

**ST. WALTER SCHOOL**  
**STUDENT & FAMILY**  
**HANDBOOK**  
**OF**  
**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**  
**FOR**  
**2009-2010**

This booklet explains St. Walter School policies and regulations for the general operation of the school. Policy statements are necessarily general and the Administration reserves the right to make specific applications as circumstances arise. Statements in this handbook are subject to amendment with or without notice. The Administration will attempt to keep families informed of all changes as soon as possible.

We urge you read this book carefully. There are some revision and additions since the previous school year. After you have read it, please go over it with your child(ren). Keep this book in a convenient location for easy reference.

Upon reading the book, you and your child(ren) are asked to sign the Acknowledgement page at the end of the Handbook and **return it no later than September 3, 2009.**

#### AMENDMENTS OR ADDENDA TO HANDBOOK

St. Walter School, through the Principal, retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause with or without notice. Quickly changing circumstances or events will be considered just cause. However, the school will attempt to inform parents of all changes as soon as possible.

Rev. 08/01/0

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Walter School is an integral part of the parish education ministry. It exists to promote the religious values of the Catholic Church, to foster faith-filled community and to provide an excellent academic program for the culturally-diverse children and families of the parish and its neighboring communities.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF ST. WALTER SCHOOL**

**We believe** that St. Walter School, as a Catholic school, shares in the three-fold mission of Jesus Christ – to proclaim the gospel message, to foster community, and to serve humankind.

**We believe** that a creative and supportive atmosphere challenges and motivates students to realize their potential – spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically. Through worshipping, sharing, accepting and living in the school environment, students may better live in and serve the total community.

**We believe** that parents are an integral part of this educational process and recognize the importance of their cooperation and partnership in this endeavor.

**We believe** fostering a faith-filled community is a prime importance and witness this through active participation in church life at school and at home.

**We believe** that by recognizing the diverse gifts of all and celebrating their individual differences, we strive to create an atmosphere conducive to learning that promotes a sense of belonging and acceptance for everyone in a culturally diverse environment.

**We believe** that a well-balanced, challenging curriculum, continually reevaluated to meet the changing needs of our community, prepares the students to accept a responsible leadership role in society.

**We believe** that character building is an important factor in shaping the students minds and hearts. We firmly believe in discipline based on self-respect, concern for others, and Catholic, Christian ideals.

**In God we trust and teach.**

## **ADMISSION POLICY**

### **AGE OF ADMISSION**

A child entering preschool must attain the age of three by September 1.  
A child entering kindergarten must attain the age of five by September 1.  
A child entering first grade must attain the age of six by September 1.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

St. Walter School is operated under the auspices of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

St. Walter School admits students of any race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students in this school.

St. Walter School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin in administration of education policies, athletic or other school administrated programs.

### **PRIORITY OF ADMISSION**

When space in school is limited and it becomes necessary to prioritize among applicants for admission to the school, the following order of preference shall be observed:

1. Students currently enrolled in St. Walter School
2. Brothers and sisters of currently enrolled students.
3. Catholic children of parishioners seeking enrollment who have been registered members of St. Walter Parish for at lease one year.
4. Catholic children of families who reside within the parish boundaries but have not been registered members of St. Walter Parish for at least one year.
5. Christian children of all other families who live within the parish boundaries.
6. Children of all other families.

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

St. Walter School was established to assure that members of the St. Walter Parish community would have the opportunity to provide their children with a quality elementary education in a Catholic environment. Maintaining, enhancing, and projecting the Catholic character of the school is a priority. Full participation in the religious program and in related school religious activities is expected of all students and parents.

As a general guide, the school attempts to maintain a 70% Catholic enrollment ratio.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the discretion of the Pastor and/or Principal in issues related to school admission.

## **LEARNING DISABILITIES**

St. Walter School does not have a specific curriculum for those students who are diagnosed as having a learning disability. Consideration for their attendance at St. Walter School will be determined by the Principal.

## **APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION**

All applications for admissions to St. Walter School, including transfer applications, must be accompanied by the following: a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, baptismal record, and current health and immunization records as prescribed under the Illinois State School Code. (Beginning July 1997, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Child Health Examination Code, will require all children enrolling in a child care facility or preschool program, the Kindergarten level and children entering fifth grade for the first time, to show evidence of three (3) doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine.) Also required is proof of residency and such other documentation as the Principal may reasonably request.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

For admission of transfer students, parents shall present the proper transfer or some appropriate verification from the school previously attended. For children transferring from the school, upon written request from the receiving school and payment of all previous fees, all records from the school, including health records shall be transferred.

Students wishing to transfer into St. Walter School will be required to have the appropriate personnel from the sending school complete an Education Report providing information about the student's records.

**All transfer students will be accepted into St. Walter School on probation status.** Families are agreeing to abide by the rules and uphold the values put forth in the Family Handbook. The students' academic and behavioral performance must be at the standards expected of all students in the school. Ordinarily, this status will be reviewed at the end of the first semester and removed or revised.

All transfer students must have all records in place before the first day of school, otherwise the child(ren) will not be allowed to begin school.

