previous academic records as applicable

### **Medical Requirements for New Students**

- Minimum of four DPT and three Polio (last of which must be given after fourth birthday)
- Two MMR (the second dose given prior to entrance into kindergarten)
- Minimum of one HIB vaccine
- Three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
- Chicken pox vaccine (Varicella) – two doses prior to entrance into kindergarten & first-time enterers
- Meningitis, DTaP, and second Varicella (by age 11 and/or 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

### **Registration Procedure**

Re-registration for the upcoming school year is held in January. Students currently attending St. Jude School receive preference in registering for the next school year. During this time, dates regarding new student applications are published in the St. Jude Parish Bulletin as well as SJS publicity items.

Registration fees are required to hold a place for a student. In the event that a child does not attend SJS, the registration fee is non-refundable.

### **Withdrawal Procedure**

If a child withdraws from St. Jude School, his/her parents must notify the principal and bookkeeper in writing as soon as possible. It is the parents' responsibility to see that all school textbooks are returned to the homeroom teacher and all financial responsibilities have been met. Notification must be in writing for school records.

Parents may receive immunization and health records from the school office, if requested. The principal will mail academic records to the new school when all appropriate check-out procedures are completed. St. Jude School will not complete recommendation forms for other schools; administration will complete recommendation forms for students in the eighth grade as part of the high school application process.

### **Homeroom Placement**

The faculty and administration consider the individual academic, social needs and abilities of each child when making placement decisions for the upcoming school year. Because there are two sections per grade, the faculty works very diligently to balance each class based on appropriate boy/girl ratio and abilities. For that reason, **parent requests for specific teachers are not accepted**. All faculty members are degreed, dedicated and committed to St. Jude School, and we believe the students are best served by a balanced approach to homeroom placement. If your child has a specific educational need that administration is not aware of, please notify the school.

### **Non-Custodial Parent**

The law holds that parents do not cease to be parents when they no longer have custody of their children. Therefore, St. Jude School abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, SJS will provide the non-custodial parent access, upon request, to the child's academic records and other school-related information. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given to the non-custodial parent, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide SJS with an official copy of the court order. A parent may also provide the school a copy of the custody section of the divorce decree, which would clearly indicate to whom the child's information may be released.

## SCHOOL FINANCES

St. Jude School's tuition scale was developed to maintain its financial integrity while giving due consideration to those families who support St. Jude Parish's endeavors, both financially (through the current stewardship program) and via time and talents. Tuition rates for each year are published prior to registration.

### Tuition Rates

The SJS Advisory Council establishes tuition rates based upon the annual school budget.

The two options of tuition payment are:

- To prepay the tuition in its entirety by May 1 before the upcoming school year
- To take out a school tuition loan by May 1 with First Bank at a rate determined yearly (payments are based on a 10-month period beginning in July and ending in April)

The three categories of tuition rates consist of:

- Identified Stewardship Givers (ISG) Tuition
  - Pre-K and K \$3,750.00 per child
  - Grades 1-8 \$3,600.00 per child
- Other Catholic (non-ISG/other parish) Tuition
  - Pre-K and K \$4,150.00 per child
  - Grades 1-8 \$4,000.00 per child
- Non-Catholic Tuition
  - Pre-K and K \$4,475.00 per child
  - Grades 1-8 \$4,325.00 per child

### Annual Fees

- New Student Application Fee (\$20 – non-refundable) – In order to cover the cost of processing applications, this one-time minimal fee is assessed to all applicants.
- Registration Fee (\$200 per child – non-refundable) – For those students already attending SJS, this fee is due at the time of re-registration every year and holds a spot for your child for the upcoming school year. For applicants, this fee is due upon acceptance.
- Student Fee (\$220 per child – non-refundable after May 1, 2011) – This fee is due the first week of March for continuing students, and will help defray the cost of supplies and textbooks. For new students, this fee is due after acceptance.
- Building Use Fee (\$235 per family – non-refundable after May 1, 2011) – This fee is due the first week of April for continuing students, and will help defray the costs of increasing utility rates, etc. For new students, this fee is due after acceptance.

### Policy on Identified Givers

All SJS families registered with St. Jude Parish are expected to participate as **Identified Stewardship Givers (ISG)**. Please note that a minimum identifiable contribution for the previous calendar year is required of SJS-registered families in order to be eligible for the ISG tuition rate for the upcoming school year. Tuition rates are based upon a Catholic baptism and registration and participation in the St. Jude parish.

To be recognized as ISG with St. Jude family must be registered and make an identifiable contribution using church envelopes during the preceeding calendar year. St. Jude parish contributes towards maintenance of the school property.

### **Late Tuition/Fee Payment Policy**

Those parents of registered students attending SJS who do not pay their tuition by June 1, or who have not made arrangements to finance through the bank for the upcoming school year, will forfeit the registration fee and the child(ren) may be removed from the school rolls.

- If, after July 1, the parents want their child(ren) to attend SJS, they must reapply and pay a new registration fee. Acceptance of the child(ren) will then be based on available space. At the time of acceptance, all fees must be paid in full. No records, progress reports, edline access or report cards will be released when any monies are owed to the school. Students may not sit for exams, testing, or participate in events and ceremonies if monies are past due.

### **Delinquent Loan Policy**

If a parent of a child currently attending SJS is delinquent in payment of his/her prepaid bank loan after adequate notice has been sent, the following steps will be taken:

- A 30-day notice will be sent by administration notifying the parents of the delinquent account and requesting payment of the balance or removal of the child(ren) from school.
- If the parents pay the loan, he/she is not eligible for a year to participate in the pre-paid tuition loan program.
- If the parents do not pay the loan in the year of delinquency, they, upon the next re-registration period, must pay all outstanding prior year's tuition plus interest at an agreed rate before the child(ren) is(are) accepted.
- No records, progress reports, edline access or report cards will be released when a loan is past due. Students may not sit for exams, testing, or participate in events and ceremonies if loan payments are past due.

Tuition loans are to be paid in full by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. A student will not be allowed to take final exams if his/her loan is not paid in full prior to his/her scheduled exam.

### **Tuition Refund for Student Transfer**

If a child withdraws from St. Jude School, his/her parents must notify the principal and bookkeeper in writing as soon as possible. It is the parents' responsibility to see that all school textbooks are returned to the homeroom teacher and all financial responsibilities have been met. Notification must be in writing for school records.

Parents may receive immunization and health records from the school office, if requested. The principal will mail academic records to the new school when all appropriate check-out procedures are completed.

If a student transfers during the school year, tuition paid in advance will be refunded according to the graduated tuition refund scale as approved by the SJS Advisory Council. The scale is as follows:

- June. 1 – Sept. 1                    50%
- Sept. 2 – Oct. 1                    45%
- Oct. 2 – Nov. 1                    40%
- Nov. 2 – Dec. 1                    35%
- Dec. 2 – 15                    25%
- Dec.15 – June 1                    No Refund

If a student transfers during the year and a loan has been made, it will be reduced by the amount of the refund. There will be a bank charge of \$25 for canceling any loan.

Prior to a refund, a letter notifying the Principal and bookkeeper must be received. The refund will be based upon the date in which the letter is received in the office.

### **Returned Check Fee**

A \$25 fee will be assessed for all returned checks. Within a school year, once a check is returned, only a cashier's check or money order will be accepted.

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Curriculum is defined as the total body of services of the school that affects each student: spiritual, physical, intellectual, cultural, social and emotional. Secular curriculum offerings in elementary schools are mandated in large measure by state government regulations. The Baton Rouge Diocesan Office of Religious Education prescribes religious curriculum programs.

St. Jude School's primary goal of curriculum is to provide the learning experiences that will instill in our students virtues, knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to achieve the above-stated "services" in keeping with the stated philosophy of our school.

