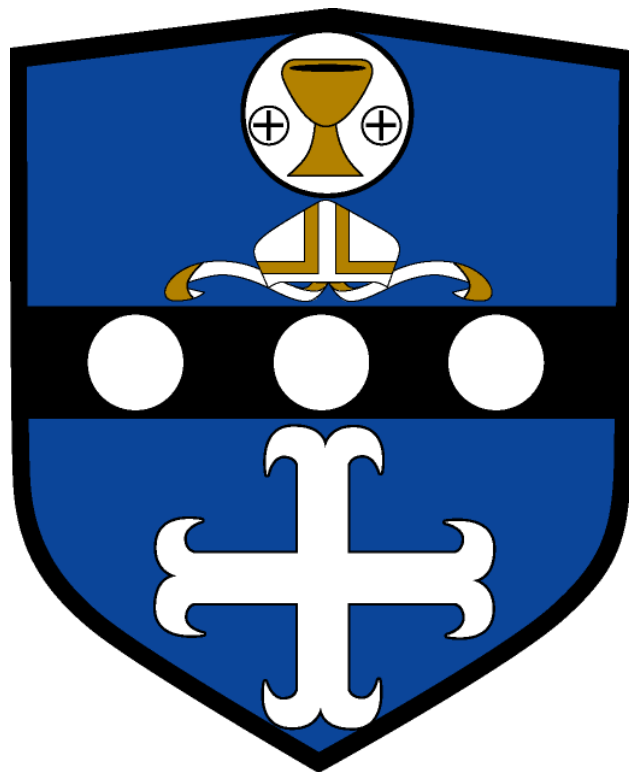


**Diocese of Altoona-  
Johnstown  
Parent/Student  
Handbook**



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is to empower students to reach their full spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, and moral potential. In this unique Catholic environment, young people are given the opportunity and guidance to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church; come to understand the role of faith in daily life; and help others to discover the same truth and joy of his Gospel.**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Diocesan and parochial schools of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are those which meet all of the following conditions:**

- are recognized as Catholic by the Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown.
- are responsible to the Diocesan Director of Education for such matters as have been determined by the Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown and are subject to the Director's regulations.
- are governed by the Diocesan School Policies and Regulations.
- have written belief and mission statements which identify the school as Catholic.
- have a program of religious education which conforms to the standards determined by the Education Office of Altoona-Johnstown and the Office of Religious Education and Catechesis.
- are recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## **ADMISSION POLICIES**

### **In accordance with the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Policy 5020 Admission:**

Since the formation of students in the Catholic faith heritage and its religious traditions is the primary purpose for which our Catholic schools have been founded, both parents/guardians and students must be willing to abide by the values inherent in our Catholic faith and by our philosophy of Catholic education.

Students and parents/guardians who desire an educational experience founded on the Catholic philosophy of education and who fulfill the requirements and conditions for enrollment specified below, are eligible for admission to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown without discrimination with respect to sex, race, ethnic origin or disability, if with reasonable accommodation, they can meet the school's requirements, according to the subsequent provisions of this policy.

The request for the admission of students from a public or private school must be carefully reviewed and the reasons for the request examined.

In accordance with diocesan policy, the diocese encourages participation of all children in a kindergarten program prior to entering first grade.

### **Kindergarten Admission**

Those seeking admission to kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before August 31 of the year of entry.

Registration is ongoing and continues until class is full.

In Pennsylvania, kindergarten is not a required grade.

When registering a kindergarten student, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall present proof of age and (for a Catholic child) a baptismal certificate. A Christian, non-Catholic student shall present a baptismal certificate and note the denomination when possible. Incoming students shall be given a school health examination form, which must be completed by the

parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student's physician. This form should be returned to the school prior to the beginning of the school year.

### **Immunizations**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health promulgates immunization regulations that require parents or guardians of students enrolled in grades K-12 to have their children immunized against various communicable diseases. Records will need to be given to the administrative offices of the diocesan school on or before the fifth day of class.

### **Probation Period for all Students**

All newly enrolled students are subject to a 9 week probation period. The school reserves the right to determine that the school is not a good fit for the student and to require withdrawal of the student. In such a case, any tuition paid will be refunded.

## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **Student Progress**

The school uses the diocesan system (PowerSchool) for reporting pupil progress. This may include progress reports and interim reports which will be based on evidence from multiple assessments which demonstrate a student's understanding of the different academic content standards, teacher observations, or similar feedback, when appropriate.