## ATTENDANCE

We ask parents/guardians to follow this procedure in the event of a student's absence:

1. A phone call reporting the absence must be made to the school office before 8:45 a.m. This is to confirm that the child is safe and supervised.
2. Upon returning, the student must bring a dated note stating reason(s) and dates of the absence.
3. An absence of more than three days requires a doctor's note before readmission.
4. Students with a diagnosed or a communicable disease must present a note for readmission stating that the student is able to return to school and is free from contagion. If students have some parasite or bug infestation (for example head lice or ring worm) they may return after presenting proof of treatment.
5. Students are required to make up missing homework. Parents can pick up homework **at the end of the school day only**.

When it is absolutely necessary for a student to be excused from school for medical/dental appointments or other emergencies, a note must be sent to the teacher and principal for approval **before** the time of the appointment. No child will be allowed to leave the school building without an authorized adult (parent/guardian, or parent-authorized adult.) This adult must sign out the child in the office and meet the child there. Students will be marked absent for a half-day for the time missed.

## EXTENDED ABSENCES & VACATIONS

Parents who wish to take their children out of school for a period of time because of family plans shall notify the Principal in advance of one month of the absence.

Parents should realize that missing school may affect their child's grades. Parents who find it necessary to take their children out of school for family vacations assume the responsibility of seeing that their children are instructed in the material presented during their absences.

Teachers are not obliged to give student work for that time. The only exception would be in the instance of serious illness or the death of an immediate family member.

A student who is absent ten days or more in one tri-semester is not issued a report card until all his/her work had been completed. Furthermore, a student who has missed thirty days, without serious reasons, during the school year will be put on probation the next school year or may not be promoted to the next grade at the end of the school term.

## TRUANCY

If a student is absent without an approved excuse, or if the school has reason to suspect the validity of the excuse, the Principal shall investigate the situation and apply appropriate remedies. If all efforts to persuade the child to return to school are fruitless the case shall be referred to the appropriate official of the public district for further and immediate remediation.

## **TARDINESS**

A student is tardy if she/he arrived in the classroom after the 8:10 a.m. bell. For safety purposes the school doors are locked, so if a child comes later to school she/he must ring the doorbell and come to the office before proceeding to the classroom.

Tardiness interferes with not only a child's process but it also causes disturbances to the teacher and the child's classmates. Chronic tardiness is a sign of a problem. Measures will be taken by the school to assure that the tardy problem will be alleviated. The parent(s) or guardian(s) are to take a positive role in alleviating this problem. Tardiness does become part of a student's permanent record. Denial of privileges may be used to correct this problem. In most instances, though, the child is not at fault; rather the parent/guardian is at fault.

Detention will be given for each unexcused tardy after the third tardy in a trimester. After the sixth tardy the child may receive an in school suspension or in the case of the parent/guardian's fault, parent/guardians will be required to give one half hour of volunteer service back to the school for every third tardy after the sixth one.

## **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

Any announcement of school closings affecting all Chicago city Catholic schools and all Chicago Archdiocesan Catholic schools will be in effect for St. Walter School

If there are any changes in the school calendar, parents will be notified in writing by telephone relay, or by radio stations: AM670 (WMAQ), 720 (WGN), 780 (WBBM), FM 960 (B96), 94.7 (WLS), or by television channels 5, 7, 9 or 32.

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

The daily school will include bells at the following times:

8:00 - First bell – students will enter the building

8:10 - Tardy Bell – classes begin

11:50- Lunch/Recess begins

12:30- Lunch/Recess ends

2:40 – Dismissal Warning Bell

2:45 – Dismissal –Walker (east)

2:46 – Dismissal – Walker (west)

2:47 – Dismissal – Car riders

Students should not arrive in the lobby before 7:50 a.m. each morning.

Students are expected to leave the school grounds after dismissal unless the student has been detained by the teacher or is under the teacher's supervision or if the student is enrolled in the extended day program.

Grades Pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade will line up in the morning in the lobby.

Grades 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade will line up outside the school doors (Parking lot side of the school) in designated area assigned by the teachers.

It is of the utmost importance that NO parent/guardian pulls into the school parking lot in the morning hours in their vehicles. Repeated offenders can be cited for placing school children in a dangerous situation.

## **EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM**

Parents may elect to enroll their child(ren) in the Extended Day Program for an additional fee. Details are explained in the Extended Day Handbook. Children may not arrive before 6:30 a.m. each morning and must be picked up by 6:00 p.m. each evening.

Students in this program will be in areas supervised by the Extended Day personnel and only in those areas. Students will be required to not only follow the rules in the Extended Day Handbook but they are also governed by the rules that set forth in this School Handbook. Those students found in violation of either handbook will be asked to leave the Extended Day program and seek another alternative of extended day.

Payment for services must be made in a timely manner or the student will not be allowed to attend the program.

## **STUDENT WELFARE**

**Accidents & Illness:** If a student becomes ill or is the victim of an accident during the school day, a parent or person authorized by the parent will be notified before the child is permitted to leave school. Parents or their designee must sign the early dismissal card in the school office before the child leaves the building.

**Health:** Preschool, Kindergartners, fifth grades and all students entering St. Walter School for the first time are required by state law to present a record of physical examination and immunization. These records should be turned into the school office no later than the first day of school. Students will not be admitted to school without proof of immunization and/or physical exams.

Students in kindergarten, second grade and fifth grade are required to have dental examinations during the year. Reports are due by the first day of school.