The General Catechetical Directory states, "the first roots of religious and moral life appear at the very beginning of human life. In the families of believers the first months and years of life, which are of the greatest importance for a man's balance in years to come, can already provide the right conditions for developing a Christian personality." We believe that, as primary educators, it is the parents' responsibility to create a climate of joy, love and peace in the home. The school is, therefore, a support to the parents in the task of educating their children. Prayer in the home, regular attendance at Liturgy, and life in a faith-centered family is the nucleus of the child's religious training.

Our aim is to help our students discover the full life that Jesus promises us through formal religious instruction, prayer, Liturgy, service activities, and religious retreats.

The regular course of studies for students in all grades includes the following: religion, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, music, physical education, computer, art and French. (Students in grades 4-8 may also elect to enroll in band.)

Students must complete the required skills to the minimum degree at each level before advancing to the next level. The skills and concepts are sequential in order beginning with level one.

### **Standardized Tests**

The full battery of standardized tests is administered to students in accordance with the policy of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. These test results do not have a bearing on a student's grades. However, a student's standardized test scores, in addition to classroom performance, will be used to determine educational placement. Results are sent to the parents at the end of the school year (unless notified otherwise).

### **Evaluation of Individual Needs**

All paperwork for outside evaluations should be submitted to the guidance counselor, who will send it directly to the doctor. Evaluation forms will not be returned to parents. We ask that administration receive a copy of the completed evaluation, recommendations, forms, letters and records. We are only able to make limited modifications that are suitable to our academic setting.

**A two week notice and proper releases are required for all records, forms and letters needed from faculty, staff and office.**

### **Home Assignments**

Homework is an integral part of a student's education and evaluation. The amount of homework assigned may depend on a child's completion of work in school. It is of utmost importance to keep in mind that written work is not the only kind of homework. Study work also constitutes an important part of every student's homework.

In general, work is assigned to students according to individual needs and abilities. Beginning in kindergarten, students will have homework assignments on a regular basis. The amount of time required each evening will increase at each grade level. More study time and homework should be expected in the upper grades. Occasionally, special projects may involve additional time. These are generally assigned well in advance and should not be delayed until they are due. Parents should check on student assignments to see if they are done; however, the accuracy of such assignments will be reviewed in school.

Homework is assigned as purposeful learning, usually intensifying work already presented in school. Failure to submit home assignments will usually result in a lower final grade.

Students should also practice reading activities on their level every night. It is important that time is devoted to practicing these skills. Parents can become involved in this reading, either by discussing the material that was read, listening to the child read aloud, or reading to the child.

### **Quality of Student Work**

Quality work is expected of every student. Messy or careless work indicates a lack of personal pride in accomplishments. Our teachers will accept nothing but the best work from our students.

- Papers that are rumpled, folded, torn from spiral notebooks, or pulled from binders are not accepted.
- When mistakes are made, they must either be neatly erased or marked through with a single line.
- Penmanship must be neat and legible. A teacher has the right to refuse any work that is not written to the best of the student's capabilities.
- Students should never write in ink until they reach the fourth grade.
- It is recommended that all **math** work be done in **pencil**.

### **Grading**

Grades are usually recorded alphabetically on report cards (the alphabetical grade will reflect the percentage grade recorded in the teacher's grade book). Daily work – including participation, assignments, quizzes and tests given during the nine-week period – helps to constitute a student's mark. Consideration is also given to a student's effort in class. Standardized testing scores have no bearing on grades earned.

SJS's letter grade system (see next section) begins with the first quarter report card in first grade. Pre-Kindergarten students receive two reports per year with a checklist of mastered objectives; Kindergarten students receive quarterly reports.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are issued four times per year for grades 1-8, at the end of each nine-week period. Pre-Kindergarten students receive reports twice per year with a checklist of mastered objectives; Kindergarten students receive quarterly reports. All reports should be carefully checked, signed by the parent, and returned within three days.

The grading scale used SJS is as follows:

- 100-94 – **A** (Outstanding Achievement)
- 93-86 – **B** (Above Average Work)
- 85-78 – **C** (Average Accomplishment)
- 77-70 – **D** (Below Average Work)
- 69-0 – **F** (Failure)

Grades recorded on the report card (letter symbols) represent the percent average as recorded by the teacher.

The **first two quarters** comprise the first semester for grades 1-6. The **first two quarters plus the exam grade** comprise the first semester for grades 7-8. The **exam grade** will count as 1/5 of the semester average, and the quarter grades count as 2/5 each. Mid-term and final exams will be administered to seventh and eighth grade students. The grades on these exams will appear on the report card. The **final grade** is the average of the first and second semester grades.

### **Progress Reports**

Official progress reports will be sent home after the first 4 1/2 weeks of each grading period, and will inform the parent of the student's current progress. Interim progress reports may be sent at any time between marking periods to parents of students who need some type of special attention.

### **General Promotion Policies**

SJS has established minimum standards of performance that the child must meet if he/she is to be promoted to the next grade level.

A primary skill developed in grades 1-4 is reading. Without this ability, it is not advantageous for a child to be promoted, as most learning is directly related to reading skills. For this reason, a child in grades 1-4 may be retained if he/she receives a reading grade of C or below as a final average.

Along with these general promotion and retention policies, it is often necessary to examine a child's functional level in all class settings to determine appropriate placement. Our homeroom teachers, along with the reading and math teachers, assess the individual child's progress. Standardized test scores are also examined. A reading score below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is a cause for concern and may indicate that retention or evaluation is necessary.

In order to pass a major subject in grades 4-6, a student must earn a minimum yearly average of 70% and a passing grade during the third or fourth nine weeks.

In order to pass a major subject in grades 7 and 8, a student must earn a minimum yearly average of 70%. The first semester average will also be reviewed.

If a student fails two or more major subjects, he/she will be retained in the same grade if he/she wishes to remain at SJS. A student failing one major subject is considered "conditionally promoted" and must receive 40 hours of remediation during the summer months. This can be done through summer classroom work at an approved school.

**The major subjects in grades 1-3 include: religion, reading, mathematics and English.**

**The major subjects in grades 4-8 include: religion, language arts (reading, English and spelling), mathematics, science and social studies.**

Also according to the Administrative Manual for the Diocese, section 6.2.1.3, Kindergarten is a required grade and the classroom teacher and administration make the final decision as to promotion or retention of each student. While Pre-Kindergarten is not a required grade, in some circumstances, due to a child's developmental readiness, a child may not be ready for Kindergarten at the completion of Pre-Kindergarten. Again, final placement decisions are made by the classroom teacher and administration after conferencing with the parent.

## **Special Considerations**

If a student is unable to keep up with his/her class, he/she may be placed in a lower grade. This will be done at the administration's discretion only after verification and consultation with the parents and the teacher.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled during the school year; however, parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time to discuss the child's progress. If a parent wishes to schedule a conference, please contact the appropriate teacher through e-mail, sending a note with your child, or calling the school office. Your message will be given to the appropriate teacher, and a conference will be arranged for you. Since class time is valuable and important, conferences may not be scheduled during this time.

**Parents should not call or visit the homes of any staff members, teachers or secretaries concerning school matters.** In the event that information concerning the school or your child is needed, please call the office during school hours from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. If a question arises concerning the school or your child, you are asked to contact the teacher to resolve the concern. The office should **not** be contacted prior to contacting the teacher. Please allow a reasonable response time of at least 24 hours before expecting a reply.

