

St. Antoninus School Family Handbook

2025-2026 School Year



**ST. ANTONINUS
SCHOOL**

A Place of Faith, Prayer, and Learning

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SAINT ANTONINUS PARISH SCHOOL

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SCHOOL IDEOLOGY

Mission Statement

St. Antoninus School, united in fulfilling the Catholic Church's mission of evangelization, education, and service, acknowledges that Jesus Christ is the reason for our school. Recognizing His presence in every member of our community, we understand the importance to serve all God's people. Inspired by our vocation, we dedicate ourselves to work with our school parents to nurture our students' God-given talents academically, socially, and physically. Our intent is to empower the students with the confidence to succeed in life. **Belief Statements**

- We believe the purpose of Catholic education, in partnership with parents, is to form children in their faith.
- We believe compassion and acceptance to be the root of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and emulating His love for all.
- We believe the goal of this Christ centered environment is to attain a sense of love and dedication which extends beyond our school community.
- We believe providing a Faith Formation gives students, staff and parish families, the opportunity to foster a deeper relationship with Christ.
- We believe in a student- centered learning environment consisting of academic rigor and varied strategies that inspire all students to be successful.
- We believe in empowering the students with the confidence to succeed in life.
- We believe students, parents and staff contribute to the responsibility of enhancing and fulfilling the school's mission.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

St. Antoninus Parish School is a place of faith, prayer, and learning. We believe that Jesus Christ is the center from which we develop students academically, spiritually, socially, and physically to be active members of the Catholic community.

INFORMATIONAL NEEDS

Our Parish School seeks to provide our children with the knowledge and skills they need to live a truly human life. St. Antoninus school is accredited by the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association (OCSAA).

FORMATIONAL NEEDS

Our Parish School seeks to provide our children opportunities to live a truly Catholic life: to worship our Triune God; to grow in Christian community; and to serve the needs of others.

TRANSFORMATIONAL NEEDS

Our Parish School seeks to encourage our children to open their hearts to our Triune God in whose image they are made. Through the Sacraments and the Word of God, our children are called to “live a life worthy of the calling they have received.”

SUMMARY

St. Antoninus Parish School is a place of faith, prayer, and learning. We strive to assist our children to value their baptismal dignity and to realize their eternal destiny of glory.

PRINCIPAL'S RIGHT TO AMEND

This handbook is not a binding contract on St. Antoninus School. Rather, it is a unilateral set of policies which students and families are expected to, and must, follow. The principal, or his/her appointee, retains the right to amend this handbook at any time and for any reason. Parents, guardians, and students will be given notification if changes are made.

ADMISSION AND TUITION

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

New student registration begins following Open House in October. New student registration requires the completion of state and locally required forms, transfer of all previous records, birth certificates, baptismal records, and payment of the registration fee. The registration fee is non-refundable and is in addition to tuition. Final acceptance for new students in grades 4-8 is complete following an interview with the principal.

Returning student registration will occur beginning in **November** during each school year, **provided that all previous tuition and fees are paid in full by March 25**. Students already enrolled in FACTS, our tuition management company, will automatically be re-enrolled for the new school year once the registration fee is paid. The registration fee is non-refundable and cannot be credited against tuition. If registration is not completed by the designated dates each year, a \$50 late registration fee will be assessed per student.

ENROLLMENT PRIORITIES

Registered Parish Students

St. Antoninus Parish School is committed to offering its educational services to students whose families are registered members of St. Antoninus Parish Church. Families who move out of the parish boundaries may continue to enroll their students in St. Antoninus Parish School while paying the “in-parish tuition”.

Out-of-Parish Students

Students whose families are not registered parishioners at St. Antoninus Parish School may enroll at the out-of-parish tuition rate on a space available basis. Out-of-parish enrollment priorities are:

1. Catholic students who have siblings already enrolled
2. Other Catholic students within our Family of Parishes
3. Non-Catholic students within our Family of Parishes
4. Others

When Space Is Limited

For those students enrolling on a “space available” basis, enrollment priority will be given to those students already enrolled for the longest period of time. If necessary, spaces will be allocated by lot.

Enrollment During the School Year

Parents whose children are registered after the school year begins must meet with the principal prior to acceptance. Student records must be transferred to St. Antoninus Parish School prior to the student’s first day. Enrollment is not final until the principal authorizes. New students will be enrolled on probationary status.

Enrollment and/or Retention of Students with Special Needs

St. Antoninus School will evaluate on a case-by-case basis whether or not it can meet the needs of a child with a disability. If the school can make reasonable accommodations to meet the child’s needs, then the child may be offered the opportunity to enroll.

St. Antoninus School is a Catholic school that abides by the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church. Faith is integrated into all aspects of the school’s activities. It would be inconsistent with the school’s identity and mission to teach, promote, or encourage an understanding that is contrary to Catholic teachings. Thus, a student’s expression of his/her gender, sexual identity, or sexuality that is inconsistent with the Catholic faith may be considered by St. Antoninus School when determining whether to admit or retain a student.

NEW-PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

New parishioners must register with the parish prior to or in conjunction with school registration in order to be eligible to receive the parishioner tuition rate.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS POLICY

The cost of a child's education is a full school year expense. Books, teaching supplies, and materials are purchased, teachers and support staff are hired, and classrooms are prepared with the anticipation of each student's full-year enrollment. As a result, St. Antoninus School has established the specific policies and guidelines regarding students who withdraw from school.

- Written notification must be submitted to the School Office at least two weeks before the effective date of the withdrawal. A Request for Records Release must be signed by the parent/legal guardian.
- Tuition must be current and up to date before student records can be released or sent to any other institution.
- Tuition must be paid according to the following structure:
 - Student withdraws before the first day of school – Payment due: June and July
 - Student withdraws from first day of school through December 15th – Payment due: June 1st through the end of the month of withdrawal.
 - Student withdraws after December 15th – No refund will be given

TUITION AND ASSISTANCE

All families at St. Antoninus School pay tuition. Rates are determined annually based on the financial needs of the school and are approved by the Pastoral Council and/or Finance Council.

TUITION RATES

Tuition rates are determined and approved by the parish business office, in conjunction with such organizations as the parish council and finance council each year. Current tuition rates are easily accessible on our website www.stacatholicschool.org.

Tuition must be paid in full by March 25th of the current school year in order to register for the following school year. Families who choose not to re-enroll must pay tuition in full before records to new school can be released.

TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Payment in full due June 1st paid via auto draft from a checking, savings, or credit card payment.
- Payments can also be made directly to FACTS, our tuition management company.
- Semi-annual payments are due June 1st and December 1st paid via auto draft from a checking, savings, or credit card payment and will receive a 40% tuition discount.
- If payments are not received on the due date, the 40% discount will be forfeited. School families are responsible for paying the payment plan fee of \$20, payable to FACTS.
- Ten monthly payments are due on the 10th or 25th of each month beginning in June and ending in March, paid via auto draft from a checking, savings, or credit card. School families are responsible for paying the payment plan fee of \$46, payable to FACTS.

FAMILIES OF EIGHTH GRADERS

Any school family of a graduating eighth grade student needs to be current with their tuition payments by March 31st of each school year or risk having their student withdrawn from St. Antoninus School before the start of the third trimester. Written notice will be provided to any family not in compliance with this policy.

TUITION PAYMENT SUMMARY

All accounts must be paid on time per the payment plan selected unless other arrangements have been made with the School Office Manager. If you find yourself in a situation where you cannot meet the payment plan schedule, you must contact the Parish Business Manager as soon as possible to discuss other options to avoid incurring late payment fees. The Business Manager can be reached at 513-494-4678 ext.1025 or you can send an email to fbuchert@fmhe.org. Tuition payments will only be accepted via auto draft from a checking, savings, or credit card account set up through FACTS. Cash payments cannot be accepted.

Registration for returning students that do not meet the established registration deadline will be assessed a \$25 late registration fee per student.

Tuition policies are reviewed annually around the beginning of the third trimester of school by the Parish Finance Council and Education Commission. Any changes to these policies will be communicated promptly.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

St. Antoninus currently uses FACTS for tuition processing. All families must register with FACTS to process their enrollment fee(s), incidental fees (if any), and tuition payment(s).