Communicable diseases are required by law to be reported to the school office. Parents are asked to conform conscientiously to this requirement, for the health and safety of all.

**Medications:** Parents/Guardians have the primary responsibility for the administration of medication to their children. The administration of medication to students during the regular school hours and during school related activities is discouraged unless necessary for the critical health and well being of the student.

It is the policy of this school that school personnel, including teachers, administrators, and administrative staff shall not administer medication to students except as provided in the School Medication Procedures established for the medication. Compliance with the School Medication Procedures administration of medication is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Each family has been provided a copy of the school medication procedures upon enrollment for the year. In summary, these procedures state that school personnel shall administer medicine only if a Medication Authorization Form containing a written prescription, written administration instructions, written indication of the diagnosis and effects of the medicine, and written permission of the parent. The medication must be in an appropriate labeled container. The School Principal reserves the right to deny such requests. Parents must make other arrangements for the administration of medication if any conditions do not exist.

A student may self-administer medication at school if so ordered by his/her licensed prescriber. Such medication shall be kept in the school office under the control of the School Principal or his/her designee. Students who suffer from asthma or allergies that require the immediate use of medication shall be permitted to carry such medication and to self-administer the medication if the appropriate forms are completed and on file in the school office.

## ACADEMICS

**VALUES** – St. Walter School’s program is centered on the gospel values taught by the Catholic Church. Particular emphasis is placed on the following:

- Respect:** Children are taught to recognize the good in each other and to accept each individual for the unique creation of God she/he is. Children are taught to value themselves, others, and nature – from conception to death.
- Honesty:** Children are taught to be truthful through what they say to others and through the work they submit as their own.
- Obedience:** Children are taught to follow rules and directions because they are for the good of the entire group.
- Service:** Children are taught to be helpful to others through the daily routines of school life and through special class projects focused on people from the community.
- Peace:** Children are taught nonviolent ways to resolve conflict and to have empathy for others.
- Justice:** Children are taught to seek ways to help others receive what they need for a comfortable life.
- Value of Life:** Children are taught to realize the benefits of hard work and are encouraged to always do their personal best.

### **Teachings and Traditions of the Church:**

Children are taught the basic doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church and the prayers, rituals and traditions of the practicing that doctrine.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The religious education of the children of St. Walter School includes daily instruction in their faith, participation in a variety of prayer experiences, having opportunities for planning and participating in Eucharistic celebrations, and sharing in the variety of liturgical celebrations following the liturgical calendar.

With the cooperation and involvement of parents, the students are prepared for the receptions of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation within organized formal programs of instruction and faith experience. Information regarding these programs is shared through scheduled parent meetings.

In conjunction with our religious education program our students in grades K-8 receive instruction in the Family Life Program. At this time, the students are given the opportunity to build on what their parents have begun with regards to the value and reverence that each person must be afforded. Sex education and AIDS awareness is incorporated with the Family Life Program. The program will be taught during the early part of March each year.

Community service opportunities are afforded to our students with projects or reaching out to our sharing parish, St. Pius. Also, mission projects are held at various times of the year by the different grades. Our Student Council is actively involved in promoting projects that enrich both our local school community and the far-reaching greater community.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks are loaned to students and are to be maintained in good condition. Fines for excessive wear are assessed as follows:

Worn Cover: \$3.00 Broken Binding: \$7.00 Lost or Ruined Books: \$20.00

Book covers are required for all textbooks belonging to the school. Fines are charged to violators for each offense and the students are required to cover the book during recess.

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Close contact between teachers and parents is highly encouraged. It is often in a child's best interest for a parent to confer personally with the teacher. Parent-Teacher Conferences for all students are scheduled each year in November after the first report card. These conferences are mandatory.

Additional conferences may be scheduled at any time deemed necessary. An appointment should be made for this purpose to assure that the teacher can give full attention to the parent. Please respect the teacher's preparation time before school and do not stop for a last minute conference. Parents are asked not to deter teachers for mini conferences at lunch time also. This time is not good for the teacher or the parent as well as the child. Please contact the teacher by phone or email to set up an appointment.

Please note that the home phone numbers or personal emails are never released. It is school policy that during school hours all transactions **must** be conducted through the main school office.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

Parents may request to review a student's permanent record at any time. Such requests should be made in writing to the school office. Allow twenty-four hours to enable the office personnel to reserve time for the visiting parent.

Because St. Walter School assumes responsibility for children in the school, it is important that the school is notified of any special court sanctioned arrangements regarding custody of and access to children whose parents are divorced and/or separated. The school will grant visitation to a child's parent unless court documentation prohibiting such access is on file in the school office.

St. Walter School follows the provisions of the FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT and permits parents to inspect and review their child's school records. In the case of non-custodial parents, the school will provide such parents with access to the school records unless the school is provided with a court order prohibiting that parent from inspecting or obtaining such records.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL/ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

The religious education and basic curriculum of St. Walter School include the following:

**BAND:** Band instruction is available for grades 4-8 on Mondays

**MUSIC:** Students in grades K-8 receive weekly music instruction

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Grades K-8 has gym class twice weekly. On gym days, all students shall wear the official gym uniform.

**TESTING:** Students in grades 3,4,5,6 and 7 take the Terra Nova Achievement tests in early March. Results of all tests are given to the parents in May.