## **Textbooks**

Textbooks are loaned to the student at the beginning of the school year. Any child who loses or damages a book in any way will be held responsible. The student will not be issued another book until compensation has been made. The student must pay for any lost or damaged books prior to the end of the school year. Please be aware that any damage will result in an assessment fee. **Textbooks are to be covered at all times.**

## **School Supplies**

Students will be provided with a list of needed school supplies. These supplies are available at any school supply store or may be ordered for the next school year through the St. Jude Home & School Association (grades 1-8). Supplies that have been lost or consumed during the school year must be replaced promptly.

## **Physical Education Policies**

A written excuse filed in the school office is necessary for any child who does not actively participate in the Physical Education Program. Any student not able to actively participate in the physical education program may not participate physically in recess or athletic activities until cleared by their doctor. All students must participate and are expected to cooperate with the teacher just as they would with their classroom teacher. The physical education teacher is responsible for grading students in P.E. class. Skill is not the main factor that is considered. Sportsmanship, team cooperation, effort and participation are factors reviewed in grading.

## **DISCIPLINE**

### **Student Commitment and Delegation of Authority**

One of the most important tasks of teachers and parents is to enable students to successfully function under reasonable limits of behavior. Students enrolled at SJS have, by their presence, implicitly acknowledged and agreed to abide by all guidelines stated in the Parent-Student Handbook. Likewise, parents of SJS students are assumed to have recognized that the teacher takes the place of the parent in the classroom and should be supported in his/her actions or recommendations in order that his/her authority with each student remains intact.

Developing student self-discipline – which becomes evident in self-control, character, orderliness and efficiency – is an important outcome of our educational philosophy. Toward this end, directions given to students by any staff member – including office personnel, teachers, teaching assistants, etc. – must be followed immediately. Parent volunteers are due the same courtesy and obedience. Talking back or defiance in any form will not be accepted or tolerated. Students are expected to respond to adults in a courteous and polite manner.

In order to ensure an atmosphere that promotes learning and understanding, it is necessary that certain levels of conduct and discipline be maintained. To achieve this end, guidelines are to be followed that enable the teacher and the student to be more comfortable with each other. We ask that you never, under any circumstances, question the authority of a teacher in the presence of your child.

The parental role in establishing definite patterns of discipline can never be overrated. The school seeks to build on the home foundation and work in cooperative partnership with the parents.

### **Expected Christian Behavior in Church**

All students, regardless of religious denomination, are to have reverent and meditative attitudes in Church. This behavior is to continue from the moment they enter Church to the end of the Liturgy or assembly. Upon entering Church, students are expected to bow their heads in reverence to the Blessed Sacrament before entering the pew and to participate fully in the Liturgy. Students are expected to show special reverence to the Blessed Sacrament at all times, but especially during the reception of Holy Communion.

### **Suggested Guidelines for Acceptable Behavior**

- A student should not be in a classroom before school, during recess or after school without a teacher present. This is in the best interest of the students' safety.
- Quiet is expected immediately after the bell rings in the morning, after each recess, and during any announcements made over the P.A. system.
- Playing is never allowed in the restrooms. No student is to use a restroom at any time without the permission of a teacher.
- School reserves the right to search anything brought onto the school/parish property.
- Comic books, magazines, Pokemon (or similar) cards, tape recorders, radios, CD players, iPod and MP3 players, calculators (unless desired by the teacher), toy guns, water pistols, sling shots, knives, hard balls, tobacco (in any form), weapons of any kind, electronic games or devices and any other items that conflict with our educational philosophy are prohibited from campus at all times.
- No cell phones are allowed on campus. Any cell phone found will be held in the school office and must be picked up by a parent. Use of a cell phone at school may result in suspension.
- Fighting or loud disturbances on campus are not in accordance with Christian conduct and brotherly love, and are not acceptable.

- The use of foul language and gestures is unbecoming of any Christian person and is not acceptable. We encourage only positive and motivating language among fellow students and in teacher/student conversations.
- Destruction of any school property is not tolerated.
- Gum chewing is not permitted on campus. Candy may be eaten only with the express permission of the teacher. No breath strips, mints, etc. permitted.
- Students are not permitted to have liquid paper in their possession.
- No aerosol and/or glass products are permitted on the school campus (i.e. hair spray, deodorant products, etc.). **Please do not allow your child to bring any glass containers to school.** No hand sanitizer permitted for an individual. Hand sanitizer is available in all classes.
- Middle school students are expected to adhere to Honor Code policies per the Middle School Discipline Plan signed by each student and parent.

## Consequences

Because of the community nature of rules and regulations appropriate to SJS, any student who chooses not to meet his/her responsibilities will be subject to disciplinary action. Students may be disciplined for behavior inside/outside of school which is detrimental to school's image/reputation.

When efforts on the part of the teacher fail to motivate a student and he/she displays consistent lack of cooperation and disregard for the standards of expected behavior or the school's education program, disciplinary consequences become necessary.

Early childhood, elementary and middle school teachers will provide information **concerning the discipline code appropriate to the grade level of the students.** Parents may be asked to indicate their support of the discipline system by signing a **code of discipline** letter sent home during the first week of school.

The following offenses are additional examples of grounds for possible severe disciplinary action:

- Blatant and/or willful disrespect or disobedience to any faculty or staff member
- Destruction of school or personal property
- Behavior that may endanger the safety of others or cause physical or emotional harm to another person (including harassment of another student – physically, verbally or through written word). This includes e-mail.
- Stealing of school or personal property
- Sale, possession or usage of alcohol, drugs or tobacco on school premises
- Vulgarity in speech or action
- Truancy
- Any deliberate action that causes serious disruption to the school or community
- Any weapon, weapon like item, or item used to appear as a weapon
- The making of an unfounded charge against anyone
- The habitual violation of expected behaviors for SJS students
- Cheating/plagiarism
- Sites such as *MySpace.com*, *facebook.com*, etc., are not considered acceptable for PK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Any student found posting inappropriate content to these sites will be subject to disciplinary action – including expulsion. The Diocese of Baton Rouge advocates the use of innovative technology resources in its students' academic pursuits. However, because the Internet is a public forum with unrestricted access, all schools contained within the Diocese of Baton Rouge reserve the right to discipline any student for the posting of information on the Internet by that student regardless of the origin of the post. Disciplinary action can be taken as a result of any information or photographs in any format related to any school, faculty/staff member and/or student within the Diocese of Baton Rouge on any web site, chat room, e-mail or other messaging system

that is deemed threatening, harassing, or spreading false, defamatory or morally inappropriate material.

Any student who fails to adhere to this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion. (In situations in which laws may have been violated, civil authorities may be notified.)

### **Harassment/Bullying/Hazing**

All students of the Diocese of Baton Rouge are to be treated with dignity and respect. Harassment of any form is prohibited. This prohibition against acts of harassment applies to all people engaged in all school-related activities.

#### **A. Harassment**

- **Sexual harassment** shall be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- **Verbal harassment** shall include derogatory remarks, jokes or slurs, and can include belligerent or threatening words spoken to another.
- **Physical harassment** includes unwarranted physical touching, contact, assault, deliberate impeding or blocking movements, or any intimidating interference with normal school work or movements, including taking another's property.
- **Written or electronic communication harassment** includes communication of **any** threat of, or act of sexual, verbal and/or physical harassment.

**B. Bullying**, a form of harassment, is the act of intimidating a person to make them do something. Typically, it refers to teasing in a mean way, "ganging up" on others, keeping certain people out of a group, spreading rumors, punching, shoving and other acts that hurt physically. Additionally, the principal will make the **final decision** concerning the expulsion of a student after conferring with the parent, student and teachers.

**C. Hazing** is another form of harassment. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing or reckless act that induces pain, embarrassment, humiliation, deprivation of rights or that creates physical or mental discomfort. It is directed against a student for the purposes of being initiated into, affiliated with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, club or athletic team.

A student involved in any instance of harassment, bullying or hazing is subject to suspension and/or expulsion.