Standardized Testing is also to be utilized to track student progress. Diocesan curriculum can be found on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown website: [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) .

Honor Roll, Parent Conferencing, and Report Card information will be in the School Section if applicable.

**Grade scale:**

A = 93-100

B = 85-92

C = 76-84

D = 70-75

F = Below 70

Some Schools of the diocese will use a customized standard-based report card. This will be posted in the school section.

**Grade Retention/Promotion**

Satisfactory completion of each grade is to be expected of every student. Absence itself, for a valid reason, is not a reason for retention of a student if the student has completed the required work.

Retention of students is appropriate where it is intended to enable a student to gain future developmental, emotional and/or educational maturity and success.

**ATTENDANCE**

Full day attendance is expected of all students. Information pertaining to your school attendance policy will be posted in the School Section.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Open communication between home and school is important for student progress and maintaining a healthy school climate. The proper line of communication in discussing any facet of your child's progress is to first contact the teacher directly. This may be done through a written message, e-mail or by telephone. Teachers are unavailable during class hours but will respond within two school days. If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached, the parent/guardian



and/or teacher will inform the principal. If the problem remains unsolved, then the parents/guardians may have recourse to the pastor and or diocesan education office. Because of the interruptions in the teaching-learning process, spontaneous visits to the classrooms are not permitted.

Weather delays/cancellations will be announced via School Messenger, television, and radio by each individual elementary school.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Administrators, counselors, and teachers will keep confidential information entrusted to them so long as no one's life, health, or safety is at stake. Student progress will only be discussed with parents or legal guardian. Progress cannot be discussed with grandparents, friends, etc. without **written permission** from legal guardian.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Counseling, speech, language, occupational therapy, and other services will be provided through the local Intermediate Units.

### **EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN**

Diocesan Schools have each developed an Emergency Operation Plan in cooperation with state and local authorities. The plan must be approved by the Education Office of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Parents/Guardians should stay tuned to local media sites for important information.

## CUSTODY

Administrators, counselors and teachers will keep confidential information entrusted to them so long as no one's life, health, or safety is at stake.

The school abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and other school-related information regarding the child. A current physical address, e-mail, and phone number must be provided by the non-custodial parent in order to obtain information.

**If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order dealing with the education/visitation of the child. It is also the parent's responsibility to inform the school of the addresses where the student's records should be sent.**

**Divorced parents must provide the school with a court certified copy of the custody section of the divorce decree. If no such copy is on file, school officials will assume that both parents have custodial rights. Parents/guardians must provide the school with the most current court certified copy of the custody decree.**

School officials will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that children are released only to the appropriate parent at the time/days according to the court custody arrangements. However, parents must accept the primary responsibility for such arrangements and should instruct their children as to which parent should have physical custody of them on any given day.

**Please note:** The school, its teachers, and administrators cannot become involved in adjudicating marital disputes. Parents, in such cases, should strive to keep their personal issues out of school. The school's responsibility is with the child and his/her welfare.

## **MANDATED REPORTING**

Everyone working with your child is a mandated report. We are not permitted to contact parents if a child is interviewed by Children and Youth Services and/or police.

## **DISCIPLINE BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT**

Schools will try to develop the art of discovering the good in every person and show respect for one another. In other words, we...

- include everyone.
- are kind in our words and actions.
- stick up for one another.
- support and encourage each other.

Students recite a “Peacekeeper’s Pledge” that helps to remind them what the expectations are at Diocesan Schools. “I am a \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic School Peacekeeper. I promise to be kind in my thoughts, words, and actions. By doing this, I will keep our school a safe place to be as Jesus teaches us, I will do unto others as I would have them do unto me.”

When a child makes a poor choice, teachers will talk to the child and decide what action, if any, is to take place. Depending on the severity and/or frequency of the behavior, the teacher will inform the parents/guardians and/or principal to discuss an appropriate action. Ways to handle poor choices can include (but are not limited to) reflection, discussion, writing, temporary isolation (time-out), loss of privileges, etc.

For certain situations, the school pastor will also be included in the disciplinary action.

## General Overview

A variety of behavior management techniques, strategies, and procedures will be used to the extent necessary to ensure that the learning environment provided is not disrupted by inappropriate student behavior. Corporal punishment and verbal abuse are not permitted.