**MEDIA CENTER:** Students in grades K-8 are scheduled for at least 2 working sessions in the Media Center each week. During this time, students access computer and library resources. In addition, students in K-8 are scheduled for one instructional session of technology in the media center.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Periodic field trips may be scheduled during the year to enable the students to study parts of the community that re not possible to study in the classroom. Parents will be asked to request their child's participation in each trip by completing a field trip permission slip. Cost for the trip will be paid by the family.

## **GRADING SCALE**

A	95-100	Consistently shows a thorough understanding of the material presented through high quality work that goes beyond the minimum requirements.
B	87-94	Exceeds the basic requirements for knowledge gained, accuracy of information and quality of work.
C	77-86	Meets the basic requirements for knowledge gained, accuracy of information and quality of work.
D	70-76	Shows a less-than-adequate understanding of the material presented by submitting work that does not meet the basic requirements.
U	below 70	Performance shows a lack of understanding that will interfere with future academic success.

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HNOOR SOCIETY

To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (second semester sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. Candidates must have been (1) in attendance at the school equivalent of one semester. (2) The national minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 85 percent, B or 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or an equivalent standard of excellence. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, character and citizenship. (3) The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. (4) The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NJHS. (5) The National Council and NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual member to local chapters.

## HOMEWORK

Homework is the responsibility of the child. Emphasis is placed on completeness, accuracy, and neatness. Time allotted for homework varies according to the grade level of the child and the subject matter being studied. Teachers will give parents an idea of what to expect via letters sent at the opening of classes.

While homework can reinforce what has been presented during the school day, it can also give parents the opportunity of keeping in touch with their child's progress. Homework including study assignments, reading assignments, and written assignments.

Parents are asked to provide a regularly scheduled time and a quiet place at home for homework to be done. Parents are also expected to monitor the completion of the work.

Although it is sometimes difficult for a teacher to determine how long it will take each individual to complete the work assigned, our intention is that no child should spend an unreasonable amount of time on homework. Failure to use time well during the day, poor study habits, or a home atmosphere not conducive to study may necessitate a longer period of time. If your child seems to spend an unreasonable amount of time on homework, consult the child's teacher for advice.

## DISCIPLINE

Since the purpose of the school is to provide a Christian atmosphere in which students can experience and practice the Christian life of faith, all students are expected to exhibit Christian attitudes and behavior in all relationships with teachers and fellow students. These are best shown by observing the Student Code of Conduct.

### Student Code of Conduct

**Be Considerate** Think of others and find ways to create a good learning environment for everyone. Keep your voice down so others are not distracted from their work. Walk in the hallways and classrooms to avoid accidents. Share what you have or know when someone is in need. Helping others helps you, too.

**Be Cooperative** Obey the rules and follow the directions of students and adults in the building. We are all here to work and learn together. Working together and doing what we are asked makes more opportunities for everyone.

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- Be Courteous** Good manners are always appropriate. Use pleasant words and cheerful greetings. Be attentive to those who are speaking to you. Small acts of kindness like holding doors or allowing others to go first make a difference. Remember the Golden Rule”: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*
- Be Responsible** You are in charge of your behavior and your learning. You alone can meet these expectations. Do what is right and take credit for it. Accept the consequences when you make a wrong choice. Control your behavior. Complete your work on time. Always do your best. Take responsibility for what you do.
- Be Respectful** Your fellow students and your teachers deserve your respect, just as you deserve respect from them. Speak kindly to and about others, using words that do not offend, like foul language or racial slurs. Do not take, hide, destroy or play with their property. Look for ways to be helpful and to include all classmates in class activities. Do what you can to help people feel valuable and special.

Life at St. Walter School is governed by three rules:

1. Respect yourself, others and things
2. Contribute to the learning environment
3. Follow school and classroom procedures.

Students are taught these rules and their implications at the beginning of the year.

### **SELF-DISCIPLINE SKILLS**

Students are also taught 15 self-discipline skills that will help them control their own behavior and follow the school rules. These skills are:

Listening	cooperation	setting time limits
following directions	reasons for rules	resolving problems
asking questions	completing a task	initiating solutions
sharing	leadership	fact vs. feeling
social skills	communication	making sacrifices

The first five skills are emphasized in the primary grades. The second five skills are the focus for the middle grades. The final five skills are stressed in the upper grades.

### **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES DEFINED**

Because of our belief in helping each student reach his/her potential – spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically – and because of our desire to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, St. Walter School will maintain a drug-free environment.

Except for authorized sacramental use, students are forbidden to use, possess, and/or distribute any controlled substances during school hours, on school property, or at school events on or away from the school site.

Controlled substances include alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco products. Programs will be in place to teach students the dangers of controlled substances and ways to resist the pressures to use such substances. Programs will be in place to create a positive learning environment that promotes self-esteem

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In-service activities will be conducted to train staff and parents in the effects of controlled substances and in ways to help students resist use of controlled substances. St. Walter School will be a substance-free workplace for adults as well as a substance free school for children.

Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products may be used by adults at events conducted for the general public in St. Walter facilities, within the guidelines of insurance and local ordinances. Such substances will not be allowed at events sponsored for children even if adults are present.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT DEFINED**

Sexual Harassment by one employee of another, by an employee of a student, by a student of an employee, or by one student of another is unacceptable conduct. Employees or students who engage in any type of sexual harassment will be subject to appropriate discipline, including suspension and/or dismissal.

