



*Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School*  
*Diocese of Fresno*

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*Student and Parent Handbook*  
2019-2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is with great anticipation and joy that we welcome you to the 2019-20 school year at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School! We pray that each person who enters our doors recognizes that our school is an extension of our Catholic Church; a place to be highly revered and cherished. With the help of God and the guiding intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, we are confident that our school year will be blessed as our students grow in their love, faith and knowledge.

We would like to welcome all new parents and students to our school – we are humbled that you have chosen Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School as the education of choice for your child. In a similar manner, we would like to welcome back all returning students and parents and thank you for your continued support of, and confidence in, our school. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with each of you to ensure all students can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, students need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for your child's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience*
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers*
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills*
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life*
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject*
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and go on to college*

Communication is vital to every student's success and to our overall growth and sense of community here at OLMCS. This handbook is a communication tool for understanding the commitment between administration, faculty, staff, students and parents. The expectations set within the handbook are not a suggestion; they are essential for the foundation of education excellence within our school.

Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child to become the best person he/she is capable of becoming.

We pray that your school year is blessed with the spirit of excitement for learning and a desire for excellence.

Humble regards in Christ,



Mrs. Chandra Brace  
Principal



Mrs. Melissa Meneses  
Director

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## **Important Information Regarding Enrollment and this Handbook**

### SCOPE of this HANDBOOK

Enrollment at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is a privilege. Ongoing student status is subject to the school's academic and behavioral standards which may evolve and change over time. Decisions regarding academic matters (including but not limited to the issuance of grades), student discipline, and an individual's continuing status as a student at the school are within the discretion of the school administration. The purpose of this handbook is to set forth general guidelines that will assist students and their families in understanding what the school expects of them. The provisions of this handbook are subject to change at any time by the school administration. Questions about items contained in this handbook should be directed to the principal.

### PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

Signing the Parent/Student Handbook Agreement Form is deemed an agreement on the part of the student and his/her parents/guardians to comply with all policies, rules, guidelines, and regulations of the school as outlined in the most current Parent/Student Handbook and in any subsequent updates or revisions of the handbook.

Parents/guardians and students agree that Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School has the right as a private academic institution to make rules that require specific conduct on the part of the parents/guardians and students. Parents/guardians and students agree to comply with required conduct and to support the policies and procedures contained herein, and intend to cooperate fully with Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School and its personnel as educational partners. Students may not attend class or participate in any school activities until the agreement is signed.

### RIGHT TO AMEND

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School reserves the right to amend or waive provisions of this handbook when deemed necessary by the principal. The contents of this handbook are subject to change at any time when this is determined to be necessary by the school administration. If changes are made to the handbook, parents/guardians and students will be notified in a timely manner. This handbook exists to foster the efficient operation of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School. The school administration exercises flexibility to meet this objective and has the discretion to take actions other than those specified in this handbook. This handbook is not intended and should not be considered to create any additional rights for students or parents/guardians, including a right to continued enrollment at the school.

The contents of this handbook are to be accepted by the parents/guardians and students as an essential element of the contract between home and school. Violations of the spirit, intent, or letter of the policies, rules, and regulations found in the handbook will be considered just cause for administrative action. Under no circumstances may a parent/guardian excuse a student from observance of the policies, rules, and

regulations of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School ***if the parent/guardian expects the student to remain in good standing with the school.***

## GOOD STANDING and CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

Students are enrolled at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School on the basis of an evaluation and acceptance that is ongoing. The school reserves the right to dismiss students at any time for violation of any policy in this handbook, whether on campus or off campus, unsatisfactory academic standing, or for other reasons that, in the judgment of the school administration, adversely affect the welfare of the individual student or other students, the school and its employees, the reputation of the school, or the school community.

In order to continue enrollment at the school, a student must be in "good standing." A student considered to be in "good standing" is one who has not become subject to dismissal for academic reasons, one whose record of conduct is at least satisfactory, one whose family supports the school faculty and the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook, and one who has met all financial obligations to the school or made satisfactory arrangements for those obligations. Continued enrollment, then, is a privilege earned by cooperative personal conduct and fulfillment of academic requirements and financial obligations. **The school reserves the right to refuse registration or re-registration.** When the school judges that the parents/guardians do not support school policies, the school reserves the right to terminate the student's enrollment.

## CONDITION of ENROLLMENT for PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is a condition of enrollment that the parents/guardians of a student shall also conform themselves to standards of conduct that are consistent with the Christian principles of the school, as determined by the school in its discretion. These principles include, but are not limited to, any policies, principles, or procedures set forth in any Parent/Student Handbook and contract of the school.

These Christian principles further include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Parents/guardians are expected to work courteously and cooperatively with the school to assist the student in meeting the religious, academic, moral, and behavioral expectations of the school.
2. Students and parents/guardians may respectfully express their concerns about the school operation and its personnel. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, scandalous, rumor-driven, disruptive, threatening, hostile, or divisive.
3. Parents/guardians and students may not send or post content on email, text messaging, or social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.) that is contrary to the mission and philosophy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno and Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School. This includes expressing displeasure with the school administration, or with a teacher, staff member,

student, or any authority at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School and/or parish in regards to a policy, homework, assignments, or any school-related program.

4. Parents are expected to work courteously and cooperatively with other parents of the school community. Difficulties in relationships must be addressed and resolved by the parties themselves. If a difficulty impacts the environment of the school, the principal has the authority to intervene and work to determine an outcome.
5. These expectations for students and parents/guardians are expected on and off campus and include, but are not limited to, all school-sponsored programs and events (e.g. extended care, licensed child care programs, athletics, field trips, etc.).
6. ***The school reserves the right to determine, in its discretion, which actions fall short of meeting the Christian principles of the school and the policies in this handbook.*** Depending on the severity and circumstances of the event, failure to follow the school's principles and policies will normally result in a verbal or written warning to the student and or parent/guardian. For serious violations of the school's principles and policies, the school's response may be to take disciplinary actions up to and including the requirement to withdraw from school (e.g., suspension of a student, suspension of parent/guardian's privilege to come on the campus grounds and/or participate in parish/school activities, volunteer work, etc., or permanently withdraw enrollment from the school).
7. The school reserves the right to determine, in its discretion, when conduct is of such a severe nature as to warrant immediate disciplinary action without a warning.

## **About Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School**

### MISSION STATEMENT

#### *Diocesan School Mission Statement*

In the Diocese of Fresno, the primary mission of Catholic School Education is to be an effective instrument of the Catholic Church in its ministry of teaching the Gospel message and assisting children to grow into fullness of life in Jesus.

#### *Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School Mission Statement*

Our mission is to provide a strong Catholic education that promotes academic excellence and spiritual growth which emphasize respect and compassion for all “so that our hidden selves may grow strong.”

The ministry of Catholic education at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, referred herein as OLMCS), is the fulfillment of the educational mission of the Catholic Church which has as its primary goal the continuous formation of the Christian person, and the world with a global perspective for a peaceful and sustainable future.

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is a unique environment in which students can experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. Its focus is on the individual person’s spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical development. In this School, students and teachers and staff are drawn to proclaim the Gospel message, to unite in worship, to respond to the needs of the community through fellowship and social justice, and to serve all people through the sharing of their spiritual gifts and temporal goods.

Intellectually, students are challenged to work to the best of their abilities. In a world of diversity and absolutes, students need to be free to appreciate and understand the living organism called earth and the peoples and cultures that inhabit it, and to develop global perspectives by which to form their lives and consciences. Students are provided opportunities to develop basic academic and physical skills, pursue knowledge, and critically study and analyze the world in which they live.

The effective Catholic school must call its students to the conviction that people are more important than success; that love is more important than esteem; and that collaboration unites while competition divides. The truly successful Catholic school student is not necessarily one who is successful in every endeavor, but one who accepts Christian responsibility for fulfillment of personal potential and shares these gifts with others.

## VISION STATEMENT

By virtue of our baptism, each of us is called by name to participate in the ministry of Christ who is priest, prophet, and king. In accord with that ministry, we are called as *priest* to share the presence of God with those around us, as *prophet* we speak the truth even in difficult times and call each other to fidelity to God's ways, and as *king* we exemplify the servant leader who generously and conscientiously looks after the welfare of those entrusted to us.

Because all human life is a precious gift from God, we must assure that all persons, especially the young and the vulnerable, are to be treated with dignity, respect, and offered an environment, which promotes safety.

A safe environment is one that provides for the protection of the physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being of each person. More than simply offering protection from danger, a safe environment within our context also reflects the reality that the Church sees itself as a sanctuary, that is, a "sacred space" where one finds protection, security, support, guidance, and the presence of God. Thus the entire school community must live in a way that is consistent with that covenant by fostering environments that not only are safe, but also are healthy.

The Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of Fresno strives to empower parishes, schools, families, and individuals to create and foster safe and healthy environments for children and youth in all aspects of their lives. We strive to achieve this through preventive measures, as well as educational strategies. Prevention of abuse and neglect of our students is foundational to the Safe Environment Program and constitutes its initial focus. As the program develops, safe and healthy environment training also will include but not be limited to such strategies as education and training in effective parenting, conflict resolution, internet and computer safety, the prevention of harassment, bullying, or violence in any form, healthy and best practices for injury prevention, and attention to safety in the event of emergency or disaster.

Training, support, and resources will be directed to:

- All school personnel, including lay and religious employees, volunteers, priests and deacons, through implementing and participating in comprehensive safe environment programs.
- Students, by supporting them in their effort to navigate their way through the confusing and often harmful aspects of the world by developing the necessary knowledge, integrity and self-mastery they need to live a mature and active faith.
- Parents, as the leaders of the "domestic church," are called to provide the

primary safe and formative environment for their children, by supporting the vocation of parenthood and the marital bond, so as to improve the nurturing and formation of their children, who are a gift and who call their parents together in love.

- Volunteers, who out of generosity and care, seek to better their own local environments for the safety and health of children and youth. Everything we do as a school community must reflect our commitment to respect life in all situations by providing a secure sacred space that safeguards and promotes human dignity, by fostering the development of each individual, and by creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all who come to us seeking an experience of the holy presence of God.

### PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

At Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, an educational ministry of The Shrine of Our Lady of Miracles, believe that providing a rigorous and challenging curriculum in a Christ centered atmosphere will help each OLMCS student grow intellectually, spiritually, physically and emotionally. Understanding that parents are the primary educators of their children, we are committed to working with parents to ensure each student has the necessary foundation to become an effective spiritual leader and a globally responsible citizen. We believe that by instilling the Catholic values listed in the Student Learning Expectations, and by providing liturgical and Gospel-rich traditions, each OLMCS student will be empowered to make choices rooted in love.

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School endorses the call of the Catholic Bishops of the United States to express its educational ministry through the objectives of personal spirituality, social justice, and a strong academic program in accord with the Curriculum Guide for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fresno.

1. We believe in the inherent dignity and intrinsic worth of each individual child from the moment of his/her existence until the moment they are called home to the Father. At no time in their lives are they more in need of our concern and supportive, loving guidance than during their early educational years.
2. We believe that only in an atmosphere of love and acceptance can each child grow and develop into their divinely-ordained potential. It will be our aim to give these children, who are entrusted to our care the kind of love and education that takes no shortcuts when striving to provide all that is for the genuine good of each individual child.
3. We will make it our specific aim to pass on to the children all the treasures of our Roman Catholic Faith and heritage. For those children who are not of our Faith, we will endeavor to develop in them a strong sense of Christian morals and openness to the concept of loving Christian service.

4. With the parents who are the first teachers of their children, we will strive to send into the future young people with a solid, well-rounded educational background, strong morals, a genuine appreciation of the family structure, and—most of all—students who can preach the Word by bearing witness to it.

#### STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS (SLEs)

An Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School Student is:

A student who values learning and a Catholic education by:

- Respectfully listening to others
- Completing assignments neatly
- Participating in classroom discussions

A student who recognizes the importance of good stewardship by:

- Taking care of school property and the property of others
- Keeping his/her materials, the classroom and the school yard neat and organized

A student who lives out the Gospel by:

- Treating others with compassion and respect regardless of age, culture, economic status or political affiliation
- Following school and classroom rules and procedures
- Reverently participating in prayer and liturgical celebrations



## HISTORY

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School first opened in 1952. The school was forced to close in 1968, but reopened in 1979 due to the efforts of a dedicated Parish community.

- 1949 Monsignor John B. Forde began a campaign for a parochial school and convent
- 1951 Ground breaking for the school and convent with land donated by Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Medeiros Parish community raises \$95,000 for construction
- 1952 OLM School opens its doors for the first time with 140 students in six grades, staffed by four Sisters from the Order of Servants of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Michigan
- 1953 On January 18<sup>th</sup>, OLM School dedicated and blessed with 800 supporters in attendance
- 1955 OLM graduates first class of 18 students. The largest graduating class consisted of 45 students in 1962
- 1964 Largest enrollment in grades K-8 with 280 students in 1964-65 school year
- 1968 OLM School closes its doors
- 1979 OLM School reopens under the direction of Father John Harguindeguy with 30 students enrolled in preschool through first grade
- 1980 School consisted of 99 students from preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade staffed by 7 lay teachers and 3 sisters from the Order of Servants of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Michigan
- 1981 Rededication and Blessing of OLM School takes place on January 18
- 1981 148 students enrolled in preschool through 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 1982 Enrollment increases to 176 students, preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 1983 OLM School graduates first 8<sup>th</sup> grade class of 20 students since the school's reopening
- 1983 - 2015 OLM School provides Catholic education to over 593 graduating students
- 2015 Diocesan decision made to close OLM School on July 21
- 2015 Community unites for 9 days of prayer, led by current Pastor Father Leonard Trindade, to keep the doors of OLM School open

2015 Diocese rescinds decision and allows the school to remain open under the leadership of Chandra Brace and Melissa Meneses on July 28; School begins "Year of Renewal"

#### ACCREDITATION

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School enjoys accreditation granted by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). These Associations are non-governmental, nationally recognized organizations whose members include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction. Accreditation of an institution by these associations indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality periodically applied through a peer review process. An accredited school or college/university is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives clear evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

#### NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, in the Diocese of Fresno, mindful of their primary mission to be witnesses to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any sex, race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at this school. Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School in the Diocese of Fresno does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national and/or ethnic origin, or disability in the administration of education policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic, and other school-administered programs.

## **School Structure and Organization**

### OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Office of Catholic Education (OCE) endeavors to support the mission of the Diocese of Fresno in all of its administrative, operational, financial, intellectual, and spiritual pursuits. The OCE is committed to the mission of the Church by supporting Catholic faith formation and academic excellence for all to ensure life-long learning and the development of responsible and compassionate citizens. The OCE is comprised of a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent for curriculum and instruction, an Assistant Superintendent for finance, mentoring, and overall school management and an Office Manager.

### SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent oversees the entire program of the Office of Catholic Education.

### SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is a Pastor Administered Parish School. The Pastor is the canonical officer of the parish school. As the Bishop is the chief pastor of the diocese, so is the Pastor the head of the parish; he is also responsible for all educational programs within the parish. Just as the Bishop delegates school-related responsibilities to the Superintendent, so does the Pastor delegate the administration of the school to the Principal with support from the OCE.

### PRINCIPAL

The school principal is delegated by the Pastor in a Pastor Administered Parish School or by the Superintendent in a Diocesan Administered Parish School to serve as the educational leader of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, responsible for managing the policies, regulations, and procedures to ensure that all students are supervised in a safe, traditional, Catholic learning environment that meets the approved curricula and mission of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Two members of the faculty, in addition to the principal, make up the Administrative Team. The functions of the Administrative Team include assisting the principal in specific delegated functions and receiving suggestions from teachers and presenting them at regular administrative or faculty meetings.

