



TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027

**ACCREDITED BY
THE FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

**TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A MINISTRY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH
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**→ UPDATES FOR THE 2026-2027 PARENT/STUDENT
HANDBOOK APPEAR IN RED. ←**

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II. SCHOOL INFORMATION

a. Prayer

Glory be to the Father,
Who by His almighty power and love created me,
making me in the image and likeness of God.

Glory be to the Son,
Who by His Precious Blood delivered me from hell,
and opened for me the gates of heaven.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit,
Who has sanctified me in the sacrament of Baptism,
and continues to sanctify me
by the graces I receive daily from His bounty.

Glory be to the Three adorable Persons of the Holy Trinity,
now and forever. Amen.

b. Principal's Letter/Principal's Right to Amend

Any student action that is not in keeping with the philosophy/objective of Trinity Catholic School is subject to the review of the administration and may lead to withdrawal from school.

Since situations can arise that were not foreseen at the time of writing this Handbook, the school reserves the right to initiate, change, or modify the policies as needed. Parents and students will be notified of any amendments.

The Principal is the final recourse and reserves the right to amend this handbook and rules. Parents will be given prompt notification.

c. History

As the oldest private school in Tallahassee, Trinity Catholic School first opened its doors in September 1952 as Blessed Sacrament School. Pioneered by three courageous Dominican Sisters from Adrian, Michigan, the school welcomed an initial cohort of 102 students in first through fourth grades. Operating from a single-building attachment to Blessed Sacrament Church at its current location on Miccosukee Road and Brevard Street, the institution quickly earned the affectionate local nickname "The Reading School." Demand for high-quality, Christ-centered education was immediate; student enrollment doubled by the following year.

For nearly a quarter of a century, the school grew under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of St. Augustine, with the pioneering Sisters initially living across the street before moving into a newly constructed on-campus convent. Today, that historic building still overlooks our campus as the John Neumann Retreat Center.

A historic milestone occurred in 1977 when the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee was established under its first bishop, Rene Gracida. At this juncture, Blessed Sacrament School was officially renamed Trinity Catholic School. While remaining a foundational ministry of Blessed Sacrament Church, Trinity holds a unique status as the region's sole Catholic elementary and middle school. It thrives through the shared spiritual, financial, and liturgical support of six regional parishes:

- Blessed Sacrament
- Good Shepherd
- St. Thomas More
- St. Louis
- St. Eugene's Chapel
- St. Thomas the Apostle

Organizationally, the school benefits from the structural guidance of the Diocese, the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, the School Advisory Council, and school administration. For decades, spiritual leadership was provided by dedicated religious order principals from both the Adrian Dominican (O.P.) and Franciscan (O.S.F.) traditions. In 2003, Janet Gendusa broke new ground as Trinity's first lay principal, serving until 2014 when current principal Mr. Tommy Bridges assumed leadership.

Principals since 1952:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Sister Rose Germaine, O.P. | 1952 – 1958 |
| • Sr. Nora Richard, O.P. | 1958 – 1964 |
| • Sr. John Terrance, O.P. (Sr. Mary Ellen Gilhooly) | 1964 – 1974 |
| • Sr. Marguerite Renuart, O.P. | 1974 – 1982 |
| • Sr. John Catherine Rohe, O.S.F. | 1982 – 1988 |
| • Sr. Aileen McClain, O.P. | 1988 – 2003 |
| • Mrs. Janet Gendusa | 2003 – 2014 |
| • Mr. Tommy Bridges | 2014 - Present |

To meet the evolving needs of Tallahassee families, Trinity's academic programs have continuously expanded. The school established an after-school program, "Beyond the Bell," in 2001 to offer diverse enrichment activities. A Pre-Kindergarten 3 program was launched in 2007, later supplemented by Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) voucher program in 2020. Recent additions include elementary gifted and resource programs, middle school resource support, and a 5th–8th grade Latin curriculum. In 2022—the same year Trinity celebrated its 70th anniversary—the school achieved authorization as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School for the Middle Years Programme (6th–8th grade).

This robust development has driven the expansion of our physical plant to a modern nine-building layout. Recent infrastructure developments include an expansion project encompassing a gymnasium, commercial kitchen, expanded Parish Hall, and new learning spaces. To ensure a safe learning environment, the school continuously enhances its daily campus operations with updated security additions, including surveillance cameras, secure fencing, and professional armed security.

Today, Trinity happily serves approximately 475 students from Pre-K3 through 8th Grade, proudly watching generations of alumni return to give their own children the same timeless gift of a Catholic education.

d. Mission Statement

***The mission of Trinity Catholic School is to teach the Catholic faith within a challenging academic curriculum, laying the foundation for all students to grow in Christian maturity, integrity, and knowledge.
“Where students grow Spiritually, Academically, & Physically for a lifetime of service and leadership.”***

e. Core Values

Trinity Catholic School, a ministry of Blessed Sacrament Church, provides a Catholic education for students from all Tallahassee and area Parishes as well as Non-Catholic students. Trinity Catholic is part of the school system of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and is under the direct supervision of the Bishop and the Superintendent of Schools.

"The Church's involvement in the field of education is demonstrated especially by the Catholic school. No less than other schools does the Catholic school pursue cultural goals and the natural development of youth. But it has several distinctive purposes. It aims to create for the school community an atmosphere enlivened by the gospel spirit of freedom and charity. It aims to help the adolescent in such a way that the development of his/her own personality will be matched by the growth of the new creation which he/she became by baptism. It strives to relate all human culture eventually to the news of salvation so that the light of faith will illumine the knowledge which students gradually gain of the world, of life, and of mankind."

Taken from Section 8 Declaration
Christian Education of the Documents of Vatican II

f. Belief Statements/Philosophy and Objectives

At Trinity Catholic School we believe –

- Each student is a unique child of God.
- A Catholic school reflects the integration of a Catholic faith and values with learning and life.

- Catholic education is an integral part of the Church's mission to proclaim the gospel message of Jesus, to build faith communities, to celebrate through worship and to serve others without distinction.
- Parents are the primary educators of their children.
- Students experience faith-based traditions as part of their educational formation in Catholic schools.
- Ongoing evaluation and improvement of the curriculum is crucial to the developments of a sound educational program.
- A safe and comfortable learning environment promotes learning and success.
- The opportunity for success is an important component of student learning.
- A healthy learning environment is everyone's responsibility.
- A supportive and challenging learning environment increases a student's potential for responsible decision making.
- There is no place for racism within our faith community. We are committed to social justice and the sanctity of every human life.

Trinity Catholic School is committed to a program of Catholic spirituality and worship, academic excellence, and social justice. Faculty and staff are dedicated to a core knowledge curriculum using traditional teaching methods and innovative teaching techniques. In keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church, we welcome our partnership with the family in a teaching ministry. As a Christian community, we strive to nurture the talents and interests of each child at every developmental level. We promote understanding of each person's unique personal worth. United in spirit and ideals, our heartfelt desire is to encourage Trinity students to grow in knowledge and skills, Christian faith, service, and love.

g. Accreditation

Accreditation plays a vital role in validating the excellence of our Catholic school. Trinity Catholic School is accredited through the Florida Catholic Conference, which uses the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools as its guiding principles.

Trinity Catholic School is also accredited by

- **The National Council for Private Accreditation**
- **The International Baccalaureate Program**
- **Florida VPK**

h. Ministerial Clause

Trinity Catholic School is a ministry of Blessed Sacrament Parish and is part of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee's system of schools, which is under the direct supervision of the Bishop and his delegates. Catholic schools serve the Diocese by playing an integral role in the religious mission of the Diocese.

i. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to healing the hurting hearts of sexual abuse victims and has established Victims Assistance Coordinators who are experienced and trained counselors available to help persons who have been

sexually abused. Support can also be found by calling the Florida Department of Children and Families Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

j. School Councils

The Advisory Council serves the Pastor and meets regularly in the school Media Center. The dates and times of these meetings will be published in the school newsletter. Parents and teachers are welcome to attend and observe one meeting a year that will be announced one month in advance. The School Advisory Council assists with the planning, expansion, improvement, financing, construction, and maintenance of the physical plant of the school. The School Advisory Council operates under the Diocesan Commission of Education. Items to be brought before the Council must first be presented to the Executive Committee or administration for placement on the agenda. Its mission is to advise the Pastor and Administration in matters of security, curriculum, finances, marketing/enrollment, and buildings/grounds.

k. Other Information

Please visit our website for more information – www.trinityknights.org

III. ADMISSIONS

a. Non-Discrimination

Trinity Catholic School, a member of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

b. Admission Priorities

Given the mission of the school as an agent of Catholic Christian formation, the school will accept only those children whose parents demonstrate an understanding of the specifically Christian/Catholic nature of the school and a desire to participate in that mission.

Students are considered for admission based on Trinity's ability to meet the needs of each student academically, behaviorally, developmentally, physically and emotionally.

In matters of admission and registration, the decisions of the local Pastor/Principal are final.

Trinity Catholic School offers a simplified enrollment process called Continuous Enrollment. Once you sign the agreement upon admission, your child's spot is secured through 8th grade graduation, unless otherwise notified by the parent, a guardian, or the school of a change in this relationship.

This is an "opt-out" system. If your educational plans change and you wish to opt-out of enrollment, simply complete the Opt-Out form on the school's website.

Every January, we'll send you a reminder email with the upcoming year's tuition schedule, financial aid information, and an opt-out deadline if you wish to withdraw your child.

Re-enrollment fees will be included in your July tuition statement for the following school year. We encourage you to review the Continuous Enrollment Agreement for full details.

Re-enrollment of families currently attending Trinity Catholic School (TCS) will be held in early February. A non-refundable, re-enrollment fee per student is due along with the re-enrollment form.

New student registration will begin in February after re-registration for the school year that begins the following August. According to Florida law and Diocesan Policy, VPK/Pre-K 4 students must be four on or before September 1, Kindergarten students must be five on or before September 1, and first grade students must be six on or before September 1.

Our Pre-K3 program offers two tracks. Track one is for students turning three on or before September 1. They will complete one year of Pre-K3 before advancing to our VPK. Track two is for students turning three September 2 - December 1. They will complete two years of Pre-K3 before they are eligible for VPK. All children must be potty trained.

c. Middle School Admissions Policy: IB MYP Participation

At Trinity Catholic School, all Middle School students (6-8) admitted to the school are accepted into and fully participate in the International Baccalaureate (IB MYP). The school is committed to providing equitable access to the program and believes that every student benefits from the inquiry-based, globally minded, and academically rigorous learning experiences of the MYP. All students are expected to engage in the full range of MYP coursework, assessments, and service learning opportunities as part of their Middle School education.

Please note the importance of early application. Parents will be notified as to a student's acceptance or placement on a waiting list as soon as possible. As spaces become available, students on the waiting list will be notified.

d. Students with Special Educational Needs

Trinity uses differentiated instruction to serve our students. Special programs for qualifying students include Honors/Advanced classes for Grades 5-8, Gifted classes for Grades 1-5, and Resource support for Grades K-8. Title I services are offered to those students who qualify. **Please note that some student needs are beyond the scope of what Trinity can offer.**

e. Immunizations and Physicals

Florida Statutes require that every child entering school for the first time present certification of a School-Entry Health Exam (DH3040) performed within one school year of enrollment. This form is only available in doctor's offices and upon completion should be turned in to the school nurse. The statutes further require that all children attending public or private schools in Florida show proof of immunization (DH680) for Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Hib and Varicella. In addition, students entering

Grade 7 or higher must also show proof of a Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster)

f. Immunizations

Per Diocesan Policy #310, all students shall comply with State of Florida required immunization and Health laws prior to admission. If the child's immunization status proves to be inadequate, said student shall be excluded until such time that the appropriate requirements have been completed. Parents have 30 days to bring immunizations up-to-date from the date they move to the state of Florida. Parents must keep the office informed of all updated immunizations. There are no exceptions to this policy. There are generally recognized to be three types of exemptions sought from the schools' immunization policy – religious, philosophical, and medical.

- **Religious Exemptions:** There is nothing in Catholic moral teachings which would hold that the use of vaccines is immoral and sinful. Accepting the opinion of the much-respected National Catholic Bioethics Center, the Bishops of Florida take the position that, "Catholic schools or a Catholic diocese cannot grant an exemption from vaccination on religious grounds since the Catholic Church does not teach that the use of vaccinations...is intrinsically evil." Accordingly, requests for exemptions based on religious beliefs will not be considered in any Catholic schools of this diocese.
- **Philosophical Exemptions:** The State of Florida does not recognize philosophical exemption.
- **Medical Exemptions:** Medical exemptions will be considered, but only if a determination can be made by diocesan officials that, based on medical evidence, admission of the child without a vaccination would not constitute a health risk to the school community under the circumstances. If such determination cannot be made, a medical exemption will not be granted. This exemption is reserved to Diocesan officials and is not to be granted at the parish or school administration level.

g. Re-Registration

Re-enrollment of families currently attending Trinity Catholic School (TCS) will be held in early February.

The Continuous Enrollment process allows you the comfort of knowing that your child's seat is secure and frees you from unnecessary annual paperwork and electronic submissions. From the time of admission, your child will be considered enrolled at Trinity Catholic School through 8th Grade graduation, unless otherwise notified by the parent, a guardian, or the school of a change in this relationship. Trinity Catholic School's annual enrollment is therefore an opt-out process with a deadline by which to notify the school if your child is not returning. If your educational plans change, then you simply notify the school that you wish to "opt-out" of continuous enrollment for the following year.

h. Probation

Trinity Catholic School fosters a rigorous and supportive learning environment where students develop as scholars and disciples. We expect all students to maintain high academic and behavioral standards. Expectations include, but are not limited to: Respect, kindness, effort, participation and obedience to school rules.

If a student does not meet the school's expectations to maintain a positive learning environment, they may be placed on academic or disciplinary probation. Continued academic or behavioral struggles may result in further disciplinary action, including potential dismissal.

i. Transfer/Withdrawal

When a student is withdrawn from school during the school year, the homeroom teacher will request that all textbooks and library books loaned to the student be returned. Records will not be transferred to another school unless a withdrawal form is filled out. If you find it necessary to withdraw your student(s) from Trinity Catholic School, please call the Admissions Office to set up an appointment for your exit interview.

j. School Specific Admission Information

The last official act of enrollment and acceptance of each student of Trinity Catholic School is the signing of a contract that states this handbook has been read and accepted as the governing vehicle between home and school. This contract must be completed and returned during the first week of classes. This is a required document in order for a child to be an official student at Trinity Catholic School.

IV. FINANCES

a. Tuition Policy

The School Advisory Council recommends tuition rates annually. A student's attendance at school may be terminated if tuition is two months in arrears unless the Pastor/Administration approves a payment plan. If tuition payments or any other monies owed to Trinity Catholic School **are delinquent** and not paid in full by the last week of school **or semester**, students may not be permitted to take **semester** or final exams. Parents who foresee a problem are responsible for contacting the bookkeeper or the principal to make alternate arrangements. Grades, report cards and transcripts may be held for outstanding bills. The family is responsible for all tuition and fees incurred by the student up to the date of withdrawal **or graduation**. See SCHOLARSHIPS section of handbook for information on opportunities and eligibility.

b. Tuition Payment

Tuition is paid in eleven monthly installments, July through May, and is due by the tenth of the month. All tuition and fees are paid through "FACTS." A completed application must be on file in the school office which determines your preferred method of payment.

c. Tuition and Fee Schedule

The Base Tuition is \$12,425 per student in Grades K-8. Please go to the Trinity Catholic School website at www.trinityknights.org to calculate scholarships and grants.

d. Tuition Assistance

ALL Florida families have the opportunity to receive a Florida School Choice scholarship to attend private schools. The majority of Trinity's tuition can be covered by the scholarship, easing the financial burden for your family to attend a private, Catholic school.

Step Up for Students is an umbrella term for Florida School Choice scholarship programs. Two are relevant to Trinity:

- Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO),
 - Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) for K-12
 - Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA)
1. As a citizen of Florida, you are eligible to apply for these scholarships.
 2. It will pay tuition and fees in a Florida private school.
 3. EVERY Trinity parent should apply for this scholarship.
 4. Only families that have applied for the state scholarships will be considered for FACTS Grant and Aid.

Applications and awards will be managed on Florida's "EMA" (Education Management Assistant) portal. As the funds are made available to your EMA account, you will authorize the funds to be used for tuition and fees. According to guidance from Step Up for Students, "Parents of scholarship students in full-time, private schools must agree to have their Scholarship Funding Organization, or "SFO," commit scholarship funds on behalf of their students for tuition and fees before using EMA funds for other authorized uses of program funds."

IMPORTANT: Once you have been awarded the scholarship and committed the funds to Trinity (Private School Scholarship with ESA Option), Trinity's FACTS and Scholarship Administrator needs three pieces of important information for each of your students:

- Student name
- Screenshot of the scholarship name (FES-EO, FTC, FES-UA)
- Award ID number (this is different from the student ID number)

If you are concerned about your family's ability to pay the balance of monthly payments on your FACTS account, we encourage you to apply for additional support via the FACTS Grant and Aid application.

When filling out the application, please give pertinent details to your family's needs. Also, if you are a member of a Catholic parish, you can indicate that you would like the application shared with your parish, as some parishes are able to offer financial help for tuition. School and Parish scholarships are based on the number of applications received and funds available. **ONLY** families that have applied for the Step Up for Students scholarships will be considered for additional financial support. All financial and financial assistance information is confidential.