### **Detention**

Students in grades 3-8 are subject to disciplinary referrals that result in an **after-school detention**. Students in grades K-2 will receive a disciplinary referral, considered a warning, for the first offense. Any infraction thereafter can result in a conference with the parent, teacher and principal. Should an incident occur that we feel warrants immediate action, we may forgo the disciplinary referral and take appropriate action.

All **after-school detentions** will be served on Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. A notice is sent home in advance informing the parent of the detention. It must be signed and returned to the classroom teacher the next day. You are asked to make arrangements to have your child picked up **promptly** at 4:30 p.m. Students not picked up by 4:30 p.m. will be sent to the Extension Program, and a fee of \$10 will be charged for each 15-minute period that the student is kept in Extension (\$20 for 30 minutes, \$30 for 45 minutes, \$40 for an hour). This fee is assessed only to students who are not regularly enrolled in the Extension Program. Students missing detention will serve two detentions.

## **Suspension**

Any student who receives three detentions for inappropriate behavior is subject to **suspension**. Suspension is a severe consequence for continued inappropriate or irresponsible behavior or a serious behavior violation. During off-campus suspensions, parents are responsible for their children.

Prior to leaving school for a suspension, students should ask for assigned work to complete during their time out of school. The work should be turned in upon returning to school and any tests given may be made up upon return to school. Due to the fact that the student will not participate in classroom testing, 15% of the grade will be deducted off the top. Conduct cards should receive 18 points off for the week of suspension in addition to any other card signs the student may have received.

In all suspensions, the student is responsible for all assignments missed during the time suspended. He/she should contact his/her assigned homework buddy to receive assignments and handouts. Students may not attend or participate in extra-curricular activities the day of suspension.

A **probation period** is given to a student who has been suspended and is in effect for the remainder of the school year. During this time, the student will be notified of specific conditions that, if not adhered to by the student, may warrant his/her expulsion. Additionally, either repeated or continued disciplinary actions may warrant his/her expulsion.

## **Expulsion**

**Expulsion** is used as a last resort and only after other avenues of correction have been used and proven unsuccessful or if an action is so inappropriate as to warrant immediate expulsion. Threats made to any student or staff member will result in immediate suspension/expulsion as defined by Diocesan policy. Other situations that may demand the removal of a student from the school are:

- Chronic and incorrigible misbehavior that impedes the academic progress of other students
- Delinquency and immorality
- Continual harassment of another student or any threats made to another student or teacher. This may consist of verbal or written threats or a student's personal writing (or other forms of expression) that constitute a threat to the safety of others. This includes e-mail.
- Use of, trafficking of drugs, and/or possession of any weapon
- Any other violation deemed deserving of expulsion as determined by the principal

The principal will make the **final decision** concerning the expulsion of a student after conferring with the parent, student and teachers.

## STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY

The following rules and regulations are basic guidelines. They should be followed, and will be enforced. Exceptions to the rules will be made only if they are deemed necessary by the administration. The school administration does not concede to parents to alter the school calendar for their convenience.

### Attendance

Regularity of attendance and punctuality are important to a student from the first day of school. Repeated/excessive absences or tardiness may result in non-acceptance for the following school year or retention in the given grade level. **State law mandates a minimum of 160 days in attendance.**

For administrative purposes, a child who misses less than three hours will be counted as having missed 1/2 day of school. Three or more hours missed will be considered as a full day's absence.

Any time a student is absent, the parent is asked to:

- Call the school office before 9 a.m. on the day the student is absent and report the following information:
  - Name of person making the call and relationship to the student
  - Name of student and grade
  - Reason for the absence
  - Request for homework (grades 1-4). Grades 5-8 have an assigned homework buddy to get assignments.

*\*This is to be done every day the student is absent, unless the parent stated the number of days the student will be absent in advance. Because of the number of students out, **daily homework requests should be made by 10:30 a.m.** Homework must be picked up daily between 3:15 and 3:45 p.m.*

- Send a written note to the child's teacher on the day the student returns to school explaining the reason the child was absent. If the child is absent three or more consecutive days or has had a contagious illness, a doctor's excuse is required for the child to be readmitted to class.

The student is responsible for making up all work missed upon returning to school; this includes make-up tests. Arrangements must be made with the classroom teacher. [The teacher is not responsible for providing work in advance of an absence.]

**Planned absences that exceed three days (i.e. family trip, vacation, etc.) are discouraged during the school year. These are considered unexcused absences. The student is responsible for all work that has been missed due to an absence. It is not the responsibility of the teacher to provide schoolwork prior to the child's absence. If in-class projects/presentations are missed due to unexcused absences, no make-up work will be given, and the child will receive a zero. The student is responsible for all work/tests being completed by the date grades are due each quarter. Failure to do so will result in a zero.**

Please remember that one of the major reasons for academic difficulty is extended absences. Please do not arrange trips, vacations, etc. during the days that the student should be in school.

It is preferable that no appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.) be made during school hours. However, if this is absolutely necessary, please come to the school office before 3:05 p.m. to check out a student.

## Tardiness

- A student is considered tardy\* if he/she comes to school after the second bell has rung (8:23 a.m.).
- If a student is late for school, **a parent must sign in the student at the school office before the student can go to class.**
- The student will be given an admit slip from the school office before reporting to class.
- **Tardy students will not be admitted to class without an admit slip.**
- **Five tardies per nine-week period could result in a detention.**

\*Tardy policy as per LA Bulletin 741 which governs non-public schools

## Arrival and Dismissal

- For morning arrival, parents should use the designated carpool lines. For the safety of your child(ren), do not allow them the walk throughout the parking lot.
- When arriving at school in the morning, students are to sit in their designated areas. Quiet talking is permitted.
- Students are not allowed to arrive at school before 8:05 a.m. unless they are enrolled in the Extension Program. Teachers are on duty from 8:05 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
- School begins promptly at 8:20 a.m. Any student who arrives after the 8:23 a.m. tardy bell must report to the school office before going to class.
- Bus dismissal will begin at 3:20 p.m. All students riding the bus will line up and board the buses in an orderly fashion. Students may not return to the classroom for forgotten articles as this may cause them to miss their bus.
- Carpool dismissal will begin at 3:25 p.m. Students are to sit in designated areas. Parents must walk to pick up their child from the homeroom line. Students will NOT be allowed to walk alone to a parked car. Students may not return to the classroom for forgotten articles as this may cause a delay in the carpool line.
- Teachers are on duty until 3:45 p.m. After this time, the students are unsupervised and will be sent to the Extension Program. (There will be a late charge for Extension services.)
- **Please do not come to the school office to check out a student after 3:05 p.m.** At this time, we begin afternoon prayers and announcements. If it is necessary to check out a student for early dismissal, please make sure this is done prior to 3:05 p.m. No students will be called to the school office after this time.
- Children are not allowed to go home by a different means without written permission from the parents. Please send this information to the teacher on the day of the change. According to East Baton Rouge Parish bus regulations, a student is not allowed to ride a different bus other than the regular one he/she rides. Parents of both children involved must send a note of permission to the office for a child to go home with another child.

The safety of our children is our primary concern. **Please honor the above guidelines.**

## **Early Dismissal**

If it is necessary for your child to be picked up before regular dismissal time at 3:20 p.m., please follow this procedure:

- Send a written note with your child stating the reason and time you wish to pick him/her up. If circumstances arise after your child has left for school, please call and inform the school.
- Please arrive at the school office prior to 3:05 p.m. to check out your child. Students will not be allowed to go home alone or wait in the office. **Please do not pick up early on a regular basis. Appointments/extra-curricular activities should be scheduled after dismissal.**
- Sign your child out in the school office. A parent or guardian must be present for a child to be called to the school office. Please do not call in advance to have your child waiting for you.