### FACULTY and STAFF

The faculty and staff are selected by the principal in consultation with the pastor of a Pastor Administered Parish School, or the Superintendent of a Diocesan Administered Parish School. A directory of faculty and staff may be found on the school website.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

The local Catholic School Advisory Board consists of the Pastor or Superintendent, principal, and eight to twelve members of the school or parish community, including a parent club officer and a rotating faculty representative. The Advisory Board works interactively with the Principal to fulfill the Board's advisory consultative responsibilities regarding the school's Catholic Identity, parent engagement, strategic planning, facilities, marketing, and development activities; its role is collaborative and advisory only.



# Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School

## 2019-2020 Calendar

August 19						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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September 19						
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29	30					

October 19						
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November 19						
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December 19						
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29	30	31				

Last Updated 07.31.19

FOUR QUARTERS		
1st	9 weeks	Aug.13-Oct. 11
2nd	9 weeks	Oct. 14-Dec. 20
3rd	9 weeks	Jan. 6-Mar. 13
4th	8 weeks	Mar. 16-May 22

STUDENT HOLIDAYS	
Sept. 2	Labor Day
Sept. 9-10	Festa Holiday
Oct. 11-12	Teacher In-Service
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Observed
Nov. 18	WASC Monday
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 6	Christmas Break
Jan. 20	MLK, Jr. Day
Feb. 17	Presidents' Day
Apr. 10-Apr. 17	Easter Break

OLMCS School Masses - 9:00AM	
Aug. 18	8th Grade/Back-to-School 9am
Sept. 29	7th grade Mass
Oct. 27	6th grade Mass
Nov. 10	5th grade Mass
Dec. 8	4th grade Mass
Jan. 12	3rd grade Mass
Jan. 26	CSW Mass 9am
Feb. 23	2nd grade Mass
Mar. 29	1st grade Mass
Apr. 5	Pre-K - 8th Mass, Palm Sunday
May. 3	Kindergarten Mass

Minimum Days	
Professional Development/Workdays	
Catholic Schools Week	
Student Elective Days	

Important Dates	
Weekly School Mass: Wednesdays at 8:00AM	
Prayer Service: Mondays at 7:55AM	
Aug. 12	Family Day
Aug. 13	First Day of School, Students Report
Aug. 22	Back-to-School Night
Aug. 31-Sept. 9	OLM Celebration
Oct. 17-18	Parent/Teacher Conf.
Nov. 13-15	WCEA/WASC Visit
Dec. 19	Advent Mass, 6PM
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday
Apr. 8	Stations for Community
May 18	Ice Cream Social
May 22	8th Grade Graduation
May 25	Memorial Day-No Students
May 26-27	We Love OLMCS Celebration
May 27	Last day of school

January 20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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February 20						
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March 20						
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April 20						
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May 20						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## SCHEDULE

7:40 a.m.	Faculty/staff in the building, students gather at the front of the school
7:50 a.m.	Faculty/staff meet for short announcements
7:55 a.m.	Faculty, staff, and students recite pledges & prayers in the Life Center
8:10 a.m.	Teachers lead students into the classrooms and the school day begins
8:10 a.m.	Leave for Holy Mass on Wednesdays
8:15 a.m.	Holy Mass begins
11:55 a.m.	Angelus and Before Meal Prayer is prayed in the classrooms
12:-12:40	Lunch and break time
	After Meal prayer prayed in the lunchroom
3:00 p.m.	Students are dismissed as their rides arrive
3:00 p.m.	Staff dismissed
3:30 p.m.	Faculty dismissed

### **Admission, Registration, and Financial Policies**

#### PARTNERSHIP of SCHOOL and FAMILY

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School works with the parents in the faith formation of their children and continues the value development begun in the home. The school, however, has a mission to be a Catholic school and to form students in the Catholic faith. All students must participate fully in Religion class and other faith-formation activities subject to the restrictions by the Church upon full participation in the Eucharist by non-Catholics.

Acceptance to Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is a privilege, not a right. Parents have a right to apply to Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School for admission of their child (ren), but the privilege of attending the school is contingent upon the parents' acceptance of the school's program of formation and instruction and their willingness to accept responsibility for their portion of the cost of education.

Because the Church acknowledges parents as the primary educators of their children, the school believes that it has a responsibility to continue the child's faith formation. If the parents' public beliefs, values, and practices cause disruption of the school's educational climate, it becomes impossible for the school to support the parents in the faith formation of their children. In cases where parents engage in such conduct, continued enrollment of their children may be denied.

Acceptance into Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is dependent upon the ability of the school to meet the educational needs of the child. The school may not have all the resources necessary to meet the educational, physical, psychological, and/or emotional needs of an individual child. While the school will make an effort to

accommodate reasonable needs, if the needs of the child exceed the resources of the school, the best interests of the child may be best served by placing the child in a different educational environment with appropriate resources for the child.

#### ADMISSION PRIORITIES

The order of priority for acceptance to Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School follows:

1. Continuing students in good standing at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School who meet registration deadlines (students who do not meet registration deadlines may lose their priority standing).
2. Siblings of Catholic families attending Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School
3. Siblings of non-Catholic families attending Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School
4. New Catholic Families
5. New non-Catholic families

#### PROBATIONARY ADMISSION

All students are admitted to Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School on a probationary basis. Probation covers conduct as well as grades and general participation. The school administration may terminate enrollment at any time.

#### AGE for ADMISSION

- A child may be admitted to Transitional Kindergarten who is 4 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year; these children do not yet meet the age requirement or the social and/or academic requirements for the school's Kindergarten program.
- A child may be admitted to Kindergarten who is 5 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year; applicants must be developmentally ready, which shall be determined through appropriate screening.
- A child may be admitted into the first grade who is 6 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.

#### DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

At the time of initial registration, the school will require parent(s) to provide the school with records that establish and verify the student's age, gender at birth, and vaccination history, and whether the student is Catholic and has received his or her Sacraments. As part of the registration, therefore, each school shall require the parent(s) to provide copies of the student's birth certificate, health records including an up-to-date immunization record, and Baptismal certificate (and Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation certificates, if applicable).

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Every new student must have a physical examination report on file in the school office by the first day of attendance. The report must be dated within 18 months of entrance. Students may not attend class until this information is on file.

The school will require all children to submit proof of having received a health assessment during the 18 months prior to entrance into first grade. The principal may grant permission to extend this to 90 days after entrance.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations can be a complicated topic which may be explained more fully by the child's physician. Every child must show up-to-date proof of required immunizations by the submission of a current California School Immunization Record (this can be provided by the physician).

The California Health and Safety Code sections 120325-120380 set forth current California law on this topic; a summary follows:

- Required immunizations for grades TK – 12 currently include the following: polio (OPV or IPV); diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP, DTaP, or DT); measles, mumps, rubella (MMR or MMR-V); hepatitis B (HepB or HBV); and varicella (chickenpox, VAR, MMR-V, or VZV).
- Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have Tdap (or DTP/DTaP given on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday).
- The California Dept. of Public Health may require vaccination for "any other disease deemed appropriate."
- Public or private elementary schools are prohibited from admitting any child without documentation that the child has been immunized for the specified diseases, unless there is a documented medical exemption, based on attestation from the child's licensed physician that immunization is not safe, due to medical circumstance, such as family medical history.
- Regarding former exemptions for personal reasons, any student who, prior to January 1, 2016, had submitted a letter/affidavit of exemption on grounds of personal belief will be allowed to continue enrollment or be enrolled, without proof of immunization, but only until the child reaches the next "grade span." The statute specifies three grade spans: (1) birth to preschool; (2) kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade; and (3) 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The school will be permitted to temporarily exclude a student who has not been immunized, if there is good cause to believe the child has been exposed to one of the itemized diseases, until the county or city health department is satisfied that the child is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease.



Questions regarding immunizations should be directed to the principal. The following website provides thorough information: [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org)

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

New student applications are accepted online on the school website beginning in January and require a \$300 non-refundable registration fee. After June 1<sup>st</sup> the registration fee will increase to \$450 non-refundable. Applications are considered incomplete until the application fee and all required documentation (see DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS above) have been received. Applications remain on the waiting list throughout the school year for which the application is completed. Parents will be notified by mail regarding acceptance or non-acceptance.

#### APPLICATION INTERVIEWS, TESTING, or SCREENING

A family interview and STAR testing will be required with administration discretion.

#### REGISTRATION FEE

This fee helps offset various costs including standardized testing, student insurance, parent club membership, field trip fees, classroom party expenses, a student planner, a yearbook, and textbook use.

- A non-refundable registration fee of \$300.00 for each family is due and payable upon registration; students will not be considered registered until the registration fee is paid in full.
- The registration fee for continuing students is due no later than May 31, 2019; priority status for any student is forfeited if the registration fee is not received by the due date. As of June 1, 2019, the registration fee will increase to \$450.0 per family.
- ALL financial obligations for the previous school year, including fees due for the Extended Day and Preschool Programs and extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, must be paid in full, and all required work service hours must be completed and recorded before registration is accepted.
- Students transferring from another private school must have paid all fees at the previous school prior to registration at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.

## TUITION

Kinder – 8th # of children in K-8		Tuition Rate
1		\$4417
2		\$7500
3+		\$8394
Pre-Kindergarten Fees	Full Day 8:00AM – 3:00PM	Half Day* 8:00AM – 11:30AM
Tuesday & Thursday	\$2168.00 \$216.80/mo (approx. \$29/day)	\$1157.00 \$115.70/mo
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	\$3011.00 \$301.10 (approx. \$27/day)	\$1398.00 \$139.80/mo
Monday – Friday	\$4576.00 \$457.60 (approx. \$25/day)	\$2361.00 \$236.10/mo

## TUITION COLLECTION

Tuition is managed exclusively via the FACTS Management Company. Parents may select one of the following options:

- One payment: July 2018 (full payment may be made no later than July 2018)
- Two payments: July 2018 & December 2018
- Ten payments: July 2018 – May 2019

If an account is in arrears, a student may be excluded from class until the account is brought current. For special circumstances, arrangements must be made with the pastor and principal. **All monies owed to the school must be paid before a student can enroll for the following year.**

## FINANCIAL AID

FACTS Management Company manages all applications for financial aid.

### COST of EDUCATION

Tuition and fees do not cover the actual cost of educating a child at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School. Families whose financial situation enables them to pay the actual cost of education are encouraged to do so. Any amount paid above the stated tuition fee is a donation to Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.

### OTHER ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Families agree to fulfill the following additional commitment(s):

- 10 Parent Service Points minimum total per family
- \$350 profit for Scrip program
- 2-5 hour Festa Booth shifts
- 1-5 hour Spring Festival shift
- 5 (plus or minus) depending on families, Bingo shifts
- Other fundraiser participation
  - Jog-a-thon
  - Linguica tickets
  - Other fundraisers as deemed necessary by administration

### WITHDRAWAL

Two weeks' notice by parents/guardians is required before the withdrawal of a student. An exit interview must also take place with the principal. Tuition and monthly extension contracts are prorated by day. All other fees/obligations will not be prorated. The registration fee is non-refundable. The school reserves the right to withhold student records until all financial obligations have been settled.

#### **Withdrawal Policy**

Families must notify the school in writing if a student is withdrawn from the school. The school will not forward records for students who withdraw with an outstanding balance.

#### **WITHDRAW DATE: Prior to AUGUST 15**

Registered students who withdraw before the first full day of school are responsible for 1/3 of the full tuition amount

#### **WITHDRAW DATE: AUGUST 15 – DECEMBER 21**

Registered students who withdraw between the first day of school and December 15<sup>th</sup> are responsible for ½ of the full tuition amount

#### **WITHDRAW DATE: DECEMBER 22 – MAY 25**

Registered students who withdraw after December 15<sup>th</sup> are responsible for the full tuition amount

## **Extended Care Program**

The Extended Day Program at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School provides professional care, supervision, homework support, and recreation and enrichment activities for the children of working families who desire both Catholic school education and supplementary day care in a Christian environment as an Extended Day Program of the school day. All policies of school, including the contents of this handbook, apply during the Extended Day Program which is only available to students enrolled at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School for an additional fee.

### HOURS and DAYS

The Extended Day Program is available before school from 7:00am to 7:30am and after school from 3:15pm to 5:00pm. The Extended Day Program operates only on regular school days and teacher in-service days and is not available on holidays, vacations, or in the summer months (except during summer school).

### MINIMUM DAYS

The Extended Day Program is available on minimum days from 12:00pm to 5:00pm for children enrolled in the program and for drop-in students. Minimum days are included in monthly rates. All children must bring lunches on minimum days as no lunch program is available.

### MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

The monthly payment plan is designed for families who know they will be using the Extended Day Program on a regular basis. Rates are significantly lower than the drop-in rate and require a nine-month contractual commitment. Rates are calculated using 180 academic days, and payments are prorated over nine months, September through May. Credit is not offered for unused days, absences, or on days that the Extended Day Program is closed. Monthly contracts are handled through FACTS.

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### EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM POLICIES

All policies of school, including the contents of this handbook, apply during the Extended Care Program.

- Any students on campus before 7:30am or after 3:10pm must use the Extended Day Program.
- Students are NOT allowed to wait unsupervised off campus before 7:30am or leave school unsupervised at any time to avoid signing in to the Extended Care Program.
- If a student remains at school after 3:10pm, he or she must be enrolled in the Extended Care Program. The teacher supervising dismissal will escort students

not picked up by 3:10pm to the Extended Care Program. Parents will be charged the per student hourly rate if their child is not contracted.

- If a student has a reason to remain at school, such as tutoring, math lab, sports practice, or another *supervised* activity, his or her siblings may not remain at school after 3:15pm unless they are enrolled in the Extended Day Program.
- When students will be attending the Extended Day Program after these supervised activities, parents MUST inform the Extended Day Program Director via the office before attending the activities. The program is limited to those students who attend Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.
- All children must be signed in and out by a parent or authorized adult each time they use the Extended Day Program (except those who are contracted after school or who are not picked up after school). Children will be released to authorized adults only (those listed on the emergency form).
- Every student attending the Extended Day Program must have the signature of a parent, guardian, or authorized person(s) on file to sign the student out. Any changes must be in writing, signed, and dated. NO EXCEPTIONS! Emergency cards MUST be kept current.
- The Extended Day Program staff is instructed to ask for picture identification from any parent or adult they do not recognize. For the protection of all the children, these rules are strictly enforced.
- Parents must not take children from the playground or other areas without notifying the Extended Day Program staff and signing out the children.
- Students who attend the Extended Day Program after school must check in immediately after school (or 12:15pm on minimum days). Students arriving late are required to have a written excuse from their classroom teachers.
- The Extended Day Program must be notified by 3:00pm on the day that a student will be attending the Extended Care Program. In accordance with Diocesan Policy, students must either be signed into Extended Day Program or checked into an approved school activity. Students may not remain unsupervised on campus.
- If an emergency arises, and someone not listed on the emergency form needs to pick up a child, the Extended Day Program staff require written or verbal permission from the parents. Upon arrival, the individual will be asked to show picture identification.
- School personnel will not release a child to any adult who appears incapable of providing safe conduct or when the child demonstrates anxiety or fear in being released to the adult. In such an instance, school personnel will call others on the approved list to come to pick up the child; law enforcement may be called.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM CONTACT

Extended Day Program (EDP) is available from dismissal until 5:00 p.m. After 3:10 p.m., all children must be in a school-sponsored activity or in the Extended Day Program.

One child	\$9/day	Two children	\$13/day
Three children	\$16/day	Four children	\$20/day

Pre-K through eighth grade students are eligible for EDP. Registration forms for EDP and the fee schedule are available in the office or on the school website. Once a student signs into EDP, the responsible party, according to contract, will be charged the accordingly daily rate. Pre-K students are assigned and supervised to their classroom monitor during EDP and K-8 students are supervised under the EDP Lead in Room 1. Our policy is that children are NOT to be left unattended after 3:10 p.m.