Retaliation in any form against an employee or student who exercises his/her right to make a complaint under this policy is strictly prohibited, and will itself be cause for appropriate disciplinary action.

An employee or student who knowingly makes false charges against an employee or a student in an attempt to demean, abuse, or embarrass that individual shall be subject to the sanctions for misconduct set forth above.

Students who are involved in sexual harassment activities may be suspended from school pending the investigation of their situation. Refer to discipline policies for further information.

### **FORMS OF DISCIPLINE**

- Discipline Notice/Demerit: written notification informing parents of inappropriate behavior. Parents are expected to take corrective to take action at home and to sign and return the notice.
- Detention: Students remain after school under a teacher's supervision. Parent is notified in advance. Student will obey the rules of detention or be assigned another detention.
- In-School Suspension: Student is removed from class and assigned to the Principal's office, working on alternate assignments. All regular classroom work from the day is expected to be completed, but no credits need to be given.
- Out-of-School Suspension: Student is forbidden to attend school during the time of suspension. All regular classroom work from the time is expected to be completed, but no credit need be given.
- On Notice: A student receives informal notification that continued inappropriate behavior will result in more serious consequences.
- Contract: When a student is placed on contract, formal notification is given that the student must meet given behavior expectations by a specified date or more serious consequences will be enacted.

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Probation: A student is given formal notification that behavior is unacceptable and future incidents will result in the student being expelled from the school.

Expulsion: The student may no longer attend St. Walter School

### **DETENTION**

All students who receive a detention will serve the detention on the Thursday of the same week that the detention was issued. A detention notice will be sent home on the day of the infraction. It must be signed by the parent and returned the next school day.

Detentions ordinarily last for 30 minutes for students in K-4 and for 60 minutes in grades 5-8. During detention, the student may not talk, sleep or do homework. The student may be asked to complete missing school work, if that is the reason for the detention.

- \*A student who fails to report for a detention will be issued a second detention
- \* A student who fails to report to more than three detentions will be suspended from school . A meeting with the Principal must be conducted before the student can be readmitted to school.
- \*A student who has served two or more detentions will do cleaning within the school while in detention under the supervision of the Principal.
- \*A student who receives four or more detentions in a trimester, will be placed on a probation contract.

### **ROUTINE DISCIPLINE MATTERS**

Routine violations of the classroom procedures and common courtesies will ordinarily be handled by the classroom teacher. Examples of these behaviors include, but are not limited to continuous disruptive talking, blurting out, constantly out of seat, silliness that disrupts the classroom routine, not staying on task, immature comments and actions, incomplete/no homework or class work, teasing, talking back to arguing with the teacher, throwing snowballs on the grounds of the school, refusing to follow basic rules and directions, verbal abuse toward others, cheating, obscene gestures or materials, wearing and coming unprepared for class.

These violations will ordinarily be handled in this matter:

1. Verbal warning
2. Visual warning –name on board, yellow light, stop-think-plan card
3. Written warning – demerit/discipline notice, red light
4. Detention

Students who do not respond to these steps will ordinarily be sent to the principal's office for consequences and parent notification. While in the office, the student will complete a consequence sheet, describing what happened, what should have been done, and how the incidence impacted the classroom. The Principal will call the parent to inform him/her of the incident and to alert him/her that the form is coming home and must be signed and returned the next day. If the parent does not sign and return the form the next day, the parent will be notified.

The student will ordinarily be placed on notice that subsequent visits to the office may result in at least three hours of detention, in school suspensions, out-of-school suspension for 1-3 days, being on contract, being on probation and/or expulsion. At any point, the Discipline Review Board may be convened to deliberate upon alternative steps to be taken to assist a student to exhibit appropriate behavior.

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

(revised 7/1/09)

All cell phones must be turned off and placed in the students backpack for the duration of the school day, which is from 8:00 a.m. to 2:48 p.m., as well as during extended day hours. Cell phones must remain in the backpack, turned off as long as a student is in the school building. Random inspections may take place to ensure the enforcement of the rules.

Possession of a cell phone (outside the backpack) during school hours will result in the following discipline action:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Phone turned into office by teacher and one hour detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Phone turned into office by teacher, one hour detention and parent/guardian must come to school to pick up the phone
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Phone turned into office by teacher, two hour detention, parent/guardian must come to school to pick up the phone and pay a fine of \$10.00
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Discipline stated in 3<sup>rd</sup> offense and In-school suspension

Use of cell phone, especially texting, at any time during the school hours is a serious offense because it questions the academic integrity of the class and causes a disruption of the classroom and learning process.

Upon investigation, a phone found in use will result in the following disciplinary action:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Phone is taken away, parent/guardian contacted immediately two hour detention and parent/guardian must pick up the phone.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Phone is taken away, parent/guardian contacted immediately, in-school suspension, and put on contract.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Phone is taken away, parent/guardian contacted immediately, out-of-school suspension, put on probation.
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Discipline stated in 3<sup>rd</sup> offense and possible expulsion

## **ACCEPTABLE TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY**

St. Walter School provides computers, software, Internet access and other technological tools for students use for the purpose of enhancing learning. Our internet in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by sharing resources, communications, and innovative thought.

