

Dear Families,

Like many school districts, we are evaluating many ideas from several security specialists to provide enhanced security at our athletic events. The Archdiocese of Miami will initiate a clear bag entrance requirement beginning January 6, 2020. We are investigating other security measures including the use of metal detectors or security wands. Some schools have already instituted these regulations prior to the mandated 1/6/2020 starting date.

In the interest of the safety of all of our school campuses, all backpacks and other bags carried by students into school athletic facilities at any time must be clear. **(Elementary Schools will only require clear bag checks in gymnasiums or facilities that are used as gymnasiums after school.)** This policy will be enacted January 6, 2020, and will enable the security officers and faculty to easily identify anyone who does not belong on campus.

Please read the **CLEAR BAGS & BACKPACK GUIDELINES** carefully and make sure your child(ren) is/are compliant by January 6, 2020.

### **CLEAR BAGS & BACKPACK GUIDELINES**

All backpacks and other bags carried by students and visitors at all athletic events must be clear. Any clear backpack/bag can be used as long as it meets the following requirements:

- Plastic must be entirely clear and may not be tinted a particular color or contain designs of any type.
- Must be designated by a school with school name embossed on the bag or follow the 12x12 design.
- Students may not obstruct the view of the backpack in any way or cover the backpacks in stickers (one small sticker for identification will be allowed).
- Students may have a small privacy pouch in their backpacks to carry personal items.

The consequence for non-compliance will be denied entrance to any athletic facility, and multipurpose areas that may be used for athletics, drama or other school activities.

It is to the advantage of our students to replace all bags, including athletic duffle bags, where possible, with clear options, since any non-clear bag will be subject to inspection upon arrival to campus. We may use designated checkpoints in each school where non-clear bags will be inspected, collected, and stored until dismissal.

Students with clear bags will bypass the checkpoints and proceed directly to the athletic event.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and support in keeping our campus and your children as safe as possible. The safety of our students, faculty, and staff far outweighs any inconvenience caused by increased security measures.

Respectfully,

The Archdiocese of Miami Office of Catholic Schools