Even though current families are already in FACTS, please go to FACTS and choose your payment plan for the 2025-2026 school year. Once you pick your payment plan, the Business Manager, Fran Buchert, will be able to go in and enter your tuition balance according to the plan you choose. Any questions? Contact Fran Buchert, buchert@saintantoninus.org 513-494-4678 ext.1025. **All username and password questions regarding FACTS, should be directed to FACTS, 1-866-441-4637.**

New Families, if you are not a current St. Antoninus Family, **you will need to register in FACTS** (our online tuition management system) to be able to be billed and pay for your school tuition. Please visit <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3XGHN> to register for FACTS.

FACTS plans, dates and fees for each:

Registration Fee – The **NON-REFUNDABLE** registration fee is \$200.00 for all. This fee will be billed and collected through FACTS. Automatic bank withdrawal and credit card payments will automatically be deducted after you complete your registration.

**New families- Any registration fees paid by check to the school office will be recorded in your FACTS account.*

- **One-time tuition payment – no FACTS fee** – payment will be due on June 10th. You may choose automatic withdrawal from your bank account, credit

card (there is a small fee when using a credit card) or a check brought to the school office for the full tuition amount. Checks will ONLY be accepted when paying the full tuition amount.

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- **Two-time tuition payment - \$20 FACTS fee** – half of the payment will be due on June 10th or 25th (your choice), and the other half will be due in November (10th or 25th). You may choose to pay by automatic withdrawal from your bank account or credit card (a small fee applies). Checks will NOT be accepted with this method of payment.
- **11 Monthly tuition payments - \$46 Facts fee** – tuition will be divided into 11 monthly payments, beginning in June 2025, and ending in April 2026. Payments will be due on either the 10th or 25th of each month (your choice). You may choose to pay by automatic withdrawal from your bank account or credit card (a small fee applies). Checks will NOT be accepted with this method of payment.
- **Other FACTS Fees:**
 - \$30 Non-sufficient funds fee
 - \$40 Late payment fee
 - \$30 Grant and Aid application fee
 - Credit card fee of 2.85% per transaction

*** Late fees will apply if payments are not made by the designated plan date. Additionally, a family may change/move their payment date up to two times without penalty. Thereafter, any further tuition payment date changes will incur a \$10 fee per date change.**

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2025-2026

School families are encouraged to apply for Scholarships through the State of Ohio EdChoice program and families can also apply for Scholarships through St Antoninus.

Details of these scholarships can be found in the school office.

***Kindergarten-8th Grade tuition assistance is available through CEF. All families may apply.**

Withdrawal Policy

- Written notification must be submitted to the school office at least two weeks before the effective date of withdrawal. A request for records release must be signed by the parent/legal guardian.
- Tuition must be current and up to date before student records can be released or sent to any other institution.
- The cost of a child's education is a full school year expense. Parents need to understand that books, teaching supplies, and materials are purchased, teachers &

support staff are hired, and classrooms are prepared with the anticipation of each student's full year enrollment. As a result, St. Antoninus school has established the specific policies and guidelines regarding students who withdraw from school. Please note registration fees (as stated above) are *NONREFUNDABLE*.

Withdraw before June 1	Full Refund
Withdraw before the first day of the school year	Payment due: June & July
Withdraw from the 1 st day through December 15	Payment due: June 1 through the end of the month of withdrawal
Withdraw after December 15	No Refund

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

Regular attendance is a most important factor in the establishment of a good scholastic record. Work missed through absences is difficult to make up, because there is no substitute for active participation in daily classroom discussions and work. Students are expected to be in attendance for all days which are scheduled for instruction. There are certainly very good reasons for children to have to miss school such as personal illness, a family death, or a family emergency. We certainly do not want children to come to school if they are ill. There is also no formal recognition for perfect attendance.

Notification to Office

Every student absence must be reported to the school office by 8:30 a.m. A message left on the absence line must include the caller's name, the student's name, grade number, and homeroom teacher, the date of absence, and reason for absence or the parent must send an email stating the same information to the homeroom teacher with a copy to steinbeck@saintantoninus.org for the absence.

APPOINTMENTS, SCHEDULED EVENTS, VACATIONS

Whenever possible all appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours.

Family vacations, during the school year, are discouraged for educational reasons. Assignments may not be given in advance. The responsibility lies with the student to get missed assignments. Any work given out prior to an arranged vacation is due upon return. Any work not given in advance after an arranged absence is given one day, per day absent, to complete missed work.

While prearranged absences are generally discouraged, St. Antoninus School recognizes that certain occupations and events scheduled out of parents' control prohibit all vacations from occurring during the normal school vacation times. (Weddings, graduations, whole family reunions, sporting events, etc.) For all absences, students are responsible to make up the work they have missed. All of these prearranged types of absences are unexcused absences. They will have one day for every day absent to complete assignments. Arrangements to pick up the

child's work after school should be made before noon. All requested student work will be placed on the table within the main entrance foyer. The school foyer is inaccessible after 3:15 p.m.

INCOMPLETE/ABSENT DAYS

Late Arrival

When a student arrives after 7:40 a.m., leaves before 2:00 p.m., or is out of school for any reason between 7:40 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (excluding lunch time), his or her attendance will be considered "incomplete" for that day and will be designated as a tardy on their attendance record.

When a student arrives late, he/she should first report to the school office with a written note from his/her parent explaining the reason for being late. If students come to school, but leave before 9:00 a.m., they will be marked absent for the day.

Student Safety

For the safety and security of everyone involved, students must always sign in and sign out in the school office when entering or leaving the building between 7:40 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Parents should escort their children into the building when they are tardy.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCE AND TARDINESS

Students who are absent more than three consecutive days must produce a doctor's excuse. Three unexcused tardies will count as an unexcused absence for **ALL** students. Note: In order for anyone on EdChoice to maintain eligibility for their EdChoice Scholarship, a student must miss no more than twenty unexcused days during the school year.

Students who are habitually tardy (approximately 2-3 times per week) not only disrupt the class but hinder their own academic achievement. Frequent absences/tardies may result in a failure to pass the current grade.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Students at St. Antoninus School are exposed to a challenging, well-rounded curriculum. In addition to core subjects, we also offer spiritual development through religion classes and sacramental preparation, foreign language classes, fine arts, enrichment, and intervention opportunities. Additional support services are available for students as needed.

CURRICULUM

St. Antoninus Parish School offers an educational program that prepares students to realize the fullness of their being. From kindergarten through grade eight, students are challenged to apply themselves through age-appropriate learning experiences and activities.

Our instructional agenda is consistent with the **Archdiocesan Graded Course of Study** that is reviewed and revised by hundreds of teachers and administrators throughout the Archdiocese on a consistent basis.

Our curriculum includes Religion, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health, Technology, Music, Art, & Physical Education.

GRADE LEVEL STRUCTURE

Grade Four through Grade Eight

Grades four through eight are primarily departmentalized. To various degrees at different grade levels, the students are grouped by ability and achievement and with the student's best interest in mind. In every situation, and with every individual student, the goal is to determine the given starting point, and to move students toward additional knowledge, better understanding, and additional or improved skills.

In our student-centered environment, teachers work to differentiate instruction on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, in any given classroom, there is more than one ability group represented. This system enables the more critical Language Arts objectives of the younger student to be met in the most effective manner while avoiding the imposition of "labels."

Grade One through Grade Three

Grades one, two, and three remain in their homeroom groupings throughout the day. Grades one and two are self-contained for Language Arts and Math but may change teachers for other subjects. In grade three, students change classes for all subjects.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten classes have an instructional aide to support the classroom teacher.

HONOR ROLL RECOGNITION

Overview of Points for Honor Roll

Students in grades four through eight have the opportunity to achieve first or second honors at the end of the first, second, and third trimesters. Honors Roll is based on the following point system: **"A" = 4 points; "B" = 3 points; "C" = 2 points**

Honor points are given for grades earned in Expression (English), Mathematics, Reading, Religion, Science, Social Studies.