It is our goal that all students that enter the doors of St. Walter School learn that they are responsible for their own actions and that those actions should mirror the morality, faith and beliefs that we profess. In this light, technology usage at St. Walter School is conducted under the same rules and values as any other activity at school. All students, faculty and staff share in the general rights and privileges of access to computer resources, intellectual freedom, privacy in electronic work and communication, and safety from harassment. Students and staff will be expected to use technology in a manner which is responsible, legal, and appropriate.

Technology usage is a privilege, not a right. A student's failure to adhere to use guidelines will result in the restriction or revocation of the privileges. Should privileges be revoked, there shall be no obligation for St. Walter School to provide a subsequent opportunity for access to technology.

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Proper use of technology is expected by all. Improper use includes, but not limited to:

- \*deliberately attempting to disable computers or systems by introducing viruses or other destructive programs, by altering software, by modifying computers, configurations or by other disruptive means.
- \*installing software that has not been authorized by teachers or administrators
- \*entering, reading, or altering any document on a computer hard drive or floppy disk belonging to another person

Proper use of the internet is expected of all. Improper use includes, but is not limited to:

- \*engaging in illegal activities
- \*accessing, retrieving and/or transmitting materials that are threatening, obscene, harassing or inappropriate in the school environment. The school Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of materials.
- \*using inappropriate, offensive, or threatening language
- \*releasing personal information such as name, address, or phone number about oneself or others.
- \*reposting messages without the consent of the author
- \*sending chain letters or annoying messages to large numbers of individuals
- \*plagiarizing work of another
- \*copying software, graphics, or other work in violation of local, state and federal laws
- \*downloading files without the authorization of a faculty member or Administrator

As a matter of self-protection, students are expected to inform a teacher if they receive any message that makes them feel uncomfortable, if they suspect a break in system security, if they accidentally access an inappropriate file, or some other improper event happens.

Students are subject to any and all disciplinary action if any of the above violations take place.

### **CHRONIC MISBEHAVIOR**

When a student repeatedly exhibits inappropriate behavior over an extended period of time, the student may be considered to have a chronic behavior problem. The teacher may request a conference with the Principal to review the case. During the conference, the teacher will present the documentation identifying the incidents that have occurred and the intervention steps that teacher has taken.

After the conference, the teacher will confer with the parent, explaining the incidents and steps that have already occurred. The teacher will solicit the parent's assistance in correcting the problem. The teacher will inform the parent that the student is on notice and further incidents will result in the student being referred to the Principal to be placed on contract or probation. The teacher will write a summary letter to the parent and keep a copy on file.

If the problem persists, the student will be referred to the Principal. The Principal will ordinarily place the student contract or probation. Additional consequences, including at least three hours of detention, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension for 1-3 days or expulsion may be imposed. The Discipline Review Board may be convened to deliberate upon additional consequences.

## **SEVERE BEHAVIOR**

**Blatant disrespect of authority:** the student is removed from the situation while the incident is investigated. The parent is notified. The student is suspended 1-3 days and placed on contract or probation.

**The use of verbal threats or harm against any student or adult:** is taken seriously. The student will be removed from the situation while the incident is investigated. The parents will be notified. The student can be receive a suspension 1-3 days and placed on a contract or probation.

**Having a weapon or using an object to harm or threaten another person:** the parent is notified immediately to come to school at once. The student is placed on probation and suspended pending the investigation of the situation or expelled. Suspended students will be required to receive appropriate evaluations and/or therapeutic attention, at the parent's expense, in order to remain in school. Upon the investigation of the situation, weapon violations will be reported to the appropriate authorities; not limited to the Chicago Police Department and Office of Catholic Schools (OCS).

**Suspicion of involvement in gang activity:** is taken seriously. The parents will be notified to come to school at once. The student will be suspended, pending the investigation of the situation. The student is placed on probation. The student will be required to receive appropriate evaluations and/or therapeutic attention, at the parent's expense, in order to remain in St. Walter School. Suspicion of gang involvement will be reported to the appropriate authorities; not limited to the Chicago Police Department and OCS.

**Having a controlled substance:** is serious behavior. Parents will be notified immediately to come to school. The student will be suspended pending the investigation of the situation. The student is placed on probation. The student will be required to receive appropriate evaluations and/or therapeutic attention, at the parent's expense, in order to remain in St. Walter School. Controlled substances will be reported to the Chicago Police Department and OCS.

**Fighting, bullying and sexual harassment:** will not be tolerated and will be punished as a serious offense. The parent will be notified to come to school at once. The student will be placed on probation. The student will be required to receive appropriate evaluation and/or therapeutic attention, at the parent's expense.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Student receives at least a three hour detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Student receives a one day suspension & one hour of service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Student receives a three day suspension & three hours of service
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Student will be expelled

**Stealing or the destruction of school property:** is serious. Ordinarily, the student will be placed on contract or probation, the parents will be notified and on the:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Student will receive at least a three hour detention and half hour of Service to the school
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Student will receive a one day suspension & one hour of service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Student will receive a three day suspension & three hours of service
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Student will be expelled

In all incidences above, the student will be required to make restitution. The student may be required to receive appropriate evaluation and/or therapeutic attention, at the parent's expense, in order to remain in school.