***Students that are not picked up by 5:01PM, will incur a \$75 late charge on their account. Students that are still in EDP at 5:05PM will incur an additional \$100 charge. Every minute thereafter will be charged the aforementioned fees, plus an additional \$20 per minute.***

***Late charges will be posted to the account at the end of the month along with regular EDP fees and will show on your statement.***

## Communication

### SCHOOL CONTACT

School Office: 209.854.3180  
Office Fax Number: 209.854.3961  
Website Address: [www.olmiracles.com](http://www.olmiracles.com)  
Beehively: <https://olm.beehively.com>

### PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

It is essential that parent/guardian contact information be kept current at all times on the emergency card in the school office and in beehively.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

Members of the staff will not divulge information concerning any student to anyone who does not have a clear "need to know." In disciplinary or academic situations, the only persons who meet this definition are appropriate members of the faculty/staff and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child(ren) involved.

### OFFICE TELEPHONE USE

- Calls for students during school hours are to be for emergency only and are to be left with the school secretary.
- Students may use the telephone for emergency calls only. The following are not considered emergencies: forgotten gym clothes, homework, lunches, or social arrangements after school.

### COMMUNICATION from the SCHOOL

- The Beehively portal is the school's primary mode of communication. This login-protected site is for parents to have access to announcements, week-at-a-glance calendars for the school and each class, sign-ups, forms, RSVP's, lunch menus, grades, and homework and progress reports. It will be updated by 8.30 P.M. every Saturday for grades 3-8. Please check Beehively on a daily basis to receive the most up-to-date information and announcements. Grades and progress reports for grades 3-8 are updated on a regular basis. Progress Report dates are posted on the Beehively School Calendar.
- List other publications and frequency...

### CONTACTING TEACHERS

Parents must not interrupt a teacher during class time, which includes arrival and dismissal time. Instead, parents may make an appointment in person, leave a voice mail, or email the teacher directly. Messages will be answered within 48 hours. In the case of an urgent message, the office should be contacted. Parents and students should never call a teacher at home or on his or her cell phone.

### E-MAIL USE

Email is a great means of communication which been embraced by schools as an effective way to communicate back and forth between parents and teachers. However, the impersonal face of email unfortunately makes it easy to say things in such a manner that one would not use during a face-to-face meeting or in a personal phone call. The following guidelines govern appropriate e-mail use:

- E-mail is an appropriate vehicle for quick, uncomplicated messages to teachers or administrators **when time and/or confidentiality are not critical factors.**
- E-mail is **not** an appropriate communication tool when a parent requires an immediate response or when the requested response would be highly sensitive and/or complex in nature.
- E-mail is an appropriate place to ask questions that require simple, direct answers.
- E-mail is **not** an appropriate communication for extensive chronologies, opinion statements, critiques, or judgments.
- **E-mail should not be used to avoid a difficult situation; the people involved should be spoken to directly.**
- E-mail messages lack the nuances of voice inflection or facial expressions that are part of personal conversations and are therefore open to misinterpretation.
- E-mail should **not** be used when the sender is upset.

### DELIVERIES and FORGOTTEN ITEMS

- Any deliveries to students such as lunches, books, athletic equipment, or homework must be made in the office and not the classroom. Items should be clearly labeled with student first and last name and grade level.
- Birthday presents, balloons, and gifts, etc., are not to be sent to the school office for any student; such items will **not** be delivered to the classroom but may be picked up by a parent.

### PROCESS for CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Disputes in schools are usually due to misunderstandings, differences in judgment, opposing interpretations of school policy, or perceived inequalities in the relationship between and among students, parents, teachers, and the principal. All parties involved in a dispute are expected to manifest good faith in their efforts to resolve disputes by maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect, confidentiality, and Christian charity.

Every effort should be made between differing parties, through open and honest discussion at the onset, to resolve the dispute. In each case the parties need to meet to provide the opportunity to state the issue(s) clearly and begin work on solutions. The



parties are empowered by their participation in the process to affect the outcome. In every case, the parties should attempt to resolve their differences at the level at which the dispute has taken place. Appeals to higher authorities may not be considered until this attempt at resolution has been completed.

- If a conflict arises between a teacher and a student, a conference will be arranged with the teacher, student, and parent(s). The principal of the school must be informed prior to this contact. Every effort must be made to resolve the issue at this level.
- The next level of appeal is to involve a vice-principal or dean of students, if applicable. A conference will be held with the parties listed previously.
- The final appeal at the local level is to the principal. In parish schools the principal will consult with the pastor who may be invited to a conference with all parties if he or the family so desire. Every effort should be made at this level to be sure that all parties are able to present their cases.
- After consultation with the pastor, it is the responsibility of the principal to render the final decision.
- In the event that irreconcilable differences remain, request to meet may be made to the OCE only when all steps above have been followed. The OCE will address the request according to its procedures in effect at that time, which will be provided to all those involved in the appeal.
- Local Advisory Boards and parent organizations are **NOT** part of this appeal process.
- Should it become obvious that a parent is unable or unwilling to support the philosophy and policies of the school and/or the implementation of its philosophy and policies, the principal will recommend/require that the parent transfer his child/children to another school.
- In any instance of a dispute between parents (such as over custody of children enrolled at the school), the school will make every effort to remain neutral, and the parents involved in the dispute must make every effort to resolve the dispute between themselves, and to keep it away from the school environment. Individual parents are prohibited from directing any requests to the school or staff members for information or assistance that is designed or calculated to give that parent an advantage in his or her dispute with the other parent.

## Visiting the School and Volunteering

### VISITING the SCHOOL

- All visitors and volunteers must sign in at the school office upon arrival and sign out when leaving.
- Unaccompanied siblings who are not registered students of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School are not permitted on campus during school hours without prior scheduling.
- Pets are not allowed on campus unless preauthorized.

### CLASSROOM VISITS

- Parents/guardians are welcome to visit the classrooms of their children if prior approval has been obtained from the teacher and principal.
- Other children visiting classrooms must be cleared in advance with the principal and teacher.
- The principal reserves the right to refuse a request, in his or her discretion.

### VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS and GUIDELINES

All parents, guardians, grandparents, relatives, or friends who wish to volunteer at school events, drive on field trips, help in the classroom, or volunteer at parish events where the school children are present, **MUST** be fingerprinted (fee due at the time of fingerprinting) **AND** have clearance through the Safe Environment Program **AND** be free from infectious tuberculosis. All volunteer coaches or aides over the age of 18 must be fingerprinted. The time frame for fingerprint results can be anywhere from 48 hours to a week. All results are sent to the Diocese. It is **REQUIRED** that this clearance be on file **BEFORE** anyone can volunteer in any capacity. ***Volunteering is a privilege granted at the discretion of the principal.***

- Fingerprinting: The school office will provide forms and information regarding fingerprinting.
- Save Environment training: A link is available through Beehively to take this online training for identifying and preventing child abuse and neglect. Volunteers will submit a copy of the certificate of completion to the school office. Volunteers should contact the school office for assistance or more information. This training must be renewed every 3 years.
- Completed TB Questionnaire
- Signed Volunteer Agreement Form
- Driving and Insurance Requirements:
  1. All volunteers who drive children for school-sponsored activities must be 25 years of age or older and be covered with auto liability insurance. Current volunteer driver information forms must be completed and left in the school office.

2. The privately-owned vehicle policy must provide liability coverage on the automobile driven in the amounts no less than \$100,000.00 individual/ \$300,000.00 cumulative each loss or occurrence, bodily injury; \$50,000.00 property damage; \$5,000.00 per person medical; and \$100,000.00 uninsured motorist insurance.
3. No vehicle larger than an 8-passenger vehicle may be used.
4. The number of persons in a car should not exceed the number for which the car was constructed.
5. All children must wear a seat belt or be secured in an appropriate child passenger restraint system meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards as appropriate for their age and weight. Any child under 8 years of age must be secured in a car seat or booster seat *in the back seat* of the vehicle (unless all back seats are already occupied by younger children). A child under the age of 8 who is 4'9" in height or taller may be properly restrained by a safety belt instead of child passenger restraint system.
6. The school must have a copy of the driver's license and current proof of automobile insurance for any volunteer who will be driving students in connection with the school activity.
7. Volunteer drivers must strictly adhere to the itinerary of the planned trip; no deviation is allowed.
8. Drivers may not bring siblings or younger children.

#### VOLUNTEER CODE OF ETHICS

Adults working with children/youth as part of the ministry of the Diocese of Fresno must strictly follow the following rules and guidelines as a condition of providing services to the children and youth of the diocese. This Code of Ethics also applies to parents/guardians who are on campus or attending a school event where children are present.

Adults working with children/youth **will**:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
- Collaborate with other adults in service to children and/or youth;
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth;
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth with whom the adult comes in contact;
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth with whom the adult comes in contact;

- Report suspected abuse (including but not limited to physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect) to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor. If the adult is a mandated reporter under California law, he/she will also comply with his or her reporting obligation; and
- Cooperate fully with authorities in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

Adults working with children/youth will **not**:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of, or provide these products to, children and/or youth;
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or marijuana at any time while volunteering, and will not make alcohol or marijuana available to anyone under the age of 21;
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time, and will not make illegal drugs available to children and/or youth;
- Pose any serious health risk to children and/or youth (e.g., contagious illnesses);
- Strike, spank, shake, grab, or slap children and/or youth (unless the physical action is necessary to prevent harm or injury);
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth;
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner;
- Use any discipline that unreasonably frightens or humiliates children and/or youth; or
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Share personal contact information with youth or e-mail, text, or message youth unless principal and parents are included.
- Take photographs or videos of students or post these to any social media site unless expressly requested to do so by the Principal; these must be checked for authorization by parent/guardian to release.

#### FIELD TRIPS

- Students must have a signed permission slip for each trip which is distributed by the students' teacher. No other signed form can be substituted, and no phone call authorization can be taken.
- Those transporting children must have completed the driver's insurance coverage form and follow the volunteer guidelines as listed in this handbook. The minimum age for a driver is twenty-five (25). Those driving or chaperoning may not bring younger children on the trip. Parents must drive site-to-site according to the field trip form and follow routes given by teacher; no detours or unscheduled stops may be taken.

- As students are representing Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, they are required to wear the school uniform on all trips away from school unless the principal decides otherwise.

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES and REQUIREMENTS

The cost of educating each student per year is \$7,100. It costs this amount whether the student is the first child in the family or the eighth child. In return for the the discount that each family receives, the school expects parents of each participating family to volunteer their time through different activities throughout the school year.

All volunteers on campus during school hours are expected to dress appropriately; clothing should be modest and neat.

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING.

## Curriculum

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School embraces the vision of a Catholic educational philosophy. Christian values and traditions of the Catholic faith are integrated into the curriculum and all teaching/learning situations, within and beyond the classroom.

Guidelines for the curriculum at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School are developed and implemented in cooperation with the Office of Catholic Education of the Diocese of Fresno. The curriculum is carefully coordinated from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Teachers and school administration review and evaluate textbooks cyclically and sequentially according to specified curriculum areas to ensure that Diocesan standards are met. All subjects will remain aligned to the California State Standards and Diocesan Religion standards. Further specifics regarding the curriculum can be provided by the principal.

### ESSENTIAL, CORE CURRICULUM

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School provides complete academic instruction in essential core curricular subjects: English/language arts, reading/literature, religion, mathematics, science, history/social studies, physical education, and religion.

### ENRICHMENT CURRICULUM

Students participate in programs of study in music, art and computer technology as an enrichment of the academic curriculum.

The curriculum stresses academic achievement within a Christian community where the child feels that he/she is loved and respected by his/her peers as well as the teachers. Texts approved by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops are used so that our theology is in compliance with the bishops of the world. United with each other in meaningful liturgy and prayer, the students can further come to an understanding of the Christian life. At OLMCS, we are attempting to "teach as Jesus did."

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School offers students opportunities for growth in the following major subjects:

## *Religion*

OLMCS provides a religious education program containing Bible study, Catholic doctrine and tradition, Social Justice, as well as preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Students attend the Wednesday morning parish Masses. During the Lenten season, the children participate in the Stations of the Cross. During the month of May, special devotions honoring the Blessed Mother are conducted. Liturgical services are held on the first Sunday of each month particularly for the school at 6:00 PM. An additional Sunday Mass is held and recognized as a family Mass for all families associated with Our Lady of Miracles Church and School.

Students in grades Kindergarten through eighth are taught from the Blest Are We text books. Pre-K students are taught from the Stories of God's Love curriculum.

Family Life instruction is required at all grade levels by the Diocese of Fresno. Parents may request that their children be excused from instruction that involves explicit information. Parents will be notified and informed of unit content prior to unit instruction. Parents desiring this exclusion must notify the teacher in writing about the exemption.

Students in Grade 5 take the ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis of Religious Education) Test in April.

Students are required to be present at religion class and any activities of a religious nature taking place during school hours.

## *Computer Literacy*

The school has Chromebooks which integrates curricular subjects. Keyboarding and Computer skills on grade level are taught to students in third through eighth.

## *Fine Arts*

Music, visual arts, and performing arts are taught to all students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth.



### *Handwriting*

Students in grades kindergarten through second learn to print in legible manuscript. Students in grades third through eighth are taught cursive handwriting. Handwriting is part of the English/Language Arts curriculum.

### *Language Arts*

Students in grades kindergarten through eighth are taught reading, English, spelling, phonics, vocabulary, composition, library skills, and appreciation of literature using the California Excursions HSP text books and materials.

### *Mathematics*

Students in grades kindergarten through eighth are taught mathematics skills using the Go Math! and HRW text books, computer programs and manipulatives.

### *Physical Education*

The physical fitness program is appropriate for each grade, kindergarten through eighth.

### *Science*

Students are taught general sciences with science experiments using the only curriculum aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), ScienceFusion.

### *Social Studies*

Students in third through eighth grades are taught history, geography, economics, state history, and current events using Social Studies Weekly newspapers. Students in fifth through eighth grades are taught social studies through the History Alive! Series.

## MODIFIED CURRICULUM and/or ACCOMMODATIONS for STUDENTS with DISABILITIES

- Students with identified learning disabilities may receive *reasonable* accommodations to assist with their academic success. Such accommodations may include added time to complete class work or homework, preferred classroom seating, minimizing distractions, etc. These accommodations will be discussed on an individual basis with the family, teacher(s), and principal.
- Students with identified learning disabilities who require that the curriculum be reasonably modified to meet their learning needs will have such modifications noted on grade reporting or transcripts with an "M"; however, such notification will not indicate the reason for the modification. A modified curriculum will be the result of collaboration with the family, teacher(s), and principal.

Families with students coming from a public school with an already-established IEP (Individualized Educational Program or Plan) or a 504 Plan are advised that such plans relate to public school; if a family wants the full implementation of an IEP (or full access as outlined in a 504 Plan) from the public system, they must enroll the student in public school. Catholic schools endeavor to work with the public school and the family to address whatever needs they can in terms of an IEP or 504 but are only required to implement **reasonable** accommodations.

## STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

A Student Support Team is used to identify student needs and develop a plan to address those needs in order to assist individual students. A Student Support Team consists of the classroom teacher, principal, parents, and the student, as appropriate. Intervention responsibilities are clarified for the school, parents, and the student.

## RELIGION CLASSES, SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION, and WORSHIP

- Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School provides daily religious instruction (Catechesis) that educates children every year, at every grade level, in the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Profession of Faith, The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, Life in Christ, and Christian Prayer. This age-appropriate approach invites students to discover the meaning and presence of God's activity in their lives and to encounter and know the faith of our Catholic Christian community.
- Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade prepare for, and receive, the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist during the school year.
- All students who receive sacraments must be baptized and active, participating members of the Catholic faith.
- Each school day begins with prayer in the classroom. Opportunities for community and personal prayer are offered throughout the school day (e.g.,

Assembly, Lunch Blessings, Dismissal Prayers). Prayer services celebrating the church calendar are offered throughout the school year.