First Honors = 24 to 22 points Second Honors = 21 to 18 points

Students are Eligible for Effort Honor Roll if they have not received a checkmark under the heading "Personal Development" on that trimester's report card or receive a "D" or "F" in any of the core subjects identified in the above paragraph.

GRADING AND REPORTING

St. Antoninus Parish School operates on a three-trimester system. Report Cards are sent home with the students within one week of the end of each term, with the exception of the third trimester when the report card is issued on the final day of school. Grades are also available through our online grading system throughout the school year.

Interims

In an effort to maintain appropriate communication with families, an interim report may be sent home with each student midway through each trimester. Parents regularly have access to grades through our online grading system. Mid-term interims are typically sent home only when students are at risk of failing a class or are performing well below their expected level.

Grades Four through Eight

In grades four through eight, the traditional “A” – “F” grades are assigned along with an “Effort” mark. This grading system is consistent with the Archdiocesan model.

Grades Kindergarten through Three

Students in the primary grades are developing their skills on a daily basis, and therefore, do not receive A-F grades. Grades K-3 follow the Archdiocesan report card model for grading.

HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned as a means of giving practice, reinforcing concepts on the individual level, evaluating progress, and developing good study/work habits. These objectives are essential to our purpose. Homework teaches self-discipline because students must learn to budget their time and exert themselves to meet deadlines to best prepare for their futures. While children may not understand this, parents and guardians do. It is their responsibility to insist that each task be taken seriously and done carefully. Parents and guardians are not expected to help their child excessively, but interest goes far in encouraging a child. While many teachers utilize Google doc pages to post homework, the plan book should be used as a means of communication with the teacher to help your child. **It is the student’s responsibility to complete the plan book daily.**

It is expected that each student will come to school with their homework completed. Not completing homework is NOT an option. Students may be required to do their homework instead of participating in recess. The plan book is marked appropriately, and parents may be requested to sign it.

All homework is to be completed on time. If an emergency arises, and the student is unable to finish the homework, he/she should bring a note written by the parent. *Extra-curricular activities do not constitute an emergency.* This is not a request to omit the assignment, but rather a request to postpone it for a good reason. Please remember that homework does not necessarily mean traditional, written work. Students may be requested to review class notes, read, work on projects, or study for a test, etc.

Guidelines for Homework Completion

Not all assignments are to be written. Reading and reviewing are important components. Time for homework should be set aside after every school day. Students are assigned an amount of homework that is age appropriate for each grade. The amount of time spent on homework each evening will vary according to the ability of the student. However, the homework should be within the range of the student’s ability and of such a nature that the student, *not the parent or guardian*, will do the work. If you think that your child is spending an excessive amount of time on homework every night, please talk to his/her teacher about your concerns. The following guidelines are established for timing of daily homework:

- **Kindergarten** approximately 15 minutes
- **Grades 1 – 3...** 20 to 45 minutes
- **Grades 4 – 6...** 45 to 90 minutes
- **Grades 7 – 8...** 60 to 120 minutes

SUMMER SCHOOL AND RETENTION

Guidelines

Every attempt is made to help our children succeed within the course of the school year. However, there are times when additional time outside the course of the school is needed for a child to meet the grade level requirements. For example, if a student is significantly weak in any one subject area, summer tutoring may be required. While retention is viewed as a last resort, if a student has a failing, yearly average in two or more subjects, that student may not be promoted to the next grade level.

Fourth - Eighth Grade Retention Policy

As a rule, fourth through eighth grade students in this situation will not be retained at St. Antoninus Parish School and would have to attend school elsewhere. These situations are clearly individual in nature, and each case is given individualized attention. The principal and teachers make these important decisions in dialogue with the parents.

AUXILIARY PROGRAMS AND STAFF

In addition to the regular educational program, St. Antoninus Parish School offers reading and math intervention programs, speech and language therapy, diagnostic psychological services, and learning-disabled tutorial programs.

State and federal funds provide for these services. There are specific requirements and qualifications for participation in such programs. Administration, teachers, and parents recommend that a student receive such services. Parents who would like additional information about intervention programs for their child should contact the homeroom teacher first, who will then contact the Intervention Assistance Team for additional information.

LIBRARY

Students visit the school library once a week and can check out books for two-week periods. Fines are levied for overdue books in the amount of 5¢ per school day (no weekends). All borrowers must reimburse the library for lost or damaged books.

OPTION C

Parents in all grades can view grades online through Option C. Grades should be posted no later than 2 weeks after the assignment has been received. Not every assignment is graded. Grades that are removed by teachers were used as review, not as a grade. Questions about grades should be directed directly to the teacher of record.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

We want the parents/guardians to know that we are always glad to talk over school challenges which may arise. Many children perform better schoolwork when contacts are made before report cards are issued. Parents or teachers should schedule a timely meeting, if they feel it is necessary. This is the best way to solve school issues. Classes may NEVER be interrupted for this purpose.

Formal scheduled conferences are held in the fall each year as needed. Additional conferences may be scheduled at parent or teacher request. PTO meetings and other school or sporting events are not an appropriate time for conferences and should not be expected.

TESTING PROGRAMS

Students in grades K-8 will participate in the i-Ready Assessment Program. This alternative assessment to the Ohio State Tests will measure proficiencies in Reading and Math and will be administered three times throughout the year. Progress will be reported at those intervals to all parents. Fifth and Eighth Grade Students are required to take the Ohio State Test for Science at the end of the year. Students in Grades 2-8 will also take the ARC test measuring their knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith. Eighth grade students taking an accelerated Algebra I curriculum, complete the State of Ohio End of Course Exam in May to test eligibility to receive high school credit for Algebra I.

RESPECT AND BEHAVIOR

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

St Antoninus is a caring and supportive Catholic community, and as such, parents, teachers, and classmates should expect to be treated in a Christian manner. All members of our community are expected to be respectful and polite to each other at any time and place. St. Antoninus School reserves the right to impose discipline for unacceptable behavior that takes place off school grounds and outside school hours.

We have wonderful students at St. Antoninus and our staff is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a good social and educational climate for all students. Therefore, it is necessary for all students to attain a measure of self-discipline in following acceptable standards of behavior. We emphasize the importance of learning to assume responsibility for one's own actions.

St. Antoninus School is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment. For this reason, students are to conduct themselves as responsible citizens at all times. At all times, students' language and actions must demonstrate respect for other people and property. Discipline should be based on the idea that a student must learn to accept the consequences of his/her actions. Appropriate decisions result in positive reinforcements, and poor decisions result in negative consequences.

Discipline will be administered fairly but firmly, whenever an individual's action interferes with the rights of teachers to teach and the students to learn. All adults on the staff are responsible for student discipline. Behavior which violates our code of conduct may be stopped by anyone witnessing the behavior at school or school related/school sponsored activities.

It is understood that the code of conduct and rules stated in this handbook is not exhaustive, and that there may be inappropriate incidents that occur which are not stated herein. The administration and faculty reserve the right to apply disciplinary measures for any misconduct, even though it may not be specified in these rules and regulations. Students who fail to abide by these rules are subject to disciplinary policy and actions.

Whether in school, on the playground, or in Church, if disciplinary situations arise, the teacher and the student(s) involved will discuss the problem and plan to work toward a solution. If the seriousness or frequency of a problem warrants, the teacher will notify the principal and/or parents. If warranted, a conference will be scheduled with the teacher, parents, and principal.

GENERAL RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

The following general rules and expectations serve as reminders and are in support of the Student Code of Conduct and Demerit System.