## **SAFETY**

In order to give maximum protection for those in the building, all are required to use the doorbell in the lobby to gain entrance to the building. Please wait until the secretary answers the door.

No person is allowed at any time to enter St. Walter School without reporting to the school office. All visitors will be given a visitor's badge to wear while visiting. This badge will be returned to the school office at the conclusion of the visit.

**No parking** is permitted in the front of the school on Western Avenue or in the back of the school along the west side of Oakley. Parents driving students to school must use the drop-off zone along 118<sup>th</sup> Street. Drivers are to enter the zone from the east and to allow students to exit the car at the west end of the zone. Left turns and u-turns are not to be made for the safety of all. Parents who need to park to enter the school to conduct business are asked to park in the limited number of spaces at the corner of Oakley and 118<sup>th</sup> street.

At dismissal, drivers are asked to park in the back parking lot before 2:45 p.m. The Oakley driveway will be blocked at 2:45 so the students can exit the building and go to their cars without traffic. Cars are to park facing the exit. When students have cleared the parking lot, the driveway will be opened and the cars will be directed to leave the lot.

Students who act as "Patrol Guards" are filling a position of service for parents and students. The purpose of the student safety patrol is to assist in the safe conduct of students to and from school. However, parents still remain responsible for the safety of the student traveling to and from school. By providing a student safety patrol, St. Walter School and the Catholic Bishop of Chicago accept no liability for the safety of the student. There may be times, due to circumstances beyond the control of the school when a student is not on duty at a crossing.

Students must always cross streets at the corners. Students are not to leave the school property during school hours without prior approval of the school office. Students are not permitted to frequent stores on their way to and from school. During rainy or snowy weather, the students are asked to wear boots and to have a pair of shoes to wear in the classroom. The students remove their boots in the school lobby. Snowballs are not to be thrown while the students are walking to and from or on the school property.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

St. Walter School maintains a closed-campus schedule. All students in grades Pre-K to 8, faculty and staff will remain at school for lunch.

Daily hot lunch is available for the students. Menus are distributed monthly. Students are required to order lunches for the month at that time. Milk for those days when hot lunch is not purchased is also ordered at that time. The price for a student meal for 2009-2010 is \$2.50. Extra milk may be purchased for \$.35 per carton.

Families may apply for free or reduced-priced meal sponsored by the National Lunch Program. The reduced price for lunch under this program is \$.40. Application forms are available in August or at any time during the year.

Observance of the following rules is required of all children. Each child is personally responsible for these rules which promote safety and good order for all.

- All students are given an approximate fifteen minutes outdoor playing period.
- Lunchtime supervisors oversee this time. Their directions are to be followed without challenge. Rough play, pulling off caps and scarves, throwing snow, etc. will not be tolerated.

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- Students eat in their respective homerooms, monitored by the lunchtime supervisors. Students are expected to remain seated during the lunch period.
- Students may speak with conversational tones during lunch. Boisterous or loud behavior will not be tolerated.

Any child who is consistently uncooperative in regard to the above regulations will be reported by the lunch supervisor to the Principal. Students who will not follow the lunch rules will not be allowed to eat lunch at school. They will be picked up by their parent/guardian and eat lunch under parental supervision, or they will be removed from their class during the lunch time.

### **UNIFORMS (SCHOOL AND P.E.)**

All students in grades K-8 are to be in uniform the entire school year, unless excused by the Principal beginning the Tuesday proceeding Labor Day.

**\*\*\*Revised\*\*\***

**Pre K students will be required to wear the P.E. uniform the entire school year, unless excused by the Principal beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Students may not wear attire (clothing, jewelry, etc.) or exhibit a personal appearance that in the Principal's discretion and judgment is disruptive of the learning environment. This includes all hair cuts and hair dos, colors, and styles, use of make-up. No jewelry other than one pair of stud earrings for pierced ears may be worn on all school days. Fine -link chains that hold small crosses or other religious medals or items may be worn on school days other than gym.

All shirts and blouses are to be tucked into the slacks and skirts. All clothing is to be clean and in good repair. **No uniforms are to be altered from its original appearance for the sake of the student's convenience or preference (i.e. cutting of gym pants to shorts or elastic removed).** Shoes should have soles that do not mark the floor. Jean-style clothing and cargo pants are not acceptable options. Waistbands are not to be worn at the waist, not on the hips or buttocks. Shorts and skirts are to be a modest length for the classroom. **Absolutely no colored tee-shirts or lacey tops** are to be worn under the school shirts. Only proper under clothing must be worn.

Parents are responsible for seeing that their student(s) are properly dressed and will be notified to make corrections if a violation occurs. The violation must be corrected in a time frame reasonably set by the Principal.