## Authority of the Administration, Faculty, and Staff

Every teacher, staff member, and administrator has the right to exercise authority as to the conduct and behavior of students in the school during the time they are in attendance.

## Classroom-based Expectations and Management

The following chart illustrates categories of student misbehavior/misconduct:

	<b>Example of Infraction Category</b>			
	<b>Bus-specific</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Major</b>
Includes, but not limited to:	Out of seat, shouting, throwing objects, fighting, etc.	Dress code violation, Classroom misconduct, Profanity, Horseplay, Loitering, Cafeteria misconduct, Repetitive playground offense, unsportsmanlike	Fighting Insubordination, Defiant behavior, Verbal harassment, Sexual harassment, Misuse of	Theft, Vandalism Possession/misuse of lighters, matches, Possession of weapons and/or “look-a-likes”, Assault on staff, Under the influence of or in possession of alcohol, non-prescription drugs,

		conduct (including P.E.)	Technology, Cyberbullying	tobacco products, or abuse of prescription drugs.
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This chart is not considered a complete or exhaustive list of infractions, but serves to give illustrative examples and their categorization. The administration has the final say as to the category to which a student’s specific behavior belongs, as well as the consequences thereof.

### **Parent/Guardian Notification**

Depending on the severity of the infraction, if a student commits an infraction, the teacher/administrator may contact the parents/guardians about the situation and meet with the student (and parents/guardians, if applicable) to discuss the consequences. A pattern of continuous infractions will result in a Parent/Guardian Conference.

If a student commits an infraction while riding district-provided transportation (school bus/van), the driver will fill out a referral form and give it to the school office. The administration is responsible for contacting the parents/guardians about the incident and taking any disciplinary action with the student.

### **Student Consequences of Misbehavior/Misconduct**

Each school will maintain a Conduct Record on each student. Each Diocesan Catholic School teacher and/or designated learning support expert maintains his/her own classroom behavior expectations and management procedures. These expectations and procedures are discussed with the students during the first week of classes. Written outlines of classroom expectations and procedures are available upon request. If at any time a student is unwilling or unable to meet the expectations of classroom behavior, he/she may be referred to the administration. Student Conduct Records will be maintained in the school administration office.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

A standard permission form must be signed and returned to the school prior to the scheduled field trip for the student to participate in the trip.

A student who fails to submit a standard permission form prior to the trip will not be permitted to participate. Only the STANDARD PERMISSION FORMS obtained from the school office/published online are acceptable. Notes from parents or legal guardians giving permission are not acceptable.

Field trips must be educational and must be approved by the principal in consultation with Diocesan Education Office

Field trips are a privilege. No student has an absolute right to a field trip. A student may be denied participation if he/she demonstrates inappropriate behavior, or does not meet academic standards including grades, class assignments, and homework. Parents/Guardians have the right to refuse their child's participation in a field trip. However, the child must report to school the day of the field trip or be marked absent.

Participation in field trips is restricted to those students in the class for which the trip is scheduled. Siblings or other children are not permitted to attend field trips. All designated chaperones are required to have completed the diocesan youth protection requirements.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULARS**

Every Student who does participate in a field trip/school sponsored extra-curricular activity is expected to obey all discipline codes as outlined in this handbook.

Students who participate in an extra-curricular activity should behave as if they are representing their Catholic School and should behave accordingly.

Attendance at school is required to participate in school sponsored extra-curricular activities scheduled that day or evening. The Student must be in school for at least half a day to participate. Exceptions may be considered but building principal must be consulted in advance.

## **MEDICATIONS**

A policy implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, regulates the administration of prescription and over the counter medication (OTC) to students throughout the school day. The directives are as follows:

1. **No one except a licensed professional** can dispense prescription or over the counter (OTC) medication in a school. **The office personnel will not dispense Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Tums, cough drops, or prescription medications.**
2. In the absence of a licensed professional, neither the secretary nor the principal can administer OTC meds or those prescribed by a doctor **UNLESS** it is an emergency medication (**epinephrine or asthma inhaler**).

A **doctor's order** must accompany **prescription or OTC** medications to be dispensed only by a licensed professional (school nurse). Again, even with a doctor's order, **office personnel are NOT PERMITTED** to dispense any prescription or OTC medications.