- Trinity “Adopt-a-Student” Scholarship: Trinity Catholic offers need-based financial assistance for grades PK3 -8th Grade student tuition. Trinity Catholic School encourages families to apply for financial assistance through the FACTS Grant and Aid application. Families can apply year-round. Requests must be made each year. For more information, please call the school office.
- Catholic Parish Scholarship: Catholic parishes support Trinity Catholic School families. Most parishes are able to provide some need-based financial assistance for grades PK3 -8th Grade student tuition. Families must apply for the Catholic Parish Scholarship through the FACTS Grant and Aid application. Families can apply year-round. Requests must be made each year. For more information, please call your pastor.
- VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program): Trinity Catholic School offers VPK (Florida’s free Voluntary Prekindergarten Program) for 4-year-old students in Pre-K4. This voucher will help parents of 4-year-olds with tuition for a half day (**8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**). This program is available to help make a Catholic pre-school education affordable. Parents of four-year-olds may apply for a voucher at www.floridaearlylearning.com.

e. Tuition Refund Policy

The school will notify parents at the time of registration that in the event that the student withdraws from school prior to the beginning of the school year, there will be no refund of tuition paid up to the amount of two months of the total tuition.

If the student withdraws from the school during the school year, the following schedule will be nonrefundable:

Student Withdrawal	Nonrefundable Tuition
During the first quarter	$\frac{1}{4}$ of the tuition
During the second quarter	$\frac{1}{2}$ of the tuition
During the third quarter	$\frac{3}{4}$ of the tuition
During the fourth quarter	100% of tuition

In the event of a transfer of employment of the parent over 60 miles from their original home, the principal may use his or her discretion in the refunding of tuition and will notify the Schools Office of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee of his or her decision.

In the event that a student withdraws from the school at any time, there will be no refund of fees paid. This includes book fees, registration fees, graduation fees, retreat fees or other fees established by the school.

f. Additional Fees

Parent Service Hours Commitment: Trinity Catholic School takes pride in being a school community that values and welcomes the gifts and talents of our families. Parent involvement has a positive relationship to their children’s school success. Parents who volunteer have the opportunity to make friendships and build our school community, together.

In addition to financial support of the school, each Kindergarten through 8th Grade* family is required to give a minimum of 25 hours of service, per year. Ten of the required service hours must be contact hours. The 10 contact hours are defined as time engaging with the school community. Parents of children in PreK only are exempt from the Service Hour requirement.

Examples of contact hours** include:

- Attending Home and School meetings (2 hours per meeting)
- Volunteering for Home and School committees
- Volunteering as Lunch Parent
- Volunteering as a Field Trip Chaperone
- Volunteering at the Fall Festival
- Volunteering for Orientation Day, Grandparents Day, Open House, etc.
- Speaking at Masses
- Parent Ambassadors calling/meeting with new families

NOTE: Attendance at an athletic event and/or a social function does not qualify for service unless you are on the organizing committee or in a helping position.

This commitment will be made by contract at the time of registration for the fall semester. Service hours may be secured in many ways—by donation of time, talent, and goods. During each school year, each family is expected to donate service hours to be completed during the school year; or, in lieu of these service hours, to contribute a minimum of \$375 (\$15 per Service Hour) to the school. Service hours are preferred over money given to the school.

Service hours are to be completed by March 1st of each school year. Those families who have not met their 25-hour commitment and have not been excused, will be billed through FACTS at \$15 per hour not completed. Any hours completed after March 1st can be applied to the following school year. You must turn in a Service Hours Reporting Form in order to get credit for hours worked.

It is the responsibility of the Home and School Association to maintain the service hour sheets. Time sheets will be tallied at the end of each quarter and hours will be entered for each event. One hour will be credited for each \$15 of approved donated goods. Goods donated must be listed separately on the reporting form (in the space provided) indicating the value of the goods, what the goods were, and who they were donated to at the school. Receipts must be attached to time sheets for donated goods.

**** All employees and volunteers working with children, youth, elderly, vulnerable adults, and those responsible for the instruction and guidance of children and youth must complete ALL requirements from the Diocesan Charter BEFORE they can participate in a ministry. The requirements are:**

- FLORDIA CLEARINGHOUSE Fingerprinting and Criminal Background Check (repeated every 5 years - \$75.00) – information in the Front Office.
- VIRTUS online courses – Information available in the Front Office.

Reconciliation or Eucharist for the first time must make arrangements through their own Parish.

c. Sacramental Preparation

The sacramental programs (First Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation) are administered by the Diocese through the individual parish programs. Trinity supports the efforts of our parishes to prepare our students to receive their first sacraments.

d. Attendance in Religious Activities

Religion and the value system inherent in our faith is a definitive part of the curriculum. Religious instruction is authentic in doctrine and contemporary in presentation. Religious education strives to be more than an accumulation of facts, although a certain body of knowledge is necessary. The report card grade reflects knowledge of the Catholic faith, classroom attitudes, and willingness to participate. It is not a judgment of the student's faith in God.

All students, including Non-Catholics, are required to participate in a religion class (and receive a grade) and attend religious activities mandated by the school. All students, including Non-Catholics, are required to attend Mass during the school week. Students will also have opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Catholic students only), to pray the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and attend Eucharistic Adoration and retreats. It is the Catholic parent's responsibility to ensure their children attend Sunday Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in their own Parish. Students eligible to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation or Eucharist for the first time must make arrangements through their own Parish.

e. Virtues in Practice

Virtues in Practice is a program for children in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eight to grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and virtues. It is set up in such a way that the whole school studies the same virtue each month, to provide a whole-school focus. Students also study saints who exemplify the month's virtue.

f. Service Projects

Trinity Catholic School is committed to developing students who will make a meaningful contribution to the local community and the world. Following in the footsteps of Jesus' ministry in serving others, we hope our students will develop a thoughtful heart of service as they continue their life journey beyond Trinity Catholic School.

All Middle School students must complete 10 service hours for the entire school year, which includes any hours performed during the summer prior to the start of school. All service hours will be due on May 1st.

Students can receive up to 5 hours for each service experience. For example,

- One week of volunteering for VBS is considered 1 service experience. This can count towards 5 of your 10 required service hours for the school year.

- Altar serving, reading, cantoring, etc., are all considered one service experience since they all provide a service for the Mass. This can count towards 5 of your 10 required service hours for the school year.
- Helping a neighbor by cleaning their house, doing yardwork, etc are considered one service experience since they all provide service related to an individual's home. This can count towards 5 of your 10 required service hours for the school year.

Please Note:

- A supervisor's name and either their phone number or email address is required when reporting hours; this would be the person overseeing your service.
 - Practicing or attending a training session that will help for a future volunteer activity cannot count towards your 10 required hours.

Each service experience must have a written reflection. You must choose at least one of the IB Learning Outcomes that best represents the service you performed. You will answer the reflection questions in the box next to the chosen learning outcome.

Only those students who have submitted all required service hours and reflections by the due date will be permitted to attend the end of year field trip. All hours need to be reported on the Google Form located on the Service as Action Google Classroom. Students must fill out and submit the Google Form as each service activity is completed.

8th Grade Community Project: Only the actual service portion of the 8th Grade IB Community Project is considered acceptable hours towards the service requirement.

NJHS and Service Requirement: NJHS has a separate service requirement of 5 hours each semester. Students cannot use the same service for both requirements.

VI. ACADEMICS

a. General Curriculum

The standard curriculum set by the Diocese includes the major subjects of Religion, Language Arts, (oral and written communication), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, and minor subjects of Handwriting (lower grades), Music, Library Skills, Art, Spanish, Latin, Computers, Design, HOPE and Physical Education. Students at Trinity Catholic School not only cover the core curriculum but are challenged by stimulating enrichment activities that allow them to exceed the standard curriculum.

Students in Grades 3-8 may take advanced Math classes and Honors Language Arts based on certain criteria. Eighth Graders have the opportunity to achieve high school credit for Algebra I, Spanish I, Latin I and HOPE.

Admission into these courses is based on the student meeting specific standards.

b. Academic Integrity

All Students are expected to do their own work. They should follow the Honor Code of Conduct,

c. Academic Accommodations

We understand that students may have unique learning needs. We offer a variety of academic accommodations to help students reach their full potential. These accommodations are determined on an individual basis through a collaborative process involving the student, parents, and school personnel.

d. Electives and Special Classes

Trinity Catholic School is proud to support students with many exceptionalities. Special programs for qualifying students include: Gifted classes for Grades 1-5, Resource support for Grades K-8, Title I tutoring, and Speech and Language therapy.

The EAGLES (Enriched Accelerated Guided Learning for Exceptional Students) program is designed for qualified students in 1st through 5th grade, based on a Gifted evaluation, standardized test scores and gifted characteristic checklist. The E.A.G.L.E.S. curriculum is based on the standards and goals from the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee,

Florida's Frameworks for K-12 Gifted Learners, and NAGC Gifted Programming Standards. Project-Based Learning (PBL) is an important component of the curriculum.

The goal of our Elementary Resource Program is to provide intensive individual and small group instruction in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Math to eligible students. The Middle School Resource Teachers works with teachers and the instructional structure to provide accommodations that are needed. Students in the Middle School Resource Program capitalize on their individual strengths and reach higher levels of achievement through the development of strong learning/study skills.

Title I is a Federally-funded program to meet the needs of children in need of reading and or math assistance. Trinity offers Title I tutoring for students who qualify through the Leon County School System.

Depending on funding, the students are tutored one or two days a week in reading and/or math.

Trinity utilizes Speech and Language services provided through Leon County Schools IDEA-ESE funding. Eligible students must have a diagnosis based on a determination from the LEA (Local Education Agency – public school district) and neuropsychological report.

The school also works cooperatively with and consults with private professionals who support students outside of school.

e. Grade System

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten grading codes are unique to those grade levels. An explanation and grading key are included with those evaluations. In Grade 1, the following grading codes are listed on student report cards:

E	Excellent
G+	Very Good
G	Good
S+	More than Satisfactory
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
P	Poor

In Grades 2 through 8, the numerical scores representing the letters of A, B, C, D and F will denote grades. The correspondence of percentages and letter grades is as follows:

Letter	Percentage	Grade Point (for Middle School)
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	Below 60	0.0

Courses taken in the Middle School will be given two (2) separate semester grades that will be averaged into a final grade. The Semester Grade for each subject will be based on two (2) quarter averages and the semester exam.

The weighting of each semester grade will be that each quarter will account for 40% of the grade and the semester final will account for 20% of the Grade.

The averages will be calculated numerically and will reflect the actual percentage of the grade.

All tuition payments must be completed for a student to take exams.

CONDUCT GRADES

Trinity Catholic School is committed to providing a high-quality Catholic education for all students in an atmosphere conducive to learning and teaching. Grounded in the teachings of the Gospels, we demonstrate our faith through our behavior and we take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We maintain high expectations with respect to student effort, positive growth, personal responsibility, and respect.

Conduct grades are a separate evaluation from academic performance. They reflect a student's overall behavior and development as a citizen within the classroom environment. Consistent positive behavior contributes significantly to a strong learning environment for everyone. By striving to meet the character traits of "KNIGHTS," students can earn high conduct grades in each subject, while fostering a positive and respectful classroom community.

I show...	Kindness
I am...	Nurturing
I act with...	Integrity
I show...	Grit
I have...	Hope
I show...	Tolerance
I show...	Self-Discipline

Teachers base conduct grades on a student's consistent behavior throughout the quarter, not just isolated incidents. They look for the following:

Conduct Grade-Citizenship in the Classroom	
Above Average Knight Behavior 1	• Is a positive role model, who leads quietly or outwardly • Shows kindness and care for others • Is always respectful of teachers and fellow students • Works to improve the classroom atmosphere • Takes an active part in class discussions, groups, etc. • Is a self-starter and seeks to help others • Completes all work to the best of their ability • Demonstrates personal and academic integrity • Respect classroom resources/tools • Arrives on time and prepared to learn
Satisfactory Knight Behavior 2	• Contributes positively to class • Shows respect for others • Comes to class prepared and on time • Demonstrates personal and academic integrity • Listens and talks when appropriate • Does what is expected • Willing to help others • Respect classroom resources/tools
Needs Improvement Knight Behavior 3	• Needs frequent reminders by the teacher to stay on task and/or behave appropriately • Needs improvement in showing respect and kindness to classmates/teacher • Sometimes comes to class unprepared and/or does not complete work • Distracts other students' learning • Occasionally displays a negative or uncooperative attitude • Irresponsible with classroom resources/tools
Unsatisfactory Knight Behavior 4	• Is a disruptive influence on the class, negatively impacting the learning environment • Shows a lack of respect for teacher/fellow students • Is disrespectful or unkind to others, in actions or words • Regularly comes to class unprepared and puts forth little effort • Demonstrates a lack of personal and academic integrity • Harms classroom resources/tools

In the event a student receives a 3 or 4 in Conduct and the behavior does not improve, a Parent/Teacher Conference may be scheduled, a Behavior Plan will be put in place, and the student may lose privileges. In the event that the behaviors don't improve over time, it may be decided that Trinity is not the best fit for that student.

HONORS

Special recognition, All Stars, is given to students in Grades 3-5 who achieve all A's and B's in subject areas and no 4's or no more than two 3's in conduct for the quarter.

Requirements for Middle School Honors per grading period are as follows:

- All A's (Principal's Honors)
- A maximum of 2 B's and the rest A's (First Honors)
- A maximum of 5 B's and the rest A's (Second Honors)
- More than 5 B's combined with the rest A's (Commendable Achievement)
- Good Citizenship is a hallmark of an Honor student and is expected.

Students should not receive any 4's or no more than two 3's in conduct for the quarter. Honors can be withheld if students do not demonstrate good citizenship.

Middle school students who achieve Principal's Honors all four quarters are awarded a plaque and a gold medal. Those who achieve First Honors all four quarters are awarded a gold medal at the end of the school year. Those who achieve a combination of First and Second Honors receive a silver medal, and those who achieve Second Honors through the school year receive a bronze medal. A student can earn a Commendable Achievement medal for receiving all A's and B's for four quarters.

f. Middle School Policies

Middle School Service Hours: Trinity Catholic School is committed to developing students who will make a meaningful contribution to the local community and the world. Following in the footsteps of Jesus' ministry in serving others, we hope our students will develop a thoughtful heart of service as they continue their life journey beyond Trinity Catholic School.

All Middle School students must complete 10 service hours for the entire school year, which includes any hours performed during the summer prior to the start of school. All service hours will be due on May 1st.

Students can receive up to 5 hours for each service experience. For example,

- One week of volunteering for VBS is considered 1 service experience. This can count towards 5 of your 10 required service hours for the school year.
- Altar serving, reading, cantoring, etc., are all considered one service experience since they all provide a service for the mass. This can count towards 5 of your 10 required service hours for the school year.

- Helping a neighbor by cleaning their house, doing yardwork, etc are considered one service experience since they all provide service related to an individual's home. This can count towards 5 of your 10 required service hours for the school year.

Please Note:

- A supervisor's name and either their phone number or email address is required when reporting hours; this would be the person overseeing your service.
- Practicing or attending a training session that will help for a future volunteer activity cannot count towards your 10 required hours.

Each service experience must have a written reflection. You must choose at least one of the IB Learning Outcomes that best represents the service you performed. You will answer the reflection questions in the box next to the chosen learning outcome.

Only those students who have submitted all required service hours and reflections by the due date will be permitted to attend the end of year field trip. All hours need to be reported on the Google Form located on the Service as Action Google Classroom. Students must fill out and submit the Google Form as each service activity is completed.

8th Grade Community Project: Only the actual service portion of the 8th Grade IB Community Project is considered acceptable hours towards the service requirement.

NJHS and Service Requirement: NJHS has a separate service requirement of 5 hours each semester. Students cannot use the same service for both requirements.

Middle School Extra-Curricular Activities: Trinity Catholic School offers a variety of extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of our diverse student population. Extra-curricular activities may include the Brain Bowl Team, Spanish Club, Chorus, Drama Club, Student Council, Talent Show, Christmas Program, Passion Play, Cheerleading, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Softball, Golf, Tennis, Flag Football, Morning/Afternoon Announcers,

Mini-Vinnies, Red/White/Blue Club, National Jr. Honor Society, Band, Dances and Jr. Thespian Honor Society.

Members of all TCS organizations are ambassadors of the school. Membership and participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Any behavior deemed inappropriate by the administration may result in forfeiture of the right to represent the school in these functions. All students must maintain an overall "C" average with no "F's" and no more than two 3's and no 4's in conduct to be eligible for extra-curricular clubs and sports.

Students on Academic or Behavioral Probation may not participate in extra-curricular activities for the duration of their probationary period.

Students are never excused from detention in order to participate in any facet of extra-curricular activities.

The expectations of each organization are based on the nature and function of the group. Approval to participate in multiple extra-curricular activities must be secured by the student from all coaches/advisors. A student must satisfy membership responsibilities to each organization of which he/she is a member. Each coach or sponsor will set his/her own policies regarding excused or unexcused absences. It is the student's responsibility to contact the adult in charge at least one day prior to an expected absence. Following an unanticipated absence, a parental note should be presented to that person.