- Mass is celebrated as a school community every Wednesday, students are expected to be in official Mass Uniform.
- Opportunities for the sacrament of Reconciliation are offered to students at the beginning of each school year, during Advent, during Lent, and at the end of the school year.

#### FIELD TRIPS

Faculty members may arrange, in collaboration with and approval of school administration, field trips of an interesting and educational nature for their students. See also VISITING the SCHOOL and VOLUNTEERING.

## LIBRARY

The Library Center serves as a resource for students and faculty. The Library will be open and accessible to faculty and students during the school day.

Kindergarten through eighth grade is regularly scheduled during the school day for time in the Library. Students are encouraged to use the library for curricular enrichment and pleasure reading. The following rules are to be observed:

1. Borrowed books are to be returned on time and in good condition.
2. A fine of one canned good, per day is required for overdue books with a maximum fine of ten cans. (Canned goods are donated to local food banks). Books damaged or lost must be paid for by the student before any other materials may be checked out. Students who have lost or damaged books do not receive progress reports or report cards until their account is cleared.

## PROPERTY

The parent of a child who carelessly destroys or damages any furniture, equipment, buildings, or anyone's personal property will be obligated to pay the full amount of repairs and labor or replacement. Textbooks rented by the student must have a proper book cover. No writing in rented textbooks is permitted. The student will pay a fine or replacement for damaged or lost texts before the final report card is presented.

## Student Evaluation

### PARENTS as PRIMARY EDUCATORS

As the primary educators of their children, parents are expected to make frequent use of Beehively to monitor student progress and to take the initiative to contact teachers should they develop a concern.

### STANDARDIZED TESTING

The Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fresno use a comprehensive, formative assessment program called STAR Renaissance. These assessments of Common Core standards are administered to grades K - 8 four or more times per year. They are criterion-referenced and indicate a student's mastery level of specific grade-level standards.

### HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned for the purpose of applying and reinforcing concepts, skills, and values being learned in the classroom. Homework supports and enhances previously introduced material and is a valuable way of fostering good, independent study habits. Homework is an effective method for enrichment, as well as, extending the curriculum beyond school hours.

### HOMEWORK TIME ALLOTMENT GUIDELINES

Actual homework time will vary by student; the amount of time provided to work on assignments during the school day, the instructional calendar, and individual use of time are factors impacting the amount of homework a student may have on a given day.

Homework should be assigned for a reason (see above) and be *reasonable*; if 10 problems will address the reason for the homework, a teacher should not assign 20 unless reasonable practice of a skill is the reason for the homework. Homework must NEVER be punitive and may NOT be assigned to an entire class because of behavior of a few or many.

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis Monday through Thursday. Written homework should not be assigned over the weekends and/or holidays with the exception of assignments not completed and/or special projects; a teacher should always provide time before and after a weekend or holiday so as not to impact unnecessarily student and family use of this recreational time. Homework time allotment *guidelines* per school day for Catholic schools within the Diocese of Fresno are as follows:

Grades 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-20 minutes
Grades 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>	30-40 minutes
Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup>	50-60 minutes
Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>	60-120 minutes

Actual homework time will vary by student, the amount of time to do homework during the school day, etc.

As a general reminder, homework is not going to make students more proficient in the any subject area. Homework should be used for practice and reinforcement purposes; students should have enough time at home to spend time with their family.

#### MISSED HOMEWORK DUE to ABSENCE

- Missed assignments are the student's responsibility.
- Students who are absent due to illness have one day for each class period absence to make-up the missed assignments, quizzes, or tests. For example, a student who was absent three days would be given three school days to complete the missed work.
- When a student is absent for three or more days due to illness, a parent may call the school office before 9:30 a.m. to arrange for the pick-up of homework assignments.
- Any absence that is not due to personal illness or injury, medical/dental appointment, funeral, or for religious observances/celebrations is considered unexcused. When parent(s) wish to take their child out of school for several days for personal reasons, they should discuss the student's progress with the teacher and principal who will advise them of the effect such an absence would have on the pupil's school work.
- The school is under no obligation to provide tutoring, makeup work, or special testing schedules for unexcused absences. The principal, in consultation with the teacher, has final and absolute discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.
- If a student must leave school prior to the last day of school, an incomplete grade may be given in any affected subject areas. All work necessary to clear the incomplete from the transcript must be completed during the summer in order for grades to be entered for the third trimester for the year. The principal has final and absolute discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.
- The school calendar provides for extended weekends and vacations throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times so as to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process.

## GRADING

The following academic grading scale has been adopted by Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School for essential curricular subjects in accordance with the Report Card Standards determined by the Office of Catholic Education of the Diocese of Fresno:

	<b>Knowledge: Scholarship</b>	<b>Skills: Initiative</b>	<b>Skills: Individual Improvement</b>	<b>Attitude: General</b>	<b>Attitude: Cooperation</b>
<b>A: 100-90</b>	Thorough, outstanding	Contributions exceeding assignment	Actual and noticeable	Positive benefit to class	Bringing ahead all group activity
<b>B: 90-80</b>	Accurate and complete	Stimulating some desirable achievement	Showing marks of progress	Proper and beneficial	Effective in group work
<b>C: 80-70</b>	Exceeding minimum requirements; fair understanding of subject matter	Lacking in independence and showing slight originality	Gradual, perceptible over a period of time	Generally neutral but not objectionable	Occasional support of group activity & assumption of leadership
<b>D: 70-60</b>	Barely meeting assignments	Uncertain, not usually manifest	Slight, if any	Not objectionable, usually neutral	Not positive, ineffective
<b>F: 59 or below</b>	Work of this quality may not be counted toward promotion	Work of this quality may not be counted toward promotion	Work of this quality may not be counted toward promotion	Work of this quality may not be counted toward promotion	Work of this quality may not be counted toward promotion

### CONDUCT GRADE

Students are expected to be prepared for daily studies, to be diligent in their academic work, to be prompt in completing assignments, and to contribute to a positive learning environment within class. Each quarter, students' conduct in Grades K through 8 will also be evaluated.

### PROGRESS REPORTS

At a minimum, progress reports will be sent home via email at the mid-term of each quarter for students in Grades K through 8.

It is the responsibility of the student and parent to inquire at progress report time as to the steps which should be taken to correct any deficiency. Families are reminded that the Progress Report is not a report card but rather an indication of progress to date in a specific area. Dates for progress reports to be sent home are indicated on the school calendar.



## REPORT CARDS

Report cards are given in Grades K-8 at the close of each trimester of instruction. Report cards will be sent home via email for quarters 1-3. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report cards will be sent home via the oldest child or mail. Students who have been absent 10 or more days during a trimester may receive an incomplete in the subject areas affected.

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held for preschool – eighth grade at the end of the first trimester. There may be other times throughout the year that the parents or teacher deem a conference necessary. The student may be requested to be present at this conference. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative to keep themselves informed of their child's progress. Parents will be notified of their assigned conference time and are requested to notify the teacher as soon as possible if a change is needed.

## ACADEMIC/BEHAVIORAL PROBATION

- If a student receives a grade below (C-) in academics, or if a student does not maintain a grade point average of (C) or higher on trimester report cards, she/he will be placed on academic probation.
- If a student receives unsatisfactory grades in either conduct or effort on trimester report cards, or consistently disrupts the learning environment of the classroom, she/he will be placed on behavioral probation.
- Students will remain on academic or behavioral probation until the next progress report or report card is issued. At that time, students who improve their academics or behavior to the appropriate standing will be removed from probation. If not, they will remain on probation and may be asked to acquire special remedial assistance. If a student does not remediate her/his academics or behavior after two grading periods, the school administration will reconsider her/his continued enrollment or re-enrollment.
- Students on academic or behavioral probation are ineligible for extra-curricular activities. Final end-of-year grading from the previous school year determines a student's initial eligibility status.

## PROMOTION

- Elementary school students satisfactorily completing a grade's work and who are correspondingly mature shall be promoted to the next grade.
- Advancement on the high school level shall be determined by the successful completion of course work and acquiring the prescribed number of units.

## RETENTION

If in the teacher's judgment retention is probable, arrangements for a conference with the teacher, parents, and the principal will be made as soon as possible.

### ACCELERATION

Acceleration of the student may be cautiously granted on the recommendation of the teacher, at the discretion of the principal, and with the approval of the parent(s). The child's social and emotional maturity must be seriously evaluated whenever acceleration is considered.

### ACADEMIC AWARDS(K-8)

OLMCS Principal's Honor Roll is based on the following criteria. In order to qualify, a student must have an A average (90) in all major subjects, i.e., math, religion, science, social studies, and health, and an A in conduct. P.E., art, music, and handwriting must be satisfactory in the opinion of the respective teachers.

Those with an A (90-100) or B (80-90) in all the above-mentioned subjects, and has an A or B in conduct, will qualify for the Academic Honor Roll. P.E., art, music, and handwriting must be satisfactory in the opinion of the respective teachers.

### EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION/GRADUATION

Graduation from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade requires the following:

- Achievement of a passing grade in all subject areas
- Completion and submission all assignments
- Completion of the SLE Portfolio
- Return all school property in good condition
- Return of athletic uniforms (if any)
- Payment of all financial obligations to the school, including fines, by May 15th

Eighth Grade graduation marks an important transition from elementary and middle school to high school, but it should be remembered that this promotion should not eclipse graduation from high school.

School graduation celebrations (activities and ceremonies) are a privilege reserved for eighth grade students in good standing. Students on either academic or disciplinary probation may not be allowed to participate in celebrations. Students who pose a disruptive influence will not be allowed to participate in the commencement exercises.

## The School Day and Attendance

### SCHOOL and OFFICE HOURS

#### **August – May:**

7:30am – 3:30pm

#### **June-July:**

Tuesdays & Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment

### CLOSED CAMPUS

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is a closed campus. Once students arrive on campus, they may not leave at any time during the school day unless they are signed out by an authorized adult. At the end of the day, students must follow the dismissal guidelines outlined below.

### ARRIVAL

Students may be on campus at 7:30 AM. Earlier arrivals must go to Extended Day. Students requiring additional supervision should be enrolled in the Extended Day Program. Any child on the school grounds before 7:30 AM will be sent to Extended Day and the parents/guardians will be billed for this service.

### DISMISSAL

- All students must be picked up promptly after school unless they are to remain for athletics or other supervised activities. After 15 minutes, students will be sent to Extended Day for supervision, and parents will be billed accordingly.
- If students are taking part in an athletic or other after-school supervised activity and must remain for practice, game, or other event, they will be under the supervision of the coach or other adult supervisor. However, siblings who are enrolled at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School cannot, and will not, be supervised by the coaches or other adults and must be enrolled in the Extended Day Program (with prior arrangements having been made with the director) for the period of time that the activity requires; parents will be billed accordingly.
- Written permission is required for all students leaving school without being accompanied by a parent (e.g., student is walking or cycling home, etc.).
- No student may leave the school grounds once he/she has arrived at school.
- Children are to remain in uniform when leaving school.
- In the case of early dismissal (i.e. dental or doctor appointment), parents must provide the office with written notice indicating the reason and the name of the person who will be picking the student up.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of custody status and subsequent changes.

- School personnel will not release a child to any adult who appears incapable of providing safe conduct or when the child demonstrates anxiety or fear in being released to the adult. In such an instance, school personnel will call others on the approved list to come to pick up the child; law enforcement may be called.

## DROP-OFF and PICK-UP PROCEDURES

**Linden Avenue:** Please do not use Linden Avenue as a means of dropping off your students. It is a dangerous spot to cross especially when all schools are in session. If you are coming to the office, please use care when parking and crossing with your children.

**Church Parking Lot:** Please use this parking lot when parking and walking your children on campus for am drop off and pm pick up.

**Parish Center I (PC1) Parking Lot:** There is now a designated drop off lane to the right-hand side of the parking lot! This lane is a **no parking lane**, pull through to drop off. Staff members will be assigned to designated locations to assist with afternoon pick-up.

### **Expectations of PC1 Parking Lot AM DROP OFF:**

- \* When using the drop off lane, you are to pull through until behind the next vehicle or until the end of the lane.
- \* Your children are to exit the vehicle on the right-hand side and walk along the fence line to the gate.
- \* Once you have dropped your child off, you may SAFELY exit the drop off lane to the left and exit the parking lot.

### **Expectations of PC Parking Lot PM PICK UP:**

- \* Pull through the drop off lane until you are behind the next vehicle. If arriving early, turn off your vehicle until the dismissal bell rings.
- \* Your child will be called for once staff recognizes you.
- \* Your child(ren) MUST enter the vehicle from the passenger side.
- \* Once your child has entered the vehicle and buckled up, you may SAFELY exit the drop off lane to the left.

## WALKERS and BIKE RIDERS

Students who walk or bike to school must have written parental permission on file in the School Office. Students riding bicycles must wear helmets. Bicycles may not be ridden on school grounds but must be walked to and from the bicycle rack. Bicycles are not to be left school overnight. The school is not responsible for bicycles left in the bicycle rack, and students are encouraged to use locks to secure their property. Students who walk or ride to school may not leave campus once they have arrived.

## MINIMUM DAYS

Certain school days are designated minimum days; dismissal is at 12:00pm. These days are noted on the calendar.

## ABSENCES

- If a student is absent, a parent/guardian must notify the school before 8:30am on the date of the absence with the reason. If the office does not receive a phone call, parents/guardians will be contacted.
- Parents/guardians must notify the office if a child has been diagnosed as having a contagious condition (e.g., chicken pox, strep, lice, etc.) so that precautions can be taken and notifications sent home. Student confidentiality will be observed.
- A written excuse from the parent/guardian stating the reason for an absence must be presented to the office by the student upon returning to school.
- Medical/dental appointments are considered excused absences. Parents must send a note to the office prior to the appointment informing the teacher and the office that the student will be leaving the school premises or arriving late. Before leaving the school grounds and upon returning, the parent/guardian or designated adult must sign-in the student at the school office.
- A student must attend at least half the school day to be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity scheduled that same day (e.g., athletic games, class parties, field trips, etc.).

## TARDIES

- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to see that their children arrive by 8:00am. A child is considered tardy if he/she is not in line or in the classroom by the 8:00am bell.
- The parent/guardian must sign-in the tardy student at the office; students must not be taken directly to the office. Students who are tardy must receive a tardy slip from the office prior to admittance to class.

## EXCESSIVE ABSENCE and TARDINESS

- Excessive absence is considered a total of 18 days per school year.
- Excessive absence for reasons of illness will be handled on an individual basis.
- Excessive tardiness or absence will result in a parent conference with the teacher and/or principal. Persistent tardiness or absence may, at the discretion of the principal, result in decreased academic credit or disciplinary action including dismissal from school.
- Any student who is absent from school without a valid excuse or who is tardy in excess of thirty minutes may be considered truant. The principal may contact an appropriate government entity if there is concern regarding neglect.

## ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK

- Missed assignments are the student's responsibility.
- Students who are absent due to illness have one day for each class period absence to make-up the missed assignments, quizzes, or tests. For example, a student who was absent three days would be given three school days upon return to complete the missed work.
- When a student is absent for three or more days due to illness, a parent may call the school office before 9:30 a.m. to arrange for the pick-up of homework assignments.
- Any absence that is not due to personal illness or injury, medical/dental appointment, funeral, or for religious observances/celebrations is considered unexcused. When parent(s) wish to take their child out of school for several days for personal reasons, they should discuss the student's progress with the teacher and principal who will advise them of the effect such an absence would have on the pupil's school work.
- The school is under no obligation to provide tutoring, makeup work, or special testing schedules for unexcused absences. The principal, in consultation with the teacher, has final and absolute discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing the way such absences will be addressed.
- If a student must leave school prior to the last day of school and a make-up period is no longer available, an incomplete grade may be given in any affected subject areas. All work necessary to clear the incomplete from the transcript must be completed during the summer in order for grades to be entered for the third trimester for the year. The principal has final and absolute discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.
- The school calendar provides for extended weekends and vacations throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times so as to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process.