1. Each student is responsible and accountable for his or her own actions.
2. Courtesy, respect, and consideration will be shown to all fellow students, staff, parents, workers, volunteers, visitors.
3. All students are subject to correction from any faculty or staff.
4. The School Uniform Code will be followed, including expectations for out of uniform days.
5. Improper language or gestures, deliberate injury, or threatening statements are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
6. Stealing, cheating, plagiarism, or forgery of parent(s) signature(s) will not be tolerated.
7. Willful destruction of property or vandalism will not be tolerated, and parents are responsible for associated costs of repair or replacement. Accidental damage will also be subject to reimbursement of repair or replacement costs.
8. Books and materials are to be handled with care. Books must be covered and re-covered as necessary. Damage to books on loan is subject to a fine not to exceed the book's value.
9. Students are expected to come prepared for class and other school activities.
10. Each student is responsible for his or her own belongings. Personal items should be marked with the student's name.
11. The student's use of non-medical, personal electronics may only be used with the permission of a teacher or other staff member.
12. Weapons, or any item that might be considered a weapon by the principal, are not permitted at school.
13. Students are to be orderly in the halls and classrooms at all times, so that a positive learning environment is maintained. Students must walk in the halls and may speak quietly. No student should be in the hall without the permission of a faculty or staff member.
14. Students are not permitted to leave the school premises during the school day without the written, signed permission of their parent(s) or guardian(s).

ST. ANTONINUS BULLYING POLICY

It is the policy of St. Antoninus School (the "School") that any form of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, regardless of where, how, or when it takes place, is expressly forbidden.

The Parish and School's internet and computer system may not be used to engage in harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The "Student Responsible Use of Technology" form must be signed by each student and on file with the school.

The school reserves the right to impose discipline for harassing, intimidating, bullying, and other inappropriate behavior that takes place off School grounds and outside School hours.

Definition of Terms

- "Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.
- "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means either of the following:
 - Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:
 - Causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
 - Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student.
 - Violence within a dating relationship.
 - "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" also means electronically transmitted acts i.e., by Internet, social media/network, blog, cell phone, personal digital assistance (PDA), wireless hand-held device, or other electronic communication device, that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:
 - Causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
 - Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student.

In evaluating whether conduct constitutes harassment, intimidation, or bullying, special attention should be paid to the words chosen and the actions taken, whether such conduct occurred in front of others or was communicated to others, how the offender interacted with the victim, and the motivation, either admitted or appropriately inferred. Accordingly, what may constitute harassment, intimidation, or bullying in one circumstance might not constitute such in another. As in all disciplinary matters, the School will make this determination utilizing its sole and absolute educational discretion and judgment.

Types of Conduct

- Harassment, intimidation, and bullying can include many different behaviors including, but not limited to, overt intent to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate another student. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include:
 - Engaging in unsolicited and offensive or insulting behavior; o Physical violence and/or attacks.
 - Threats, taunts, and intimidation through words and/or gestures; o Extortion, damage, or stealing of money and/or possessions; o Exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors; and
 - Repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies, computers, cell phones, other electronic devices, the Internet, online websites, blogs, or social media/networks (also known as “cyber-bullying”). Examples of cyber-bullying include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Posting slurs on the Internet, websites, blogs, or social media/networks; o Sending abusive or threatening instant messages, text messages, emails, or other communications through the Internet, websites, blogs, or social media/networks.
 - Taking embarrassing photographs of students and posting them online or otherwise distributing them; and
 - Using the Internet, websites, blogs, social media/networks, or electronic communication devices to impersonate another individual or circulate gossip or rumors to other students.

Complaints Regarding Harassment

Formal Complaints

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such written reports shall be reasonably specific including persons involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of the suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and the names of any potential witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any School staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the principal or his/her designee.

Informal Complaints

Students and/or their parents/guardians may make informal complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, School administrator, or other School personnel. Such informal complaints shall be reasonably specific as to the actions giving rise to the suspicion of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, including persons involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of the prohibited behavior, and the names of any potential witnesses. A School staff member or administrator who receives an informal complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the above information. This written report by the School staff member and/or administrator shall be promptly forwarded to the principal or his/her designee.

Anonymous Complaints

Students who make informal complaints as set forth above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the School staff member or administrator who receives the complaint. The anonymous complaints shall be reviewed, and reasonable action will be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the concept of fairness to the student alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Primary Grade Behavior Policy K- 3 is determined by the classroom teacher. Teachers will concentrate on teaching the students how to STOP and THINK before ACTING. At this time when students are learning school procedures, they are also learning the process of becoming self-disciplined.

Behavior Policy and Procedure for Rule Infraction Grades 4 – 8

Every student in grades 4-8 will receive a demerit card to keep inside his/her homework notebook. To protect the privacy of all students, these cards will be kept inside the assignment notebook. When an inappropriate behavior occurs, the supervising teacher will issue points and mark the child's behavior card accordingly. Students will receive a warning before receiving 1 Point Violations at the teacher's discretion. Parents are encouraged to check this record of behavior regularly. Students will receive a new behavior card each trimester. At that time, all students will start back at zero points. Any students who have not received any behavior points during the trimester will receive an out-of-uniform pass or another type of incentive from their homeroom teacher. *****Students will not be on the honor roll if they have had a detention during the trimester.**

Accumulation of Demerits

Demerits accumulate throughout the year. The number of demerits received correlates to the severity of the offense. For each 5 demerits accrued, the student is required to serve detention after school. Detention is held after school on Wednesdays and is supervised by the principal or a teacher appointee. Parents will receive advanced notification of the need to serve a detention.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Each student in grades 4-8 are given a blank demerit card with the following information on it. Steps explaining the process for an accumulation of demerits follows the list of violations. Parents and students may want to use these tools as a way to better communicate any questions or concerns regarding demerits to your child's teacher(s).

1 DEMERIT VIOLATIONS

- A. Lack of Materials/Homework
- B. Uniform Violation (includes gym uniform)
- C. Gum/Food
- D. Failure to Return Signed Paper
- E. Not on Task/Not Following Directions
- F. Misplaced Behavior Card

4 DEMERIT VIOLATIONS

- G. Excessive Talking
- H. Profanity/Inappropriate Language or Behavior
 - I. Bus Misconduct
- J. Using Cell Phone or Electronic Device During School Hours Without Permission
- K. Failure to Have Behavior Card Signed
- L. Disruptive Behavior

AUTOMATIC DETENTION (Conference required with teacher/principal)

- M. Inappropriate Use of Technology
- N. Failure to Serve Detention
- O. Disrespect
- P. Blatant Refusal to Follow Directions/Defiance
- Q. Verbal or Physical Attack
- R. Dishonesty-Academic or Otherwise
- S. Damage to Property

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION (Conference Required with Teacher/Principal-Actions May Result in Legal Action)

- T. Harassment
- U. Bullying
- V. Theft
- X. Fighting/Instigating
- Y. Accumulating Detentions/Suspensions

SUSPENSIONS/EXPULSIONS

If a student, or his/her parent/guardian, behaves in ways that hinder the school from pursuing its mission, objectives, or disciplinary norms, the administration may determine that St. Antoninus School is not the appropriate educational environment for that child. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lack of respect for the school's mission, programs, and activities.
- Lack of respect for school employees; hindering them from discharging their duties.
- Lack of respect for school/parish property.
-

****Out of School Suspension***

In certain situations that are extreme or not provided for in the demerit system, the principal may find it necessary to issue an out of school suspension. The principal will determine the terms of and the length of the out of school suspension and notify the parents. The student's work may be sent home in the same manner as if the student was absent. Work must be completed following the guidelines for absence.

EXPULSION BY DEFINITION

An expelled student is removed from the school community. A student is liable to immediate expulsion from school for the following reasons:

1. Two suspensions during the school year.
2. Possession of firearms, knives, explosives, or other dangerous objects.
3. Arson
4. Bomb threat
5. Gross misconduct
6. Vandalism
7. Felony conviction
8. Violent or threatening behavior
9. Possession, use, or sale of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, or other hallucinogenic substances on school grounds or at school sponsored events.
10. Physical assault, sexual harassment, or verbal harassment of any student, member of the staff or other person in authority.

Procedures to be followed in case of expulsion:

1. The case will be discussed with relevant staff, parents, and the pastor.
2. The parents and student will meet with the principal.
3. Written notice will be sent to the parents stating the reasons for the student's expulsion.
4. The student's withdrawal/expulsion will be reported to the Attendance Department of the local public school district.
5. A report will be sent to the Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools on each student dismissed from St. Antoninus School.

The principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive or impose a disciplinary action for a just cause.