For example, if cough medicine is brought to school it cannot be given unless the doctor has signed an order to be administered during school hours and **ONLY IF THE NURSE IS PRESENT** to dispense the ordered dosage.

3. In the event your child is on a maintenance medication, for example Insulin, arrangements can be made with our district school nurse to administer the medication on the contingency that a doctor's order has been issued and is on file with our office.
4. All medications must be delivered to the office by an adult. Students may not transport medications.

**Parents/Guardians are permitted** to administer their child's prescription and OTC meds during school hours. When your child is ill and unable to finish out the school day, you will be notified so that you can make a decision on what you think would be the best plan of action for you.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN COOPERATION**

The education of a student is a partnership between the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school. Just as the parent/guardian has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irretrievably broken.

### **Parental/Guardian Rights**

- to have your children's safety be a priority;
- to have your children receive an authentic, Catholic education in a Catholic environment;
- to have your child's learning needs met if the program can reasonably accommodate them;
- to have your children taught by competent teachers who respect and care for them;
- to talk with personnel and to have requests for meetings answered in a timely manner;
- to have your children "try out" for all program activities and teams;
- to review records and respond;
- to participate in the life of the school and parish.

### **Parental/Guardian Responsibilities**

- to be a partner with the school in the education and formation of your children;
- to understand and support the Catholic identity of the school;



- to read all communications from the school and to request clarification when necessary;
- to know your children's teachers and to observe parent-teacher conference dates and any special requests for meetings;
- to discuss concerns and problems with the person(s) most directly involved before contacting other authorities;
- to be as actively involved as you can be in the life of the school and to volunteer assistance when possible;
- to promote our parish(es) and school and to speak well of them to others;
- to know and support school rules; and
- to appreciate that Catholic education/formation is a privilege that many persons do not have.

--adapted from Volunteers in Catholic Education: An Administrator's Guide to Legal Considerations (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) by Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN (NCEA, 2007.)

### **Family Responsibilities in Cooperation With School**

Parents/Guardians must be the first to foster a loving and disciplined atmosphere at home. The school provides a setting for learning, but can only operate effectively with the cooperation of the family. To achieve a harmonious relationship parents/guardians are expected to:

- Provide for the spiritual, physical and mental development and well-being of the child.
- Be supportive toward the school and education in word and deeds and in social media outlets.
- Help the child develop into a positive, productive member of society and the church, taking seriously their baptismal promises to fulfill the spiritual upbringing of their children including regular mass attendance.
- Cooperate with and respect school policies and school personnel both in word and deed and in social media outlets.
- Be responsible for any financial obligations incurred by the child in school.
- Know and adhere to school philosophy and policy.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act gives parents/guardians the right to inspect their child's educational records, and to have a school official explain the records if requested. Any parent/guardian who wishes to see his/her child's records should contact the school principal for an appointment

### **Parent/Guardian Service Requirements**

**If the Diocesan School requires service and/or fundraising, details are provided in the individual school section.**

### **Retreats and Service Program**

**If the Diocesan School offers retreat and service programs, details are provided in the individual school section.**

## **TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET**

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown issues an Internet Usage Policy and a Remote Instruction Policy that requires a parent/guardian and student signature of agreement. Schools also issue a

Hardware Use Policy that details the use of devices, acceptable behaviors and financial responsibilities should devices be lost or damaged. The full policy can be found in the Appendix

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

The school is not responsible for any personal property brought into the school by the student including electronic devices.

## **CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones, smartwatches, and other personal electronic devices **are not** to be used during school hours. If used, the device will be taken by the student to the administrative office and can be picked up at the end of the day. The location of the device pick up will be determined by each school.

## **USE OF SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Schools are responsible for students only during posted school hours. Hours should be posted in the Individual School Section. Children are not to be on school grounds unattended at any other times.

## **AMENDMENTS TO HANDBOOK**

**The school reserves the right to amend this handbook. Parents/Guardians will be given prompt notice of any amendments.**

**Prior to the first day of school, parents/guardians must sign and return this agreement either in person or submit electronically:**

In consideration of \_\_\_\_\_ School's provision of a Catholic education for my/our children, I/we, \_\_\_\_\_ the parent(s)/guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to be governed by this handbook and to pay all required tuition and fees.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

# Appendix

## Student Use of the Internet in School

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown (DAJ) is fortunate to have a connection to the Internet to supplement the other educational resources already available to staff and students. Through the Internet, your child will have the entire world at his or her fingertips and be able to explore it.