The school is unable to provide supervision after school hours. Therefore, arrangements must be made to pick up siblings of students who participate in after-school activities while these students are involved in games or practice. Under no circumstance may a sibling be left after school unattended while the other child attends their extra-curricular activity.

Students may not participate in extra-curricular activities if they were not present for at least four hours of the school day, unless they were absent for a school related activity such as the Science or History Fair.

Middle School Policies, Standards, And Procedures: Please note that this document will be reviewed the first week of school and posted in homeroom teacher Google Classroom Classwork Tab.

g. High School Credit Opportunities for 8th Graders

Trinity Catholic Middle School offers graduating eighth graders the opportunity to earn high school credit for HOPE, Spanish I or Latin I, and Algebra I.

Requirements & Policies:

- **Criteria:** Credits are issued based on student grades, work ethic, and mastery of the subject.
- **Minimum Grade:** Students must earn a grade of B or higher to receive high school credit.
- **GPA Impact:** Approved credits and grades will be factored into the student's high school GPA.
- **Failing to Meet Criteria:** If high school credit is not earned, the course will not appear on the student's high school transcript.

h. Homework

Teachers may give homework to reinforce a lesson taught, strengthen study habits, review for a test, or enrich the student's knowledge with research. Each teacher will explain his/her homework policy to the students. Parents should encourage some home study each day but should leave the responsibility of producing the work to the student. The general guideline is ten minutes of

homework for each grade level. For example, 10 minutes for grade 1, 20 minutes for grade 2 and so on. Middle school students should spend between 1 and 2 hours daily on homework and projects, including reading for Accelerated Reader and studying. Extra time may be required for exam preparation or completing unfinished class work. If a parent believes the student is spending an inordinate amount of time on homework, the teacher should be consulted. Students are required to use the official school planner to record assignments. Parents should check their child's planner regularly and help the school enforce its use. Middle school students also use Google Classroom as a resource for homework assignments.

When a child is sick, parents should contact the homeroom and subject area teachers for make-up assignments and to request materials. Materials can be picked up in the front office, once the teacher/s has an appropriate amount of time to gather all necessary items. Teachers will be as helpful as possible in assisting the student with missed work. Make-up work, however, is ultimately the student's responsibility. If an extended illness or recuperation period occurs, it may be necessary for the parents to seek outside assistance from a private source to work with the student.

Guidelines for Late Work for Grades 3-8 Are as Follows: It is the student's responsibility to turn work in on time. Consequently, one letter grade will be deducted for each school day the assignment is late (up to 3 days*). This does not apply to excused absences.

1 Day Late: 15% (Maximum 85% B)

2 Days Late: 25% (Maximum 75% C)

3 Days Late: 35% (Maximum 65% D)

*After 3 days, the assignment will no longer be accepted.

Absences: It is the student's responsibility to make up all work missed during an absence. Upon return, the student should see each teacher for any work missed. All make-up assignments should include a note of "Absent on [Date]" at the top of the paper. This will assist the teacher in assigning on-time credit for make-up work. Students will have one day for every day they are absent to make up missed work, unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher. If, because of illness, students are not prepared to take scheduled tests/quizzes, parents must communicate with teachers to arrange a make-up time.

i. Report Cards

Pre-Kindergarten students receive two evaluations, via parent conferences, per year. Kindergarten students receive three report cards each year and two parent conferences.

Students in Grades 1 through 8 receive report cards at the end of each nine-week quarter. Progress Reports are sent home approximately midway through each quarter to parents of students in Grades 3-8. These Progress Reports are designed to inform the student and parents of problem areas that might profit from extra attention before the end of the quarter. Report card grades become part of the student's permanent record - Progress Reports do not.

Some teachers may require that certain papers be signed by a parent to ensure that the parent is kept aware of the student's progress. Parents are encouraged to keep informed of their student's progress by monitoring papers, notebooks, and planners (assignment books) on a regular basis.

j. Achievement Testing

The Terra Nova standardized achievement test is administered in February/March to all students in grades 2 through 8, as well as the InView cognitive abilities test. Results of these tests become part of a student's cumulative record, and a copy is sent home to parents. Parents may request a conference with the teacher if further clarification or explanation is needed.

The ARK (Assessment of Religion Knowledge) is given yearly to 2nd - 8th Grade students to measure Knowledge of the Catholic Faith and Christian Values.

k. Honors

Special recognition, All Stars, is given to students in Grades 3-5 who achieve all A's and B's in subject areas and no 4's or no more than two 3's in conduct for the quarter.

Requirements for Middle School Honors per grading period are as follows:

- All A's (Principal's Honors)
- A maximum of 2 B's and the rest A's (First Honors)
- A maximum of 5 B's and the rest A's (Second Honors)
- More than 5 B's combined with the rest A's (Commendable Achievement)
- Good Citizenship is a hallmark of an Honor student and is expected. Students should not receive any 4's or no more than two 3's in conduct for the quarter. Honors can be withheld if students do not demonstrate good citizenship.

Middle school students who achieve Principal's Honors all four quarters are awarded a plaque and a gold medal. Those who achieve First Honors all four quarters are awarded a gold medal at the end of the school year. Those who achieve a combination of First and Second Honors receive a silver medal, and those who achieve Second Honors through the school year receive a bronze medal. A student can earn a Commendable Achievement medal for receiving all A's and B's for four quarters.

I. Math Placement Policy

Trinity Catholic School provides two levels of Mathematics instruction (Grade Level and Advanced), for Grades 3-8.

The Grade Level courses will follow the standard curriculum for their grade level, preparing them for the next grade level.

The Advanced Math courses will accelerate the students demonstrating exceptional math abilities, preparing them for Algebra I Honors in 8th Grade.

Students in Advanced Math should be prepared for increased workload and may require additional support at home.

Student placement is determined by factors including standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations.

m. Academic Probation - If a student does not meet the school's expectations to maintain an atmosphere of academic excellence, there will be a process to acknowledge and communicate expectations that are not being met, and partner with parents to put a plan in place for improvement. If improvement is not made the student may be put on probation in order to continue as a student at Trinity Catholic School.

n. Field Trips

Field trips provide students with valuable opportunities for educational enrichment and will be scheduled as deemed appropriate by the teacher. As field trips are privileges afforded to students, participation can be denied to students who fail to meet academic and/or behavioral requirements or expectations. Parents could be required to attend a field trip with their child. Students generally cannot "opt out" of an educational field trip. If a family cannot afford the cost of a trip or activity, they should contact Administration for support. Students may not be dropped off at school if not going on the field trip.

Chaperones: Without the help of volunteer chaperones, many field trips would not be possible. In order to help ensure that our field trip results in safe and rewarding experiences for all participants, chaperones must be able to give their undivided attention to their volunteer tasks and the children. **Please note that siblings may not attend the field trip.** All school rules apply to sponsored events. Chaperones are expected to comply with school policies (Diocesan Volunteer Clearance must be obtained), follow the directions given by the sponsoring staff member(s), work cooperatively with other staff and volunteers, and model appropriate behaviors for students.

o. Movie and Video Policy

Our school uses educational films and videos to supplement classroom learning. To ensure all materials are age-appropriate and aligned with our standards, we strictly enforce the following guidelines:

We use standard MPAA and TV Parental Guidelines to determine appropriate content:

- **Grades K–1: Limited strictly to G, TV-Y, and TV-G ratings.**
- **Grades 2–12: PG, TV-PG, or TV-Y7 materials are permitted only with prior administration approval and advance parental notification.**
- **Strictly Prohibited (All Grades): Materials rated PG-13, TV-14, R, NC-17, or TV-MA are never allowed.**

Before any video is approved, teachers evaluate it to ensure it:

- **Directly aligns with the course curriculum and our Catholic faith.**
- **Matches the maturity level of the students.**
- **Is free of inappropriate profanity, sexual content, violence, or prejudicial stereotypes.**

p. Student Records

Parents may view their children's records. A request in writing should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Please note that discipline notices (except for

expulsion) are not placed in the permanent records. Only the contents of the official file will be forwarded to a new school. **Permanent records and report cards can be withheld if there is a delinquent financial balance.**

q. Retention Policy

Promotion to the next grade level at Trinity Catholic School is contingent upon a student's satisfactory completion of the grade level curriculum and demonstrated readiness for the academic and developmental expectations of the subsequent grade. When retention is a possibility, parents will be contacted proactively, typically before the fourth quarter, to discuss concerns and potential interventions.

I. Early Childhood (PreK3 - Kindergarten)

Promotion within Early Childhood is based on the student's holistic development and readiness for the next developmental stage. The focus is on social-emotional development, foundational pre-academic skills, and overall readiness for the demands of the next year. Assessment will include teacher observations, developmental checklists, and a collaborative recommendation from the teaching team. Retention in Early Childhood will be considered to ensure the child has a strong foundation for future learning and social success.

II. Elementary School (Grades 1-5)

Promotion in Elementary School is contingent upon the student's mastery of foundational grade-level academic skills across all core subjects, as indicated by earning passing grades, and a demonstrated readiness for the increasing complexity of the next grade's curriculum. The decision for retention will be made collaboratively, considering academic performance, teacher observation of skill application, and overall readiness for sustained success in the subsequent grade level. Remediation and support plans will be explored prior to a final retention decision.

III. Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Promotion in Middle School requires the student's satisfactory completion of the grade level curriculum, as indicated by earning passing grades in all major subject areas.

- A Middle School student whose end-of-year average is an "F" in one or more of the seven major subject areas (Religion, English, Literature, Math, Science, or Social Studies) must attend summer school or receive remediation by a certified teacher.
- A minimum of 30 hours of instruction and a passing grade on a school-administered test for the failed subject(s) are required.

- Trinity Catholic School must be provided with official documentation of successful remediation before the student will be permitted to advance to the next grade.

r. Graduation Requirements

Activities preceding graduation day are planned by the teachers and room mothers, approved by the Principal, and earned as a privilege by the students. There is a fee for eighth grade graduates to cover the cost of graduation activities.

This fee will be billed through FACTS beginning in July. Parent(s) will be notified in a timely manner of the date of graduation and the activities preceding the Eighth Grade Graduation ceremony. Parents and students are encouraged to visit eighth Grade homeroom teacher Google Classroom for information.

All financial obligations to the school must be met before the 8th Grade graduation, or Kindergarten ceremony. The school reserves the right to deny participation in activities for financial or behavior issues.

s. End-of-Year Awards

Trinity Catholic School is committed to recognizing the unique talents and accomplishments of our students. Throughout the year, we celebrate student success through various initiatives, including monthly virtue awards, academic honors, and reaching hard earned goals.

To culminate the year, students at each grade level are nominated for the American Citizenship Award. Middle school students are honored at special End-of-Year Award ceremonies where we recognize exceptional service, character, leadership, academics, and athletics. Detailed descriptions of all awards can be found on our [school website](#).

t. School Specific Academic Information

Trinity Catholic School is proud to be an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Middle Years Program (MYP) for grades 6-8. The MYP challenges students to explore connections between academic subjects and the real world, fostering critical thinking, research, communication, and self-management skills.

IB Middle Years Program: Mission Statement from the IB: *The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.*

As IB learners in a Catholic school, we develop the Learner Profile attributes not just to be successful students, but to live out the Gospel. We practice International-mindedness because we believe in the Solidarity of all people. We seek to understand the world so that we can love it as God loves it—recognizing the dignity in every person and our shared responsibility to care for all of creation.

By emphasizing inquiry-based learning and global perspectives, the MYP equips students with the tools to become lifelong learners. Community service is a cornerstone of both Trinity Catholic School and the MYP, encouraging students to make a positive impact on their community.

Successful participation in the MYP requires adherence to school and IB policies, including those outlined in Appendix E. Students and parents will be required to sign these policies at the beginning of each school year.

VII. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

a. Athletics

Middle School Sports Program Handbook: Mission - *The mission of the Trinity Catholic School Sports Program is to develop the ability of the students to be members of a team, participate competitively, and demonstrate good sportsmanship consistent with the Catholic faith while learning the requisite skills of a variety of sports.*

b. Goals

- To learn the rules of the sport
- To learn the skills needed to play the sport safely
- To encourage a healthy lifestyle
- To understand the value of teamwork
- To develop a Christian sense of competition
- To practice good sportsmanship
- To have fun and enjoy participating in a team sport

c. Eligibility

All students in Grades 6 through 8 are encouraged to try out for sports team membership. Students may participate in only one sport per season. Exceptions may be made if a sport is in danger of being canceled due to a shortage of players **or with Athletic Director's approval**. Students who are members of a Trinity team may participate in other extra-curricular activities with approval from all coaches and advisors. A student must satisfy membership responsibilities to each organization of which he/she is a member. Each coach or sponsor will set his/her own policies regarding absences. It is the student's responsibility to contact the adult in charge at least one day prior to an expected absence. Following an unanticipated absence, a parental note should be presented to the coach/sponsor.

Students may not participate in tryouts, practices or games if they were not present for at least four hours of the school day, unless they were absent for a school related activity such as the Science or History Fair.

d. FHSSA Membership

Trinity Catholic School is an active member of the Florida High School Sports Association. All Trinity sports are played using FHSSA rules: <http://www.fhsaa.org> . All referees are FHSSA qualified and approved. All Trinity coaches have been fingerprinted, background checked and approved by the Pensacola/Tallahassee Diocese to work with students.

All Trinity coaches receive training in compliance with the Diocese and FHSSA rules. Trinity Catholic School adheres to these guidelines yet goes above and beyond to ensure that our student athletes put academics and Catholic values related to good sportsmanship first in all play, on and off the court or field.

e. Physicals

Any student in Grades six through eight, who intends to try out for any Trinity sports team during the year, must have proof of a physical examination on file in the office at the beginning of the year. Appointments for physicals should be made during the summer after the first week of June and be documented on a FHSSA form available in the school office and on the school website: <https://www.trinityknight.org/athletics/>.

f. Academics

A student athlete must fulfill the responsibilities of both a student and a young athlete. Student-athletes must prioritize their academic responsibilities, requiring time management to attend to scholastic and athletic pursuits. If a student is placed on Academic Probation (See DISCIPLINE section) they will be suspended from play for a defined period of time. It should be noted that when students are suspended from play, it impacts the rest of the team, in addition to the individual player.

g. Behavior

Student athletes are regarded as role models for younger students and ambassadors for their school. Student athletes must adhere to all school regulations and classroom rules. Student athletes are required to be respectful of their teachers, coaches and classmates while in school, or on the playing field. Any athlete placed on Behavioral Probation (See DISCIPLINE section) will be immediately suspended from the team until an administrative review can determine a fitting consequence. Students who misbehave may jeopardize their membership in the sports program.

h. Practices and Games

Game schedules are planned by the Athletic Director and posted on the Trinity website. Practice schedules are determined by individual coaches. Student athletes must place a high priority on attending practices and games. The absence of even one member of the team has a negative impact on the team. Each coach will set the policies for absences from practices and games. A team member who is repeatedly absent from practice or games will be restricted from play and may forfeit team membership.

i. Transportation/Supervision

As Trinity Catholic School does not yet have sports facilities, all practices and games are scheduled using local facilities. It is the parents' responsibility to arrange transportation for their child to and from practices and games. The designated Sports Pick-up area is on the basketball courts. The only time the Sports Pick-up may be used is on practice or game days.

When there is an early dismissal to travel for games, the Sports Pick-up location remains the same and the Athletic Director supervises the students in

this area until they have departed from the school grounds. Coaches and teachers may transport only their own children.

Student athletes must stay with the coach(es) for the entire practice. Team members will not be left unsupervised at any time. In the event a coach is late or must leave early, qualified volunteer parents may be asked to supervise student athletes. Trinity coaches are not responsible for siblings and friends of sports team members. Therefore, arrangements must be made to pick up siblings of students who participate in afterschool practices. Under no circumstance may a sibling be left after school unattended while the other child attends their practice or game.

It is critical for parents to pick up their child promptly from team practices and games. Coaches may not leave until every child has been retrieved or is placed in the supervision of an authorized adult.

j. Fees

Students participating in athletics will be required to pay a sport fee to help cover costs of the sport including but not limited to facility rental, uniforms and equipment, referee fees, and awards. Once a student is selected for a team the fee is due and is non-refundable. The fee must be paid prior to the student being allowed to play in a game. This fee is required of all team members including team managers. (If a family cannot afford the fees, they should contact the Athletic Director or Administration.)

k. Uniforms

Student athletes are responsible for the proper care of their uniforms. If a uniform is lost or damaged due to student negligence, the student is responsible for the cost of replacement. Uniforms must be turned in to the coach or athletic director after the last game or competition for that specific sport. A student will not be allowed to try out for additional sports if he/she has not turned in their former team uniform. End of the year activities may be denied to students who have not returned their uniforms in a timely manner.

l. Parents and Team Supporters

Parents and supporters are also role models and ambassadors of Trinity Catholic School. Parents and Trinity supporters are required to demonstrate maturity and good sportsmanship at all times in the presence of the team at practices and competitions or they will be asked to leave the area by the coach or an authorized school representative. Each team has a "Team Parent" to coordinate with the coach.

m. The four-hour attendance rule applies to all student activities.

VIII. COMMUNICATION

a. FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) /Confidentiality

FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents and eligible students certain rights. Teachers and other school personnel will keep confidential information entrusted to them so long as no one's life, health or safety is at state. Parents will be promptly notified of teacher concerns.

