

Sacred Heart School

Student Support Plan Accommodations for Students in Grades 5-8

Accommodations at Sacred Heart School

The following outlines the accommodations Sacred Heart School may provide, what each looks like in practice, and how to access it. All accommodations are individualized based on your Student Support Plan (SSP). The most important strategy for success is ongoing communication with your teachers and parents.

2026–27 Update: In light of our new cursive standards, the student support team has expanded the written-response options available to students who qualify for accommodations in this area. Students with an SSP that includes a writing accommodation will not be required to meet the new cursive standards and will continue to follow their individual plans.

Testing Accommodations

Additional Time on Tests

- When a test is announced, write it down in your planner and ask your teacher how extended time may be offered. Extra time must be requested (email preferred) at least 24 hours prior to the test (on a workday).
- When you send the email, include your family (and ARC teacher if enrolled) to confirm the timing works within your family schedule/transportation.
- Standard extra time is 50% additional time (time and a half), if you are eligible for 100% extra time, ensure you communicate that with your teacher.

Assistive Technology

Although the technology is not provided by SHS, we will try to accommodate you during the school day, when possible and in the following ways:

- Use of computer to type written responses.
- Text-to-speech tools
- Speech recognition
- Microsoft Learning Tools

Writing Format Update: Students who have the accommodation of "computer for writing" may now also opt to use print instead of cursive in testing environments.

Calculator

- When eligible, you may use a four-function calculator for tests.
- Students must still show their work to receive full credit on classroom-based tests.
- There may be instances when a calculator is not permitted due to assessment objectives.
- You are responsible for providing and maintaining your calculator.

Notecard (Memory Aid)

A memory aid is a study tool designed to help students recall essential information during tests, and may include concise summaries, key concepts and terms, and mnemonics.

- A 5x7 notecard must be pre-approved by the teacher at least 24 hours prior to the test date.
- There may be instances when a notecard is not permitted due to assessment objectives.

Small Group Setting

- Sacred Heart School cannot guarantee access to a small group setting for all tests, though it will be offered when available.
- All students are encouraged to use noise cancelling headphones and a desk privacy screen to reduce distractions.

Test Read Aloud:

- To ensure meaningful test results, your testing accommodations should be comparable on classroom tests to those on standardized tests.
- SHS can provide this accommodation in the following ways:
 - Standardized tests (such as MAPs) when the test provides the read aloud software.
 - When a student uses assistive technology to provide text to speech independently.

Rephrased Directions

- Communicate with your teacher ahead of time if you know that rephrased or simplified directions typically help you understand what's being asked.
- If test directions are unclear, ask your teacher to repeat or rephrase them in simpler terms before the test begins.

Classroom Accommodations:

Audiobooks:

To access this accommodation during the school day, students must follow along with a physical copy of the book paired with pre-downloaded audio. Students may either: (1) access the audiobook on their laptop, start and set the computer aside to follow along with text (physical book or eReader), or (2) access the audiobook on a eReader (not provided by school), and again along with text (physical book or eReader).

Ask your L.A. teacher what novels your class will read and when to ensure you have it downloaded when needed.

Many textbooks are now web-based and include accessible features like read-aloud.

- <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/bookshare-me>
- <https://www.audible.com/>
- <https://learningally.org/>
- King County Public Library Systems: <https://kcls.org/>
- Libby app online and mobile devices: <https://libbyapp.com/>

Calculator:

- When eligible, you may use a four-function calculator for classwork and/or homework.
- Students must still show their work to receive full credit.
- There may be instances when a calculator is not permitted due to learning objectives.
- You are responsible for providing and maintaining your calculator.

Class Notes:

Let your teacher know that you would like a copy of the class notes and they will supply a strategy.

Possible strategies include:

- Take a photo of the whiteboard with your device.
- If your teacher has an online OneNote binder, a copy of notes can be accessed by any student, anytime (not SSP dependent).
- Copy of a peer's notes (teacher facilitated)

Breaking Down Tasks

- Ask your teacher to break larger assignments into smaller, clearly defined steps or checkpoints.
- Use a checklist or planner to track each step as you complete it.
- Check in with your teacher if you're unsure what the next step is or feel overwhelmed by the size of an assignment.

Self-Regulated Breaks

- Communicate with your teacher about a signal or system (e.g. a break card, hand signal, or agreed-upon phrase) to request a short break when needed.
- Breaks should be used to reset and refocus, then return to the task at hand.
- Work with your teacher to identify a designated space for breaks, if needed.

Fidget/Sensory Tools

- Fidget or sensory tools must be pre-approved by your teacher.
- Tools should be used quietly and should not distract your learning or the learning of peers.

Flexible furniture

- This includes standing desks and adjustable seating (options vary by classroom)

Targeted (Strategic) Seating:

- Communicate with your teacher the seating location that will help you to be successful and engaged in class (may vary by classroom).

Teacher Proximity & Eye Contact

- Ask your teacher to periodically check in through proximity (standing or sitting nearby) or eye contact during instruction to help you stay focused and engaged.
- This can also serve as a quiet, non-disruptive way for your teacher to check that you're on track without singling you out.
- Communicate with your teacher about what type of check-in (proximity vs. eye contact) works best for you.

Assistive Technology & Written Work

In the classroom, students who have the accommodation of "access to assistive technology" (typing written work, speech-to-text, etc.) may now also use print for handwritten work.

The goal of these accommodations is to help students communicate their ideas effectively while continuing to build their writing skills. If a student can communicate well through print, we encourage them to keep using print rather than automatically shifting to typing for all written work. Assistive technology remains available when needed and as appropriate to the student's individual plan.

Accommodations Sacred Heart School Cannot Provide

While Sacred Heart School tries our best to accommodate the diverse needs of our students, there are accommodations that we cannot provide, including:

- Pre-teaching of new concepts
 - Special education curriculum (i.e. Wired for Reading, Handwriting Without Tears, etc.)
- Guaranteed small group or distraction-free settings, SHS cannot guarantee access to a small group setting or that an alternative setting will be distraction-free. All students are encouraged to use noise cancelling headphones and a desk privacy screen to reduce distractions.
- Extended time to turn in assignments or homework, or exemption from late-work penalties
- 1:1 teacher help
- Test retakes if offered, are at the discretion of the teacher and must align with test objectives
- Preferential teacher and/or schedule selection
- Test reader or scribe
- Homework scribe — SHS cannot provide a scribe during the school day. Students may use a tutor or parent to scribe at home for longer written assignments (not approved for math). A scribe may copy math problems onto paper, but students must write out and show all work for problem-solving.
- Multisensory instruction (seeing, hearing, doing) for all lessons
- Occupational, Physical, or Speech Therapy services
- Modifications to classwork, homework, or tests