This wonderful resource brings with it additional responsibility. As Internet users, we must be aware of the many issues that surround the Internet. There are many valuable resources available on the Internet that may not be found elsewhere. There are also many sites that can be considered inappropriate for students and serve no educational value. It is the responsibility of all users, staff and students alike, to ensure that, at all times while in a Diocesan School, the Internet is being used only for educational purposes. When using the Internet, students will be supervised by Diocesan School Staff. However, due to the nature of the Internet and evolving technology, even with supervision, students may get to an inappropriate site. It is the student's responsibility to report any inappropriate site to the teacher and return to the educational topic assigned.

***As part of our internet safety policy, schools will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. This is required by the Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act.***

The following Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) should be read carefully and understood by all Internet users. As parents/guardians, you should review it in detail with your children before they begin using the Internet in their school. The Acceptable Use Policy was developed to ensure the safety of all users.

The DAJ uses a filtering system designed to prevent access to educationally inappropriate sites. However, it is important to understand that no solution is perfect, and we cannot guarantee that students will not have access to inappropriate sites.

Parents should be aware that DAJ educators can request that a specific site be blocked or un-blocked. Such decisions will be made by those responsible for monitoring the filtering service within the DAJ.

It is important that you and your children understand that any violation of the AUP may result in the loss of Internet and e-mail privileges or other disciplinary action. We ask that you work with your children in reinforcing the behaviors associated with the AUP and the attached student contract. Please also note that our filtering system allows us to track and monitor all computer use on the network.

## Acceptable Use Policy for Networks, Including the Internet

It is the policy of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown that all technology used to access the network will be used in a responsible, legal, and ethical manner. Failure to do so will result in the termination of network and e-mail privileges for the user.

Individual users of the network—students and adults—are responsible for their use of the network. The use of the network must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with academic actions of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown School System and will be under the supervision of Diocesan Staff. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Use of the network for any illegal or commercial activities is prohibited.

- ❖ A responsible network user will:
- ❖ Use language that is considered appropriate.
- ❖ Be polite.
- ❖ Send information that other users will not find offensive.
- ❖ Conform with copyright laws and always give credit to the author of the material used.
- ❖ Never reveal personal information about any user such as address, telephone number, credit card numbers, social security number, etc.
- ❖ Neither tamper with the system nor alter, delete or destroy any files or data that are not yours.

A responsible network user must be aware that:

- ❖ Use of the network and e-mail is a PRIVILEGE, not a RIGHT.
- ❖ The DAJ network is to be used only for educational purposes.
- ❖ E-mail is not guaranteed to be private.
- ❖ Identifying photos of students with their first and last names may not be used on a web site.
- ❖ It is important to log off the computer at the end of every session, so another user can not use your password.
- ❖ Violation of this policy will result in the possible loss of Internet privileges and/or disciplinary action pursuant to the Code of Ethics for Catholic Schools and/or prosecution under state and federal law.
- ❖ Persons issued an account are responsible for its use at all times.

**Acceptable Use Policy for Networks, Including the Internet**  
**Student and Parent/Guardian Signature Page**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown School System that students and staff will use all technology to access electronic (“computer”) networks, including the Internet and email, in a responsible, legal, and ethical manner. Failure to do so may result in the loss of network privileges for the user, disciplinary action under the Code of Ethics for Catholic Schools, or prosecution under federal or state law.

I have read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy for Diocesan Schools Internet use (Attachment 1). I understand that use of the Internet and e-mail in school is a privilege, not a right. Use of the Internet in school is designed strictly for educational purposes. I also understand that the DAJ is taking measures so that my child does not have access to any material deemed inappropriate, but because no filtering system is perfect, my child might gain access to an inappropriate site. I agree that I will not hold the DAJ responsible for any access by my child of any inappropriate materials acquired on the Internet.

By signing below, I give my child permission to work on the Internet and use e-mail for educational purposes.

**By not signing, I understand that my child will not be permitted to work on the Internet and use e-mail in school.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENTS MUST SIGN THE STATEMENT BELOW REGARDING INTERNET USE:**

I understand and agree to adhere to the behaviors outlined in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that any violation of this policy may result in the loss of Internet and e-mail privileges, disciplinary action, or prosecution under federal or state law.