CONDUCT DISCLAIMER

No discipline issued pursuant to any handbook shall bind the School to issue the same, or even comparable, discipline to other students in the future. Nor will any form or extent of discipline be construed as a precedent for how discipline will be imposed moving forward. Rather, the School reserves sole judgment and discretion in disciplining students based on the circumstances of each incident, including but not limited to the respective age(s) of the student(s) involved, the student(s)' perceived maturity level, the conduct at issue, the student(s)' attitude and degree of cooperation, the student(s)' disciplinary history, and any other aggravating or mitigating circumstances the School deems relevant. Nothing in this Handbook limits or otherwise constrains the School's authority, discretion, judgment, or responsibility in any student disciplinary matters.

ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION POLICY REGARDING SUSPENSIONS

Suspensions: In congruence with St. Antoninus Athletic Association By-Laws (Article X, Participants Section,) a student that is suspended from school will not be allowed to participate in athletics at St. Antoninus School during such suspension. The suspended student will not be allowed to begin participating in St. Antoninus sports until the date that he/she is eligible to start school after the suspension. For example, if the principal notifies the President of the Athletic Association that a student has been suspended for five (5) school days from a Monday to a Friday and will be allowed back to school on the following Monday, that student will not be allowed to participate in athletics until the Monday that he or she starts school after the suspension. The principal and parents will notify the President of the Athletic Association of any suspensions.

BEHAVIOR AT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

When a student is participating in an extracurricular activity, including but not limited to After School Care, Scouts, the musical, Student Council, etc., during after school hours, he or she is expected to be respectful and behave as a St. Antoninus student is expected to behave. Students who do not conduct themselves accordingly may be referred by the activity leader to the principal for disciplinary action.

OFF CAMPUS MISCONDUCT

The student disciplinary code and all penalties will apply to conduct off school grounds that may endanger the health or safety of students or faculty of St. Antoninus School or adversely affect the educational process. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to illegal activity, threats of violence, use of alcohol, or drugs and harassment.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of using the ideas or words of others as one's own. Students at St. Antoninus School are instructed regarding the nature of plagiarism and are expected to acknowledge the ideas and words of others appropriately through conventional standards. A student submitting a plagiarized work cannot earn a grade of A, but the student will have the opportunity to redo the assignment to earn partial credit. The length of time given for this task will be at the discretion of the teacher.

PREGNANCY POLICY

The decision to admit or retain a student in the school who has become pregnant or caused another student to become pregnant will be made by the pastor and/or principal after all involved parties have been consulted. In each case, the decision must consider the welfare of the student(s) involved, and the common good and welfare of all the students.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE INTERNET POLICY

Use of the internet at St. Antoninus School is guided by the principles stated in the Archdiocesan Responsible Use of Technology Agreement. A copy of this document will be sent home for parent's/guardian's signature before a student can use the internet at school.

St. Antoninus School attempts to filter internet traffic at school for the purpose of safeguarding staff and students, nothing is fool proof. It is always the responsibility of the user to comply with St. Antoninus School policies and the Archdiocesan Responsible Use of Technology Agreement. Further, the parent/guardian and student are solely responsible for internet usage outside of school, even if on a school-issued computer or other device.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

St. Antoninus School reserves the right to search and inspect school property used by students at any time. St. Antoninus School also reserves the right to search and inspect personal property when the administration (1) suspects items prohibited by the school are in a student's possession; or (2) suspects a student may be engaged in conduct in violation of the school's policies and procedures. Such items may be confiscated and appropriate action, including disciplinary action, may be taken.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

St. Antoninus School reserves the right to refuse admission or remove from enrollment any parent/guardian or student who posts unapproved or inappropriate photos or statements pertaining to the school, its faculty, administration, or students, or school events.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/WEAPON POLICY

The possession, use, distribution or sale of tobacco products, narcotics, hallucinogens, inhalants, alcoholic beverages and other drugs, controlled substances and/or instruments used to administer drugs, weapons, facsimiles, dangerous objects, objects capable of inflicting harm or used in a dangerous way are not permitted. Any infraction of this code will result in suspension or expulsion from school.

UNIFORM/DRESS POLICY

St. Antoninus Parish School represents the parish in the community. Every student is an "ambassador" whose appearance and actions speak loudly. For this reason, all clothing must fit appropriately, not be oversized or undersized. Clothing should not be torn and must be free of holes. At no time are tank tops or spaghetti straps appropriate. Shorts, even when out of uniform, must be worn at the waist and be no more than four inches above the back of the knee. No short

shorts are permitted. Any exception to the dress code will be made at the discretion of the principal.

The St. Antoninus School uniform policy emphasizes modesty, cleanliness, and good grooming. It has been instituted as a symbol of pride in our school and as a way of demonstrating self-discipline and respect among our students.

St. Antoninus School considers the development of good grooming habits to be part of the learning process. Student conduct and disposition for learning correlate highly with dress and grooming. In school, cleanliness and neatness enable students to form good attitudes about themselves. This will help the student adapt to an atmosphere dedicated to self-discipline and learning.

For purposes of hygiene, students in the upper grades should use deodorant and bring stick or roll-on deodorant to use on PE days. No aerosol deodorant cans may be brought to school. Students in grades 5-8 are also expected to change clothes for PE even on out-of-uniform days.

Parent cooperation to enforce the dress code is essential. Parents should be aware of appropriate apparel and overall appearance and should see that their children leave for school looking their best within modest limits.

ALL GRADES	
Blouses/Shirts	
Plain white or black tailored or knit shirts with a collar. Blouses and shirts must be tucked in except for banded waist knit shirts. Shirts may have St. Antoninus School emblem embroidered on them. Undershirts must be white with no printing. White turtlenecks may be worn under uniform shirts, sweaters, or sweatshirts. Dry fit material is permitted.	
Sweaters	
Solid white, black or gray cardigans or pullovers may be worn over a blouse/shirt. No oversized sweaters or emblems may be worn.	
Sweatshirts	
Only St. Antoninus uniform sweatshirts may be worn in the classrooms. Spiritwear sweatshirts must be purchased from the PTO. Non uniform outerwear, such as high school or college spirit wear, may not be worn in the classrooms.	
Socks and Leggings	
Only solid black or white socks may be worn. Socks with stripes or other designs are not permitted. Girls may wear solid black ankle length tights with socks in cold weather. White tights with feet are permitted.	
Shoes	
Dress or gym shoes may be worn. Shoes with any type of closure must be fastened. Shoestrings must be laced and tied. No sandals or other open shoes are allowed. Warm weather boots may be worn in inclement weather from November 1 st through March 31 st . Oversized or furry boots, such as Ugg-type boots, should not be worn during the school day. Students who walk to and from school that may need additional warmth should change into regular shoes upon arriving at school.	

Make up, Jewelry, and Accessories
Makeup of any kind is not allowed. Only one earring may be worn per ear – boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Earrings may not hang below the ear lobe. Any form of jewelry that is distracting to the educational setting is not permitted. For example, a simple cross or religious medal may be worn on a simple chain. One simple ring may be worn on a hand. Temporary or permanent tattoos are not permitted. Hats or scarves may not be worn in the building except for special, announced occasions.
Hair and Grooming
Hair must be clean and neatly groomed -No extreme or distracting hair colors or styles are permitted. Only natural hair colors are permitted. Hair should always be kept off the face with bangs above the eyebrows. Boys' hair must be short enough to be above the collar. Boys must be clean shaven. Hair accessories should be simple. No excessive adornments are permitted. No hair spray or gel should be brought to school.