**Please do not arrange for an early dismissal unless absolutely necessary.**

## UNIFORM REGULATIONS

All students attending St. Jude School are obligated to wear their uniforms daily unless otherwise advised. The school uniform is to be worn with pride and respect. A clean, neat appearance should be a distinguishing mark of the SJS student. **Shirts must be tucked in at all times. The student's name should also be marked on the inside of all items of clothing brought to school.** Complete uniform is understood to mean not only the kind of clothing but also the manner in which it is worn. The school administration makes the final decision in all matters of dress and grooming.

After a warning has been given, a student not in uniform will not be allowed in the classroom. This includes blatant infractions, which will be handled immediately.

When students are on campus, all faculty and staff are to enforce the policy both in and out of the classroom. Parents, as well, are asked to:

- Make sure that faded uniforms are replaced
- Refrain from allowing your child to alter uniforms in any way that changes their appearance
- Support administration and faculty in disciplinary matters involving any uniform "offenses"

**Uniforms may be purchased at any of the following stores:**

Inka's – 3548 Drusilla Lane  
School Time – 7745 Jefferson Highway or  
Young Fashions – 10300 Perkins Road

**Official SJS uniform socks may only be purchased at Inka's.** Other socks will not be accepted. Regulation uniform items include the following:

### UNIFORMS FOR GIRLS

CLOTHING ITEM	COLOR	STYLE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Jumper	Plaid		PreK-4	No higher than 3" above knee
Skirt	Plaid		5-8	No higher than 3" above knee
Skort	Plaid		5-8	No higher than 3" above knee
Under Shorts	Navy	Solid Pull-on Short	PK-8	To be worn under jumper or skirt
Shorts	Plaid		PK-8	No higher than 3" above knee
Long Pants	Navy		PK-8	
Blouse	White	Single pocket Broadcloth or Oxford pointed collar (SS or LS)	PK-8	No lace/ruffle trim allowed
Undershirt	White	T-shirt	PK-8	To be worn under uniform shirt with no logo or writing.
Undershirt	White	Turtleneck	PK-8	To be worn under uniform shirt on cold weather days.
Socks	White	Crew	PK-8	With SJS logo, <b>PURCHASED ONLY AT INKA'S</b>
Tights	White/ Navy	Opaque; No leggings	PK-8	Must be full length and footed; can be worn on cold weather days with SJS socks.
Dress Shoes	Black, Navy, Brown		PK-8	Saddle Oxfords permitted as well. No topsiders or boat shoes allowed.
Tennis Shoes	Predominately White, Navy, Gray or Black	Tie shoes only, no slip-on shoes without laces. No light-up shoes. No converse or high-tops.	PK-8	Shoe and shoe base must be predominately one of the colors listed; Laces must be visible and laces are to match the predominate color of the shoe.
Bows/ Headbands	Red, White, Navy, Brown, Black or Uniform Plaid		PK-8	

***\*\*Proper dress uniform attire for girls includes skirt with white blouse (5-8).***

## UNIFORMS FOR BOYS

CLOTHING ITEM	COLOR	STYLE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Long Pants	Navy		PK-8	No brand name labels allowed
Shorts	Navy		PK-8	No higher than 3" above knee; No brand name labels allowed
Shirt	White	Oxford cloth (SS or LS) Knit, polo style (SS or LS)	PK-8	SJS Logo on left pocket
Undershirt	White	Cotton T-shirt	PK-8	To be worn under uniform shirt with no writing or logo
Undershirt	White	Turtleneck	PK-8	To be worn under uniform shirt on cold weather days
Socks	White	Crew	PK-8	With SJS logo, <b>PURCHASED ONLY AT INKA'S</b>
Belt	Navy, Brown or Black	Braided or leather	5-8	No decorative accents
Dress Shoes	Black, Navy or Brown		PK-8	No topsiders or boat shoes allowed.
Tennis Shoes	Predominately White, Nave, Gray or Black	Tie shoes only, no slip-on shoes without laces. No light-up shoes. No converse or high-tops.	PK-8	Shoe and Shoe base must be predominately one of the colors listed; Laces must be visible and laces are to match the predominate color of the shoe.

**\*\*Proper dress uniform attire for boys includes long pants with white shirt (PK-8).**

## UNIFORM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

CLOTHING ITEM	COLOR	STYLE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Sweatshirt	Red Navy	Crew Crew/Hooded	PreK-4 5th-8th	With SJS logo; Purchased through Home & School
Fleece	Red	1/2 Zip Pullover	PreK-8	With SJS logo; Purchased through Home & School
Wind Jacket	Solid Navy	Full zip, no colored stripes, etc.	PK-8	SJS Logo optional
Wind Pants	Navy	Solid navy, no stripes	PK-8	May be worn during months of December through February, must be worn the entire day. Purchased only at uniform stores listed above.

### **Free Dress Attire**

Pants and jeans are permitted on free dress days (no holes or low-riding pants allowed). Belts must be worn. Dresses or skirts must be of uniform length (no more than three inches above the knee). Socks and shoes must be worn. Girls may wear flats without socks. Girls may wear flat boots. No tank tops, t-shirts with inappropriate slogans, shorts, Bermuda shorts or sandals/flip-flops are allowed. Capri pants mid calf or longer are allowed. If students opt to wear the school uniform on a free dress day, it must be the complete uniform.

### **Spirit Day Attire**

On Spirit Day, the student is to wear the *Cougar Pride* t-shirt (purchased through the Home & School Association) with jeans or uniform pants/shorts/skirts. If the *Cougar Pride* t-shirt is not worn, the student must wear the regular, complete school uniform. Girls may wear flat shoes. Tennis shoes must be worn with socks.

### **Hair Regulations**

A student's hair shall be of moderate uniform length and must be neat and clean at all times. Styling for both boys and girls must be simple, symmetrical and conservative (no hair tails; beaded braids; large, unkempt styles; line cuts; shaven heads; etc.). A boys' haircut should be above the ear, a ½ inch above the eyebrow and side burns should be short, neat and trimmed at all times. Middle school boys should be clean shaven. Tinted, bleached, highlighted or dyed hair is not acceptable. "Sun-In" Products which alter hair color are not acceptable. The Administration makes the final decision in all matters of dress and grooming.

### **Make-up Regulations**

Wearing makeup or fingernail polish is not permitted (this includes manicures, fingernail "tips" or other false fingernails).

### **Jewelry Regulations**

Ornaments other than chain-and-religious-medal or chain-and-cross shall not be worn with the uniform. **Stud earrings** are permitted only for those girls who have pierced ears (loop or hoop earrings are strictly prohibited). Boys are not allowed to wear earrings at any time. No bracelets should be worn. Scapulas made at school are acceptable. Beaded or "jewelry" type scapulas may not be worn.

### **Backpacks**

Rolling backpacks are **NOT** allowed in grades PK-4. Grades 5-8 may have a rolling backpack.

## HEALTH

### Medication

Children should **never** have medications in their possession on the school grounds. Teachers and administration have the right to take any such medications away from the child and contact the parent for appropriate information.

As a general rule, medications should not be given at school. This includes antibiotics and other short-term medications, as well as non-prescription drugs. The possible exceptions to this rule are:

- Medication for behavior modification (e.g., Ritalin)
- Insect sting allergy (must have a note from the physician with specific instructions)
- Anticonvulsive medications (e.g., Dilantin, Phenobarbital)
- Medication for asthmatic conditions

If your child must take one of the above-mentioned medications at school, please follow these rules:

- The medication should be brought to school by the parent or guardian in the container in which it was originally packaged. The label should have the student's name, medication name, date, dosage, and the specific time it is to be given at school. (This refers to all medicine, prescription of "over-the-counter" oral meds, creams, etc.)
- The medication must be clearly labeled (unlabeled medicine cannot be dispensed) and brought to the school office by the parent or guardian, who must fill out and sign a school medication form. A doctor's note must also be on file to administer any medication at school.
- No more than a week's supply of medication for each student should be kept at school. The student may bring the empty bottle home.
- To circumvent potential abuse, all medications are secured in the school nurse's office. Additionally, per Diocesan policy, epipens are to be kept in the school office only. **Teachers are not to keep student medicines in the classroom or dispense medicine at any time. Please do not ask your child's teacher to do so.**
- If a parent must give a child medication, it is to be given to the child in the nurse's office.