Parents are the first educators of their children. Parents and School form a partnership in educating children. Parent cooperation is expected. If the relationship between school and parent becomes irreconcilable, then the school reserves the right to ask parents to seek other educational options for their children. The school asks parents/families to follow the rules, which are in effect to make the educational experience optimum for the child.

Parents are also expected to be a good, Christian example in their behavior, attitude and dress.

b. Social Media

The school reserves the right to use student pictures in publications and on the school's website. Any parent who does not wish his or her child's picture used must notify the school office in writing prior to the beginning of the school year.

Students can be held accountable for material presented in their social media, including posts about other students, teachers, or the school. Harassment will not be tolerated. Threats are considered serious, and law enforcement may be notified.

Parents should not represent the school on social media without authorization from the school. Civility and personal etiquette are encouraged.

c. SIS System (PowerSchool)

The school participates in the Diocesan student information system known as PowerSchool. All student information is maintained on the school computer. Attendance and grades are filed electronically by teachers and administration for Grades 1-8. Parents may access their child's grades at any time by accessing the parent portal. A personal password will be issued to parents for each of their children who attend Trinity. Parents may also communicate with their child's teacher(s) using this portal. It is the responsibility of the parent to insure their child's privacy by protecting the password. If your child's password is compromised, a new password may be requested by contacting the technology specialist. The school and/or Diocese may deny access to the system if it is deemed necessary. In addition, the system may shut down from time-to-time for maintenance and/or upgrades.

As many of you know, both students and parents alike have access to PowerSchool. We recognize the importance of entering grades in a timely, consistent manner. We strongly suggest speaking with your children about their grades prior to contacting a teacher. This opens the lines of communication up between parent and child and paves the way for a better discussion with the teachers.

d. Parent to Child Communication

Parents who need to speak with their student must check in at the office so that their student can be called to the office. Please do not call or text students on their personal phones as this violates School Policy.

e. Parent/Teacher Conferences

Communication between parents and teachers is extremely important. Conferences may be arranged on an individual basis by appointment so that the teacher may give his or her full attention to addressing any problems the student may be experiencing. Both parents and teachers may request conferences

Parents of Pre-Kindergarten through First Grade students will have two parent/teacher conferences scheduled each school year. Second Grade will have one scheduled parent/teacher conference. Third through Eighth grade will have Student Led Conferences once a year, typically in late January.

f. Parent/Principal Conferences

Parents and students should feel free to confer with the Principal about school matters. An appointment with the Principal is arranged by calling the school's Main Office. If there is a classroom issue, the parent must confer with the teacher first before discussions with the Principal.

g. Parents as Partners

At Trinity Catholic School, we believe a student's education thrives when parents and the school work together as partners. This partnership is built on a foundation of mutual respect and shared commitment to a Catholic education. We encourage open communication and collaboration with all families. We value your unique perspective on your child's education and believe your support is essential for their success. We understand that differences of opinion may arise. We are committed to resolving them through respectful dialogue based on Christian principles. Our goal is always to find solutions that benefit your child's education.

A strong partnership requires mutual respect and support. We encourage families to:

- Uphold the school's philosophy and policies.
- Maintain open communication with teachers and administrators.
- Demonstrate a positive and supportive attitude towards the school community.

We take seriously any behavior that disrupts the positive learning environment we strive to create. Disparaging comments, hostility, or actions deemed harmful to the school's mission may lead to a meeting to discuss the situation. As a last resort, and after exhausting all good faith efforts to resolve the situation, the school reserves the right to request a student's withdrawal. We believe this course of action is necessary when the partnership is broken in a way that hinders

a student's success or the school's ability to provide a positive learning environment for all.

This policy framework provides guidance but may not address every situation. We reserve the right to interpret and apply these policies and address unforeseen circumstances.

h. Grievance Procedures

Complaints/concerns should be handled at the appropriate level. Persons with concerns about a teacher should first attempt to address the concern with the teacher. Only then should school administration be contacted.

Appointments may be made directly with the teacher by a written request, e-mail, or a phone call to the office. In middle school, unless you wish to speak with only one teacher, it is better to let the homeroom teacher coordinate this for you.

Morning (7:10 a.m.) or after school (3:30 p.m.) on Wednesday or Thursday are usually the best times to schedule conferences. Sometimes a telephone call is sufficient to solve the problem.

i. Parent Groups

Home and School Association - This association is composed of parents, faculty/staff and friends of the school. Home and School activities include providing lunch on designated days of the week, sponsoring various fund-raising activities, and assisting the School Advisory Council, Principal, and faculty/staff as needs arise. The officers of the association draw up a calendar of informative meetings and events annually. Parents are strongly urged to attend quarterly meetings to keep informed and dialogue with administration, teachers, staff, and one another.

Room Parents - Each classroom has volunteer Room Parents who assist the teacher in organizing field trips, holiday events, and end-of-year activities. Room Parents also make phone calls to parents for Home and School projects. Volunteers are asked to sign up on Orientation Day.

Parent-To-Parent Communications - Strong parent relationships foster a sense of family within our school community. To ensure clear and consistent communication within our school community, please use the following guidelines, as applicable.

- Parents are not permitted to represent the school or school organizations without prior approval by administration.
- All school-related communication (printed or electronic) requires a quick review by the teacher or administration for accuracy and alignment with school policies.
- Parents involved in fundraising need prior approval of their materials by the administration.
- Room parents collaborate with teachers on communication, especially for donations or financial matters.
- Share information and resources with other parents for support on homework, events, etc.

We encourage open communication with your child's teacher or the administration for any questions or concerns.

j. Telephone

Any and all parental contact must take place from school phones in the office. Parents may not contact students via call or text during the school day. Parents are welcome to call the office with a message or request that the student call them from the main office. If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day for an emergency, he/she must request permission from the teacher and go to the main office to make the call.

Parents calling the school with a message should give the name and grade of the student or teacher who is to receive the message. Although office personnel are willing to be of assistance when unexpected developments necessitate changes in arrangements, students should be made aware of the day's pick-up or after-school procedure and rainy-day alternatives before they arrive at school in the morning. Valuable educational time may be wasted if a child is concerned about after school arrangements. Calls regarding dismissal/pick-up arrangements must be received by the school office no later than 2:00 p.m.

Teachers are not called out of class to speak with a parent. Teacher's messages are placed in his/her mailbox.

k. Announcements and Messages

Announcements will be made at 8:00 a.m. and 2:55 p.m. via Google Meet. It is the student's responsibility to come to the office after school when called during the afternoon announcements to get his/her messages. Urgent or emergency messages will result in the student being called to the office at the time the message is received.

l. Emergency Closures

In the case of inclement weather, the Catholic schools of the diocese reserve the right to make a different decision than the local public schools. For closures, Trinity usually follows Leon County Schools. Inclement weather decisions for the Catholic schools will be disseminated to the schools from the Office for Catholic Schools, by county, with input from the local Catholic schools. Schools will make up any days that cause them to fall below the required days or instructional hours required by the state and the Florida Catholic Conference.

m. Website

The Trinity Catholic School Web site is located at www.trinityknights.org.

As students often forget to bring information home, the Website is an ideal way to stay abreast of what is happening at school.

n. Other School Specific Communication Information

Trinity Catholic School uses the Finalsite Communication System to send emergency alerts, attendance updates, and general notifications to parents, faculty and staff. Messages can be sent via text, phone, or email.

IX. DISCIPLINE

a. Code of Conduct

Keeping in mind our mission statement, a student at Trinity Catholic School should be characterized by a commitment to the following:

- love of God and neighbor
- respect for self and other
- self-control
- honesty with self and others
- accepting personal responsibility

Therefore, school expectations must be followed by students in order to foster a sound educational climate. Student expectations include: Be prepared and on time; exhibit behaviors that promote learning; show respect for themselves, the learning environment, and others; give their best effort in all assignments and activities; complete all assignments within the deadlines given; and, follow school rules.

b. Campus Rules

If a student does not meet the school's expectations to maintain an atmosphere of academic excellence, there will be a process to acknowledge and communicate expectations that are not being met, and partner with parents to put a plan in place for improvement. If improvement is not made the student may be put on probation in order to continue as a student at Trinity Catholic School.

c. Levels of Offences and Consequences

OFFENCES

The following is an example of conduct that is not suitable for a climate of learning.

- Failure to bring books or materials to class
- Being out of uniform in any respect (refer to uniform guidelines)
- Writing/markings on self or any part of the uniform
- Eating outside of designated time and place
- Chewing gum on school property
- Reckless running or playing in hallways and breezeways/or school grounds
- Foul or abusive language or gestures, or indecent behavior
- Dishonesty or stealing, including: plagiarism, cheating, forgery
- Disrespect in church, chapel or any other religious service
- Failure to observe silence during fire drills
- Teasing, name-calling, harassment, threats
- Disrespect/rudeness to person/s in authority, including: faculty, staff, volunteers, etc., including any type of harassment by electronic means.
- Destruction of school property or vandalism (reimbursement is required)
- Any actions dealing with, or possession of, drugs, alcohol, or weapons, vaping or tobacco products or incendiary devices
- Fighting
- Any physical aggression (hitting, kicking, biting, scratching, **pushing, shoving, tripping**, etc.)
- Public displays of affection

- Not keeping hands to self
- Bullying (including Cyber Bullying)
- Sexual harassment
- Leaving the classroom or school grounds without permission
- Unauthorized electronic devices or any items that distract (including Fidget toys) on school or church grounds or at school-sponsored activities
- Misuse of school technology, including iPads, Chromebooks and desktops
- Any classroom behavior which interferes with an effective learning atmosphere
- Any other infractions deemed serious by the Principal

CONSEQUENCES

The word discipline comes from the word disciple. A disciple is a learner. The purpose of discipline is to teach correct behavior and standards that encourage a person to be their best. Discipline enables us to set high standards for what's expected and then keep us accountable to achieving those standards.

For conduct that is not suitable for a climate of learning, appropriate consequences will be administered by a teacher, or other authorized school employee. The following consequences may be in addition to warnings and classroom discipline structures.

d. Grade Level Specific Discipline

Early Childhood

Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kindergarten use age-appropriate behavioral plans suitable to their classroom setting. In the event of serious behavioral concerns, the Guidance Counselor, Administration, teacher and parents will work together to assess the nature of the concerns and establish a proactive plan to change the behavior to protect the learning environment.

1st and 2nd Grade

If a child is sent out of the classroom, given a lunch (recess) detention or other consequence, a written behavior notification will be given to the child and must be signed by a parent or guardian. All notices will be kept on file by the teacher until the end of the school year.

Lunch (recess) detentions will take place in the classroom, with a teacher present, following diocesan guidelines.

The following actions will take place if needed:

- A parent/teacher conference
- A student/administration conference
- A student/teacher/parent/administration conference

Upper Elementary and Middle School

For conduct that is not suitable for a climate of learning, appropriate consequences will be administered by a teacher, or other authorized school

employee. The following consequences may be in addition to warnings and classroom discipline structures.

Consequences may include **lunch/recess** detentions, behavior contracts, conferences, or the assignment of another appropriate punishment. A Student Behavior Notification (SBN) will be given to the child and must be signed by a parent or guardian. All notifications will be kept on file by the teacher until the end of the school year. Multiple SBNs, or serious behavior violations, will result in an Administrative Referral. All Administrative Referrals will be kept on file by Administration until the end of the school year.

Lunch/recess detentions may be on work detail, picking up trash, pulling weeds, etc., after eating lunch; or, silently writing while eating lunch. After-school detention typically includes work detail or silent writing. Saturday detentions may also be assigned. Failure to report on time to detention will result in another detention.

Academic or Behavioral Probation is a trial period set for a limited time during which a student must demonstrate good behavior and a willingness to cooperate with the school's code of conduct and academic expectations. Students can be placed on Disciplinary Probation at any time. Students will be put on probation for serious infractions or repeated disruptions to the learning environment, evidenced by SBNs, conduct grades, removals from class, or other disciplinary actions. Academic Probations are designated for students whose grades show

one or more F's due to missing work. A parent conference will be requested to discuss the plan for improvement. Daily or weekly reports will be sent home during the probation period.

Depending on the gravity of the offense, the Principal may determine that suspension or expulsion is necessary.

Suspension is a serious disciplinary measure. Suspensions are of two kinds: "in school" and "out of school." Parents or guardians are notified by telephone of the suspension and will be requested to come to the school for the student unless the suspension is "in school." All concerned parties may meet to discuss the problem and seek a solution. Each school in the Diocese sets the policy as to the time of suspension, which in ordinary circumstances should not exceed five days. A student on suspension may receive zeros for all assignments and tests administered during the duration of that suspension. A written record of the reason for the suspension together with the date and the time of the parent conference will be filed by the administration.

Expulsion is a disciplinary measure which is used only when incorrigible behavior or conduct threatens the physical or moral welfare of other students or seriously affects the learning process. A parent conference is imperative when such a problem is discovered. The Principal with the approval of the Pastor may expel a student for a grave reason. All other avenues of assistance should be exhausted

before an expulsion is necessary. The Superintendent of Schools is made aware of such problems prior to the parent conference.

Please note that each teacher will manage his/her own discipline, using individual classroom rules, procedures and consequences. The Middle School has its own policies, standards and procedures found on the syllabus on the School website. (See Appendix B.)

Administrative Discipline

Possible administrative disciplinary actions may include but not limited to after school detention, work detail, suspension, confiscation, immediate parent notification, or exclusion from extracurricular activities such as sports, dances, field trips, or end-of-the-year functions. If necessary, the school will contact the proper authorities to deal with any possible criminal behavior involved.

e. Lunch & Snack Policies

Students should bring a nutritious lunch each day in a soft container or bag clearly labeled with their name. For safety and health reasons, please note the following guidelines:

- **Prohibited Items:** Glass containers, soda, energy drinks, and cans/containers that create sharp edges when opened are not allowed.
- **No Sharing or Leaving Campus:** Students may not share lunches with others, and they are not permitted to leave campus for lunch.
- **Eating Times:** Students may only eat during designated lunch or snack times. Eating in the hallways, during dismissal, or at other non-approved times is prohibited.
- **Forgotten Lunches:** If a student forgets or loses their lunch, it is their responsibility to immediately inform a teacher, supervising adult, or the front office so they can obtain a snack.
- **Elementary School Snack Time:** Elementary students have a designated snack time. Please send nutritious finger foods only, such as fruit, crackers, pretzels, or granola bars.

f. Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Cell Phones: Cell phones are a pervasive feature in today's society. However, the possession and use of cell phones can be disruptive to the school and classroom environment, as well as the safety, privacy and well-being of all Trinity students. Cell phones are not allowed to be used on school grounds at any time. Phone calls, texting, and videotaping of oneself or others is strictly prohibited.

Cell phones may be necessary for some students to communicate with their family after sports practices or off campus locations. Parents who want their student to have a cell phone for off campus, after-school use must complete the Cell Phone Permission form. Students that have submitted the Cell Phone Permission form are responsible for ensuring the phone is turned off and left in the students' book

bag (not in clothing pockets or on the person) until the student is off of school grounds.

Any and all parental contact must take place from school phones in the office. Parents may not contact students via call or text during the school day. Parents are welcome to call the office with a message or request that the student call them from the main office. If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day for an emergency, he/she must request permission from the teacher and go to the main office to make the call.

Those who violate any of the rules regarding cell phones may forfeit their privileges of bringing cell phones to school, in addition to consequences for violation. If a student violates any aspect of the cell phone guidelines, the phone will be confiscated for a period of no less than 24 hours. After which time a parent must retrieve the phone. A second offense may result in forfeiture of this privilege altogether.

Trinity Catholic School assumes no liability for the loss or damage to cell phones.

Cameras, Smart watches, hand-held games, or other electronic devices are not permitted without special permission from Faculty or Administration.

No technology accessories are allowed that have the capability of recording without permission from administration.

g. Substance Abuse

The use or possession of illegal drugs or illegal mood-altering substances, alcoholic beverages, drug-related paraphernalia, or the abuse of prescription or over the counter drugs by any student on school property or while attending or participating in any school-sponsored activity or at any time the student is wearing a school uniform is forbidden. Transgression of this rule will result in disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from school and/or contacting law enforcement - even if it is the first offense.

Any student selling drugs on school property or at school functions will be immediately expelled, and law enforcement may be contacted.

All Diocesan schools are committed to a drug-free environment. This commitment may, under some circumstances, prompt a need for testing of students for evidence of substance abuse.

If a student exhibits the symptoms or is suspected of substance abuse, the school may require that the student undergo substance abuse testing. A student who acknowledges his/her substance abuse may not need to be tested and will be assisted according to school policy. If results of the test suggest abuse (and the substance was not used on or brought to campus), the school will normally use this information to help the student seek assistance. Refusal to participate in such a test may result in dismissal from the school.

At times, the school may conduct random searches of students' lockers or possessions.

Trinity Catholic School is a nicotine-free campus. No nicotine products, tobacco products or E-cigarettes are permitted anywhere on campus at any time or at any Trinity student function. Use of these products will result in suspension as a minimal consequence.

- h. Detention** - Detaining a student for discipline could result in silent lunch, silent recess, before/after school or Saturday detention, and/or work detail.

- i. Suspension (In-School and Out of School)**

During In-School suspension, the student is in isolation at school and completes the work of the day. Out-of-School suspension results in the student remaining home. He/she may or may not be able to complete work for credit.