**I understand that if I do not sign this agreement, I will not be permitted to use the Internet and e-mail in school.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Secretary of Education, pursuant to Section 9-923-A of the Public School Code, is authorized to purchase textbooks, instructional materials, and equipment, which may be loaned to all children residing in the Commonwealth who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in nonpublic and private schools. Our school is now in the process of requesting specific textbooks, materials and equipment to be loaned to your child(ren).

In order to participate in the program, a parent/guardian of each child attending the nonpublic or private school must individually request a loan of textbooks, instructional materials and equipment. The enclosed individual request form fulfills that requirement. Please sign the form, date it, and return it to the school immediately.

Thank you for your continued assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Principal

---

**Certificate of Individual Request**

**For Loan of Textbooks, Instructional Materials and Equipment**

I hereby request the loan of textbooks, instructional materials and equipment in accordance with the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 for my child(ren) attending

\_\_\_\_\_ School.

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

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

This program is available only to Pennsylvania residents.



## Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

### Guidelines for Use of Photographic

#### Images of Children and Youth

**The following guidelines will be adhered to and authorization form obtained when required, for use of photographic images of children and youth by diocesan Departments, Parishes, Schools, and Agencies.**

#### **For children/youth under 13 years of age:**

Parent permission (release form) **Must** be obtained for any photographic images of children **under 13 years of age** that are used for publicity, brochures, newsletter, web sites, etc.

#### **For children/youth between 13 and 18 years of age**

If photographic imagers being used are covering “news” or a specific event, the use of identifiable photographic images is allowed. Examples of this would include sports games/championships, Boy or Girl Scout Jamborees, award services, Youth Ministry Rallies/events, etc.

If identifiable photographic images are being used as a marketing or development item, permission (release form) must be obtained from the parents to use an identifiable picture. Examples of this would be flyers, brochures, web sites, etc., that would be advertising services, schools, programs, etc. In other words, if the project is “planned,” the youth are being used as “models” and the Photographic images are identifiable, then permission (release form) is needed.

If photographic images on a web site are merely to enhance it and are not being used to report news or specific events, then permission (release form) is needed to use identifiable photographic images.

Parental permission (release form) is needed to include any type of video (VHS or streaming) which shows children in a classroom doing “work” or answering questions – this video is considered an “educational record” and cannot be included without permission of parents.

The safest photographic images to use of youth over 13 for enhancement/marketing are “unidentifiable” photographic images – photographic images taken at a distance, from the side, from the “top”, large group activities, etc.

**NOTE: Duplicate this letter on Parish, Diocesan Office Department, or School Letterhead**

Authorization Form  
For Use of Child/Youth Name, Likeness, and/or Photographic Image

**This authorization form shall serve as parental permission for the use of name, likeness, and/or photographic image of a child/youth where such permission is required.**

I grant permission to

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Diocesan Office, Department, Parish, School)*

to use my child’s/youth’s name, likeness, and/or photographic image in the production of following:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***(Above portion must be completed – DO NOT sign if blank.)***

I understand that if, for whatever reason, at any point in time, I decide to revoke this agreement, and I so notify the Diocesan Office, Department, Parish, or School in writing, all references to my child/youth (i.e., name, likeness, and/to photographic image) will no longer be used. I understand that web page references and web page photographic images will be removed within thirty (30) days of the written notification. [I understand that the Diocesan Office, Department, Parish, or School is not responsible for access to the internet information or downloads made by users using the web prior to this removal of web references (i.e., name, likeness, and/or photographic image).] I further understand that my child's/youth's name, likeness, and/or photographic image may continue to be used in any publication already printed or published prior to my revocation of the consent provided herein.

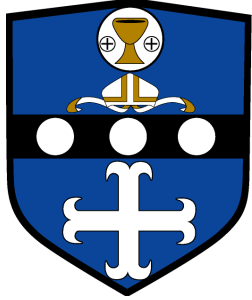
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Name of Child (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This Authorization Form to be kept on file until the student graduates from High School.*



# Diocese of Altoona- Johnstown *Education Office*

2713 W Chestnut Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601  
Phone: 814-695-5579  
[www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org)

I give my consent for my child's Diocesan Elementary School to share the following information with a Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Catholic High Schools:

- student name,
- parent/guardian name(s),
- address, telephone number(s),
- email address(es), and
- grade level

This information will be shared for the purposes of enhancing programming. I understand that this information will be treated as confidential and not be released to any other parties except those stated. I understand that participation in sharing this information is voluntary.