These regulations are necessary to ensure your child will be given the right medicine, and help protect your child and school personnel from any mistake that might cause injury or illness to him or her.

### Illness/Fever Policy

Students should be free of fever, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. If a student is seen by a physician for a contagious illness, the student must have a note from the physician when the student may return.

### Orthopedic Appliances

Students sent to school with an orthopedic appliance such as a cast, sling, brace, splint, crutches, etc., must bring a note from the physician regarding diagnosis and activity restriction. If a student is sent to school with an appliance before seeing a doctor, please send a note stating that an appointment has been made. This is a precautionary measure for the safety and well-being of your child and other students.

### **Peanuts/Peanut Butter Allergies**

Because of the numbers of both children and adults who are extremely allergic to peanuts (which can cause severe reactions in some), the Child Nutrition Program of the Diocese of Baton Rouge has eliminated the use of or serving of peanut products, including peanut oil or any products containing peanuts, from Diocesan school cafeterias.

### **Screenings**

The school nurse will conduct several health screenings throughout the school year for various grade levels. If you have questions regarding any of the screenings, please contact the school nurse.

### **Wellness Policy**

There is a wellness policy on file in the school office that was adopted by the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students who ride the school bus are expected to obey the rules and regulations established by the bus driver in compliance with the East Baton Rouge Transportation Department. **(The East Baton Rouge Parish Transportation Department makes all decisions on routes, bus assignments and drop off/pick up locations.)** For the safety of the students, the bus drivers expect the following:

- All students must be seated and may not stand until the bus comes to a stop.
- Students shall not be allowed to get off the bus other than at their regular stop, unless they have a note from their parents or guardian signed by the administration.
- Students are forbidden to stick their heads, arms, or hands out of the bus. Spitting and throwing objects out of the windows will not be tolerated.
- Eating is forbidden while on the bus. This includes candy, chewing gum, snacks, etc.
- Students are not allowed to throw any objects at each other, including paper, and are expected to leave the bus as clean as it was found in the morning.
- Talking is permitted only in a regular and conversational tone. Any shouting, singing, screaming is completely forbidden as it impairs the hearing of the bus driver to the sound of traffic.
- Students transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of and responsible directly to the driver of the bus. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a student to be sent to the school office.

Should an incident occur in which the administration believes warrants immediate action, administration may forego the procedure and simply suspend or expel the child from this service.

The above rules are enforced for the safety and protection of your child. These regulations (taken from the Book of Policies issued by the E.B.R.P. School Board) are to be observed by all children.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students who elect to participate in extra-curricular activities must remember that, in doing so, they are assuming the responsibility of maintaining acceptable behavior at all times. Through their participation they represent the total enrollment of our school. Should a discipline problem arise concerning a student involved in extracurricular activities, a conference will be scheduled with the parent in order to determine if continued participation is in the best interest of the student. The final decision in this matter will be left to the discretion of the principal.

Because participation in extra-curricular activities requires additional time after school and away from academic preparation, it is necessary for parents to consider this aspect when allowing their child to take part in after school activities.

### Activities for Students

**Only students currently attending St. Jude School may participate in or tryout for extracurricular activities.**

**CSAL:** Eligibility requires an overall GPA of 2.25 in order to participate. Also, any student participating in an athletic activity must maintain at least a B average in conduct. If the student fails to maintain these requirements, he/she will be put on probation for one grading period. (A grading period is determined by progress reports and report cards.) If no improvement is noted, he/she will be removed from the activity. **Students absent from school may not participate in any sports activity/practice on that day.**

**CHEERLEADERS:** Prospective cheerleaders are required to complete an application form that is reviewed by the administration and cheerleader moderator in order to evaluate the areas of academics and discipline. Cheerleaders must maintain an overall GPA of 2.25 (no grade of F is allowed) and a B average in conduct. If these requirements are not maintained, he/she will be put on probation until the next grading period. If there is no improvement, he/she will be removed from the squad.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to become altar servers. This is considered a privilege and the student's conduct must reflect acceptable behavior.

**BAND:** Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to play in the band program (comprised of both the beginner and advanced bands). This is a Diocesan program and an excellent opportunity for children to learn music under professional teachers for reasonable fees. If your child has an inclination toward music, we advise you to encourage him or her to join.

**JUNIOR BETA CLUB:** Eligible students are invited to join the Jr. Beta Club at the beginning of their seventh or eighth grade year based on their 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks averages from the preceding year. A student must have a 3.25 overall average or better. The GPA shall be computed as follows: No C, D, or F is allowed, other than a C in Honors Math. Students must receive an A or B in conduct. Enrichment grades will not be used in calculating averages. All invited members will be inducted unless they choose otherwise. Probationary periods are calculated each nine weeks and are based on academic and disciplinary conduct.

If a student receives a C (other than in Honors Math), he/she will be placed on academic probation for one nine-week period. If academic requirements are not met by the end of the next report card period, the member will be dismissed from the club. Receiving more than one C, or any Ds or Fs, will result in immediate dismissal from the Jr. Beta Club. A member will also be dismissed if he/she receives a C or below in conduct or if extreme misconduct necessitates this measure. A student may remain on disciplinary status for only one nine-week period while at SJS.

A student on academic probation or disciplinary status may not hold club office, attend rally or convention, or be recognized at official ceremonies. Also, if a student has two unexcused absences from meetings, he/she will be dismissed from Jr. Beta Club.

**COMMUNITY COUGARS:** Community Cougars is a service organization for students in grades 7 and 8. The primary goal of this club is to offer and promote opportunities for students to become involved in our community. There are no GPA requirements; however, a student's conduct will be closely monitored. Additionally, because we want to afford all students the opportunity to represent his/her school in some form of extracurricular activity, members of the Jr. Beta Club (a service organization in itself) are not eligible to join Community Cougars. Students who have a genuine interest in serving our community and exhibit responsible behavior are encouraged to join this club.

**SCOUTS:** Both boys and girls have the opportunity to join a scouting program through Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, offered through St. Jude Parish.

**MATH CLUB:** Students are invited to become members based on the following: math grade, standardized test scores and teacher recommendations. Due to the advanced level of this group, only select students are invited to participate.

**ADDITIONAL CLUBS:** SJS offers several clubs (i.e. Honor Choir, etc.) to promote educational and social opportunities, thus enabling a student to realize his/her talents and interests, as well as learning how to live, work and share with others. (Individual sponsors can explain varying guidelines for their organizations.)

All students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to apply for membership in any of the clubs and organizations sponsored by SJS. Such activities are an important part of a student's life and the life of the school. A student in an extracurricular activity is required to attend the scheduled events of the organization.

\*No notices, fee collections, communication for Scouts, brownies or any other non-school teams or activities will be distributed or collected at school\*

### **Activities for Parents**

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:** The SJS Advisory Council shall be considered as an advisory committee formed and elected for the purpose of aiding in the financial operation of the school and shall be subject to all regulations from the office of the Diocese of Baton Rouge and considerations of the Pastor of St. Jude Parish. It shall function according to its constitution. Meetings are open to all interested persons. Dates will be announced in the St. Jude Parish Bulletin as well as school publicity items.

**HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION:** The Home & School Association is a means by which the home and the school are brought into closer relationship so that parents and teachers may cooperate in the education of our children. It takes a united effort to maintain a successful working relationship that will assure the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education for all students.

The Home & School Association provides volunteer services essential to the school. It also purchases any needed items to enhance instruction and to facilitate a positive learning environment.

**ST. JUDE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION:** The St. Jude Athletic Association is designed to act as a support for the athletic activities of the St. Jude Activity Center, including athletic activities associated with the school and parish. Membership is open to any individual interested in the objectives of this association.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Pre-Kindergarten

In order to attend pre-kindergarten, a child must be developmentally ready. This includes the ability to separate from the parent, toilet without assistance, and the maturity to interact appropriately with teachers and peers in a school setting. St. Jude School's Pre-K is considered a part of the school and is subject to all policies contained herein.

Birthdays: Each child's birthday will be recognized in a special way at school. Cupcakes or cookies may be brought by the parent to celebrate with the class at snack time. A special day will be set aside for each child whose birthday falls outside the school year. Birthday party invitations may not be given out at school unless distributed to the entire class. (These birthday guidelines also apply to the Kindergarten students.)

\*No notices, fee collections, communication for Scouts, brownies or any other non-school teams or activities will be distributed or collected at school\*

### School Field Trips

Field trips are privileges afforded to students; no student has an absolute right to a field trip. Because the field trip is a privilege, a student can be denied participation if he/she fails to meet academic or behavioral requirements. A class/student may be denied participation if they fail to behave appropriately. Students in grades 1-8 are allowed one field trip per semester. Field trips are considered a part of the school curriculum. Students must attend the field trip as a class and may not be transported separately.

Students will be issued the standard field trip permission form to be filled out by a parent prior to any field trip. This must be returned to the teacher before any child may leave the school campus for a field trip.

All students are expected to participate in class trips. If parents elect not to allow their child to participate, then the student will remain at home and be marked absent.

### School Parties/Special Collections

Room Mothers, in cooperation with the principal and the Home & School Association, may plan class parties for special holidays throughout the school year. Students counted as absent the day of the party may not attend the class party.

Invitations for schoolmates to attend out-of-school parties will only be distributed in school if the entire class is invited to attend. Birthday parties in the classroom (grades 1-8) are not permitted. Please do not send cupcakes, etc. to be distributed for individual birthdays (grades 1-8).

**Aside from collections for any school-wide drives, special permission of the principal is required for any other collection. No requests for money are to be sent home without the approval of the principal.**

## Visitors

Volunteers are always welcome, especially parents. However, permission must be obtained from the school office before going to any part of the school complex. Students from other schools are not allowed on the school campus unless they have obtained permission from the principal.

Anyone arriving on the school campus is expected to check in with the school office. This policy is for each child's safety and protection. **All visitors must sign in at the school office and obtain a visitor's pass.**

## Fire Drills

Fire drills are conducted at regular intervals as required by law. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom will give the students the instructions necessary. **Absolute silence and quick movement are necessary and a must at all times.**

## Disaster/Lockdown Drills

Disaster/lockdown drills are conducted as needed. Pertinent instructions will be given by teachers or administrators.

## Cafeteria

Breakfast (for children enrolled in morning extension) is \$1.45 and lunch is \$2.55 per child per day. Parents are welcome to eat lunch in the school cafeteria at any time during the school year. No outside/fast food may be brought in **under ANY circumstances**. Reservations must be made **at least one day in advance** with the cafeteria manager. Please call (225) 769-3594 to make your reservation. When making reservations, please ask for the cost of your meal. Please note that due to limited space, a maximum of 10 reservations may be accepted on any given day.

## Emergency Closing of School

If it becomes necessary to close school due to inclement weather conditions or other extreme conditions, this decision is made by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools and the announcement is made by the news media, SJS's website, or through a phone call from administration. If school is already in session when this decision is made, parents or authorized persons are requested to come to the school office to pick up the child.

## Library

Behavior in the library must conform to the standards established by the librarian. The students must pay for any lost or damaged books. Each quarter, report cards may be withheld from students who have unpaid fines, lost books or overdue books.

## Property Damage

A student found guilty of defacing or injuring school property, losing property given to the student on loan, or any other offense against building or property shall pay for the damages and will be referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.

**STUDENT COMPUTER ACCESS AND USE**  
**Children's Internet Protection Act Compliance Policy**  
**St. Jude the Apostle School**

**INTERNET SAFETY**

The Internet is a vast, global computer network that provides access to major universities, governmental agencies, other school systems, and commercial providers of data banks. St. Jude School shall establish appropriate guidelines for exploring and using Internet resources within the school district to enhance learning and teaching activities. Acceptable use of these resources shall be consistent with the philosophy, goals and objectives of the St. Jude School. Instruction shall be provided to all students in grades Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> regarding Internet safety.

In its continued efforts to comply with the *Children's Internet Protection Act*, the Administration shall adopt and enforce a policy of Internet safety that incorporates the use of computer-related technology or the use of Internet service provider technology designed to block or filter Internet access for minors and adults to certain visual depictions, including without limitation those that are obscene, child pornographic, or harmful to minors, including without limitation sites that are excessively, violent, pervasively vulgar, or sexually harassing. Sites which contain information on the manufacturing of bombs or other incendiary devices shall also be prohibited. Only authorized persons may disable for an adult user the blocking or filtering mechanism in order to enable Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, which shall include online services for legitimate scientific or educational purposes approved by the Administration, or access to online services of a newspaper with a daily circulation of at least 1,000.

In addition to filtering requirements, the Administration shall maintain regulations which:

- Prohibit access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web;
- Address the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, such as "Instant Messaging";
- Prohibit unauthorized access, including what is now known as hacking, and other unlawful on-line activities by minors online;
- Prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- Institutes measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

## **PERMISSIONS**

- 1) The *Student Computer Access and Use* policy shall be distributed to the student and parent/guardian through the school handbook and shall be posted on the School web site.
- 2) Parental permission shall be assumed unless specifically denied. *Please send a written denial request with your child(ren) to school attached to page 1 of the handbook.*
- 3) Parental/guardian permissions that are assumed include:
  - Access to the internet
  - Permission to publish students' work to classroom web sites
  - Permission to have unidentified photos of students published to classroom web sites

## **COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1) *Acceptable Use* - The purpose of the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and opportunities for collaborative work. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S., state, local or School District regulations shall be prohibited.
- 2) *Privileges* - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use shall result in a cancellation of those privileges and may result in disciplinary or legal action by the administration, faculty, or staff.
- 3) *Security* - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Any suspected security problem on the Internet shall be reported to the Technology Coordinator, Principal, or other Administration. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems shall be denied access to the Internet.
- 4) *Vandalism* - Vandalism shall result in cancellation of privileges and or other disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion. *Vandalism* is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware or software data of the school system, another user, the Internet Service Provider, or other networks that are connected to Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses. No software, programs, or files may be installed or downloaded by any user without the prior permission of the building technology coordinator, who must scan for appropriateness and viruses.
- 5) *Consequences of Misuse* – The school principal may discipline (up to and including expulsion) any student who accesses, sends, receives, or configures electronically any profane language or pictures or violates the *Honor Code* for computer use, or any rules contained in the *Acceptable Use Agreement*.
- 6) *Cyberbullying*: Cyberbullying shall result in cancellation of privileges and or other disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion. Cyberbullying is defined as the use of the Internet to harass or bully others. Lagniappe Academies is a place of tolerance and good manners. Students may not use the network or any school's computer facilities for hate mail, defamatory statements intended to injure or humiliate others by disclosure of personal information (whether true or false), personal attacks on others, and statements expressing animus towards any person or group by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

## **RESPONSIBLE USE**

St. Jude School *Honor Code* applies to all persons who use any School computer. Honesty, integrity, and respect for the rights of others should be evident at all times.