- j. Probation**

Trinity Catholic School fosters a rigorous and supportive learning environment where students develop as scholars and disciples. We expect all students to maintain high academic and behavioral standards. Expectations include, but are not limited to: Respect, kindness, effort, participation and obedience to school rules.

If a student does not meet the school's expectations to maintain a positive learning environment, they may be placed on academic or disciplinary probation. Continued academic or behavioral struggles may result in further disciplinary action, including potential dismissal.

- k. Expulsion**

Expulsion is a disciplinary measure which is used only when incorrigible behavior or conduct threatens the physical or moral welfare of other students or seriously affects the learning process. A parent conference is imperative when such a problem is discovered. The Principal with the approval of the Pastor may expel a student for a grave reason. All other avenues of assistance should be exhausted before an expulsion is necessary. The Superintendent of Schools is made aware of such problems prior to the parent conference.

- l. Off Campus Conduct**

Students are Trinity Catholic School students at all times. Schools in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee reserve the right to discipline students for engaging in conduct that occurs off-campus if it endangers the health and/or safety of others, adversely affects the education process, or the reputation of the school.

Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to, illegal activity, alcohol consumption, possession, use or sale of drugs, tobacco or e-cigarettes, inappropriate Internet activity, harassment or cyberbullying, pornography, fighting, illegal use of firearms, theft, arson and sexually inappropriate behavior.

Students may be subject to different disciplinary penalties for off-campus conduct depending on the severity of the issue. Such penalties may include, but are not limited to, suspension, expulsion, detention, and/or restitution. The

student may also be removed from extracurricular activities and sporting events, as well as field trips, dances and graduation ceremonies.

m. Lunch and Recess Behavior

Sports and play areas include three separate playgrounds for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-5. Basketball courts, a volleyball court, a baseball area, and an open space for games are also available. During lunch periods some areas of the playground may be reserved for physical education classes. Students may not leave the playground or re-enter the buildings during lunch periods without permission from the supervising teacher or lunch parent. Students must travel in pairs when permission is granted. The students must report back to the adult who granted permission.

Teachers in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth may have volunteer parents help supervise the students during their lunch and recess period. Parents are encouraged to sign up on Orientation Day to help with this responsibility.

- n. Physical Violence** – Physical contact is never allowed and could result in suspension or expulsion.

o. School Specific Discipline Policies

Restitution Liability

According to Florida State Law parent(s) are liable for up to \$2,500 for damage done by a student. Trinity Catholic School students and their parent(s) will be required to pay for loss of or any new damage to textbooks and library books that are assigned to them or checked out by them.

Any destruction or defacing of school property, buildings, equipment, or materials must be paid for by the student responsible for the damage and/or by his/her parents. Parent(s) of and any student(s) responsible for the injury of another student or students will be held liable for medical expenses.

X. UNIFORM DRESS CODE

All school uniforms are **MANDATORY** and can be purchased at Tommy Hilfiger, Lands' End or through the Uniform Closet located at the school. Skirts, skorts, shirts, hoodies and fleece jackets not purchased from these two vendors are considered out of uniform. Shorts and pants only may be purchased from the Target School Uniform section or Old Navy School Uniform section (both in-store and online) following the below guidelines. P.E. uniforms, Trinity Spirit shirts, Kindergarten shirts and sweatpants are purchased through School Spirit Shop USA. All personal items (clothing, lunch boxes, etc.) must be labeled with student's name. Uniforms must be clean, with no marks or tears.

a. Uniform Guidelines

Pre-Kindergarten 3 and 4: All students will wear comfortable play clothes and tennis shoes (no boots, sandals, clogs, Crocs, platform shoes, etc.) and socks. PK3 & PK4 students are not allowed to wear Trinity plaid skirts, skorts or jumpers.

Kindergarten: All students will wear the Trinity “Kinder Knights” t-shirts, uniform bottoms (pants, shorts or plaid skorts), and tennis shoes (no boots, sandals, clogs, Crocs, platform shoes, etc.) and socks. Shorts and skorts must be no shorter than 3” above the knee. In the winter, Trinity sweatpants may be worn, in addition to guidelines in Winter Wear, see below. Kinder Knights t-shirts must be ordered from School Spirit Shop USA. Ordering information is available on the Trinity Website.

First - Eighth Grade: All students will wear uniform bottoms, uniform tops, belts, shoes and socks (see descriptions below).

UNIFORM CHART

	Boys	Girls	Both
1st-4th Grade	pants or shorts	pants, shorts, skorts or jumpers	- belt (if wearing pants or shorts) - green or white polo - socks - shoes
5th Grade	pants or shorts	pants, shorts, skorts, skirts or jumpers	- belt (if wearing pants or shorts) - green or white polo - socks - shoes
6th-8th Grade	pants or shorts	pants, shorts, skirts	- belt (if wearing pants or shorts) - blue or white polo - socks - shoes
			PE shorts and shirts (see description below)

Pants: Pants must be light khaki, cotton or cotton/poly blend, finished/hemmed bottom, belt loops, flat front, and relaxed fit. Denim, cargo styles, and/or skinny fit ARE NOT ALLOWED.

Shorts: Shorts (boys and girls) may be NO SHORTER than 3” above the knee. Shorts must be light khaki, cotton or cotton/poly blend, hemmed bottom, belt loops, flat front, and relaxed fit. Denim, cargo styles, and/or skinny fit ARE NOT ALLOWED.

Skirts, Skorts and Jumpers: Skirts, skorts and jumpers may be NO SHORTER than 3” above the knee. It is recommended that girls wear spandex shorts under their skirts and jumpers.

Shirts: Blouses and shirts must be worn completely tucked in with a waistband visible. Waistbands should never be rolled. When white blouses are worn, girls may

only wear white bras; blouses may not be unbuttoned more than two buttons from the neckline.

Any T-shirts worn under uniform shirts must be plain white, short sleeve, crew, or v-neck.

Shoes: Shoes are to be clean and in good condition. Wear low, or mid top (does not cover ankle) white, black, gray, or navy athletic shoes with solid laces. No other footwear is acceptable; NO high-tops, Crocs, sandals, boots, open-toe, high heels, platform, light up, flash, or change to skate shoes are permitted.

Socks: Wear plain, solid black, navy blue, or white, ankle or crew socks (small, discrete logos are permitted). Socks must be worn at all times. Socks must be above the ankle length. Low-cut, or no-show, socks are not permitted.

Belts: Plain brown, black, or navy-blue belts **MUST** be worn with pants and shorts.

b. PE Uniforms – Middle School only

All Middle School students are required to wear regulation, monogrammed gym clothes consisting of a t-shirt and shorts. Shirts and shorts must be monogrammed with First, Middle, and Last initials for safety and identification purposes. PE uniforms must be ordered from School Spirit Shop USA. Ordering information is available on the Trinity Website.

c. Student Grooming

Winter Wear: All outerwear must be Trinity Spirit wear. To unify and promote our school spirit, NO other school sweatshirts or jackets are permitted. ONLY Eighth Grade students may wear SPJII High School sweatshirts or jackets. Non-uniform sweaters or jackets are not permitted to be worn on campus, with the exception of winter coats before school, after school, and at recess. Long-sleeved undershirts must be the same color as the uniform shirt (i.e. white undershirt under dress uniform shirt, navy blue undershirt under blue casual uniform shirt). Plain black, white or navy-blue tights may be worn with skirts, skorts, and jumpers; if tights and socks are worn together, they must be the same color. Uniforms are to be worn under outerwear.

Jewelry: Jewelry is limited to small, Catholic school appropriate items. Girls may wear one pair of stud-type earrings (boys may not wear earrings). All students may wear one necklace that can be worn with a small cross, medal, or pendant; one non-jingling bracelet; and, one ring. More than one necklace, bracelet, ring, or pair of earrings are not permitted. ID bracelets for medical purposes may be worn.

Watches: Watches are permitted as long as they do not alarm or distract from student learning. **Smart watches, Fitbits, or similar devices that connect to the Internet are NOT permitted.**

Hair and Grooming:

Hair must be clean, neat, well-groomed, and kept out of the eyes and face. While the school respects and welcomes culturally diverse and traditional hairstyles, all students are expected to maintain a neat, clean-cut appearance that complements the school uniform.

- **Color: Hair must be a natural human color. Extreme or distracting colors, highlights, or bleaching are not permitted.**
- **Style: Hairstyles must not be distracting or cover the face.**
- **Facial Hair: Boys must be clean-shaven; noticeable facial hair is not permitted.**
- **Hair Accessories: Headbands, bows, and clips must be small, understated, and match the uniform worn that day.**

Make-up and nail polish: Students are permitted to wear natural concealer/foundation. Students are only permitted to wear acne patches/stickers that are flesh tone. Eye make-up is not permitted, including on N.U.D.s, through 7th Grade. Eighth Grade girls may wear light (not heavy) mascara. Only clear, nude, or French manicures are permitted. No colors or artificial fingernails.

Tattoos: Tattoos (this includes washable tattoos) are not permitted.

Scents: Due to severe allergy sensitivities, perfume, cologne, after-shave, spray deodorants, or other scents are NOT permitted to be used on campus.

d. Dress Down Days/Spirit Day

No-Uniform-Day (NUD) Guidelines:

- Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be NO higher than 3" above the knee.
- Shirts must have sleeves, completely cover midriff, show no cleavage, and have no suggestive advertising or sayings.
- Spandex / elastic / tight fitting leggings, jeggings, exercise pants, yoga pants, pajama style pants, ripped or cut-off pants/shorts are not permitted.
- Shoes may be worn with or without socks; no flip flops, clogs, or backless sandals may be worn.
- Makeup, nail polish, and jewelry guidelines are the same as uniform days.
- Any item of clothing with a logo that disrupts the learning environment is not allowed; examples include: political slogans, inappropriate pictures or language, etc.

Students who come to school and do not meet these requirements will be asked to call their parents so acceptable clothes can be brought to them. No Uniform Days are a privilege that should not be abused. N.U.D.s will not be granted to students who violate the uniform code.

One Friday of each month is scheduled for Spirit Day. The students may wear a school spirit shirt in place of uniform shirts. **These must be ordered from School Spirit Shop USA.** Ordering information is available on the Trinity Website.

e. Dress Code Consequences

Proper conduct and appropriate dress reflect the virtues of modesty and self-respect and are essential to maintaining a positive atmosphere for learning. It is the responsibility of parents to assure students are dressed according to this dress code before leaving for school. Parents may be called regarding infractions to the dress code and asked to bring change of clothes to school. Multiple infractions may result in further disciplinary actions. Administration reserves the right to make final interpretations or changes in the dress code.

f. Uniform Closet

This closet is an exchange/purchase location for pre-owned uniform clothes. All clothes must be uniform items and must be in good condition for another item of equal value. You may purchase needed items economically or reasonably priced as follows: Shirts, Shorts, Skorts, Pants, Sweatshirts, Sweaters, Jumpers, Skirts, Spirit Shirts, Headbands, and Hair Bows.

a. Lost and Found

All items (clothing, jewelry, glasses, shoes, etc) that are found on the Trinity campus are brought to the **Main Office**. Items that can be identified are returned to the students. All items that are unidentifiable are kept in the office. Uniform items (sweatshirts, shirts, etc.) that have no name labeled in them are kept in the Main Office for a period of about two weeks; and then if not claimed, are donated to the Uniform Closet. **It is very important that all of your student's personal items are labeled with their name.**

XI. HEALTH SERVICES

a. Clinic

A clinic staffed by a Registered Nurse is provided for students who have chronic medical conditions, and those who become sick or are injured during school hours.

If a student vomits OR if the thermometer registers over 100.4 degrees, the parent(s) WILL be called to take their student home. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange for the prompt pick up of their student who is ill or injured.

The school may require a doctor's signature for a student to return to school if there is any doubt by either party that the student could have been exposed to a contagious disease (this could be a sibling or anyone who had contact with an infected host.) Please be sure to obtain an "o.k." to re-admit a student while at the doctor's office as privacy laws prohibit transfer of such information by fax. In case of fever, the student must be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, before returning to school. It is not the school's intention to offend or inconvenience a parent, but our goal is to insure the physical welfare of all of our students.

b. Medication Guidelines

The school administers medications to a student only as authorized by the parent/guardian in the "Authorization of Medication Form" and subject to school agreement after review of the authorization. If the medication is a prescription medication, the school also requires the prescribing physician's signature on the "Authorization of Medication Form." Administration of prescription medication shall be as specified on the label. Administration of all other medications shall be consistent with the dosage recommendations for the medication. Such medications must be brought by the parent/guardian to the school clinic in the original container. The school clinic will not accept medications from a student.

Student self-administration of medications is only permitted in the case of asthma rescue inhalers, epi pens, and insulin as documented in the "Authorization of Medication" form and the "Authorization to Self-Carry Medication" form.

Medications of any kind including ointments, pills, vitamins, or liquids may NOT be carried by the student to school. If a student is found to have any of these items, they will be taken away from the student and put in the front office to be picked up by a parent. Students may bring their own cough drops and have the teacher or nurse administer as needed.

Parents must supply all medication with the proper completed school forms. All medication left in the Clinic at the end of the school year will be destroyed.

c. Medical Emergencies

Parents will be notified immediately in case of any injury or illness or injury that appears serious. **Parents must ensure that the school has current and correct information for emergency contact.** The school is not permitted to send a student to a doctor for emergency treatment without express permission from a parent or guardian unless the emergency is deemed life threatening.

d. Allergies

Severe Food Allergies

Allergic food reactions span a wide range of severity of symptoms. The most severe and potentially life-threatening reaction is anaphylaxis. When a physician assesses that a child's food allergy may result in anaphylaxis, the child's condition meets the definition of "disability". It is then covered under the Federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, if the allergy management affects the student's ability to make educational progress. The intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is to provide students with disabilities equal access to educational programs, services, and activities.

Parents of students with diagnosed, severe food allergies who are on restricted diets must provide food for their children while at school. This includes snack, lunch, Beyond-the-Bell snack and a supply of treats to be used for special occasions such as holiday celebrations. **The school will not provide any food to children with diagnosed severe food allergies which require a specific diet, including but not limited to: peanut, tree nut, dairy, wheat, gluten, soy and fish allergies.**

e. Lice Policy

Trinity Catholic School has a "no nit" policy. Any student found with head lice or nits will be sent home and may return to school only after being rechecked by the school nurse and found to be free of lice and nits.

The other students in the infested student's classroom and the student's sibling(s) should be examined in a private setting for evidence of either the lice or lice eggs (nits) **only if symptoms of a head lice infection are identified or if one-third (1/3) of the students in the classroom have been previously identified with active cases.** The examinations should be done by each student's parents; the school nurse, if available; and/or the school principal or designee.

In the event that one-third (1/3) of the students in a classroom are identified with active cases of head lice, the Principal/Nurse shall send home notification to the parents in the affected class.

f. Immunizations and Physicals

Florida Statutes require that every child entering school for the first time present certification of a School-Entry Health Exam (DH3040) performed within one school year of enrollment. This form is only available in doctor's offices and upon completion should be turned in to the school nurse. The statutes further require that all children attending public or private schools in Florida show proof of immunization (DH680) for Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Hib and Varicella. In addition, students entering Grade 7 or higher must also show proof of a Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster).

g. Illness and Injury

If children are sick, they should stay home. We understand that it is hard for parents and guardians when children are sick and cannot attend school. It is especially hard if you are working and must arrange for time off or child care. However, a sick child often makes other students and staff sick. To keep the spread of illness to a minimum, we ask that you abide by the following school policy when deciding whether or not to send your children to school in the morning.

Please keep your child home if he/she has ANY of the following symptoms:

- **Fever:** 100.4 degrees F or higher. Child MUST be fever free without medication for 24 hours.
- **Vomiting:** No vomiting for 24 hours AND keeping down solids and liquids.
- **Diarrhea:** two or more loose stools
- **Persistent pain**
- **Cough**
- **Severe congestion**
- **Skin rash or sores:** Check with your child's health care provider
- **Head lice:** It is important to notify the school if your child has lice. The child must be cleared through the Clinic before returning to school. See Parent/Student Handbook for more info.
- **Chicken pox:** The child must stay home until all sores are scabbed over.
- **Strep throat:** May return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Conjunctivitis (pink eye):** May return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Impetigo:** May return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Ringworm:** May return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.

A physician's note is REQUIRED before your child may return to school after being diagnosed with a contagious disease.

*******Additionally, if your child has an injury that requires crutches or daily use of the elevator, we MUST have a note from the physician stating that these accommodations are medically indicated and what limitations need to be implemented for the safety/health of the child (PE, recess, afterschool activities, athletics, etc.) *******

h. Accidents

Minor accidents (scraped knees, elbows, etc.,) occurring on campus will be tended to by teachers, aides, and the Registered Nurse. This type of small injury does not require an incident report. More serious accidents (suspected broken bones, head injuries requiring further medical assessment, etc.,) do require that an incident report be filled out by the supervising employee and the parent.

An incident report must be promptly filed with the Diocese. Part I of this form will be completed by the supervising adult and signed by administration. Part II is the responsibility of the parent for obtaining the necessary documentation from the physician. Completed claim forms should be returned to the office to be forwarded to the insurance carrier.

i. Accident Insurance

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee has purchased an accident medical insurance plan which protects each student: 1) at school, 2) when traveling directly to and from school, and 3) at school-sponsored activities including interscholastic sports sponsored and supervised by the school. The supervisory teacher, staff, or coach is responsible for reporting all accidents to the office using the accident report form provided. The claim must be submitted to the insurance carrier within 90 days of the accident for benefits to apply.