GIRLS UNIFORM K-4
Plaid Jumper
Uniform skirt may not be more than 4 inches above the back of the knee. Shorts may be worn under the jumper but may not hang below the skirt.
Pants
Black or khaki twill dress pants on – no knit pants are permitted. Trendy pants such as yoga, flared, bootcut, hip hugger, skinny legged, and cargo, etc. are not permitted.
Shorts/Skorts
Black or khaki twill, or uniform walking shorts and skorts may be worn in August, September, October, April, May, and June. Shorts and skorts must not be more than 4 inches above the back of the knee.
GIRLS UNIFORM 5-8
Pants
Black or tan khaki twill tailored dress pants only – no knit pants are permitted. Trendy pants such as yoga, flared, boot-cut, hip hugger, skinny legged, and cargo, etc. are not permitted. <i>A black or brown belt must be worn with all pants that have belt loops.</i>
Shorts/Skirts/Skorts
Black, or tan khaki twill uniform walking shorts and skorts may be worn in August, September, October, April, May, and June. Shorts and skorts must not be more than 4 inches above the back of the knee. <i>A black or brown belt must be worn with all shorts and skorts that have belt loops.</i>

BOYS UNIFORM K-4	
Pants	Black or tan khaki twill pants only – no knit pants are permitted. Pants must be worn at the waist. Trendy and cargo pants are not considered dress pants. Pants must be worn during the months of November, December, January, February, and March.
Shorts	Black or tan khaki twill walking shorts may be worn in August, September, October, April, May, and June.
BOYS UNIFORM 5-8	
Pants	Black, tan khaki twill or corduroy dress pants only – no knit pants are permitted. Pants must be worn at the waist. Trendy and cargo pants are not considered dress pants. <i>A black or brown belt must be worn with all pants that have belt loops.</i> Pants must be worn during the months of November, December, January, February, and March.
Shorts	Black, or tan khaki twill walking shorts may be worn in August, September, October, April, May, and June. <i>A black or brown belt must be worn with all shorts that have belt loops.</i>

This constitutes the school uniform policy regarding clothing students may wear and items relating to personal grooming and appearance. If an item is not included in the policy, please assume that it is not permitted. The school administration reserves the right to determine compliance and noncompliance with the above policy. The school principal, and/or his/her designee, will make a final determination of the appropriateness of any student's apparel or appearance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Afterschool Program at St. Antoninus School operates during the school year to support working parents and is located on the school campus. Additional information about our After School Program, including program [guidelines](#), can be obtained by contacting Erica Steinbeck 922-2500 ext. 2500 or emailing her at Steinbeck@saintantoninus.org.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The safety of our students is always a primary concern. For this reason, the following procedures have been implemented. It is necessary that all families follow these rules when dropping off and picking up students.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL OFFICE

Students released during the school day must leave from the school office. A written note signed by the student's parents/guardian is required for the student to be released during

the day. The parent/guardian must sign the child out in the school office. If a child subsequently returns before the end of the day, he/she must be signed back into school by the parent/guardian.

EARLY DROP-OFF/LATE PICK-UP

Students may not be dropped off prior to 7:20, as there is no supervision prior to that time. When students are not picked up by 3:00 p.m., you will be charged an after-school fee of \$5.00 for every 15 minutes you are late. This fee also applies for late pick up following detention.

BUS RIDERS

Students who ride the bus will be dropped off and picked up in the upper lot by the Rosary Garden each morning and afternoon. Students are under teacher supervision while waiting for their busses to arrive after school.

CAR RIDERS

Morning Drop Off Procedures for Grades K, 1, 5, 6, 7, & 8

- All cars will enter through the northeast entrance off Sylved Ln.
- Fifth through Eighth Grade cars will follow along the curb (next to the basketball hoops) straight ahead toward the building to unload.
- Grades Kindergarten and First stays along the fence line on the left through the large parking lot and then proceed to stay to the right, once around the back of the older building, until opposite the gym lobby entrance.
- For safety reasons, all students must exit from the right side of their vehicles.
- All cars will exit onto Linneman Rd.
- Students may be dropped off starting at 7:20 a.m. to report to their classrooms.

Morning Drop Off Procedures for Grades 2, 3, & 4

- All cars will enter from Julmar Dr. and will turn right through the first row of parking spaces and proceed up to the main entrance of the school.
- For safety reasons, all students must exit from the right sides of their vehicles.
- Parents should be aware that bus students should be given the right of way when they are crossing from buses to the sidewalk.

Afternoon Pick Up Procedures for Grades K-8:

All cars will enter from Linneman Rd. and proceed around the back of the school to the lower parking lot.

- Upon reaching the lower lot, cars will begin to line up FACING NORTH in lanes marked by cones.
- Students will be dismissed from school and wait by the building to meet/see you and will proceed directly to their cars.

- Once all students are safely in your car, you will wait to pull straight ahead until all are ready, and then you will be directed, lane by lane, to exit onto Sylved Ln.
- ALL car riders will be dismissed at the same time, starting at 2:45 p.m.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The St. Antoninus Athletic Association directs St. Antoninus' sport teams. They are responsible for sending out information about their programs. The following sports are part of their program: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and golf. Students should have passing grades to play sports. Students who are suspended from school will also be suspended from athletics in congruence with the Athletic Booster Association By-Laws (Article X Section Participants).

BIRTHDAYS/PARTIES

Each student is recognized on his/her birthday. Students celebrating birthdays in the summer or when school is not in session may be recognized either at their half-birthday or in May. If your child is having a party outside of school, invitations may not be distributed through the school. Gifts should not be brought to school. Keep in mind the feelings of the children not included. When bringing birthday treats for the class, please send only individual sized servings for each student and check with the classroom teacher about any food allergies in the class.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

St. Antoninus School will comply with the Cincinnati Public and Oak Hills transportation policies with regards to bus service. Students from one school district may not ride the bus home with a student from another school district (i.e., Someone from Cincinnati Public/First Student may not use an Oak Hills bus).

Our primary concern with the buses is the safety of each student and the bus driver. It is very important that our students always behave on the bus. When students choose otherwise, everyone's life is endangered.

Bus stops are established at various locations throughout the district. Parents are responsible to see that their children arrive at the bus stop no more than five minutes before the scheduled pickup time.

Bus code of conduct

1. Students will be orderly during the loading and unloading of the bus.
2. Students will ride regularly assigned bus or have permission to ride another bus.
3. Students will not eat on, or litter, the bus.
4. Students will be seated promptly and remain in seat while the bus is in motion.
5. Students will keep all belongings and body parts inside the bus.
6. Students will cross the street ten or more feet from the bus.
7. Students will behave in a respectful manner and keep hands and feet to themselves.
8. Students will use appropriate language and avoid fighting or use of drugs on the bus.
9. Students will always talk in a conversational tone and be silent at RR crossings and other dangerous areas.
10. Students will not deface (write on, scratch into with sharp object) bus property.

11. Students will obey all rules posted by the bus district and the bus driver has full authority to enforce the above regulations.
12. Procedures and consequences for violations 'as established by the Cincinnati Public and Oak Hills public school districts' will be followed in handling student misconduct on the school bus.
 - **First violation:** warning letter
 - **Second violation:** three-day suspension of bus privileges.
 - **Third violation:** five-day suspension of bus riding privileges
 - **Fourth violation:** bus privilege may be suspended for ten days or for the remainder of the semester.

Students who receive a bus misconduct slip will also receive disciplinary action according to the School Code of Conduct.

COMMUNICATION

The best educational atmosphere is one in which parent, teacher, school, and church work as complements to one another. The commitment of the faculty and administration is to work in a constructive, professional manner for the education of our students.

Lines of communication between all members of our educational community need to be open and direct and operate best when handled swiftly and confidentially.

Educational issues should be addressed to the classroom teacher first, before approaching the principal.

Teachers can be available before and/or after school most days, if needed, to meet with parents. Parents are asked to schedule such appointments in advance. Teachers cannot interrupt their instruction time for spontaneous appointments. Parents are asked to write or phone the teacher through the school office for an appointment time. Drop in visits are discouraged, and are much less productive, as the teacher and/or principal will not be able to give parents total attention, and complete information, without preparation.