## Appearance and Student Uniform Requirements

### INTRODUCTION

Student dress, grooming, and personal cleanliness impact the image of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School. It is a part of school tradition to wear uniforms to avoid class distinction and over-interest in fads. Besides representing school families, the clean, up-to-code uniform draws students' attention to community responsibility. A neat, clean, and tasteful appearance with well-groomed hair creates an atmosphere of confidence, respect, and learning. Moreover, it is an opportunity to uphold, reflect, and respect the dignity of the human person. In adhering to the Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School uniform and dress code, students practice the virtues of humility, modesty, obedience, and respect.

It is the joint responsibility of parents and students to see that the uniform and dress code of the school is carried out daily; it is the responsibility of the teacher and staff to monitor and report non-compliance. Every student is expected to be in proper uniform every school day unless otherwise authorized. The uniform should be neat, clean, and in good repair. Violations of any uniform, dress code, and appearance requirements are subject to school disciplinary sanctions.

The school cannot anticipate every fashion trend that may develop and therefore reserves the right to make judgments regarding the application of these general guidelines to specific items at any time.

	TOPS	BOTTOMS	ACCESORIES	OPTIONAL: FALL & WINTER
<b>PK BOY <u>and</u> PK GIRL</b>  <b>All school days</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White short or long sleeve polo</li> </ul> Temporary Option: Hunter green polo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elastic waist navy shorts or pants</li> <li>Plaid is optional for girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White or navy socks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White turtleneck</li> <li>Navy sweater or sweatshirt</li> <li>Navy sweater vest</li> <li>OLMCS jacket</li> </ul>

	TOPS	BOTTOMS	ACCESORIES	OPTIONAL: FALL & WINTER
<b>K-5 GIRL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White short or long sleeve polo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navy blue skirt, skort, shorts or pants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White or navy socks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White turtleneck</li> <li>OLMCS Navy sweater or sweatshirt</li> <li>OLMCS Navy sweater vest</li> </ul>



<b>K-5 GIRL MASS UNIFORM</b>	• White short or long sleeve peter pan collar shirt	• Plaid jumper	• White or navy socks	• OLMCS jacket • OLMCS Navy sweater vest • OLMCS jacket
	• White short or long sleeve polo shirt	• Navy shorts or pants	• White or Navy socks	• White turtleneck • OLMCS Navy sweater or sweatshirt • OLMCS Navy sweater vest • OLMCS jacket
<b>K-5 BOY MASS UNIFORM</b>	• White short or long sleeve oxford (collared) shirt	• Khaki pants	• Plaid tie • White or navy socks	• OLMCS Navy sweater vest • OLMCS jacket

#### GENERAL DRESS CODE and UNIFORM REGULATIONS

- All clothing should be marked clearly with student first and last name
- Uniform items need to be size-appropriate and may not be modified in any way (e.g., purchasing smaller sizes than are appropriate or hemming skirts, etc.).
- No distracting shoes such as with lights, buzzers, or skating, etc.
- Sandals and open-toed shoes are never allowed.
- Only school uniform sweatshirts may be worn in the classroom.
- Outer coats may be worn over the uniform while outside, but not in the classroom (sweaters only).
- No other clothing is allowed including Scout uniforms, or high school/college sweatshirts.
- Students must call home for a change of clothes if out of uniform.
- If circumstances prevent a student from coming to school in uniform, a note must be sent to the teacher. The substitute uniform should be as similar to the uniform as possible.
- NO HATS
- NO TATTOOS, permanent or washable
- No fake nails, nail polish, or French manicures.
- A clean, well-groomed appearance is required for students. Students sent to school without attention to cleanliness, uniform, or neatness may be sent home to be properly prepared for school.
- Make-up, lipstick, or colored lip gloss are not permitted for the school day.
- Clear lip balm only is permitted.
- Hairstyles are to be simple, clean, and neat. Hair must be its natural color with no highlights, no fads, distinct layers, or distracting hairstyles.

- Boys' hair must be out of the eyes, above the ears, and off the collar.
- Boys must be clean shaven (when applicable).
- The only acceptable forms of jewelry that may be worn at any time include a wristwatch (for boys or girls), one pair of matching stud earrings for girls only (to be worn one in each earlobe only), a holy medal, cross, or crucifix on a chain, a scapular that is worn inside the shirt or blouse (for boys or girls), or a medical alert necklace and/or bracelet when necessary (no other bracelets may be worn).

### SPIRIT DAY DRESS CODE

School sweatshirts, cardigans, and sweaters can be worn with a plain white or school white polo or any school t-shirt. Pants and shorts, for both girls and boys, can be navy blue, tan, beige, or khaki. Denim pants or shorts are acceptable. School logo shorts and sweatpants are also acceptable. In addition, girls can also wear school skirts or skorts or khaki skirts or skorts. Capri pants may be worn. No holey jeans, or pants that are skinny may be worn.

### UNIFORM HOLIDAYS

On certain days, the principal may call a uniform holiday. On these occasions, students need to be dressed in a manner consistent with modesty and follow any guidelines laid out by the principal for the occasion. Students in grades K – 5 may have a uniform holiday on their birthdays (must be approved by the teacher).

### FREE DRESS

- Modesty and simplicity are guiding principles for free dress.
- No extreme fads
- Jeans in good repair (with no holes, intentional or otherwise) will be acceptable for casual "free dress" (not on "dress up" days or addressing the student body at Mass).
- Pants of any kind must fit appropriately (i.e. not skin tight, no spandex and no skinny jeans).
- Pants should be worn at the waist (no sagging).
- Halters, tank tops, or spaghetti straps are not allowed.
- No midriff shirts, loose baggy trousers, cutoffs, see-through shirts, or bike shorts are allowed.
- Objectionable clothing displaying images (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, drugs, controversial rock groups, or themes) are not allowed.
- Flat soled shoes only; NO BOOTS.
- Sandals are not allowed.
- Socks must be worn at all times.
- If there is doubt as to what is appropriate, a plain T-shirt (w/ sleeves) and jeans in good repair should be acceptable.

## **Health and Safety**

### IMMUNIZATIONS AND STUDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Referenced in the ADMISSIONS section

### EMERGENCY CARDS

Each child must have a completed emergency form on file in the school office. These forms must be kept up to date. Any change in address or phone number must be reported to the office to ensure timely contact should a student become ill or hurt; these contacts must be immediately updated on Beehively.

### SCHOOL INSURANCE COVERAGE

All Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School students are covered by insurance for injuries incurred on the school grounds, during school-supervised activities, and to and from school and school-supervised activities. The registration fee includes coverage by the Myers-Stevens and Toohey Company for all students. In the event of an injury, parents may obtain a claim form from the school office. The injury must be brought to the attention of the office the day the incident occurs. This coverage is secondary to family primary insurance coverage. Insurance information is sent home the first week of school to familiarize parents with the coverage.

### ILLNESS and NOTIFICATION

- Parents should notify school office personnel on the first day of a child's illness.
- Parents should notify the school immediately if they receive a diagnosis that their child has a communicable disease.
- Students who are obviously sick or feverish may not attend school; a child must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- A handwritten absence note from the student's parent or guardian is required upon the child's return to school.
- An absence of three or more days requires a doctor's note upon the child's return to school.

### MEDICATIONS

- The school does not provide medications of any kind.
- Students are prohibited from having any medications, prescribed or over-the-counter, on their persons on school grounds, and all such medications must be kept in the school office. If a student's condition potentially requires epi-pens for severe allergic reaction or inhalers, the school will develop a plan with the parent and physician for the maintenance and potential use of those medications.

- Prescribed or over-the-counter medications must be brought to the school office by the parent in the original container.
- Only in RARE instances will the school permit a student to take medication at school. The parent is urged, with the help of the family health care provider, to work out a schedule of taking medication outside of school hours. The only exceptions involve special or serious problems where it is deemed absolutely necessary to take the medication during school hours.
- If it is essential that medications be administered at school, these medications must be administered from the school office only.
- NO member of the faculty or staff in the school office is permitted to administer any medication without the following:
  1. A signed written statement from the parent or guardian of the child
  2. A written statement from the physician detailing the method, amount, and schedule by which the child will come at the designated time with specific instructions included for emergency treatment if an allergic reaction should occur.
  3. All medication must be kept in its original container which must be clearly identified with a prescription label with the child's name, drug identity, dosage instructions, physician's name, and prescription date (for over-the counter medications, the original commercial container will suffice); the prescription must be current (and over-the-counter medications within the expiration limits).
  4. Medical treatment is the responsibility of the parent and the family health care provider. While office personnel will make every attempt to administer medications as requested, the school will not be held responsible for missed doses or mis-administration of any kind.

#### MEDICATION FORMS

The school office can provide the appropriate medication forms that cover the above requirements. These forms must be updated annually. A new form MUST be completed by the physician and parent each school year if the need continues.

#### ILLNESS at SCHOOL, INJURY, and FIRST AID

Should a student become ill or injured, the school will make every effort to contact the parent(s) of the student for information and instructions. However, the school may contact emergency agencies (911) first depending on the nature of the situation. This action does not obligate the principal or the school to assume financial responsibility for the treatment of the student.

- All injuries to the head, no matter how small, must be made known to the parent as soon as possible.

- Students who become ill or injured at school may not leave the school on their own; parents (or other designated adult on the emergency form) are required to pick up an ill or injured student as soon as possible after being notified.
- In the case of an injury at school, school staff will render first aid, with or without parental consent, using a reasonable and ordinary standard of care.
- If a student is stabilized, school staff will await instructions from parents or emergency staff regarding further action.

#### STUDENTS with SEVERE ALLERGIES

Families with students who have identified severe allergies should work with the school as follows:

- Provide written notification (health record) to the school of an at-risk student's allergies that pose a serious threat to the student.
- Confer with qualified school representatives to develop a plan that *reasonably* accommodates the at-risk student's needs throughout the school campus and facilities.
- Provide the school with written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician or health care professional.
- Include a photograph of the student on the written form.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replacement medications, as required after use or upon expiration.
- Review policies/procedures with the school representatives, the child's physician, and the student (if age-appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide and update current emergency contact information.
- Educate the child in the self-management of his/her allergy including the following:
  - safe and unsafe foods and exposures
  - strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods or other items such as sharing foods with others or consuming food or drink where ingredients are unknown
  - symptoms of allergic reactions
  - how and when to tell an adult he/she may be having an allergy-related problem
  - how to read food labels (if age-appropriate)

## HEAD LICE

Head lice (or pediculosis) is a common occurrence in elementary and middle schools. When it is identified, procedures that follow must be taken. The school understands that pediculosis may not be an indication of neglect or lack of cleanliness, and where possible, confidentiality will be observed.

- When a student has been identified as having nits and/or lice, the school will contact the parents/guardians to pick up their child for immediate treatment.
- The siblings of the infected student will also be screened.
- The classmates of a student identified as having nits and/or lice may also be screened.
- The student and family will receive information about pediculosis and instructions on treating their child and their home to remove all nits and/or lice.
- Upon return to school, the student will need to be screened at the school office by a school employee for nits and/or lice before being allowed to return to the classroom.

## MANDATED REPORTING

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School is legally required to comply with the *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*. Those employees of the school who are designated "mandated reporters" by law are responsible to report suspected occurrences of child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities (Child Protective Services, police department, sheriff department, etc.). Although such reports are typically confidential, if a parent/guardian discovers the identity of a school employee who made a report of child abuse, the parent/guardian may not retaliate against the employee in any way for making the report.

## STUDENT THREATS OF HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School will treat student threats to inflict harm to self, to others, or to destroy property, very seriously. Practical jokes or offhand comments of a threatening nature will be considered serious and will be investigated. Threats that are substantiated may result in disciplinary actions, up to and including dismissal.

- Anyone hearing or becoming aware of any threat is to report it directly to the principal or his/her designee.
- Threats of harm to self will be treated differently than threats of harm to others.
- The student making the threat will be removed to the office and kept under adult supervision at all times; the student may be suspended pending an investigation.
- All threats will be reviewed and investigated in a prompt and thorough manner, and the investigation will be kept confidential to the extent practicable.
- If the threat is judged credible and serious, the principal will notify the following groups/individuals of the threat: parents, pastor, potential victims and their

parents, the Office of Catholic Education, and the police or health care professionals as appropriate.

- The student will not be allowed to return to school until the investigation has been completed and final disciplinary or therapeutic action, if any, has been determined.
- If the principal, after investigation and consultation, determines there is sufficient evidence of a risk of harm by a student, to others, and/or to property, the principal will continue the student's suspension and not consider the readmission of the student to the school until appropriate counseling which is acceptable to the school occurs; the guidelines for this procedure will be handled on an individual basis.
- In some cases, the nature and credibility of the threat is such that the principal may request withdrawal of the student, or expel the student, without possibility of returning to the school.

#### PARKING LOT SAFETY

Families are required to observe the following guidelines to provide a safe, quick, orderly, and consistent dismissal and arrival process:

- Drivers should not exceed 5 mph while driving on campus.
- Children are to exit/enter vehicles from the passenger side ONLY during the morning.
- Parents must not deviate from the prescribed drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures *even if it appears safe* as these have been carefully determined to keep students out of traffic lanes. See DROP-OFF and PICK-UP PROCEDURES in ATTENDANCE above.
- All instructions of supervising staff must be followed at all times.
- No traffic will be allowed on the playground during school hours except during the designated drop-off and pick-up times.

#### SEVERE ILLNESS OUTBREAK

If the school administration should decide that illness among students and/or staff is severe enough to make the running of the school either unsafe or infeasible, school will be closed until safety and feasibility can be reasonably restored. Interim steps prior to the closing of school may include any of the following measures:

- Custodians will disinfect surfaces and door handles.
- Preschools may act independently from schools.
- Instructional Assistants may act as substitute teachers.
- Classes not part of the core curriculum may be cancelled and teachers of special classes may act as substitute teachers.
- School administration, office staff, and extension staff may act as substitute teachers.
- Classes may be combined.

## Concussion Policy

### CONCUSSION DEFINITION

A concussion is a complex injury that causes a disturbance in brain function. It usually starts with a blow to the head, face, or neck, and is often associated with temporarily losing consciousness. However, it is important to understand that a blackout is only one possible symptom. When an athlete suffers a concussion, the brain suddenly shifts or shakes inside the skull and can knock against the skull's bony surface. If left untreated, a concussion can lead to a slow brain bleed.

### SYMPTOMS

The signs and symptoms of a concussion can be subtle and may not show up immediately. Symptoms can last for days, weeks, or even longer. Common symptoms after a concussive traumatic brain injury are headache, loss of memory (amnesia), and confusion. The amnesia usually involves forgetting the event that caused the concussion. Signs and symptoms of a concussion may include:

- Headache or a feeling of pressure in the head
- Temporary loss of consciousness
- Confusion or feeling as if in a fog
- Amnesia surrounding the traumatic event
- Dizziness or "seeing stars"
- Ringing in the ears
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Delayed response to questions
- Appearing dazed
- Fatigue
- Loss of consciousness
- Seizure or convulsions

The injured person may have some symptoms of concussions immediately. Others may be delayed for hours or days after injury:

- Concentration and memory complaints
- Irritability and other personality changes
- Sensitivity to light and noise
- Sleep disturbances
- Psychological adjustment problems and depression
- Disorders of taste and smell



Symptoms in younger children:

- Appearing dazed
- Listlessness and tiring easily
- Irritability and crankiness
- Loss of balance and unsteady walking
- Crying excessively
- Change in eating or sleeping patterns
- Lack of interest in favorite toys or hobbies

With a loss of consciousness, it is clear that emergency medical services are needed. However, the non-blackout symptoms listed above must not be ignored. Unfortunately, a pervasive mindset in some sports is that getting "dinged" is part of the game and the athlete needs to tough it out. This thinking is dangerous because it exposes the child to further injury when his or her brain needs a rest and prevents him or her from obtaining a proper medical assessment as soon as possible.