School uniforms (including the gym) can be purchased through department stores or

**Schools Are US  
111<sup>th</sup> Street and Kedzie  
Chicago, IL 60655  
(773) 779-0172**

**BOYS UNIFORM:**

Kindergarten – Grade 8 : Navy blue uniform pants  
White Knit shirt  
A belt, if needed to insure that the pants ride at the waist.  
Plain white or dark socks and school shoes

Options: Plain, solid navy blue uniform sweater, cardigan, v-neck or vest.  
No sweatshirts of St. Walter Spirit-wear on regular uniform days

Navy blue uniform shorts may be worn until September 30 and after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**GIRLS UNIFORM:**

Kindergarten – Grade 4: Plaid jumper and a long or short-sleeve plain  
White blouse or knit shirt

Grade 5: Plaid jumper and a long or short-sleeve white blouse or knit shirt  
Or a plaid shirt and long or short-sleeve plain white knit shirt

Grade 6 – 8: Plaid skirt and long or short-sleeve plain white knit shirt

Girls are to wear plain white, navy or dark green socks and school shoes. The socks are to be visible to all. “No-shows” are not acceptable and is considered out of uniform.

Options: Plain, solid navy blue uniform sweater, cardigan v-neck or vest  
Plain navy blue uniform slacks with a plain white knit shirt may be worn from November 1<sup>st</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Plain navy blue uniform slacks with a plain white blouse and a navy blue uniform sweater may be worn from November 1<sup>st</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**P.E. UNIFORMS:**

This is the uniform for Pre K to Grade 8.

Boys and girls (all grades): White or navy blue t-shirt and navy blue sweat pants, each bearing the official St. Walter Logo. Plain white socks, and gym shoes properly laced. No-show socks are not acceptable. Wheelies and platform gym shoes are not acceptable.

Options: Navy blue gym shorts bearing the official St. Walter logo may be worn until October 15 and after April 15. A navy blue sweat shirt with the official St. Walter logo may be worn over the uniform gym t-shirt. No other sweatshirts will be acceptable.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT

	Contributing Parishioner	Other Families
One Student	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 3,940.00
Two Students	\$ 6,030.00	\$ 7,530.00
Three Students	\$ 7,580.00	\$11,290.00
Four or More Students	\$ 8,580.00	\$14,160.00
Preschool half-day	\$ 1,710.00 (3 days)	\$ 2,175.00 (5 days)
Full day	\$ 2,720.00	\$ 4,050.00

**Fees to be paid: Fees must be paid on Fee Day in early August.**

Curriculum fee per student and is non-refundable	\$ 200.00
Computer fee per student and is non-refundable	\$ 40.00
FASA fee per student and is non-refundable	\$ 25.00
Recess fee per family and is non-refundable	\$ 35.00
Market Day fee per family and is non-refundable	\$ 70.00
Fundraising fee per family and is non-refundable	\$ 50.00

**Payment Policies:**

1. All financial obligations for previous years (including, but not limited to tuition, late charges, Market Day fines, NSF checks and fees) must be paid prior to registration for the 2009-2010 school year.
2. All tuition not paid by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month shall be subject to a \$30.00 late fee.
3. If part or all of any tuition payment or late fee remains unpaid on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the due date of that second month payment, the delinquent family's child(ren) shall be suspended from school until such time as all delinquent funds are paid in full. In addition, semester report cards and official transfer records will be withheld until all past due tuition, late charges, and fees or charges of any kind or nature whatsoever are paid in full.
4. Postdated checks will not be accepted for payment, including in delinquent circumstances.
5. The first check returned NSF to the school will be returned to the family and a debit added to the family's record. IN addition, this will be treated as a non-payment and our current late fee policy will apply. A bank service fee and bookkeeping fee incurred by the school in the amount of \$35.00 will be passed on to the family.
6. A second NSF check in the same school calendar year will be subject to the same conditions as the first. IN addition, your personal checks **will no longer be accepted.** All future payments, fee, and fines for the remainder of the school year must be made in the form of certified checks, money orders or cash.

**Fundraising & Tuition Credit:**

During the school year, the School Board will conduct several fund-raisers designated as tuition credit activities. Families who choose to participate in these activities will have a percentage of the profits generated credited to their tuition account as tuition payment.

**Market Day:**

Each school family is expected to support the Market Day fundraiser, by providing an adult (at least high school aged) to assist at Two market days during the 2009-2010 school year. The obligation will be completed when the adult arrives at the designated time and remains until all Market Day tasks have been completed and the adult is dismissed by the Market Day committee.

Each school family will be required to pay a \$70 Market Day deposit on Fee Day. One half of this deposit will be recorded as a tuition credit for each Market Day worker obligation completed. Families who fail to satisfy an obligation will forfeit the deposit.

Families will be given the opportunity to volunteer to assist on the available dates of their choice at Fee Day. Once the assignment is made, the family is responsible for providing an adult worker on the assigned date. Families are responsible for recruiting their own substitute in the event they cannot fulfill an assignment.

Families may choose to forfeit the deposit on Fee Day in lieu of requesting any assignments for the day.

Children under 14 years of age are not permitted to assist on Market Day to accompany the adult fulfilling the requirement.

**All families are required to submit a signed copy of the Financial Support Agreement at the beginning of enrollment.**

**Contributing Parishioner Rates:**

To qualify for the Contributing Parishioner rates, a family must be a registered member of St. Walter Parish and must make regular contributions to the parish and must participate in parish fundraisers and activities.

**Due on September 3, 2009**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE  
OF THE  
SCHOOL HANDBOOK**

**FAMILY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**On \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009 the stated family above read the contents of the Student & Family Handbook for 2009-2010 We understand and accept the responsibility to follow the policies and procedures as set forth in this book.**

**A copy of this page will be on file in the School Office for future reference,  
as needed.**

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)