Time each year is set aside in October for brief, formal Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parents are encouraged to schedule these conferences using a Sign-Up- Genius prior to conferences. Other conferences may be scheduled as needed.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

The premise for all of us is that St. Antoninus School will be open for every school day. However, in case of inclement weather, St. Antoninus follows Oak Hills Local Schools. Parents can learn about school closing information through television and various social media outlets. We also contact families via the use of our school Facebook Page. We ask that parents patiently follow procedures and directives that may be given in order to ensure students' safety. If the school is closed for any reason, other than weather, parents will be notified promptly. **It is therefore imperative that the office has your current email and phone numbers.**

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS & DELAYS

Oak Hills School District

St. Antoninus Parish School follows the Oak Hills School District regarding weather related closings, delays, and early dismissals. All major radio and television stations carry these announcements. Social Media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook will also have an announcement. Keep in mind that we have two independent bus systems servicing our students.

Closings & Delays

If Oak Hills Schools are closed, St. Antoninus Parish School is closed. If Oak Hills Schools are on a two-hour delay, St. Antoninus Parish School will open at 9:20 a.m. and dismiss at the usual time. With a delay, the bus system will operate with a delay, and will bring the students home at the usual time. All closings and/or delays will be communicated through our school app by push notifications.

Cincinnati Public School Busses

Cincinnati Public School (CPS) busses run on their own schedule. If CPS is closed, they will not transport students at all that day regardless of our being open or delayed. If CPS is operating on a delay, the bus system operates on that delay. The CPS busses will bring students home at the usual time.

EARLY DISMISSAL OF THE SCHOOL

Oak Hills School District

St. Antoninus Parish School follows the Oak Hills School District regarding weather related closings, delays, and early dismissals. All major radio and television stations carry these announcements. The school's website and voice mail will also have an announcement.

Communication from School

When school is dismissed early due to an emergency (bad weather), families may be notified via an email chain initiated by the school office. We will also utilize One Call Now to communicate with families.

After School Care

In these instances, there will be no after school childcare.

Contingency Plan

All parents are expected to have a contingency plan in place that will provide for the safe transportation and supervision of their children.

SCHOOL CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND CLOSING

There are procedures in place in the event of fire, tornado, and school safety needs according to state law. In all of these cases, the safety of the students is our primary concern. If such an event should occur, students will not be released from school until it is deemed safe by the authorities to do so. At that time, there will be sign out procedures to follow. If a parent arrives during those times, they will be expected to shelter with the children. School officials are required to follow the directives of the on-site local authorities if such an incident should occur.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are used to expand or enrich classroom instruction. Permission slips for field trips will be sent home to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the teacher. No student may go on a field trip without a signed permission slip. No phone permissions can be accepted.

GENDER IDENTITY POLICY

According to the Catholic Faith, a person's sexual identity is rooted in one's biological identity as male or female. A person's biological identity and gender identity are considered to be one and the same.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has specified the following policy regarding gender identity: In Catholic schools, all curricular and extra-curricular activity is rooted in and consistent with the principles of Catholic doctrine.

Catholic schools should:

1. Support students with gender dysphoria by treating them with sensitivity, respect, mercy, and compassion.
2. Require that participation on school teams be according to biological sex.
3. Require that names and pronouns be in accordance with the person's biological sex.
4. Designate Catholic sex education, uniforms and gender appropriate dress, bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, and sleeping accommodations on trips according to biological sex.
5. Maintain names in school records according to the student's biological sex.
6. Provide reasonable accommodation to a private bathroom for use by any student who desires increased privacy.

HANDOUTS

The principal must first approve any printed material distributed through the students. When bringing material to hand out, it should be pre-counted in groups of 26.

HEALTH ROOM

The Health Room is staffed daily by a Registered Nurse from 8:00-2:00. The School Nurse performs vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings throughout the year.

LUNCH

All students in grades K-8 must pack a lunch. Hot lunches may be available for prepaid purchase on Fridays. Students may be dismissed to go home for lunch. A signed and dated note from a parent is required. The note will be kept on file in the school office. Students must sign out/sign in at the school office if leaving the premises for lunch.

MARIJUANA POLICY

St. Antoninus School is committed to providing the most optimal educational environment for all of its students. Drug abuse is a significant problem throughout our society, and it can have devastating consequences, particularly on young people.

St. Antoninus School maintains a policy of zero tolerance for students' use of marijuana, in particular due to its continued criminalization under federal law. Therefore, any student who uses, possesses, sells, distributes, purchases, or is under the influence of marijuana may be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion. For purposes of clarity, this policy applies in all respects and with equal force regardless of whether a student holds a prescription or recommendation from a health care provider and regardless of a student's status as a medical marijuana cardholder under Chapter 3796 of the Ohio Revised Code. A positive drug test for marijuana will be treated the same as a positive test for any other illegal or controlled substance.

MEDICAL FORMS

Emergency medical forms are sent home with the students on the first day of school. These forms must be completed and returned to school the following day. Throughout the year, any changes in the information contained on the form must be reported immediately to the school office and Health Room. **Dispensation of prescription medications cannot take place at school without an authorization form signed by a parent and physician.** These authorization forms can be obtained in the Health Room or the school office. School personnel cannot administer medication for which no form is on file. A parent may come to school and personally administer the medication.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has secured Student Accident Insurance. Claims will be administered by BMI Benefits. Copies of the BMI claim form, claim form instruction sheet and brochure describing the program and frequently asked questions will be provided to each school family. This insurance is intended to cover costs not covered by your primary health insurance carrier. You are eligible to file a claim for accidents involving your child that occurred during a school-related activity. Part IA of the claim form must be completed and signed by the school. All other sections must be completed by the parent/guardian.

To file a claim, you must attach copies of your primary carrier's explanation of benefits (EOB) and all itemized medical bills. The itemized medical bills should show the ICD-9 and CPT codes for the services provided, as well as other necessary information for insurance processing. Submit the completed claim form, itemized bills, and primary insurance explanation of benefits to BMI Benefits, L.L.C. via mail or fax: Fax 732-583-9610, Mail P O Box 511, Matawan, NJ 07747, Phone 1-800-445-3126.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

The school nurse, or designated school personnel, will administer medication (prescription and over the counter) only if **both** the physician's and parent's portions of the Request for Administration of Medicine form are completed and signed by the physician and parent respectively. A note from the student's parent/guardian or verbal permission is not sufficient for school personnel to administer medication. Giving medicine without the above permissions could be interpreted as practicing medicine and is prohibited by law.

Medication sent to the school with the completed form must be in its original container and have an affixed label indicating the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, route of administration and times of administration. Medication needs to be brought to the office in the original bottle by the parent/guardian. The child should not carry medication back and forth to school. It is the student's responsibility to go to the health room at the correct time to receive his/her medication.

The student's parent/guardian must bring both the signed request form and the medication to the school office. **No medicine (Prescription or over the counter) may be kept by the student in their desk, school bag, lunch box or on his/her person.** Students are allowed to self-administer cough drops.

DIABETIC CARE POLICY

St. Antoninus School complies with Section 3313.7112 of the Ohio Revised Code regarding diabetes care.

St. Antoninus School is committed to ensuring students who have diabetes receive appropriate and needed diabetes care in accordance with an order signed by the students' treating physician. Such care must include the following:

1. Checking and recording blood glucose levels and ketone levels or assisting the student with checking and recording these levels.
2. Responding to blood glucose levels that are outside of the student's target range.
3. In the case of severe hypoglycemia, administering glucagon and other emergency treatments as prescribed.
4. Administering insulin or assisting the student in self-administering insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses.
5. Providing oral diabetes medications.
6. Understanding recommended schedules and food intake for meals and snacks in order to calculate medication dosages pursuant to the order of the student's treating physician.
7. Following the treating physician's instructions regarding meals, snacks, and physical activity; a
8. Administering diabetes medication, as long as the administration is performed by a school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a school employee who is trained in diabetes care under Section 3313.7112(E) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Within 14 days of receiving an order signed by the treating physician of a student with diabetes, the school shall inform the student's parent, legal guardian, and/or other person having care or charge of the student that the student may be entitled to a school accommodation plan regarding the student's diabetes.