#### FOLLOWING INJURY

The following steps must be followed (by the athlete, parents, teammates, and coaches) whenever an athlete has experienced a bump or blow to the head or body and evidences any of the symptoms or signs of a concussion:

1. Remove the athlete from play immediately.
2. Call 911 and/or administer first aid as appropriate.
3. Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and provide them with the CDC fact sheet on concussion.
4. Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by a health care professional.\*\*
5. Keep the athlete out of play and practice the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, states in writing that the athlete can safely return. The arrangements and cost of the health care provider are the responsibility of the parent.
6. Athlete should limit all forms of physical activity.
7. Athlete should minimize the use of all electronics (including cell phones, computers, TV, etc.) and be in a quiet atmosphere as much as possible. Social interaction, sporting events, concerts, etc., can all have a negative impact on recovery.

\*\*"Health care professional" means a physician of medicine, physician of osteopathic medicine, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant, or licensed physician of psychology; any of these medical professionals MUST have had training in neuropsychology or concussion evaluation and management.

#### RETURN to SPORT

Players with even the MILDEST concussion symptoms should NOT return to a game or practice. They should be assessed by a physician immediately. If symptoms do not appear until several hours after the game, the child should still seek medical

assessment. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN AN ATHLETE RETURN TO PRACTICE OR GAME WITHOUT CLEARANCE FROM A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL.

Anyone who has suffered a concussion needs to rest the brain until all the symptoms are gone. This means the athlete should be able to read, do math, and think at his or her usual pace with no headaches, fatigue, or other symptoms. This can mean a few days resting at home, not doing school work, and refraining from any exercise.

There is no timetable chart to follow; each athlete needs a treatment program tailored to his or her symptoms and circumstances. Younger children seem to take longer to recover than adults, and it is not unusual for children to be out of sports for a month after suffering a concussion. If a player suffers one concussion, he or she is more likely to sustain future concussions. Researchers believe the younger the child, the more vulnerable the brain may be to these repeat concussions.

### SECOND IMPACT SYNDROME

If someone with a concussion too hastily returns to contact sports or activities, a second concussion can result in Second Impact Syndrome — a potentially fatal condition. Second Impact Syndrome is when another blow to the head (even a minor one) results in the brain losing its ability to control its own blood flow, which increases pressure in the head and can lead to death, usually within 2 – 5 minutes. Second Impact Syndrome most often affects young athletes (in junior and senior high school), but any athlete who returns to a sport too soon is at risk.

### RETURN to SCHOOL

Following concussion, NO student may return to school until cleared to do so by the physician. Because the needs for recovery from concussion are dependent on many factors, parents should work with the school and physician regarding a plan for returning to school and full academic work. Students recovering from concussion may not attend field trips, dances, etc., until they have been fully cleared by the physician. Reasonable accommodations regarding gradual re-entry to class and full academic activities may include the following:

- Extra time to complete classwork, homework, and tests
- Reduction of workload
- Postponement of high-stakes testing, large projects, and standardized testing
- Provision of hard copies to limit iPad use or online access
- Wearing of sunglasses for sensitivity to light
- Supervised breaks during the day
- Modified/shortened school day
- Incomplete grades (rather than zeroes) until recovery takes place

In extreme cases, a student may need to be placed on home study.

## Emergency Procedures

### EMERGENCY CARE PLAN

The school's emergency care plan follows clear and practiced safety procedures in the event of fire, earthquake, lockdown, active shooter, bomb threats, and other emergencies.

- In the event of an actual school-wide emergency, the automated Beehively system will provide parents/guardians rapid notification by text message and/or email.
- Parents should not call the school directly but wait for notification; school lines need to be used for calling out only.
- Parents should not block access to the school—access needs to be available for emergency vehicles.
- Should it ever become necessary to evacuate and relocate off campus, Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School has arranged safe haven at...
- In the event of a city/countywide disaster, parents should tune to a local Emergency Broadcast Station to receive emergency instructions.
- All students will be accounted and cared for by school staff and necessary emergency steps will be taken. Parents will be notified as soon as possible through Beehively emergency features and/or school emergency phone contacts.
- No student will be released until all Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School students are accounted for. No student will be allowed to leave school care unless an appropriate, competent adult comes to sign a release.

### EMERGENCY DRILLS and EVENTS

- FIRE  
Fire drills take place regularly. The school will follow instructions of the Fire Department.
- EARTHQUAKE  
An earthquake drill will take place periodically after fire drills once the students return to class. In the event of an actual earthquake, school staff will remain on site until parents can be notified, all students are accounted for, and all students have been released to appropriate adults. Parents should be aware that routes to school may be blocked or impassable.
- LOCKDOWN/ACTIVE SHOOTER  
Lockdown drills will take place periodically. In event of an actual lockdown, law enforcement will be involved as soon as possible (or may call for the lockdown). The school will notify parents via Beehively as soon as possible. However, the

safety of students is the primary importance; this may mean that the school needs to be made secure before parents can be contacted.

- BOMB THREAT

Law enforcement will be called and the school will follow their instructions. Parents will be notified when the school is instructed to do so.

- FLOOD

The school will follow emergency agency instructions. Students may be evacuated if called for. Parents should await notification via Beehively.

- For any other emergencies, the steps of the Emergency Care Plan above will be followed.

## Student Discipline

### GENERAL POLICY

The values of Catholic education are the foundation for all interactions and relationships at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School. A student is considered at all times and places a member of the Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School student body. This is an honor and privilege and therefore, students must be conscious of their actions at all times, whether on or off campus, including but not limited to, games, dances, rallies, assemblies, service projects, field trips, and other gatherings. Courtesy and respect should be manifested at all times. Any behavior or attitude that stands in opposition to Catholic Christian values, on or off campus, toward anyone in the community, will be viewed as a very serious violation of the school's code of conduct. Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School reserves the right to review and consider instances of student conduct and actions, regardless of when or where such conduct or actions occur, if they express or show an incompatibility with the mission and philosophy of the school; such actions may result in a student being barred from participation in school activities and may subject a student to the full range of disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of enrollment.

### EXPECTATIONS

Students at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School are expected to conduct themselves according to principles of Catholic Christian behavior:

- To be honest in all dealings with fellow students, teachers, and school personnel;
- To cooperate positively with fellow students, teachers, and school personnel;
- To respect always the person and the rights of all;
- To obtain permission from the proper authority for the use of any of the school facilities or materials (other than those typically used under staff supervision);
- To be courteous, attentive, and respectful when fellow students, teachers, administrators, visitors, or performers address individual classes or the assembled student body;
- To be responsible for the care of all materials loaned to the student for the course of studies during the year; and
- To respect parish and school property at all times.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Personal academic integrity is essential for building community and promoting social justice. To cheat is to act dishonestly or in violation of established rules, procedures, or codes of conduct. In an academic environment, there are three principle forms of cheating:

- Violating the procedures of a test, including, but not limited to, copying answers, accessing test keys, using a copy of a previous test, using notes or materials not allowed, or altering answers on a corrected test which has been returned.
- Plagiarizing, which pertains to the rights of intellectual property; plagiarism is the appropriation of another's ideas and/or language, in part or whole, without necessary assignment or credit. Plagiarism includes copying homework/labs, and quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing another's written work including sources off the internet or oral statements without proper citation.
- Knowingly enabling another student to cheat.

Sanctions for cheating are the discretion of the teacher (and, if necessary, the principal) and may include receiving a zero on the exam or work in question, loss of privilege, or suspension.

## VANDALISM

Students and their parent(s) are liable for all damage to equipment or school property caused by the student and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.

In guiding the student's growth in Christian attitudes, values, and behavior, it is well to emphasize the positive rather than the negative. The essence of Christian discipline is self-discipline. To teach and support this goal, the Honorable Character system is encouraged and taught at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.

The student should be helped to see clearly the consequences of various behaviors and to realize that choosing certain ones means accepting the responsibility for the consequences of these behaviors. The student is directed to choose one form of behavior over another and to take upon himself/herself the consequences of that chosen behavior. The consequences should always be logical and appropriate to the behavior.

The classroom teacher, as the person who has the greatest contact with the student each day, will have the primary role in regular discipline of the child. If a student makes poor choices during the day, the teacher will attempt to re-direct the student's behavior and may notify the parent or guardian of the behavior by phone or by written note that must be signed and returned to the teacher. It is expected that the parent/guardian will assess an appropriate consequence at home. In addition, the teacher may choose to remove privileges at school such as recess or other activities.

In the event that a behavior does not change as a result of parent and teacher cooperation, the principal will become involved. In situations such as fighting, classroom outbursts, or other offences, the principal may be notified immediately. When the principal becomes involved in any disciplinary situation, the following guidelines will be followed:

- The **first** time to the principal's office the child will be **counseled** about the infraction.
- The **second** time the student goes to the principal's office for any offense the student will receive appropriate consequences (loss of privileges) and will be sent home at the end of the day with a **notice** that must be signed and returned to the principal's office within two school days.
- The **third** time a student goes to the principal's office for any offense the principal will contact the parent/guardian on the **phone** at that time if possible. The principal will explain to the parent what the child has done. It is expected that the parent enforce consequences at home in addition to the loss of privileges at school.
- If a child is sent to the office for a **fourth** time for any offense, the principal will immediately call the parent/guardian. The child will have **one day of in-school suspension**.
- If the child is sent to the office for the **fifth** time for any offence, the principal will call the parent/guardian and the child will have **three days of in-school suspension**.
- If the child is sent to the office for the **sixth** time for any offence, the principal will call the parent/guardian and the child will have **one day of out-of-school suspension**.
- If the child is sent to the office for the **seventh** time for any offence, the principal will call the parent/guardian and the child will have **three days of out-of-school suspension**.
- After seven office referrals the principal and pastor will meet to determine if that child will be expelled. In case of expulsion, the superintendent will immediately be informed.

The above procedures are a general guideline. Infractions such as fighting, stealing, and other major offenses may necessitate the principal to suspend or expel a student without prior offenses. In such case, the principal will consult with the pastor and/or superintendent.

The expulsion of a student is such a serious penalty that it is invoked rarely, and then only as a last result. The principal, pastor, and/or superintendent reserve the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises.

Consistent behavioral issues may require a behavior plan to be agreed upon between the parents and administration. Parents must fully support the behavior plan for the child to demonstrate progress.

### RIGHT to SEARCH

While students generally possess the right of privacy of person and personal effects, that right must be balanced against the school's responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the whole school community. Because school officials have a legitimate interest in personal safety and protection of all students within their care and custody, the school administration reserves the right to conduct searches when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will reveal evidence that the student is violating the law or school policies. School officials do not need a warrant or permission from a parent or guardian to conduct such a search.

School officials therefore reserve the right and responsibility to conduct, and a student must submit to, a search of his/her person, automobile, clothes, bags, cell phone, and electronic equipment when reasonable suspicion exists. A search of a student's person would occur only with appropriate supervision by a faculty or administration member of the same sex, and the school will notify the parents/guardians of the fact that the search was conducted. The school also reserves the right to search any area of campus and school property including all lockers and school computers and all electronic devices. Refusal to comply with a search process will be grounds for disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

### INTERVIEWS by OFFICIALS

- Law enforcement officers have the right during the school day to interview students who are suspects or witnesses. Child Protective Services representatives may conduct interviews to investigate reported child abuse or neglect.
- Before releasing a student for an interview, the school employee in charge must confirm that the person seeking the interview is properly authorized and presents appropriate identification as well as confirm that the interview is being conducted as part of the interviewer's professional duties.
- The school employee in charge will inform the parents/guardians that such an interview will take place, except when law enforcement or the agency has a specific reason not to inform the parents/guardians. In all events, an adult, either a parent/guardian or a school staff member, will be present for any interview unless the student being interviewed elects otherwise.

### DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS and SANCTIONS

The principal and other school personnel may interview students at any time for the purpose of investigation. Parents may not attend such investigations unless they are



invited to do so by the principal. The following sanctions may be imposed upon students in the sole discretion of the school in any order:

- Parent and student conference
- Denial of specified privileges
- Detention: Students are assigned to after-school detention by a member of the faculty or school administration. Detentions are served after school on the day assigned or the day after only. During detention, a student may be assigned work to do around the campus. Detention takes precedence over any co-curricular or extracurricular activity. Written notification of all detentions will be given to the student. Failure to serve detention will result in additional disciplinary action.
- Probation: The principal may place a student on behavioral probation; the student and parent will be notified in writing of the reason for probation, resulting consequences and/or restrictions, the period of the probation, and how the probation may be ended.
- Suspension (see below)
- Withdrawal: Parents may be given the option to voluntarily withdraw their child rather than face expulsion.
- Expulsion (see below)

### SUSPENSION

Suspension is a disciplinary action to be used at the sole discretion of the principal. Suspension is not intended to be corrective in and of itself; instead, suspension sends the message that the offending behavior does not belong at school. A student may be placed on suspension for serious misconduct or continuing misconduct on or off campus. Suspension is typically served off campus but may be served on campus at the discretion of the principal. Suspension ordinarily should not exceed five consecutive school days. However, a student may be suspended from campus longer than this in certain circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following: awaiting results of a pending investigation, awaiting documentation of professional evaluation, or when isolation is deemed to be in the best interest of the suspended student or the community. Parents will be notified immediately and are expected to pick up the student as soon as possible; parents will remain involved in the process through verbal or written communication or conferencing. Suspension does not carry an academic penalty, and the student should keep up with classwork and homework.

Since the grounds for suspension ordinarily differ in degree from the grounds for expulsion, parents and students will be informed that continued or repeated misconduct may result in a recommended withdrawal or expulsion.

## REASONS for IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

At the discretion of the principal, the following offenses committed by students are potential reasons for immediate suspension which may also lead to expulsion. This list shall not be considered as exhaustive:

1. Serious disobedience, insubordination, or disrespect for authority including, but not limited to, the following:
  - refusal to obey school rules;
  - refusal to follow directions;
  - refusal to answer when spoken to directly;
  - giving sharp, rude answers in a disrespectful tone of voice;
  - causing interruption in classroom procedures;
  - cheating, plagiarism, or dishonesty of any kind;
2. Language or behavior which is immoral, profane, vulgar, or obscene on or off campus;
3. Use, sale, distribution, or possession of drugs, alcohol, or any other legally controlled substance or drug or vaping paraphernalia;
4. Injury or harm to persons or property, vandalism, or serious threat to same;
5. Sexual, physical, visual, or verbal harassment/bullying or abuse of staff, students, parents, or guests of the school;
6. Hazing;
7. Sale of any material on school grounds without proper authorization;
8. Unauthorized absence or continued tardiness;
9. Assault with, or possession of, a lethal instrument or weapon;
10. Serious theft or dishonesty;
11. Outrageous, scandalous, or seriously disruptive behavior;
12. Conduct at school or elsewhere which would reflect adversely on the Catholic school or church;
13. Not adhering to the internet use agreement, hacking into the school computer system, or viewing or attempting to view material through the internet that is deemed inappropriate per the Internet Use Agreement; or
14. Sexting (the sending, receiving, or forwarding of sexually explicit messages, photographs or images between digital devices or the sharing of such communication with others).