This coverage has been purchased on a Full Excess Basis, which means that in the event of an injury to your student, you must first claim benefits under any other coverage you have. If there is a balance due after your carrier has made payment, you may then submit all receipts of payment from your insurance along with the itemized bills to the school for consideration.

j. Health Screening

School health screenings can be an excellent way to detect problems that interfere with students' education. The hearing and vision tests are important because difficulties with these senses are often subtle, and neither parents, teachers, nor children may even recognize that a problem exists. Growth and

Developmental screenings give parents vital information regarding their child's height and weight and whether there may be cause for concern for associated health conditions. The purpose of the screening for scoliosis in sixth grade is to detect signs of spinal curvature at the earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined.

(1) Vision screening shall be provided to students in Grades Kindergarten, 1, 3, and 6.

(2) Hearing screening shall be provided to students in Grades Kindergarten, 1, and 6.

(3) Growth and development screening shall be provided to students in Grades 1, 3 and 6.

(4) Scoliosis screening shall be provided to students in Grade 6.

In accordance with Florida Administrative Code 64F-6.003, the school is required to inform parents in writing that their children will be receiving screening services. Parents may opt-out of these health screenings on a yearly basis. Screening permission forms will be sent home with your children during the school year.

k. Counseling & Guidance

Trinity Catholic School prioritizes student success through a nurturing environment and dedicated support. Our full-time, certified School Counselor plays a key role by:

- Facilitating communication: Connecting students, teachers, staff, parents, administrators, and community resources.
- Coordinating support services: Overseeing Speech & Language, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and Learning Support Plans based on Diocesan guidelines and student evaluations.
- Administering standardized testing: Ensuring accurate data collection for Grades 2-8 through annual assessments.
- Promoting well-being: Leading safe-environment courses and addressing students' social, emotional, and general well-being needs.
- Providing individual and group support: Students can confidentially discuss academic, personal, or social concerns. The counselor also mediates peer conflicts.

This comprehensive approach ensures all students receive the support they need to thrive. Please call the main office to contact the Guidance Counselor. Students may request to see the Guidance Counselor by filling out a written request form provided by the front office or any classroom teacher.

XII. SCHOOL SAFETY

Trinity Catholic employs full-time Security Officers, including armed personnel. All visitors and parents are required to sign in at the Main Office when visiting or volunteering on the school campus and follow protocol for visitors. This includes using a driver's license to run a background check through Raptor. The School has monthly Fire Drills, along with lock-down and tornado drills. Security cameras are located throughout the campus.

Please note that we have cameras throughout the Campus. Assume no right to privacy in the public areas. **(i.e., not including restrooms, classrooms, or meeting rooms.)**

Keeping our students, teachers, and staff safe is a priority. Trinity has a Security Task Force that helps with continuous improvements. The group is made up of our Security Officers, members of law enforcement, fire department representatives, along with administrative and maintenance personnel. The Task Force oversees numerous drills (fire, lock down, inclement weather), equipment upgrades, and procedural updates. They recommend fencing areas, locks and gates locations, and camera placements.

All visitors and parents are required to sign-in at the Main Office when visiting or volunteering on the school campus and to follow protocol for visitors. Visitors will be required to present their driver's license.

a. Search and Seizure

Middle school students are assigned lockers for books, lunches, and gym clothes. Lockers are subject to inspection by teachers for neatness at any time. Students are never permitted to switch their assigned locker, to open another student's locker, or to use unassigned lockers. The administration has the right and authority to search lockers in order to insure the safety and security of all its students.

b. Custody Issues

"This 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, a school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and other school information regarding his or her child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to provide the school with a court-certified copy of the court order."

Parental Rights - Trinity Catholic School, in accordance with Florida Statute 61.13(3), will make school records and in-person conferences available to both parents unless a court order specifically revokes this right, in which case it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the court order to the school. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the school of the addresses where the student's records should be sent.

c. Cooperation with Legal Authorities

It is the practice of the school to cooperate with any local, state, or federal investigators or law enforcement officers that contact the school in the course of any criminal investigation, including cases of possible child abuse. The school may only notify the parents of the investigation with permission of the investigating authorities. The school will ask to have a representative present during an interview with the students, unless this is not permitted by the investigators, which is often the case in these types of investigations. **The first obligation of the school is protection of the student.**

d. Safe Environment Program

The Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee uses the Circle of Grace curriculum for grades K-8. It is a children's safety curriculum created by the Archdiocese of Omaha. It serves the dual purpose of prevention/safety education and informing children and youth about the value of positive relationships with God and others.

The school Guidance Counselor uses the Circle of Grace curriculum to teach students to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual and sexual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated. Circle of Grace is clinically sound and grounded in the Catholic tradition.

Information will be shared in the *Knights Weekly* newsletter, prior to the class visits. For parents that may not feel comfortable and desire to teach their children

about these matters themselves, an opt out form will be available and must be submitted to the child's homeroom teacher before classes start. After the class visits, parents will be sent Circle of Grace information on the lesson.

e. Animals on Campus

In general, pets are not permitted on School property. One exception is the 7th Grade Blessing of the Pets ceremony, where an animal from home may be brought onto the school grounds briefly for the purpose of the blessing, and then it is taken back home immediately. At all times, the parent is in charge of the animal and is responsible for its behavior. Any other exception must be approved by the Principal.

f. Emergency Crisis Plan

Keeping our students, teachers, and staff safe is a priority. Trinity has a Security Task Force that helps with continuous improvements. The group is made up of our Security Officers, members of law enforcement, fire department representatives, along with administrative and maintenance personnel. The Task Force oversees numerous drills (fire, lock down, inclement weather), equipment upgrades, and procedural updates. They recommend fencing areas, locks and gates locations, and camera placements.

In the case of inclement weather, the Catholic schools of the diocese reserve the right to make a different decision than the local public schools. For closures, Trinity usually follows Leon County Schools. Inclement weather decisions for the Catholic schools will be disseminated to the schools from the Office for Catholic Schools, by county, with input from the local Catholic schools. Schools will make up any days that cause them to fall below the required days or instructional hours required by the state and the Florida Catholic Conference.

g. Suspected Child Abuse

Reporting Physical/Sexual Abuse - Parents and guardians should understand that State Law requires a teacher or administrator who has reasonable suspicion that sexual or physical abuse has occurred to report this to the Division of Children and Family Services. The teacher or administrator who fails to fulfill this responsibility can be charged with sexual or physical abuse because the silence contributes to the crime. Victims of sexual abuse should

contact Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinators Shannon D. Mullen, Ph.D. CSAT –Tallahassee/Panama City (229) 233-8009 or Deacon Santiago Molina For Spanish Speakers - En Español (850) 222-6482. The Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline number is (850)435-3536. The contact information for the Florida Department of Children and Families is 1-800-96-ABUSE or <https://www.myflfamilies.com/>

h. Weapons – Only certified police officers may have firearms on campus.

i. Visitors - All visitors and parents are required to sign-in at the Main Office when visiting or volunteering on the school campus and to follow protocol for visitors. Visitors will be required to present their driver's license.

j. Bullying and Harassment

GOAL: The goal of the Trinity Student Bullying and Harassment policy is to foster the Gospel message of love of neighbor in our school to ensure students can learn in a loving, caring, supportive and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

DEFINITIONS: Bullying is defined as deliberate, repeated, hurtful behavior where it is difficult for those being targeted to defend themselves.

Cyber Bullying is defined as deliberate, repeated, sending or posting of harmful, threatening or cruel text or images through electronic media of any sort where it is difficult for those being targeted to defend themselves. Students can be held accountable for material presented in their social media, including posts about other students, teachers, or the school. Harassment will not be tolerated. Threats are considered serious, and law enforcement may be notified.

Harassment is inappropriate conduct or speech, including but not limited to, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse. It includes such inappropriate conduct or speech based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation. It also includes inappropriate conduct or speech that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature which substantially interferes with an individual's employment or education, or creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive working or learning environment. Sexual harassment may be directed to members of the same or opposite sex.

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to:

- Teasing or jokes of a sexual nature, sexual name calling, making references to past or present sexual activity, spreading sexual rumors or making derogatory or dehumanizing sexual remarks.
- Intentional unwelcome physical contact.
- Display of offensive pictures, posters, or other graphics.
- Leering inappropriately, patting or pinching and other forms of unwelcome touching.

DUTY OF TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL: The duty of Trinity Catholic School is to create and foster the call to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Faculty and Staff shall be alert to the signs of bullying and shall act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy.

The Student Bullying Policy will be promoted and implemented consistently throughout the school and the school year.

Administration shall have the responsibility of tracking individual cases of bullying and documenting the same. Administration shall be responsible for keeping staff updated on student bullying incidents. They will also implement programs to

educate parents, faculty, and students on all pertinent issues regarding bullies and bullying.

Faculty and Staff have a duty to actively address bullying. They have a duty to educate parents and students about the Bullying Policy. The school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying in an attempt to eradicate such behavior through assemblies and within the curriculum.

Students will be taught how to be assertive, not aggressive, and that it is within their right not to be bullied. They will be taught that individual differences are acceptable and never a cause for bullying.

Parents will have an opportunity to learn about this issue through workshops (e.g. Home-School Association Meetings) and will have a responsibility to read a copy of the Student Bullying Policy annually. Parents have a responsibility to keep the principal informed of any ongoing acts of bullying encountered by their child(ren). Parents have a responsibility to assist and support the school with addressing any incidences of bullying at home.

IMPLEMENTATION: Bullying in any form will not be tolerated in this school, on school grounds, or any school-related activities. Everyone associated with Trinity Catholic School will be expected to address all alleged incidents and follow through with established policy and procedures.

THE FOLLOWING STEPS SHALL BE TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL WHEN DEALING WITH BULLYING:

- When bullying has occurred and is reported, the staff member will address the issue as soon as possible.
- The staff member will complete a report.
- The principal will be notified and will interview all parties concerned and will document findings.
- Parents of all parties involved will be informed after the incident occurrence.
- Age-appropriate disciplinary measures will be used to reinforce policy.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN BULLIED WILL BE SUPPORTED BY:

Being offered an opportunity to:

- Have a discussion, reassurance, protection, and support.
- Confront the bully in a safe setting, if appropriate.

STUDENTS WHO INITIATED THE BULLYING WILL:

Have an opportunity to:

- Explain their behavior.
- Acknowledge his/her wrongdoing.
- Change behavior.
- Offer an apology to the victim.
- Have parents actively involved in promoting change in the offending student's attitude.

THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY STEPS MAY BE TAKEN:

- Call home
- Detention
- Exclusion from playground, activities, computer lab, library, extra-curricular sports and other school-based activities.
- Referral to administration
- Work details
- Suspension
- Expulsion

FALSE REPORTING: Making intentional false reports of bullying will not be tolerated and is considered a punishable offense.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, REVIEW: Trinity Catholic School will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness through feedback from students, parents, faculty, and staff.

k. Cyberbullying:

Faculty and staff have a duty to address any incidents of cyber bullying that is brought to their attention. They have a duty to educate students about the cyberbullying policy. The school will raise the awareness of the nature of cyberbullying in an attempt to eradicate such behavior within the curriculum.

Administration shall have the responsibility of tracking individual cases of cyberbullying that have been documented and presented to the school. Administration shall be responsible for keeping staff updated on student cyberbullying incidents. They will also implement programs to educate parents, faculty, and students on all pertinent issues regarding cyberbullies and cyberbullying

Students will follow the Acceptable Use Policy while at school. Students can be held accountable for material presented in their social media, including posts about other students, teachers, or the school. Harassment will not be tolerated. Threats are considered serious, and law enforcement may be notified.

Parents have the responsibility to monitor their children's use of technology outside of school.

THE FOLLOWING STEPS SHALL BE TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL WHEN DEALING WITH CYBERBULLYING INCIDENTS:

- When cyberbullying has occurred and is reported, the staff member will address the issue as soon as possible.
- The principal will be notified and will interview all parties concerned and will record the incident.
- Parents of all parties involved will be informed after the incident occurrence.

**STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN CYBERBULLIED WILL BE SUPPORTED BY:
Being offered an opportunity to:**

- Have a discussion, reassurance, protection, and support.
- Confront the cyberbully in a safe setting, if appropriate.

STUDENTS WHO INITIATED THE CYBERBULLYING WILL:

Have an opportunity to:

- Explain their behavior.
- Acknowledge his/her wrongdoing.
- Change behavior.
- Offer an apology to the victim
- Have parents actively involved in promoting change in the offending student's attitude.

FALSE REPORTING: Making intentional false reports of cyberbullying will not be tolerated and is considered a punishable offense.

XIII. ATTENDANCE

a. General Attendance Guidelines

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student's education, and it is closely related to student learning and academic success. Excessive absences impair a student's educational progress and may, at the principal's discretion, impact whether the student passes or fails a grade.

Florida law requires 180 school days per year. If a child is absent from school, parents are required to call and notify the school office. Absences not reported by 9:00 a.m. will result in the school calling the parent to verify their child's absence. A student returning after an absence **MUST** have a dated note/email, signed by a parent or guardian, explaining the reason for the absence. It is the student's responsibility to bring the note to the office for re-admittance to class. A physician's note is needed when the student (1) has been absent for three or more consecutive days, (2) has had surgery, (3) is returning to school after hospitalization, (4) has been under a doctor's care for a significant illness, or (5) is returning to school after being excluded because of a communicable disease. Students without a note must also report to the office for re-admittance to class. However, their absence will be considered unexcused until a note is sent.

Students who are absent to "shadow" at another school must bring documentation from the school visited to qualify for an excused absence.

b. Absence and Tardy Guidelines

To be counted in attendance, the student must be in school four hours.

c. Excused/Unexcused Absences

Students must be in school unless the absence has been deemed an "excused absence." Excused absences include the following: (1) illness or injury of the student; (2) serious illness or death in the student's family; (3) scheduled doctor or dentist appointment; (4) special events such as family weddings, important public functions, etc., which require permission from the principal at least five days in advance; (5) required court appearance or supervised visitation; and (6) having or being suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation, including, but not limited to head lice, ringworm, impetigo, and scabies.

Family trips should be arranged to coincide with established holidays. Teachers are not required to prepare assignments prior to a trip that occurs outside these

dates. Students should request assignments upon their return to school. Work must be turned in on or before the deadline date set by the teacher to receive credit. Please check the School Calendar for Standardized Testing dates (February/March) to avoid possible conflict with appointments or trips.

Unexcused absences and tardies could result in missing in-class assessments and assignments. Zeroes may be given for this missed work

d. Excessive Absences

According to Diocesan guidelines, a student who is absent more than twenty (20) days in one school year MAY be retained. **More than 15 absences will require a conference with administration. Excessive absences could result in loss of scholarships, and/or probation.**

e. Tardiness

Students arriving at school after 8:00 a.m. are considered tardy. Parents/drivers arriving late must park and bring their child to the school office for a pass to be admitted to class. Habitual tardiness impedes a student's learning due to a loss of educational time. Frequent tardies (4 or more times in a quarter) may result in lower grades, a required meeting with Administration, and/or probation.

f. Early Checkout

Dental and medical appointments should be scheduled after school if possible. If a student must leave the campus during school hours, a note from a parent must be given to the homeroom teacher at the beginning of the day and to the teacher whose class the student will be leaving (if different) at the beginning of that class. **THE PARENT MUST COME TO THE OFFICE TO SIGN THE STUDENT OUT BEFORE THE STUDENT LEAVES CAMPUS.** The student will be called to the office **UPON THE PARENT'S ARRIVAL IN THE OFFICE.**

If the student returns to campus after the appointment, the parent and student must enter the Main Office where the parent will complete the "sign-in" portion of the sheet. **A STUDENT MUST BE PRESENT FOR AT LEAST FOUR HOURS OF THE SCHOOL DAY IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED AS "PRESENT" FOR THAT SCHOOL DAY.**

g. Illness

The school may require a doctor's signature for a student to return to school if there is any doubt by either party that the student could have been exposed to a contagious disease (this could be a sibling or anyone who had contact with an infected host.) Please be sure to obtain an "o.k." to re-admit a student while at the doctor's office as privacy laws prohibit transfer of such information by fax. In case of fever, the student must be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, before returning to school. It is not the school's intention to offend or inconvenience a parent, but our goal is to insure the physical welfare of all of our students.

h. Making up Work

When a child is sick, parents should contact the homeroom and subject area teachers for make-up assignments and to request materials. Materials can be

picked up in the front office, once the teacher/s has an appropriate amount of time to gather all necessary items. Teachers will be as helpful as possible in assisting the student with missed work. Make-up work, however, is ultimately the student's responsibility missed during an absence. Upon return, the student should see each teacher for any work missed. All make-up assignments should include a note of "Absent on [Date]" at the top of the paper. This will assist the teacher in assigning on-time credit for make-up work. Students will have one day for every day they are absent to make up missed work, unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher. If, because of illness, students are not prepared to take scheduled tests/quizzes, parents must communicate with teachers to arrange a make-up time. If an extended illness or recuperation period occurs, it may be necessary for the parents to seek outside assistance from a private source to work with the student.