The use of the Internet, including the World Wide Web, at St. Jude School must be in support of education and academic research and consistent with the educational objectives of the school. St. Jude School shall not be responsible for any financial obligations incurred by users of the Internet.

The computer user shall be held responsible for his/her actions and activities. Unacceptable uses of the computers and/or the Internet shall result in appropriate disciplinary action, including school suspension, expulsion or revoking of these privileges. If a student has questions about whether a specific activity is permitted, he or she should ask a teacher or administrator.

If a student accidentally accesses inappropriate material, he or she should back out of that information at once. Students who may inadvertently access a site that is pornographic, obscene, or harmful to minors shall immediately disconnect from the site and inform the teacher.

Students shall use the Internet search engines and/or other Internet tools only under the direction and supervision of teachers.

In general, any student use of networks and telecommunications resources must be for educational purposes and conform to school system rules of behavior. *Regulations for the use of computers and the participation by anyone on the Internet shall include but not be not be limited to the following:*

1. Student use of e-mail and other forms for direct electronic communication including instant messaging systems is prohibited unless authorized and directly supervised by a teacher.
2. School system rules prohibiting indecent, vulgar, lewd, slanderous, abusive, threatening, sexually harassing, or terrorizing language apply to all forms of electronic communications.
3. Students shall not post any e-mail or other messages or materials on school or district networks or the Internet that are indecent, vulgar, lewd, slanderous, abusive, threatening, sexually harassing, or terrorizing.
4. Students shall not post personal information about themselves, (last name, addresses, or telephone numbers) or any other person.
5. Students shall not abuse or waste network resources through frivolous and non-educational use or send chain letters or annoying or unnecessary letters to large numbers of people.
6. Students shall not access over the Internet visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors.
7. Students shall not attempt to gain unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking" or otherwise compromise any computer or network security or engage in any illegal activities on the Internet, including willfully introducing a computer virus, worm, or other harmful program to the network.
8. Students shall observe copyright law and fair use guidelines. Students shall not plagiarize or otherwise use copyrighted material without permission. Students shall properly cite the source of information accessed over the Internet.

9. Students shall not make any purchase on the Internet while using school equipment or Internet service.
10. Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance shall not be permitted.
11. Invading the privacy of individuals, sending of hate mail, harassing, or making discriminatory remarks or other antisocial behavior shall be prohibited.
12. Using an account owned by another user shall be prohibited.
13. Posting anonymous messages shall not be permitted.
14. Perusing or otherwise accessing information on manufacturing bombs or other incendiary devices shall be forbidden.
15. Downloading information without permission of the Director of Technology or designee shall be prohibited.
16. Accessing or creating exposure in any way to pictures, graphics, or other visual depictions that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion shall be prohibited.
17. Accessing or creating exposure in any way to pictures, graphics, or other visual depictions that describe or represent in an offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals shall be prohibited.
18. Accessing or creating exposure in any way to pictures, graphics, or other visual depictions that taken as a whole lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors shall be prohibited.
19. Use for product advertisement, political lobbying, or illegal activities shall be strictly prohibited.
20. Subscriptions to list servers, bulletin boards, and on-line services must be pre-approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Director of Technology or designated representatives.

Ref: 47 USC '254(h), *Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)*; La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' '17:81, 17:100.7, 17:280.

## **EXTENSION PROGRAM**

The SJS Extension Program provides professional care, supervision and recreational activities to working families who desire both a Catholic school education and supplementary day care in a Christian environment. The professional staffed program strives to help each child grow in maturity and self-respect in a safe, positive atmosphere.

The Extension program is open to any student in grades Pre-K-6 (students in grades 7 and 8 are eligible if a younger student sibling in grades Pre-K-6 is enrolled). Hours of operation are 7 to 8:05 a.m. (morning) and 3:20 to 5:30 p.m. (evening) each school day. There is no part-time program or drop-off service.

Fees are the sole support of the Extension program. It is not subsidized by the school or St. Jude Parish.

If you need to contact the Extension program, please call the activity center lobby telephone during extension hours (769-3899).

### **Emergencies/Safety**

With the child's safety and well being in mind, it is of the utmost importance that a parent fills out an emergency card and adheres to all instructions given.

One of the most important regulations concerns the child leaving the Extension program premises. Parents should not take children from the school campus without notifying the Extension staff AND signing the child out.

Also, parents should not send persons whose names are not on the emergency card to ask for the release of any child. For the child's safety, this release will not be granted.

Parents may wish to telephone the Extension program asking that their child be directed to various places after school. As there is always the possibility that a person other than a parent might telephone, such a request will not be granted.

All children participating in the morning Extension program should be dropped off at the school cafeteria. NO student should be dropped off before 7 a.m. If your child is not enrolled in the morning Extension program, please do not drop your child off at school before 8 a.m. or you will be charged a fee.

### **Fees and Pick-up**

The Extension fee assessment is for the 180-day school year and is payable in nine monthly installments due on the 10th of the month. We ask that all payments be made in a timely manner. Any payment after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Any payment after the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month will be assessed a \$20 late fee.

A \$35 fee will be assessed for all returned checks.

**Due to carpool and for your child's safety, please do not pick up your child until 3:50 p.m.** Our staff is employed until 5:30 p.m., and we request that you pick up your child promptly by this time. Students who are picked up late will be assessed \$1 per MINUTE past 5:30 p.m. (Those enrolled in the 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. program will also be assessed a fee for late pick-ups).

## **Illness or Accident**

First aid will be administered on the premises in cases that appear to be of a minor nature.

In cases that appear to be serious, the program director will make every effort to carry out the instructions as given on the emergency card.

Parents who do not wish their child to be treated in any way should indicate such on the emergency card and should give directions to be followed in the "Special Instructions" section. If the parent does not supply adequate emergency instructions, or if the instructions given cannot be followed at the time of emergency, the Extension staff will act to their best judgment for the welfare of the child.

Please provide an extra inhaler/epipen for your child to be placed in the Extension room. Our staff does not have access to the school nurse's office after school closes.

Parents will be expected to make provisions for taking sick children home. The Extension program does not have facilities for transportation of sick children.

## **Homework**

Every day, a homework period is scheduled with a staff member available for assistance. It is the child's responsibility to acknowledge his/her assignment.

Students will NOT be allowed in the school building to get books or materials that have been left in the classroom.

The homework period is strictly optional.

## **Toys from Home**

Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home.

## **Expectations for Your Child's Behavior**

As members of a Catholic school and Christian community, your child will be expected to respect the Extension staff and each other. He/she must also respect all school property. Students must NEVER leave the building or school grounds without explicit permission from the Extension staff. Such permission will only be granted by order of the parent.

## **Rules**

School-wide rules are to be followed at all times:

- Students must enter the school cafeteria quietly and wait for directions.
- There is NO running or rough play in the school cafeteria.
- The children must always leave the cafeteria tables and play areas neat and clean.
- The school buildings, activity center and parking lot are OFF LIMITS to the children.

### **Extension Plan Changes**

If you choose to change Extension plans, please notify the Extension director in writing at least two weeks in advance.

### **Withdrawal from Extension**

If you choose to withdraw your child from the Extension program, please notify the Extension Director in writing at least one month in advance.

### **Termination from Extension**

Extension program services to the family and/or an individual child may be terminated by the director after consultation with the principal.

Cancellation of services will be given one week's notice. Causes for termination from Extension include:

- Abuse of program hours
- Non-payment of Extension fees
- Failure of the adult or child to respect the safety and rights of other individuals in the Extension program