## EXPULSION

Expulsion is an extreme and permanent disciplinary action enacted for the common good; the authority to expel resides solely with the principal. Ordinarily, an expulsion is the result of continued disciplinary offenses, on or off campus, that have not been remedied by lesser disciplinary actions such as detention, probation, or suspension. Immediate expulsion could result from actions, on or off campus, which are a violation of criminal law, which are serious enough to shock the conscience or harm the reputation of the school or parish community, or which pose a threat to the health,

welfare, or safety of the student or the school community. The student will typically be placed on suspension (see above) if he/she is not already suspended, and parents will be notified immediately. Conferencing will take place with the principal, parents, appropriate staff, and the pastor of the parish if he or the family so desire; the student may be included for part of the conference. If a decision is made to terminate the student's enrollment, the parents may be given the option to voluntarily withdraw the student by a specified date. Otherwise, the student will be expelled. Full credit will be given for all work accomplished by the student up the moment of withdrawal or expulsion.

#### DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

Disciplinary records are private documents of the principal and are kept separate from the student's cumulative file and will not follow the student beyond enrollment at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School; they are not available to students or parents.

## Information and Communication Technology Policies

### ONLINE SOCIAL MEDIA and NETWORKING POLICY for PARENTS and STUDENTS

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School recognizes that many different social networks exist on the Internet (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, among others). Millions of people, including students and parents, utilize one or more of these networks on a daily basis for both professional and personal purposes. These services provide different methods of communicating and interacting with other users, in both public and private ways. These tools include message and photograph posting, emailing, instant messaging, group discussions, blogging, and video/photo sharing.

Due to the popularity of social networking sites and the way they can facilitate effective and efficient communications between users, the use of social networking in connection with Catholic school activities presents many opportunities for enhancing the experience of students and their families. Without proper controls these communications are often unlimited, potentially affording access by unknown third parties (including those who would prey upon young people via the Internet). The nature of social networking sites leaves open the possibility of abuse and misuse (including by students and their parents), necessitating the following standards of conduct for all individuals connected with Catholic schools.

#### ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY

When a Catholic school student or parent is using online social media (of any variety), that individual must always bear in mind that the material he or she posts reflects upon the school, the parish, the Diocese, and the Roman Catholic Church as a whole. As a consequence, it is imperative that all students and parents conduct themselves in an ethical and responsible manner when using online social media. Specifically, the following standards of conduct should be observed at all times:

- Any official organization of the school, such as School Advisory Board, Parent Club, Boosters Club, etc., may only develop online media with the permission of the school administration. If approved by the school administration, it must be a link from the official website of the school. All materials placed on it must receive prior approval from the school administration. Failure to do so by any organization of the school could result in the organization being disbanded.
- Content that has the potential to be a source of scandal for the Church should never be posted. Examples of such content include, but are not limited to, obscene, harassing, offensive, derogatory, or defamatory comments and images that discredit or cause embarrassment to the school, the Diocese, or the Catholic Church, or to other students, parents, diocesan (school) employees, or parishioners.
- If a student or parent regularly identifies him or herself as a student or parent of the school in a personal website, blog, or social media account, he or she should

make it clear on those personal sites that the views expressed there are his or hers alone and that they do not necessarily reflect the views of the school, the parish, or the Diocese. For example, he or she can post the following notice, in a reasonable prominent place: "The views expressed on this site are solely my own and do not necessarily reflect the view of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, or Parish, or the Diocese of Fresno."

- Students and parents should be ethical and responsible participants in social media. They should at all times attempt to be accurate, truthful, and respectful in any public postings.
- Students and parents may not use school, parish, or diocesan trademarks, or reproduce any school, parish, or diocesan materials or logos without express permission from the principal, pastor, or their designees.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

Because digital images are easily created and reproduced, photographs and video files are extremely common on the web, and they are freely posted and passed along by users of online social media. It is the policy of the Diocese that privacy concerns, particularly as they relate to images of minors, are to be observed and respected in online social media use connected to its schools.

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School has no desire to intrude into or restrict the rights of parents and students to freely post personal photographs on their online social media sites as they see fit. If, however, they intend to upload photographic images or video files related to Catholic school activities, then students and parents must all observe the following guidelines:

- Prior permission should be obtained from any third parties depicted in photographic images or video files prior to being uploaded. If individuals decline such permission, their privacy should be respected and the image should not be posted.
- If photographs or videos, particularly those of minors, are posted with or without permission, and the student or parent asks that it be removed, the student or parent's wishes should be observed.
- Even if parents have granted permission for the use of photographs or video images of their children, care should be taken to ensure that any such postings do not identify the child by name, unless there is specific permission granted by the parent for the additional connection.

#### DISCIPLINE for the Policy above

Failure to observe the foregoing guidelines may result in disciplinary measures being imposed by the school. Discipline in this context will be determined by the school, based upon the particular facts of any incident, but can mean suspension or expulsion

(for student misconduct) or involuntary withdrawal of a child from the school (for parent misconduct).

#### ACCEPTABLE USE of TECHNOLOGY for STUDENTS

To ensure that all students comply with school rules regarding electronic equipment, the following policies and procedures have been established for using school computers, electronic devices, the wireless network, the Internet, and all peripherals. No set of policies and procedures can provide rules to cover every possible situation. Instead, what follows is designed to express a framework and to set forth general principles when using electronic media and services. All policies are inclusive of the use of computers and electronic devices including, but not limited to, iPads and other tablets, the wireless network, the network, the Internet, and all peripherals.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA USE

- Use of social networks at school may be limited by school personnel.
- Students who use social media must adhere to the discipline policies in this handbook, the Technology Use Policy, the Diocesan Online Social Media and Networking Policy for Parents and Students, and the Harassment and Bullying Policy.
- Students are reminded that they are always Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School students, both on and off campus, and that ALL electronic content is both public and permanent.
- Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School reserves the right, at its discretion, to review and/or request removal of any student's social media content. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.
- Permission of the school administration is required for the use of the school's name, initials, logos, pictures, property, or representations of the faculty, staff, students, or other individuals. Deliberate publication or postings of such material on the Internet without permission may result in serious disciplinary action, including dismissal from the school.

#### USE of ELECTRONIC DEVICES OWNED or ISSUED by the SCHOOL

- Electronic devices owned or issued by the school are to be used for academic purposes only.
- Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their use of the school's electronic equipment or network (or a personal electronic device at school).
- The school reserves the right, upon reasonable suspicion that the search will reveal evidence that the student is violating the law or school policies, to review any student's electronic devices, files, and messages including, but not limited to, email, photos, texts, video, and other applications to ensure compliance with all school rules. Students must comply with all requests for access.

- All users are only permitted to log on to their own school-issued account. Sharing of account and/or account information is prohibited and may result in the account being disabled.
- All users may never move, change, or disconnect any of the hardware or wires/cables.
- Regardless where it takes place, students have no right to add, copy, delete, or alter any operating system software, application system software, and system setup or equipment configurations of devices owned or issued by the school.
- Use of technology on campus or at school functions or events is subject to inspection and audit by the school administration, which may include a physical inspection of material contained on, or accessible by, the device. Students agree to cooperate with any such inspection.
- All students must agree to abide by the following Acceptable Use Pledge.

#### ACCEPTABLE USE PLEDGE COVERING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- I will use my iPad and my other electronic devices in ways that are appropriate, educational, and meet Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School expectations as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.
- I will use appropriate language when using emails, journals, blogs, or any other forms of communication.
- I will not create, or encourage others to create, discourteous or abusive content.
- I will not use electronic communication to spread rumors, gossip, or engage in any other activity that is harmful to other persons.
- I understand that my iPad and school computers used by me are subject to inspection at any time without notice and remain the property of the school.
- I understand that my other electronic devices (including but not limited to my cell phone) are subject to inspection at any time based on a reasonable suspicion that they contain information pertinent to a violation of law or school policies.
- I will take proper care of my iPad.
- I will never leave the iPad unattended, and I will know where it is at all times.
- I will protect my iPad by keeping it stored in the provided case at all times.
- I will never loan out my iPad or give my password to other individuals.
- I will not let anyone else use my iPad other than my parents or guardians.
- I will charge my iPad's battery daily and arrive at school with my device fully charged.
- I will keep food and beverages away from my iPad since these may cause damage to the device.
- I will clean the screen with a soft, antistatic cloth ONLY and will use no cleaners.
- I will not disassemble any part of my iPad or attempt any repairs.

- I will not place decorations (such as stickers, markers, etc.) on the iPad or iPad cover, or do anything to permanently alter the iPad in any way.
- I will not remove or deface the serial number or other identification on any iPad.
- I will be responsible for all damage or loss caused by neglect or abuse.
- I agree to return the iPad, case, and power cords in good working condition.

#### CONSEQUENCES for VIOLATIONS of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

Students who violate the rules set forth in these policies will be subject to all customary disciplinary actions, including but not limited to, the following:

- Payment for labor charges and/or parts necessary to undo changes or restore any equipment or system to its proper operating configuration as determined by the network administrator and Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School administration.
- Removal of the student from a course of instruction, suspension, and/or expulsion from Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.



## Harassment and Bullying

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School affirms the Christian dignity of every person, the right of each person to be treated with respect, and is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from harassment/bullying. Harassment/bullying of or by any student is prohibited. Every school will treat allegations of harassment/bullying seriously and will review and investigate such allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. Allegations that are substantiated may result in disciplinary actions, up to and including dismissal.

1. Elementary and secondary students are undergoing a period of rapid growth in their maturity and social skills. It is not unusual for a student to make a mistake in his or her social interaction with another student. Any mistake should be corrected so that the student may learn from it and treat other students respectfully. An honest mistake should not be considered harassment/bullying. Part of any investigation into a charge of harassment/bullying will be to determine if the incident was a mistake, or something deliberate or repeated.

Harassment/bullying is unacceptable conduct that is deliberate, severe, and repeated (conduct that falls under the following categories that is not repetitive may, at the discretion of the principal, still be subject to the same consequences/sanctions as ongoing conduct). Harassment/bullying occurs when an individual is subjected to treatment that is hostile, offensive, or intimidating based on such factors as an individual's sex, race, religion, color, national origin, or physical or mental ability. Harassment/bullying can occur any time during school, school related activities, and outside the school. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- A. Verbal Harassment/Bullying: Derogatory, demeaning, or inflammatory words, whether oral, written, or electronic;
- B. Physical Harassment/Bullying: Unwanted physical touching, contact, assault, deliberate impeding or blocking of movements, or intimidating interference with normal work or movement;
- C. Visual Harassment/Bullying: Derogatory, demeaning or inflammatory posters, cartoons, written words, drawings, pictures, web pages or gestures;
- D. Sexual Harassment/Bullying: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: sexually demeaning comments, sexual statements, or jokes; suggestive or obscene letters, phone calls,

texts, or e-mail; deliberate, unlawful physical touching; leering, gesture, or display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures.

- E. Cyber-Harassment/Bullying: Willful and repeated harm inflicted on other persons through various forms of electronic media; provocative material, pictures, images, or attempts to be harmful or cruel to another student or individual through offensive electronic distribution using a cell phone, camera, the internet, or other electronic devices; or sexting (the sending, receiving, or forwarding of sexually explicit messages, photographs or images between digital devices or the sharing of such communication with others).
  - F. Hazing: Any method of initiation, pastime, or amusement engaged in with respect to a student organization which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or tends to degrade or disgrace a student attending the school. May be a one-time occurrence and not be ongoing.
2. Any individual seeing or hearing about any incident of harassment/bullying is encouraged to follow the procedures below. If the harassment/bullying stems from the principal, the person being harassed/bullied is to contact the pastor and the superintendent in cases of diocesan schools.
3. The following procedures are to be followed for filing and investigating a harassment/bullying claim:
- A. Students who feel aggrieved because of conduct that constitutes harassment/bullying should, depending on the severity of the conduct, directly inform the person engaging in such conduct that such conduct is offensive and must stop.
  - B. If the student does not feel comfortable with the above, is unable to do so, or the offensive conduct does not stop, he/she shall direct his/her complaint to the principal or to a member of the school staff, who will then report it directly to the principal. Parents of students involved are to be contacted as soon as possible and will be kept apprised of the status of the response efforts of the school as those steps are undertaken.
  - C. The student(s) alleging harassment will be asked to complete a written complaint. Students at the primary level may verbally explain their complaint rather than writing it. The claim will be investigated thoroughly, and confidentiality will be maintained to the extent practicable.

- D. The investigation will include a meeting with the student alleged to have harassed/bullied, sharing with that person the nature of the allegations, as well as the name of the person bringing the allegations. Where the school deems it appropriate, witnesses may also be interviewed.
  - E. Once the facts of the case have been gathered, the principal, in consultation with the Pastor or Superintendent, will decide what, if any, disciplinary action is warranted. The disciplinary action will relate to the nature, context, and seriousness of the harassment/bullying and can include all disciplinary actions up to and including immediate expulsion; if appropriate, law enforcement may also be contacted.
  - F. If a party disagrees with the decision, he or she has the right to appeal the outcome to the Office of Catholic Education of the Diocese of Fresno. The OCE will address the appeal according to its procedures in effect at that time, which will be provided to all those involved in the appeal.
- 4. If the complaint is against a non-employee or non-student, such as a parent, volunteer, or vendor, the school will take steps, within the extent of its power, to investigate and eliminate the problem.
  - 5. **REPRISAL AND/OR RETALIATION:** Reprisal or retaliation against any complaining student or witness, by any student or parent, is strictly prohibited. Any student or parent who engages in such a reprisal or retaliation will be subject to an appropriate disciplinary response, up to and including immediate expulsion from the school.

## Controlled Substances

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School emphasizes a commitment to a positive, faith-based environment for learning and the continued good health and safety of its students. Therefore, students, on or off campus, may not be in possession of, under the influence of, and/or use controlled substances, look-a-likes, or paraphernalia, nor engage in solicitation or distribution thereof.

The term “controlled substance” for the purposes of this handbook typically refers to any illegal drug, marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco products, e-cigarettes and vapor products, or the intentional misuse of prescription medication. The intentional misuse of other types of substances may also be addressed under this policy, at the discretion of the school administration. A full listing of drugs that are illegal under federal law can be found in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801, et. seq.).

The school expects parents and students to support all policies on the use of controlled substances:

- Parents/guardians and older siblings or family members are legally and morally responsible any time they provide to or allow the use of controlled substances by underage minors.
- Students may not possess, solicit, use, or be under the influence of controlled substances or paraphernalia, on or off campus, or at supervised or unsupervised activities or events.
- Students may not host an event where controlled substances are present or used.
- The presence of students any time-controlled substances are used or distributed presumes some level of participation and may result in the same consequences as those using or distributing the substances.
- Students participating in any activities, real or pretend, involving paraphernalia or “look-alikes” associated with controlled substances may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Students may not sell or distribute any controlled substance on or off campus.
- Any student (or parent/guardian on behalf of a student) who freely approaches a counselor, administrator, teacher, coach, or other staff member for help regarding a controlled substance problem will be assisted in the spirit of counseling (unless the student is found to be using the counseling mechanism to avoid disciplinary action). However, this “spirit of counseling” will require strict adherence to all policies regarding controlled substances; requirements will be handled on an individual basis.
- The presence of students at after-hours school events (such as school or parish fundraising dinners) where alcohol is served to adults does not constitute a violation of this policy.

Upon at least reasonable suspicion that a student has violated this policy, any of the following actions may be taken, as deemed necessary by the school:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified.
- A search of the student's belongings (backpack, bag, clothing, electronic device, etc.), desk, locker, or cubby may take place.
- The student may be suspended from school pending an investigation.
- The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will conference with the principal and/or other school officials.
- The student may be asked to be drug tested once or periodically at a location approved by the school; the cost of drug testing is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- The student may be placed on a behavior contract which may include professional evaluation, counseling, involvement with a support group, rehabilitation if recommended by the evaluation, random drug testing, and any other provision deemed necessary by the school administration.
- The student may be suspended following an investigation.
- The school may ask the parent(s)/guardian(s) to withdraw the student.
- The student may be expelled
- Law enforcement and/or child protective services may be contacted.