I am the parent or legal guardian of the student named and hereby fully release and discharge all Diocesan Schools, and their administrators, employees, and agents, from all liabilities arising out of or in connection with the above described demographic data sharing relative to the above stated organizations. I reserve the right to withdraw my consent at any time by submitting written notification to school administration.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





# **Elementary and Middle School Student and Parent Handbook**

800 Westerly Parkway

State College, PA 16801

814-238-1592

[www.olvcatholicschool.org](http://www.olvcatholicschool.org)

# **DRESS CODE**

All students are required to follow the established dress code. The school uniform must be worn on all school days, except those designated by the administration as “dress down days.” Students who do not follow the dress code/wear the appropriate uniform may be subject to disciplinary action. The administration reserves the right to be the final judge of what is acceptable in matters of student dress and grooming.

## **General Appearance**

- All clothing worn in school must be clean, pressed and presentable (no holes in knees, tears, etc.).
- All clothing worn in school must be sized correctly and worn appropriately.
- Girls may wear post-type earrings only. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings.
- No body piercings or tattoos are permitted.
- All hair (boys and girls) must be neat and clean. Boys must have their hair trimmed to above their collar, and not hang in their face. Extreme hairstyles, hair color, and/or jewelry are not permitted.

## **Uniform**

The administration has chosen a modest uniform, which our students find comfortable and up-to-date, and parents generally find fashionable and easy to care for. Information about current uniform options may be found at [www.olvcatholicschool.org/uniforms](http://www.olvcatholicschool.org/uniforms).

New, official uniform items may be purchased from Lands’ End, using preferred school code # 900074790. Gym uniforms for middle school students may be purchased through Lands’ End or Collegiate Pride. A parent-organized, used uniform sale generally occurs in the fall and spring of each school year.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to label each of their student’s clothing articles (especially outerwear) with the student’s name.

## **General Requirements**

- Shirts
  - Shirts must be tucked into trousers/skirts/skorts.
  - White T-shirts may be worn under uniform shirts but may not be visible.
  - Collars and sleeves of shirts/blouses may not be rolled in or up.
- Bottoms
  - Shorts and skorts must be at a modest length.



- Skirts must reach within an inch above the top of the knee and may not be rolled up.
- Boys may wear shorts, and girls may wear shorts or skorts without tights from ■ First day of school to October 31st, and
  - April 15th to the last day of school.
- Girls may wear skorts with tights between November 1st and April 14th, but shorts (with or without tights) are not permitted during this time.
- Girls are encouraged to wear shorts (spandex “biker” shorts, preferred) under their skirts, but the shorts may not be visible.
- Baggy, oversized, flared-bottom, cargo, or drawstring trousers or shorts are not permitted.
- Boys are encouraged to wear solid color belts, but this is not required.
- Outerwear
  - Only uniform-specific outerwear may be worn in the classroom.
  - Non-uniform outerwear may be worn at recess, when outdoors.
  - Uniform shirts must be worn under uniform-specific outerwear.
- Socks/Tights/Leggings
  - “No show” socks are not permitted.
  - Only leggings that reach the ankle may be worn under skirts/jumpers.
  - Socks must be worn when wearing leggings.
- Shoes
  - Sandals, flip-flops, and light-up sneakers are not permitted.
  - Boots are not permitted to be worn during the school day.
  - Students must wear sneakers/athletic shoes for physical education class.

### Elementary Uniform Requirements

The following chart summarizes the uniform requirements for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. See the school website ([www.olycatholicschool.org/uniform](http://www.olycatholicschool.org/uniform)) to view images of these options and additional details.