XIV. GENERAL POLICIES

a. Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival begins at 7:30 a.m. for all students. Follow the Arrival and Dismissal Procedures (see Appendix A) Early Morning Supervision is offered for 1st-8th Grade students enrolled in the Early Bird Supervision Program, between 7:00 AM - 7:30 AM. Students may not be on campus before 7:00 AM.

For the safety of everyone, parents are expected to use the established car lines for drop-off and pick-up. **Please put your car in "PARK" as you drop-off or pick-up your student.**

Homeroom teachers will be in their classroom at 7:30 a.m. to receive students. Parents are not permitted to enter classrooms unless prior arrangements have been made the teacher.

Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. will be marked tardy. You will need to take your child to the main office for a tardy slip before he/she can enter the classroom.

Dismissal times:

PreK3 – Kindergarten 2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1st-8th Grade - 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Students will be placed in the Beyond the Bell (BTB) program at 3:30 p.m. if they have not been picked up by that time. Parents will be responsible for BTB drop-in fees via FACTS or invoice.

Texting and cell phone usage is not allowed once the carline is moving. Seatbelts should be used also for the safety of drivers and passengers.

Do not allow your student(s) to cross any street, or walk between parked cars or cars in line. See "Arrival and Dismissal Procedures" on the Trinity Website for a more detailed explanation.

Parents may drop students off starting at **7:30 a.m.** **Students MAY NOT BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE 7:30 a.m. (unless enrolled in the Early Morning Supervision Program.)** A tardy bell will ring at 8:00 a.m. **Students arriving**

after 8:00 a.m. are considered late and must be checked in through the Main Office by an adult. If a pattern of lateness is noted, a meeting with school administration will be required to develop an action plan to assist students in timely arrival. Morning prayers and announcements will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal is at 2:45 p.m. for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students and the rest of the students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Students are required to come to the Main Office outside porch area when their ride does not appear. **The school cannot be responsible for students left unsupervised on the school property after 3:30 p.m.** At 3:30 p.m., any student who has not been picked up will be placed in the after-school program, Beyond the Bell, on an “emergency drop-in basis” and a fee will be charged per student. Following a student’s second placement in Beyond the Bell, a registration fee will be collected per the drop-in policy for after-school care.

Students who participate in after school activities such as chorus, tutoring, clubs, or sports must be picked up from school immediately following the activity or go to the school’s aftercare program. They will then be placed in the Beyond-the-Bell Aftercare program until they are picked up.

b. Transportation Policy

Trinity Catholic School does not offer bus service; therefore, parents must arrange for the transportation of their student(s). Students should never ride with another parent/adult unless the parent has provided the school with specific written instructions. **A PARENT WHO AGREES TO DRIVE A STUDENT(S) ASSUMES LIABILITY FOR THAT/THOSE STUDENT(S).**

c. Change of Information – Please notify the office of any change in information (address, phone number, email, emergency lists, etc.)

d. Lunch Policies

Students should bring a nutritious lunch to school in a soft lunch container or bag that should be clearly labeled with the student's name. Glass containers are prohibited. Soda and energy drinks are also prohibited. Please do not send cans or containers that would create sharp edges when opened. Students who lose or forget their lunch can obtain a snack in the office. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the teacher, supervising adult, or the office when he/she has no lunch. Lunches should not be shared with other students. Students may not leave campus for lunch.

Snack time is provided in the elementary grades. Please send nutritious finger foods only such as fruit, crackers, pretzels, or granola type snacks

Lunch Parents - Teachers in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth may have volunteer parents help supervise the students during their lunch and recess period; as determined by the teacher.

Parents are encouraged to sign up on Orientation Day to help with this responsibility.

e. Library Media Center

The Media Center is a supportive force to the school curriculum. The Media Center strives to introduce and promote all versions of technology and literacy skills to make our students equipped for future endeavors. It is a place students can come to feel at home. Grades K-5 have a scheduled time each week for both Media/Technology. 1st and 2nd Graders have additional computer time in the Media Center one time a week. 3rd-8th Grade are 1:1 chromebooks in the classroom. They will receive technology time throughout the day during their academic times in the classrooms.

The Media Center is open every school day from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. is open for Middle School students only to check out books or other resources needed for the day. Students are allowed to come and go during the school hours to use the resources available. Please check the Media Center website for further circulation procedures.

f. Chaperone Guidelines

Without the help of volunteer chaperones, many field trips would not be possible. In order to help ensure that our field trip results in safe and rewarding experiences for all participants, chaperones must be able to give their undivided attention to their volunteer tasks and the children. All school rules apply to sponsored events. Chaperones are expected to comply with school policies, follow the directions given by the sponsoring staff member(s), work cooperatively with other staff and volunteers, and model appropriate behaviors for students.

g. Driver Guidelines

Drivers who have submitted the "Driver Information Sheet" which verifies that their car insurance covers all passengers in their car (according to Diocesan regulations \$100,000/300,000 minimum bodily injury liability coverage) and so that motor vehicle record may be checked annually, have completed the Virtus online course requirements. – (course must be renewed every five years) and have been fingerprinted through the Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee within the last five years, are welcome to respond when asked to provide transportation for field trips. All fees for these requirements are the responsibility of the parent. Fifteen passenger vans may not be used. Drivers must be 25 years of age or older. No unplanned stops may be made.

*Please note that all of the above documentation must be cleared by the Diocese and returned to Trinity PRIOR to driving students on field trips. This process can take up to a minimum of two months. Parents who intend to drive should complete the necessary driver information requirements at the beginning of each school year.

h. Backpacks and Lockers

All students are required to have a backpack to protect books and school supplies being transported to and from school. Book bags on wheels are not allowed.

Middle school students are assigned lockers for books, lunches, and gym clothes. Lockers are subject to inspection by teachers for neatness at any time.

Students are never permitted to switch their assigned locker, to open another student's locker, or to use unassigned lockers. The administration has the right and authority to search lockers in order to insure the safety and security of all its students.

i. Books

Textbooks for all classes are loaned to the student who is then responsible for them until the teacher collects them. All textbooks must have a functionally protective cover at all times. Books that are damaged could require a full replacement fee.

It is also important that parents, students, and teachers note and document a book's condition when they are assigned as this determines whether a student will be responsible for replacing the book at the end of the year. All damage to books or replacement of lost books must be paid for prior to the final report card being issued.

j. Student Birthdays

Trinity Catholic School has adopted a "no-food" policy in regard to celebrations of birthdays. Parents of Elementary students may send in birthday bags for the class without food. Teachers will celebrate your child's birthday in a multitude of ways which may include: a pencil from the Principal, and other fun ideas in the classroom that do not center around food as a reward/recognition. If treats, on birthdays or any other day of the year, are brought for the class, or other group, without approval from administration, the treat will be sent home with the child at the end of the day.

As a courtesy to students, all invitations to parties not related to school must be given to ALL students (or ALL the boys or ALL the girls) in the class after checking with the homeroom teacher; otherwise, invitations should be handled away from school. No gifts shall be given out unless it is given to all students in the class, after checking with the homeroom teacher; otherwise gifts should be handled away from school.

Sending balloons, flowers, etc., to school is discouraged, as these items must remain in the Main Office until the end of the school day. Office personnel cannot guarantee care and delivery of such items.

k. Other School Specific General Policies

Knights Out - About one day a month, Trinity has an early release day with dismissal at 12:15 PM (Pre-K & Kindergarten at 12:00 PM.) This day is called a "Knights' Out". Beyond-the-Bell is available on these early dismissal days. (Noted exceptions: Last day before Christmas, Holy Thursday, and the Last Day of School.)

Office Hours - The school office is open and the telephone will be answered from 7:15 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on regular school days. Summer office hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on Fridays. The Front Office is closed the week of July 4th.

Personal Possessions - Students should refrain from bringing toys to school unless a teacher has issued a special request to bring items to share. Excessive monies and items of value should be left at home.

School Pictures - Early in the fall, pictures of the students in their school uniform will be taken. Purchase of the pictures by parents is optional. Retakes are available for pictures taken in the fall and require written authorization from a parent. Class group pictures are taken in the spring. Order forms are sent home with the students and information is given in the newsletter as to the date when these pictures will be taken and what attire is permissible.

Supplies - A list of school supplies needed for each grade is given to parents at the beginning of the summer via the Website. These supplies should be brought to school on Orientation Day. Although coming to school with appropriate materials is the student's responsibility, parents should check to see that their student(s) has/have what is required.

Parents are expected to check regularly to see if their child's supplies need to be replaced. It is not unusual for students to need new supplies throughout the school year. No other items should be brought to school. Students who bring unauthorized items to school will forfeit said items for a period of time to be determined by the teacher or administration. The defacing of desks and classroom furniture can be a serious problem. Most of this has been done with "Sharpies" or permanent markers. Therefore, Permanent Markers and Sharpies are not permitted on school grounds. They will be confiscated and NOT returned.

XV. PRESCHOOL POLICIES

Trinity Catholic School offers VPK (Florida's free Voluntary Prekindergarten Program) for 4-year-old students in Pre-K4. This voucher will help parents of 4-year-olds with tuition for a half day. This program is available to help make a Catholic pre-school education affordable. Parents of four-year-olds may apply for a voucher at www.floridaearlylearning.com.

The VPK Program requires a minimum number of attendance days in order to fund the student's tuition. The student cannot miss more than 20% of the required days (equivalent to about 36 days). If your child misses more than this, VPK will not pay the school for the remaining days for the year. If this happens, the parents will be responsible for the remaining tuition in order to remain at Trinity Catholic School. Please remember how important it is for your child to attend school daily in order to receive the best education offered.

Our Pre-K3 Program offers two tracks. Track one is for students turning three on or before September 1. They will complete one year of Pre-K3 before advancing to our VPK. Track two is for students turning three September 2 - December 1. They will complete two years of Pre-3 before they are eligible for VPK. All children must be potty trained.

XVI. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE POLICIES

Before School Supervision - Early Bird Supervision (EBS) provides before-school supervision for students that need to arrive on campus prior to 7:30 a.m. EBS starts at 7:00 a.m. - No students may be left on campus before that time. Please make sure your child eats breakfast before arriving on campus. Drop-off will be on the Miccosukee Road side of the school, on the blacktop, near the PE office. On clear weather days, your child/ren will proceed to the Pavilion. On inclement weather days, they will proceed to the middle school building. Students are encouraged to read, study, bring cards to play solitaire, or a Rubik's cube, a coloring book, etc. Students may talk, but will not be permitted to share things.

"Beyond the Bell" is a program designed as an after-school enrichment opportunity for Trinity Catholic School students in Grades PK-8. The program will run from dismissal time until 6:00 p.m. on most school days. Parents may pick up their student(s) at any time during those hours. There is a \$5 per minute charge for students picked up after 6:00 p.m. Trinity Catholic School reserves the right to withhold services for non-payment of any fees. Families may register their student(s) on a monthly basis or on a drop-in basis. When registering on a drop-in basis, a 24-hour notice of the student's attendance would be appreciated so that the proper amount of food will be provided at snack time. Complete information about the Beyond-the-Bell Program is available from the school office.

XVII. APPENDICES

- a. Deconstructing The Trinity Catholic School Mission**
- b. Acceptable Use Policy**
- c. Technology Policy**
- d. Student Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**
- e. Handbook Governance Agreement Form**
- f. Arrival/Dismissal Procedures**
- g. IB Middle Years Program**

APPENDIX A

DECONSTRUCTING THE TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL MISSION

The mission statement defines four essential, interconnected commitments that guide the school's daily operations:

1. To Teach the Catholic Faith (Spiritual Foundation)

This element establishes the identity and primary purpose of the school. It means the faith is not just an elective course but the spiritual lens through which all subjects and activities are viewed. It involves explicit instruction in theology, Scripture, and the traditions of the Church, ensuring students understand their role in the Catholic community and the world.

2. Within a Challenging Academic Curriculum (Intellectual Rigor)

This guarantees that Trinity is not solely a place of moral formation but also a place committed to academic excellence. "Challenging" signifies high expectations, critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and rigorous preparation for secondary and higher education. It demands that students develop the skills necessary to master complex concepts.

3. Laying the Foundation for all Students to Grow in Christian Maturity and Integrity (Character Formation)

This is the core behavioral and ethical outcome. It means the ultimate goal is not just intellectual absorption but moral transformation.

- **Christian Maturity:** Refers to the spiritual and social development of the student, moving away from childish self-focus toward a life focused on Christ and others.
- **Integrity:** Defines the moral consistency of the student—being honest, ethical, and having strong character both in public and in private.

4. And Knowledge (Intellectual Outcome)

This is the measurable result of the challenging curriculum. It encompasses the concrete information, skills, and intellectual competence students acquire. This knowledge is meant to be used wisely, informed by faith, maturity, and integrity.

Embedding Virtues and Service into the Mission

The virtues of service, kindness, respect, and discipline are not separate goals; they are the practical indicators that the school is successfully achieving the goal of Christian maturity and integrity.

Virtue/Value	Mission Component Where It Is Embedded	Explanation of Integration
Service	Christian Maturity & Catholic Faith	Service is a direct application of the Catholic social teaching and the Gospel message. Growing in Christian maturity requires moving from self-interest to actively serving one's neighbor and community, fulfilling the call to charity.
Catholic Virtues	Christian Maturity & Catholic Faith	The entire mission of teaching the Catholic faith is aimed at instilling the core virtues (theological, cardinal, and moral). Christian maturity is simply the process of becoming virtuous—demonstrating temperance, prudence, justice, and fortitude daily.
Kindness & Respect	Christian Maturity & Integrity	These values are foundational to building a Christ-centered community. Respect for classmates, teachers, and property reflects the dignity of every person as created in the image of God (a core tenet of the Catholic Faith). Kindness is the charitable application of that respect.
Discipline	Challenging Academic Curriculum & Integrity	Discipline is the self-control required for both academic success and moral living. It is the ability to choose what is right over what is easy. Academically, it means self-discipline in study; morally, it means self-control to act with integrity.

In short, the Catholic faith provides the instruction and motivation for the virtues, while Christian maturity and integrity are the measurable outcomes of the student *living* those virtues in their daily interactions and academic pursuits.

APPENDIX B

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Trinity Catholic School offers Internet and network access for student classroom and research activities. Student use of the Internet, computers, iPads, and chromebooks is contingent upon parent/guardian permission through the below linked "signed" Google form, Acceptable Use Policy. Parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time by contacting the school office. [TCS Student 2026-2027 AUP](#)

APPENDIX C

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

An Acceptable Use Policy for computers, chromebooks, and iPads is distributed annually to students and requires a parent and student signature. Any misuse of these devices may result in loss of this privilege.

Computers for student and faculty use are located in the classrooms and the Media Center. Students are encouraged to use the computers for class assignments.

iPads, Interactive Panels, Smart TV's, and Document Cameras are used in the classrooms to support content learning. Technology classes and activities are integrated into the curriculum. Computer grades are calculated based on assignments within the subject areas, coordinated by the classroom teacher and Technology and Curriculum Development Director.

APPENDIX D

STUDENT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

This policy document outlines Trinity Catholic School's institutional stance on AI usage, rules for acceptable AI usage, and consequences for misuse of AI tools.

Institutional Stance on AI Statement

At Trinity Catholic School, we recognize the growing presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and society. In keeping with our mission to teach the Catholic faith within a challenging academic curriculum, we view AI as a tool that, when used responsibly, can enhance learning and support the development of knowledge, integrity, and Christian maturity. We are committed to preparing our students to engage thoughtfully and ethically with evolving technologies while safeguarding student privacy. As part of our academic vision, we are taking a cautious and intentional approach as we guide students to use AI in ways that uphold academic honesty, foster critical thinking, and reflect our Catholic values, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate the future with faith and wisdom to serve the common good.

Student Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

As part of our commitment to preparing students for the future, Trinity Catholic School will provide age-appropriate training on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. Students will be guided on how to use AI responsibly, ethically, and effectively as part of their classroom learning.

Grade-Level Guidelines:

- **4th Grade and Below:**

AI will be used in a whole-class setting only, under the direct supervision and instruction of the classroom teacher. Teachers will determine how and when AI tools are integrated into learning experiences to ensure appropriate and meaningful use.

- **5th Grade and Above:**

Students will begin to use AI tools more independently, as directed by the classroom teacher. Instruction and expectations will continue to emphasize responsible and purposeful use aligned with academic goals.

Classroom-Specific AI Policies:

Each classroom teacher will establish and clearly communicate an AI policy that outlines permissible and impermissible student use. These policies, tailored to the subject's needs and students' developmental readiness and instructional goals, will be published in each grade/subject syllabus. Students are expected to adhere to their classroom's specific AI guidelines at all times.

Student Rules for the Use of AI Tools

I agree to the following rules regarding the use of artificial intelligence tools in connection with schoolwork:

1. I will use AI in ways that support the assignment's purpose, foster my personal growth, and serve the common good.
2. I will use AI tools responsibly and with integrity, avoiding content or actions that could cause emotional or reputational harm to myself or others.
3. I will not share personal, sensitive, or confidential information with AI tools.
4. I will use AI tools for school assignments or assessments only with my teacher's permission.
5. I agree to use only the designated AI tool(s) recommended by my teacher or the school. I will follow the classroom-specific AI policy and the instructions provided for each assignment.
6. I may use AI to support my understanding, but I will never use it to complete or submit work without approval from my teacher.
7. I will be honest about when and how I use AI in my schoolwork.
8. I will follow my teacher's instructions for citing AI and will carefully check any AI-generated content for accuracy and appropriateness when used to support an assignment.
9. If I am unsure whether AI is allowed or appropriate for an assignment, I will ask my teacher before using it.