DISCLAIMER: Nothing in the school's-controlled substance policy should be construed to mean that, as a result of this policy, Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School has undertaken a duty to detect, prevent, or treat drug or alcohol use by students, even if such use becomes apparent.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### STUDENT COUNCIL

- A student serving on Student Council may be relieved of his or her duties or position either permanently or for a stated time at the discretion of the principal.

### SOCIAL EVENTS/DANCES

Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School sponsors supervised social events and dances to help students develop appropriate social skills in a Christian, Catholic context. Such events will be held on school or parish premises and are only open to students enrolled at the school. A fee may be charged. Rules and guidelines will be published prior to any event.

### STUDENT PARTIES OUTSIDE of SCHOOL (not sponsored by the school)

Parents who may sponsor dances and/or parties outside of school time are asked that, if the party is to be advertised at school (e.g., invitations handed out at school), such parties are inclusive of the entire class. Parents and students are reminded that behavior rules and sanctions of the school apply.

## Athletics

### ATHLETIC TEAMS

Students in grades 1 - 8 are given the opportunity to participate in the athletic program, and grades 5-8 participate in an after-school sports program.

### PARTICIPATION on ATHLETIC TEAMS

Students enrolled in 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are planning to on participate in school sports are required to have a sports physical form completed annually by their physician. This form must be on file in the school office prior to the student participating in any sport game or practice. In addition, each family is required to attend a seasonal sport meeting before the child can participate. Participation in after-school sports is contingent upon the following:

- Availability of qualified volunteer personnel
- Try-outs, if deemed necessary by the coach
- Parental permission emergency form
- Student's continuing satisfactory deportment both in school and on the team
- Physical examination form completed by physician, required yearly, prior to the beginning of participation in practice or competition.
- A student must attend at least half of the regular school day to participate in that day's practices or games.

### PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Players must have a "C" average or higher in each subject and at least a Satisfactory in conduct from every teacher to be eligible to play.
- A student must attend at least half of the regular school day to participate in that day's practices or games.
- Students on behavioral or academic probation are ineligible.
- Students not regularly attending practice sessions will not be allowed to participate in games.

### CONDUCT of PLAYERS DURING GAMES and PRACTICES

Athletes are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all games and practices. Athletes are expected to represent Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School in a manner that exemplifies good sportsmanship, pride, and respect. Athletes displaying inappropriate behavior will be removed from the game and face disciplinary consequences.

### CONDUCT of PARENTS and FANS

- Parents and fans are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect for the coach, athletes on both teams, and other parents and fans.

- Parents should not offer coaching instructions to their children during a practice or game.
- Parents should not confront coaches with demands or complaints concerning strategy or playing time for their children during a game. Instead, parents are asked to observe a 24-hour cooling off period after a game before contacting the coach with a concern.
- All children are to be supervised by an adult during games and practices.
- Parents and fans must comply with requests from coaches, the athletic director, the principal, or other site-supervisors during a game or practice; if compliance is not demonstrated, the participants will be asked to leave the premises.
- Non-compliance with the above guidelines may place the enrollment of the students in jeopardy.

### PLAYING TIME

Playing time is the prerogative of the coach who will follow PAL guidelines on this issue; coaches are encouraged to play every player as much as possible. Players cannot expect to play in games if they have not been attending practices and giving 100% effort throughout these practices.

### REPORTING INJURIES and SPECIAL LIMITATIONS

Parents and athletes must report all injuries to the coach as soon as possible. Before the sports season begins, parents should discuss with the coach any special limitations their child may have. Any sports limitations should be listed on the student's Medical Release Form on file with the school.

### CONCUSSION

Please see the section titled "Concussion Policies" following the "Health and Safety" section.

### COMMUNICATION with COACHES

- Players are to report all injuries to the coach as soon as possible.
- Students should express any concerns to the coach first before involving parents.
- If student concerns are not resolved after speaking with the coach, parents should contact the coach to express concerns.
- If resolution cannot be achieved, all parties should involve the athletic director.
- The principal should only become involved if none of these steps has achieved resolution. Decisions of the principal in athletic matters are final.

### UNIFORMS

Sports uniforms shall be paid for by the parent of the athlete



### TRANSPORTATION

All drivers who are transporting students to sports events must follow all school volunteer driver regulations. All students who require a ride to any school-sponsored sport activity must have written authorization from their parents/guardians allowing them to ride with drivers the parents/guardians have authorized. No student may ride in a car to or from a school-sponsored game with an adult who has not been pre-authorized by his/her parents/guardians. Students should not drive themselves or other students to any school activity.

### PARENT PARTICIPATION

All parents/guardians of athletes are required to sign up for work hours in the snack bar, at game entrance, or score keeping for league games/tournaments held at Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School.

## **Transfer, Custody, and Student Records**

### TRANSFER of STUDENTS

Students clearly unable to profit from the school by reasons of ability, serious emotional instability or other condition, or the conspicuously uncooperative or destructive attitude of students and/or parent(s)/grandparent(s)/ guardian(s) will be asked to transfer.

- The school will first make reasonable efforts to meet the needs of the student.
- Conferences will be held with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to advise them concerning the possibility of withdrawal for academic or other reasons and to discuss possible remedial actions and/or educational alternatives.
- The final decision is made by the principal in consultation with the pastor, teacher(s), and parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Every effort is made to assist the parent(s)/guardian(s) in finding other schools or agencies with facilities to help the child.

### TRANSFER of STUDENTS BECAUSE of PARENTAL BEHAVIOR

Normally a child is not to be deprived of a Catholic education or otherwise penalized for actions of the parent(s). However, the principal and/or pastor may recommend transfer of a student when parent(s)/grandparent(s)/guardian(s) are consistently uncooperative and conduct themselves in a manner that is disruptive of the harmonious relationships in the school, as such conduct is itself a violation of the school's policies. Parental interference in matters of school administration and abusive language toward principal, pastor, or teacher(s) are some of the reasons for recommending a transfer. If parent(s) refuse to accept the recommended transfer, the procedures for disciplinary expulsion will be followed.

### TRANSFER OF STUDENTS BETWEEN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Prior to accepting a student transferring from one Catholic school to another Catholic school, the receiving principal will contact the principal of the originating school to discuss student performance, parent financial obligations, family involvement, etc.

### CUSTODY OF MINORS

Unauthorized organizations, agencies, or persons shall never be allowed to assume custody of any student on school premises during school hours or immediately before or after school, unless the assumption of custody is explicitly authorized in writing by the parent(s) or guardian(s).

1. Normally, principals should ask one other adult (e.g. pastor, teacher, secretary) to witness the presentation of the authorization unless the principal is absolutely certain that the authorization is bona fide.

2. In case of any doubt as to the validity of the authorization, custody shall not be granted.
3. In order to cooperate with student and family needs, the school should be informed of custody arrangements. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to inform the school of custody status and subsequent changes and arrangements. The school must ask for legal verification of these arrangements.
4. In the absence of any court order, the school will make every effort to remain neutral, and will assume that both parent(s) have custody of a student, and the student may be released to either parent. As part of this policy of neutrality, any parent claiming a custody right superior to the other parent will be required to present a current and valid court order or agreement demonstrating and explaining that right. Only upon receipt of satisfactory documentation will the school recognize the rights of one parent over the other with regard to a custody provision that relates to the student's enrollment at the school (such as decisions regarding enrollment or who may alter the authorized) .

#### RIGHTS of NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide all the child's parents, custodial or non-custodial, with equal access to the child and equal access to academic records and other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is no information to be given, no contact with the child, etc., it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

#### STUDENTS NOT LIVING WITH PARENTS or LEGAL GUARDIANS

Students are expected to reside with their parents or legal guardians. If circumstances arise necessitating a student to live elsewhere, the school must have the parent's approval in writing or a court order. The new location must meet with the school's approval. Students must reside with a responsible adult of at least 25 years of age; this does not include a boyfriend or girlfriend of the parent or guardian.

#### ACCESS to STUDENT RECORDS

Custodial Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have access to all permanent records (the Cumulative File) maintained by the school related to their children. Students, 18 years of age or older, have this same right of access.

- Permanent records may be withheld for non-payment of fees.
- Parent(s) may request an appointment during school hours to inspect and review the cumulative file for their children.
- The principal or other school staff member will be present for such a review.

- Anecdotal notes (such as a behavioral record) and psychological test results are not part of a permanent record. Parent(s) do not have a right of access to these records, nor do these records follow the student.
- Parent(s) may request and receive a copy of their child's permanent records contained in the cumulative file; parents must allow school personnel a reasonable length of time to accomplish this task. The copy will be clearly marked as a copy. Originals or the original complete file cannot be released to parents at any time.
- The Cumulative File is only forwarded to the next school at that school's request; otherwise, it remains on site.
- Schools will comply with any court order (subpoena) requesting a copy of the permanent records.

## Miscellaneous Information and Policies

### CLASSROOM PARTIES/BIRTHDAYS

The two class parties for the students are Halloween, October 31 and St. Valentine's Day, February 14. If either of these dates falls on a weekend then the party will be celebrated the Friday before that date. If St. Valentine's Day falls after Lent begins, then it will be a St. Valentine's/Mardi Gras party, celebrated the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The parties are prepared by the parent volunteers under the direction of the Parent Club Officers. All other parties will happen at the discretion of the teacher with administration approval.

The main focus of the parties should be on well planned team-building activities and games. One parent from each class is in charge of coordinating and contacting the other parents who have signed up for the parties.

### FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES and RESTRICTIONS(K-8)

- SCRIP-\$350 rebate income
- Campus Volunteer Hours-5 hours
- Bingo-Four shifts, \$450 late/miss shift fee
- Oktoberfest
- Festa Booth
  - Two 5 hour shifts, \$450 late/miss shift fee
- Raffle Calendars
- 16 calendars per family at \$35 each
- Vendor Faire
- Spring Festival, \$200 in event tickets or raffle tickets, One 5 hour shift
- Take-out Dinner
- Popcorn Sale
- Vendor Faire (Mother's Day)
- Jog-a-thon

### LOST and FOUND

Any items found in the school building or on the school grounds should be placed in the Lost and Found basket. Items placed in the Lost and Found remain there for the semester. Unclaimed and unmarked articles will be given to our uniform exchange, St. Vincent DePaul Society or other Catholic charity.

Students who lose a library book, textbook or workbook must pay the replacement cost of the book plus shipping in order to receive a new copy.

## **Lunch Policy**

OLMCS does not have a lunch program. Students must bring a home from lunch or have a lunch delivered.

If a sack lunch is being delivered to a student, it is to be delivered to the office before the beginning of the child's lunch time and with the child's name clearly marked on the container.

## **Lunchroom and Playground**

Students are expected to use the same manners required in the classroom during lunch. Courtesy toward other students and cooperation with lunch monitors are in order at all times.

### *Playground – General Rules*

Playground rules are set in place for the safety of your child(ren). Our primary concern is the safety and care of your child(ren).

1. Swings: Students are not to twist in the swings or wrap swings around the poles. Students are not to run under a child who is in a swing, nor should they run in front of or behind anyone who is swinging. Only one child is allowed on a swing.
2. No jumping off the playground units; no sitting on bars
3. No tackle football
4. Ropes: Ropes will be allowed for jumping only. There will be no exceptions.
5. Rough playing is not permitted; throwing one another on the ground is considered rough playing
6. No tackle football
7. Leave rocks, sticks and dangerous objects alone
8. No running on the sidewalks
9. Skateboards or rollerblades are not to be brought to school.
10. Balls should be thrown or kicked away from the windows.
11. Students are NEVER to climb a fence. If a ball goes outside the fence, the aid or volunteer will open the gate.
12. Children should not bring toys from home.
13. Students who violate playground rules may be asked to serve a time-out at the playground supervisor's discretion.

Students are expected to follow all of the rules and regulations given by the yard duty supervisors. Students should show respect to others, including the yard duty supervisors. For safety reasons, students may not leave the playground without permission from the yard duty supervisor

## **2019-2020 Parent/Student Handbook Agreement**

*[Please detach, sign, and return by the first day of school]*

When a family signs the statement below, it is understood by the parents/guardians and student(s) that they have read the current Parent/Student Handbook on file and agree to comply with all policies, regulations, and directives stated therein as well as any updates and revisions made to the handbook during their time of enrollment. Students may not attend classes or participate in any activities until this agreement is signed and returned.

By enrolling in Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School, all students and parents grant to the school the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use, reproduce, and publish photographs or video images of the student, for slide/video presentations, publications, advertising, brochures, or website(s), or any other purpose, and in any manner and medium, to alter the same without restriction, and to copyright the same. In granting this permission, parent and student also release the school from any and all claims, actions, and liability of whatever nature and relating to the use of said photograph(s), video(s), or related materials.

School administration reserves the right to amend this handbook as needed; notification of such amendments will be made to parents and students in a timely manner.

I have read and understand the information contained in the Parent/Student Handbook and agree to abide by the rules set forth therein.

**Please *print* Family Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Student Signature(s)** (when age-appropriate):

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Agreement Form**

Diocese of Fresno

Volunteer name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parish / School location name: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have chosen to volunteer at the Parish/School location named above, in the following capacity:

In connection with my volunteer service, I make the following express representations:

1. I understand and acknowledge that my time and services as a volunteer are being donated by me to the Roman Catholic Church, specifically the Parish/School location named above, without contemplation of compensation or future employment, and that I provide these services for religious, charitable, or humanitarian reasons.
  
2. I understand that as a volunteer I will earn no wages or benefits in connection with the volunteer services I wish to provide, and that I will not seek any such wages or benefits. I further understand that I will not be entitled to unemployment insurance benefits upon the discontinuance of my volunteer services (regardless of whether such discontinuance is initiated by me or by the Parish / School), nor will I be covered under the Parish's/School's workers' compensation insurance in the event I am injured while engaging in the volunteer services I will provide.

I acknowledge that I have read this agreement, have voluntarily signed it, and that no oral representations, statements, or inducements apart from the contents of this agreement have been made to me.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Agreement Form Rev. 11/2018 Authorized Parish/School Representative



### Acceptable Use Pledge Covering Electronic Devices

- I will use my iPad and my other electronic devices in ways that are appropriate, educational, and meet Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School expectations as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.
- I will use appropriate language when using emails, journals, blogs, or any other forms of communication.
- I will not create, or encourage others to create, discourteous or abusive content.
- I will not use electronic communication to spread rumors, gossip, or engage in any other activity that is harmful to other persons.
- I understand that my iPad and school computers used by me are subject to inspection at any time without notice and remain the property of the school.
- I understand that my other electronic devices (including but not limited to my cell phone) are subject to inspection at any time based on a reasonable suspicion that they contain information pertinent to a violation of school rules and/or provisions of this Handbook.
- I will take proper care of my iPad.
- I will never leave the iPad unattended, and I will know where it is at all times.
- I will protect my iPad by keeping it stored in the provided case at all times.
- I will never loan out my iPad or give my password to other individuals.
- I will not let anyone else use my iPad other than my parents or guardians.
- I will charge my iPad's battery daily and arrive at school with my device fully charged.
- I will keep food and beverages away from my iPad since these may cause damage to the device.
- I will clean the screen with a soft, antistatic cloth ONLY and will use no cleaners.
- I will not disassemble any part of my iPad or attempt any repairs.
- I will not place decorations (such as stickers, markers, etc.) on the iPad or iPad cover, or do anything to permanently alter the iPad in any way.
- I will not remove or deface the serial number or other identification on any iPad.
- I will be responsible for all damage or loss caused by neglect or abuse.
- I agree to return the iPad, case, and power cords in good working condition.

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Signature of Student

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Date