Item	Boy (K-5)	Girl (K-3)	Girl (4-5)
Shirt	Light blue polo with logo White polo (logo optional) White turtleneck shirt	Light blue polo with logo White polo (logo optional) White blouse White turtleneck shirt	Light blue polo with logo White polo (logo optional) White blouse

			White turtleneck shirt
Bottom	Navy chino trousers Navy walking shorts	Plaid jumper Navy chino trousers Navy walking shorts Navy skort	Plaid jumper Navy chino trousers Navy walking shorts Navy skort Plaid skirt
Outerwear	Navy fleece with logo Navy sweatshirt with logo Navy sweater (logo optional)	Navy fleece with logo Navy sweatshirt with logo Navy sweater (logo optional)	Navy fleece with logo Navy sweatshirt with logo Navy sweater (logo optional)
Socks	Solid white, navy, tan, black, or gray	Solid navy or white, that are at knee, crew or ankle length	Solid navy or white, that are at knee, crew or ankle length
Tights	NA	Solid navy or white	Solid navy or white
Leggings	NA	Solid navy to the ankle	Solid navy to the ankle
Shoes	Sneakers/athletic shoes Brown/black/neutral dress shoes	Sneakers/athletic shoes Brown/black/neutral color flats or "Mary Janes"	Sneakers/athletic shoes Brown/black/neutral color flats or "Mary Janes"

## Middle School Uniform Requirements

The following chart summarizes the uniform requirements for students in Grades 6-8. See the school website ([www.olvcatholicschool.org/uniform](http://www.olvcatholicschool.org/uniform)) to view images of these options and additional details.

Item	Boy	Girl
Shirt	Light blue Oxford shirt (logo optional)	Light blue blouse (logo optional)
Tie	Maroon Crimson and Blue	NA
Bottom	Navy chino trousers Navy walking shorts	Navy chino trousers Navy walking shorts Navy skirt
Outerwear	Maroon fleece with logo Maroon sweatshirt with logo	Maroon fleece with logo Maroon sweatshirt with logo
Socks	Dress Socks: Solid white, navy, tan, black, or brown Athletic Socks: Solid black, white or navy calf-height	Dress Socks: Solid navy or white, that areat knee, crew or ankle length Athletic Socks: Solid black, white or navy calf-height
Tights	NA	Solid navy or white
Leggings	NA	Solid navy to the ankle
Stockings/ Nylons	NA	Solid blue or skin tones
Shoes	Sneakers/athletic shoes Brown/black/neutral dress shoes	Sneakers/athletic shoes Brown/black/neutral flats

## Physical Education Uniform Requirements

The following chart summarizes the uniform requirements for physical education class for boys and girls:

Item	Middle School Students	Elementary Students
Top	Short sleeve gray T-shirt with logo	NA
Bottom	Navy athletic shorts with logo	NA
Shoes	Sneakers/athletic shoes	Sneakers/athletic shoes

## Mass Uniform Requirements

Students are required to wear a particular uniform to the school Mass each week. The following chart summarizes the Mass uniform requirements:

Grade	Gender	Mass Uniform Requirements
Kindergarten	Boy	Any standard approved uniform combination
Kindergarten	Girl	Any standard approved uniform combination
1-3	Boy	White uniform shirt with navy trousers
1-3	Girl	White uniform shirt with plaid jumper
4-5	Boy	White uniform shirt with navy trousers
4-5	Girl	White shirt with plaid jumper or plaid skirt
6-8	Boy	Uniform shirt, navy trousers, and school tie
6-8	Girl	Uniform shirt with navy skirt

## Dress Down (Out of Uniform) Days

Dress down days are special days when students are not required to wear the school uniform. The following policy has been created regarding the dress for out of uniform days and events, in accordance with the Catholic virtues of modesty and temperance. Administration reserves

the final right in determining the appropriateness of clothing.

On Dress Down Days, students may wear street clothes that meet the following requirements:

- No oversized or tight fitting clothing may be worn.
- Pants may not drag on the ground or have holes/tears.
- Pants/shorts must be worn at the waist, not on or below the hips.
- Shorts must have an inseam of 7 inches or more.
- The lower portion of the skirts may be no more than 2 inches above the knee.  
No cut-off shorts/skirts are permitted.
- Skorts must be of a modest length.
- No tank tops/thin straps or short length shirts (eg. crop-tops) may be worn.
- No shirts showing violence or inappropriate sayings/pictures can be worn.
- No tight-fitting stretch pants or form-fitting bottoms (including, but not limited to, “jeggings” “leggings”, Spandex, or “running pants”) are permitted.
- Flip-flops are not permitted.

## **Middle School Events**

When attending school-sponsored events (e.g. dances), middle school students are required to wear clothes that meet the requirements for Dress Down Days. Students may be denied access to the event if they are wearing clothing that does not meet the requirements listed above. As during the school day, the administration reserves the right to determine if a student’s dress is within the dress code requirements.