10. I understand that AI may provide inaccurate or biased results, and I will use it carefully and critically. I take full responsibility and ownership of all the work I turn in.
11. I will not use AI carelessly or without purpose. I understand that AI tools require significant energy and resources to operate, and I will use them thoughtfully, respecting both the task at hand and our responsibility to care for God's creation.
12. I understand that this policy may be updated as technology and school practices change, and I will follow any new guidelines shared with me by teachers or school leaders.

Academic Integrity and AI Misuse

Misuse of AI in academic work constitutes a violation of academic integrity and will be addressed by school administration and faculty. Consequences will be determined accordingly. Please consult the classroom-specific AI policy for further details.

Each student will sign this policy annually, and a copy will be kept on file for the school year.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

APPENDIX E



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK Handbook Governance Agreement Form 2026-2027

We have read the Trinity Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook, located on the Trinity website @ <https://www.trinityknights.org/> and we agree to be governed by it. [Please click here to complete the Handbook Governance Agreement Form.](#) (Student signatures are only required if student is in Grades 3 through 8). We understand that this form will be kept on file in the Trinity Front Office.

Parent's Signature

Parent's Name/Please Print

Student's Signature (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Name/Please Print (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Teacher

Homeroom

Student's Signature (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Name/Please Print (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Teacher

Homeroom

Student's Signature (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Name/Please Print (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Teacher

Homeroom

Student's Signature (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Name/Please Print (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Teacher

Homeroom

Student's Signature (Grades 3 - 8)

Student's Name/Please Print (Grades 3 - 8)

APPENDIX F

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Our number one goal is for Arrival and Dismissal to be both safe and quick for all families. Car lines will flow smoothly and quickly when these procedures are followed.

Traffic Flow Reminders:

- Remember that you are driving in an active SCHOOL ZONE; maintain slow and safe speeds.
- Follow the directions of the Crossing Guard, Security Guards, and Faculty and Staff.
- Always turn RIGHT when entering **and** leaving the parking lots and circles
- When in the car lines, drive as close to the right street curb as possible
- Pull all the way up to allow as many families as possible to drop off/pick up
- Avoid parking on side streets whenever possible
- Do not block intersections, driveways, or fire hydrants
- Do not cut/block other cars
- Never walk through the car lines during arrival or dismissal

Safety Reminder:

- Check to see that **ALL** your passengers are secured with seat belts or in the appropriate child car seat. It is the law! It only takes a second for a dangerous accident to occur.
- **Put your car in “PARK” when dropping off/picking up.**
- Please do not have car doors open while your vehicle is moving. If a child fell out of the vehicle, it might be too late for you or others to stop.
- Use of cell phones and participating in other distracting activities while driving can lead to a dangerous environment for our precious Trinity cargo. Please give your full attention to driving safely.
- Please remember that the designated dismissal spots are intended for cars only. Pedestrians should not be crossing car lines, and parents should have their children “in hand” while proceeding near these areas.
- Have your child exit and enter the car on the passenger side.

EARLY MORNING SUPERVISION

Early Bird Supervision is offered for 1st-8th Grade students enrolled in the Early Bird Supervision Program, between 7:00 AM - 7:30 AM. Students may not be on campus before 7:00 AM

Early Bird Supervision (EBS) provides before-school supervision for students that need to arrive on campus prior to 7:30 a.m. EBS starts at 7:00 a.m. - No students may be left on campus before that time. Please make sure your child eats breakfast before arriving on campus.

Drop-off Procedure:

Drop-off will be on the Miccosukee Road side of the school, on the blacktop, near the PE office. Once you arrive at the drop-off location, Trinity staff will use your family number (posted on the sign hanging from your rear-view mirror) to pull up your children on the Concierge App. On clear weather days, your child/ren will proceed to the Pavilion. On inclement weather days, they will proceed to the middle school building.

Supervision:

During this time, students are encouraged to read, study, bring cards to play solitaire, or a Rubik cube, a coloring book, etc. Students may talk, but not be permitted to share things.

Rates:

One Child - \$5/day

Two, or more, children per immediate family - \$10/day

Fees will be charged monthly, through your FACTS account.

ARRIVAL TIME

7:30 AM Pre-K thru 8th Grade

TARDY: Parents must escort students to the office for a late pass after 8:00 AM..

DISMISSAL TIMES

2:45 PM Kindergarten, Pre-K4, Pre-K-3

3:00 PM Grades 1 – 8

Dismissal Family Car Number: Trinity uses the **Concierge Pad** app to aid with dismissal. Each family will be assigned a number and will be issued two tags with that number. The tag should be hooked onto the rearview mirror for easy visibility by Trinity Faculty and Staff. Only Trinity Faculty and Staff will use the app.

When the family car arrives at the designated pick-up spot, a Trinity Faculty or Staff member will input the family **Concierge Pad** tag number into the app, which will then notify the Homeroom teacher/s to release the students to their dismissal location. Faculty and staff will be placed throughout the campus to ensure students are supervised as they travel to their designated dismissal location.

Late Pickup: Students will be placed in the Beyond the Bell (BTB) Program at **3:15 PM (Pre-K and K) and 3:30 PM (Grades 1-8)** if they have not been picked up by that time. Parents will be responsible for BTB drop-in fees via FACTS or invoice.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES BY GRADE**SIBLINGS OF Pre-K3, Pre-K4, or Kindergarten (Main Campus)**

Follow same as Pre-K 3 arrival procedure.

- Drive West on Brevard Street (from Hillcrest) and turn right into the Main Office Circle.
- Proceed using a single lane only.
- Pull all the way forward.

- Wait for a staff member to bring your child to you. Do not get out of your car.
- Carefully exit the loop by turning right, only.

Beginning at 7:30 AM, PreK 3 staff will meet parents in the loop in front of the PreK3 building (Main Office Loop). Only families with a child in Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, and Kindergarten may pick up older siblings in the front loop.

Pick up for Pre-K3 (Main Campus) begins at 2:45. Pull into the Main Office Circle and your child will be brought out to you. If you have older children in Grades 1st through 8th, they will be called to the front loop after school dismissal at 3:00. Only families with a child in Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and Kindergarten may pick up older siblings in the Front Loop.

Pre-K3 (Main Campus)

Beginning at 7:30 AM, Pre-K3 staff members will meet parents in the Front Circle, near the flagpole.

To enter the Front Circle:

- Drive West on Brevard Street (from Hillcrest) and turn right into the Main Office Circle.
- Proceed using a single lane only.
- Pull all the way forward.
- Wait for a staff member to come to you. Do not exit your car.
- Carefully exit the loop by turning right, only.

Once you reach the beginning of the line a staff member will meet your car to greet your child and escort them to their classroom. Parents should not exit their cars, unless they need to help their child with seat belts.

Staff members will lead your child into their Pre-K classroom. In the effort to create a smooth morning transition, parents are not permitted to enter the classrooms.

If your child is struggling to leave the car, parents may need to circle back around and try again. This may be inconvenient, but we need to respect the schedules of all of our parents.

Dismissal begins at 2:45 PM, with the same procedure for entering the Front Circle.

Pre-K (Nursery)

Beginning at 7:30 AM, the Pre-K3 staff members will meet parents at the door of the small Miccosukee church parking lot. To enter the parking lot:

- Enter through the drive on the church end of the lot.
- Pull up to the second door.
- Wait for Staff to come to you. Do not exit the car.
- Exit the lot and follow the school exit to Miccosukee, turning right out of the campus.

For Dismissal – the children will be picked up from the Miccosukee side of the Parish Hall, using the small church parking lot. Staff will bring your child to your car.

Pre-K4/VPK (Main Campus)

Arrival: Beginning at 7:30 AM, Pre-K4/VPK Main Campus students will be dropped off on the Miccosukee Road side of the school.

- Drive East on Miccosukee Road and turn right into the school parking lot/blacktop area, at the one-way sign.
- Proceed along the breezeway, passing the Fine Arts Building and PE office. The line will stop at the Pavilion.
- Exit onto Miccosukee by turning right, only.

Once you reach the beginning of the line a Pre-K4 staff member will meet your car to greet your child and escort them to their classroom. Parents should not exit their cars, unless they need to help their child with seat belts.

In the effort to create a smooth morning transition, parents are not permitted to enter the classrooms.

If your child is struggling to leave the car, parents may need to circle back around and try again. This may be inconvenient, but we need to respect the schedules of all of our parents.

Dismissal: Beginning at 2:45 PM, Pre-K4 staff members will meet parents in the Front Circle, near the flagpole.

To enter the Front Circle:

- Drive West on Brevard Street (from Hillcrest) and turn right into the Main Office Circle.
- Proceed using a single lane only.
- Pull all the way forward.
- Wait for a staff member to come to you. Do not exit your car.
- Carefully exit the loop by turning right, only.

Once you reach the beginning of the line, a staff member will help your child into the car. Parents should not exit their cars, unless they need to help their child with seat belts.

Pre-K4/VPK (Miccosukee Road Campus)

Beginning at 7:30 AM, PreK-4/VPK staff will meet parents in the loop in front of the PreK-4/VPK buildings.

To enter the PreK 4/VPK loop:

- Drive West on Miccosukee Road and turn right into the Pre-K4 Circle using the first entrance.

- Pull all the way forward.
- Turn your car off, help your child exit the car, then wait for a staff member to come to you.
- Carefully exit the loop by turning right, only.

Once you reach the beginning of the line a staff member will meet your car to greet your child and escort them to their classroom. Parents should not exit their cars, unless they need to help their child with seat belts.

Staff members will lead your child into their Pre-K4 classroom. In the effort to create a smooth morning transition, parents are not permitted to enter the classrooms.

If your child is struggling to leave the car, parents may need to circle back around and try again. This may be inconvenient, but we need to respect the schedules of all of our parents. Dismissal begins at 2:45, PM, with the same procedure for entering the Pre-K4 loop.

Kindergarten (Talafllo and Brevard)

Beginning at 7:30 AM, Kindergarten teachers will meet parents in the loop in front of the Kindergarten classrooms.

To enter the Kindergarten loop:

- Drive West on Brevard Street (from Hillcrest) and turn right onto Talafllo Street.
 - Stay as far right by the curb as possible, to allow passing traffic to flow smoothly and safely.
- Follow the circle to create a line leading to the Brevard Street stop sign.
 - Do not block the intersection. Wait for the line to proceed forward before entering into the loop road's entrance.
- Once you reach the stop sign on Brevard Street, take an immediate right into the loop in front of the Kindergarten classrooms.
- Follow the loop around the Kindergarten classrooms, near the small playground.
- Carefully exit the loop by turning right, only.

Once you reach the beginning of the line a staff member will meet your car to greet your child and escort them to their classroom. Parents should not exit their cars.

Staff members will lead your child into their Kindergarten classroom. In the effort to create a smooth morning transition, parents are not permitted to enter the classrooms.

If your child is struggling to leave the car, parents may need to circle back around and try again. This may be inconvenient, but we need to respect the schedules of all of our parents.

Dismissal begins at 2:45 PM, with the same procedure for entering the Kindergarten loop. At 3:00 p.m., Kindergarten students who have siblings on the main campus (PK3, PK4-3, and Grades 1-8) will be walked down to the Front Office Loop in order to be picked up with their brothers/sisters.

First Grade & Older Siblings

First Grade and older siblings' drop-off and pick-up is in the Front Office Loop. Follow the Kindergarten Line on Talaflor, but do not go into the Kindergarten driveways. Do not block the Kindergarten entrance or Exit driveways.

Grades 2-8 (Miccosukee Road blacktop)

Second through 8th Grade students (unless they have a PreK-3 sibling) will be dropped off on the Miccosukee Road side of the school.

- Drive East on Miccosukee Road and turn right into the school parking lot/blacktop area, at the one-way sign.
- Proceed along the breezeway, passing the PE office. The line will stop at the Pavilion.
- Exit onto Miccosukee by turning right, only.

Once you reach the beginning of the line, a staff member will meet your car to greet your child. Parents should not exit their cars. Students will proceed to their classroom. In the effort to create a smooth morning transition, parents are not permitted to enter the classrooms.

If your child is struggling to leave the car, parents may need to circle back around and try again. This may be inconvenient, but we need to respect the schedules of all of our parents.

Dismissal begins at 3:00 PM, with the same procedures for entering the blacktop line.
Traffic Notes:

- Parents may not enter the line on Miccosukee Road from E. Brevard Street,
- Parents should take one of the side streets to E. Georgia Street, then turn right onto Miccosukee Road to enter the car line.
- Do not cut/break into the car line, as other parents have been patiently waiting.
- Do not block intersections or driveways.

AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS PRACTICES AND GAMES:

It is the parents' responsibility to arrange transportation for their child to and from practices and games. Parents should follow their child's regular dismissal procedures when picking up for practices and games. However, when there is an early TCS team dismissal from school to travel for games, the designated pick up location at that time will be on the basketball courts. The Athletic Director or his designee will supervise the students in this area until they have departed from the school grounds. Coaches and teachers may transport their children only.

AFTER-SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PICK-UP: If your child participates in ANY after-school extracurricular activity at Trinity Catholic School, you must pick up your child by 10 minutes after the designated end time (e.g. If practice ends at 4:30, you must pick up your child by 4:40.). All students must be picked up on the black top. In the event that you have not picked up your child by the 10-minute leeway, your child will be admitted to Beyond the Bell and you will be charged.

AUTHORIZED ADULTS FOR PICK UP: If the parent cannot pick up his/her child, there must be a notification made to the Front Office.

APPENDIX G

IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM

Mission Statement from the IB: The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Academic and Behavioral Discipline Policy Summary

Trinity Catholic School strives to develop responsible, courteous, self-disciplined students whose pride in themselves, their parents, their school, and their community is reflected in their behavior and effort. Students are made aware that they are an integral part of the faith community and that their actions affect themselves as well as the entire community. The ultimate purpose is to develop true Christian character and a sense of integrity and responsibility to establish an atmosphere conducive to academic excellence and to protect the welfare of the individual, as well as the school community.

Therefore, school expectations must be followed by students in order to foster a sound educational climate. Student expectations include: Be prepared and on time; exhibit behaviors that promote learning; show respect for themselves, the learning environment, and others; give their best effort in all assignments and activities; complete all assignments within the deadlines given; and, follow school rules.

If a student does not meet the school's expectations to maintain an atmosphere of academic excellence, there will be a process to acknowledge and communicate expectations that are not being met, and partner with parents to put a plan in place for improvement. If improvement is not made the student may be put on probation in order to continue as a student at Trinity Catholic School.

IB MYP Academic Honesty Policy Summary

Trinity Catholic School places a high value on academic honesty. According to the International Baccalaureate Organization, academic honesty includes a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity. Academic honesty also supports good practice in teaching, learning, and assessment.

Trinity Catholic School students will uphold academic integrity by not committing the following offenses: plagiarism, collusion, duplication, or misconduct. Students will exhibit and encourage academic honesty by actively engaging in their own learning, supporting the learning of others and giving credit to help and outside resources.

IB MYP Assessment Policy Summary

The IB MYP involves a unique teaching and learning philosophy. The teachers at Trinity Catholic School adheres to the requirements of the principles of MYP Assessment as stated in "From Principles into Practice", and the objectives and criteria prescribed in the individual subject guides which are published by the International Baccalaureate organization for the Middle Years Programme.

IB MYP grades are reported by individual teachers as overall achievement levels using scales predetermined by the IB MYP. The MYP assessment is described as criterion-related, as it is based upon predetermined criteria that are scaled according to their relative importance in each subject area. The IB MYP identifies a set of objectives for each subject group, which are directly related to the assessment criteria of that particular subject.

There are four criteria assessed for each subject in the MYP. These criteria vary for each level in the Middle Years Programme. Achievement levels range on a scale from 0-8 and each level descriptor varies by IB year level either 1 (6th Grade) 2 (7th Grade) or year 3 (8th Grade).

Subject groups must address all strands of all four assessment criteria at least twice in each year of the MYP.

IB MYP Inclusion Policy Summary

We value student diversity and respect individual learning differences, working to meet students where they are and helping them grow through scaffolded support. The IB MYP is designed for all learners and an opportunity for each student to grow and persevere based on their own unique skills and abilities.

In partnership with parents, the school endeavors to equip ALL students with high quality, rigorous instruction and support while developing the skills necessary to be successful and independent upon entering higher education and the workforce. Through inclusion, we honor the IB Learner Profile attributes, creating caring, open-minded students who balance the different aspects of their own lives and needs as well as support the needs of our diverse community.

IB MYP Language Policy Summary

At Trinity Catholic School, all teachers have a role in language instruction. Through language, students acquire knowledge and communicate what they have learned. We aim to develop effective, global communicators through an in-depth study of English as the primary language, as well as instruction in an additional language.

Language and Literature: The primary language of instruction is English. The scope and sequence of our English and Literature middle school curriculum has been created to support the MYP Language Arts aims and objects found in the Language Arts subject guides.

Second Language Acquisition: IB MYP students have three consecutive years of foreign language instruction. Starting in 6th grade, students choose Spanish or Latin.

Eighth Grade students have the opportunity to earn high school credit for either Latin 1 or Spanish 1, for high school credit.