School Administration of Diabetes Medications

Diabetes medication may be administered by a school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a school employee who is trained in diabetes care under Section 3313.7112(E) of the Ohio Revised Code and so long as all of the following are satisfied:

- 1) The school receives a written request, signed by the student's parent, legal guardian, and/or other person having care or charge of the student, that the drug be administered to the student.
- 2) The school receives a statement, signed by the prescriber, that includes all of the following information:

- a) The name and address of the student.
 - b) The school and class in which the student is enrolled.
 - c) The name of the drug and the dosage to be administered.
 - d) The times or intervals at which each dosage of the drug is to be administered.
 - e) The date the administration of the drug is to begin.
 - f) The date the administration of the drug is to cease.
 - g) Any severe adverse reactions that should be reported to the prescriber and one or more phone numbers at which the prescriber can be reached in an emergency; and
 - h) Any special instructions for administration of the drug, including sterile conditions and storage.
- 3) The parent, legal guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student agrees to submit a revised statement signed by the prescriber to the school if any of the information provided by the prescriber pursuant to section (2) above changes.
 - 4) The person authorized by the school to administer the drug receives a copy of the statements referenced in section (2) and (3) above.
 - 5) The drug is received by the person authorized to administer the drug to the student for whom the drug is prescribed in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescriber or a licensed pharmacist.
 - 6) Any and all other procedures required by the school are followed.

If a drug is administered to a student, the school shall acquire and retain copies of the written requests required by section (1) above and the statements required by sections (2) and (3) above. Additionally, the school shall ensure that by the next school day following the receipt of any statement required by sections (2) and (3) above, a copy is given to the person authorized to administer drugs to the student for whom the statement has been received. Diabetes medication that is to be administered at school shall be kept in an easily accessible location.

Parents, legal guardians, and/or other persons taking care of or in charge of the student with diabetes are responsible for providing the needed medication and supplies (including but not limited to foods for treating low blood glucose) for the student.

Student Administration of Diabetes Medications

On written request of the parent, legal guardian, and/or other person having care or charge of a student and authorization by the student's treating physician, a student with diabetes shall be permitted during regular school hours and school-sponsored activities to attend to the care and management of his/her diabetes in accordance with the order issued by the student's treating

physician so long as that physician determines that the student is capable of performing diabetes care tasks. The student shall be permitted to perform diabetes care tasks in a classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity, and to possess on his/herself at all times all necessary supplies and equipment to perform these tasks. If the student or the parent, legal guardian, and/or other person having care or charge of the student so requests, the student shall have access to a private area for performing diabetes care tasks.

If the student performs any diabetes care tasks or uses medical equipment for purposes other than his/her own care, the school may revoke the student's permission to attend to the care and management of the student's diabetes.

Non-Restriction Disclaimer

The school shall not restrict a student who has diabetes from attending the school on the basis that the student has diabetes, that the school does not have a full-time school nurse, or that the school does not have an employee trained in diabetes care. The school shall not require or pressure a parent, legal guardian, and/or other person having care or charge of a student to provide diabetes care for the student with diabetes at school or school-related activities.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

According to Ohio Law, the following information will be required before entering school:

1. Proof of immunization (basic requirements in accordance with Ohio State Law 33313671.) a.
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP) vaccine – minimum of four doses. It is recommended that one dose be administered after the fourth birthday. If the third dose is given after six years of age, the fourth dose is not required. Starting in 2010, one dose of Tdap or TD vaccine must be administered prior to 7th grade entry.
 - Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) – minimum of four doses required.
 - MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccine – two doses; one given on or after first birthday, 2nd dose at least 28 days after dose 1.
 - Hepatitis B vaccine – three doses; 2nd dose at least 28 days after first dose. The third dose must be given at least 16 weeks after the first and 8 weeks after the second dose.
 - Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine – one dose on or after the 1st birthday; K&1 – two doses.

Each dose of vaccine should be denoted by complete month, day and year. Students should furnish proof of immunization prior to entry to St. Antoninus School. If the student has not submitted evidence that he/she is following the State School Immunization Law, the pupil will be excluded from school until the evidence is submitted.

2. TB Skin Test – all new school entries and transfer students from outside Hamilton County must have a Tuberculin Skin Test.
3. Medical examination by a physician and a dental examination by a dentist must be conducted within the year prior to enrollment.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

St. Antoninus School complies with the minimum immunization requirements set forth by R.C. 3313.67 and 3313.671. Although St. Antoninus School complies with those minimum requirements, it also retains discretion to enforce stricter requirements at any time, for instance, by requiring vaccination even over a parent's/guardian's conscience or religious conviction, objection, or by revoking a previous exception.

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The responsibility for each child rests with the court designated custodial parent. This school will make every effort to support the parent in carrying out his/her responsibility. At the time of registration, or at the time of divorce, court papers showing proof of custody must be presented.

The non-custodial parent also has some inherent rights in regard to the child unless there is a specific court order limiting these rights. Upon written request from the non-custodial parent for access to records, we will check with the custodial parent to determine that there are no court limitations to the request. Any court orders limiting the rights of the non-custodial parent must be part of their school file.

Conferences: It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to make all educational decisions pertaining to the child. It is the responsibility of the school, therefore, to schedule conferences at the convenience of the custodial parent. It is not the responsibility of the school to schedule dual conferences. Wherever possible in the case of joint custody, both parents should attend the same conference.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Saint Antoninus School admits students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights and privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to members of our parish. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, and other school administered programs, and in hiring teachers.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

All St. Antoninus School families are automatically a part of the PTO. This organization is a vital link of communication between home and school and supports the school in many ways. Parents and teachers are encouraged to attend PTO meetings throughout the school year. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to actively support our school.

SCHOOL HOURS

Our school hours for grades one through eight are 7:40-2:45 Monday through Friday. To maintain a safe environment for students and staff, the school buildings will be locked until 7:20. Students should not arrive before that time, unless they arrive on a school bus, because supervision of students is not possible. Students arriving after 7:40 a.m., unless arriving on a late bus, will be marked tardy. The school buildings will be locked from 7:50 until dismissal as needed. Parents

coming to the school during these hours should enter the main building by use of the buzzer. Parents and volunteers must sign in at the office.

THEFT OR LOSS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

St. Antoninus School shall not be directly or indirectly liable for theft or loss of any personal property of students on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions. Should a student choose to bring personal belongings to school or to a school-sponsored function, the student, not St. Antoninus School, is personally and solely responsible for ensuring that his/her belongings are properly secured.

Students are discouraged from bringing valuable belongings to school or to a school-sponsored function. Valuable belongings include cash, expensive electronic or digital equipment, expensive clothing, attire, jewelry, etc. Should students choose to bring such items to school or to a school-sponsored function, they do so at their own risk. Parents/guardians should take steps to ensure that any valuable items are appropriately insured.

When appropriate, St. Antoninus School will report to authorities and prosecute all thefts or vandalism to property.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to the well-being of our school programs. We welcome parent and grandparent volunteers on a variety of special occasions. When coming to school, please sign in then report to the office to receive a visitor badge to wear while in the school. Volunteers must have completed SAFEParish registration and remain current with the quarterly training bulletins. It is expected that parents follow the guidelines set forth according to the Decree on Child Protection at any time they are volunteering with our children. Additional details are available accessing the [Decree on Child Protection](#).

WITHDRAWALS

Any family withdrawing a child from St. Antoninus School must inform the school office promptly in writing. This allows the office to notify teachers and the business office. **Tuition must be paid according to the “Withdrawal of Students Policy” stated in the Tuition Section of the Student Handbook.** Before any records can be released by St. Antoninus School, a signed (by the parent/guardian) record release form from the new school must be received by the office. All pertinent records, including health records, will be released. If there are extenuating circumstances, for example, tuition is still owed, only health records will be released, until the matter has been resolved. In such matters, the decision of the principal is final.

CONCLUSION

Children are our special gift from God. They are our greatest responsibility and our greatest contribution to the future of the world. Parents, faculty, and staff have an immense responsibility to these children and to God. At St. Antoninus School, we believe that this responsibility can best be fulfilled by working closely together as a team to achieve our goal of establishing a Catholic community of believers.

Most parents find a level of involvement with school which makes them comfortable. Very few parents are comfortable if they are not involved at all. It is the hope of the faculty and staff of St. Antoninus School that the years spent associated with St. Antoninus School will enrich your lives and result in growth in faith for all of us.