

**Parent-Student Handbook  
Saint Brigid of Kildare School  
2024-2025**



**7175 Avery Road  
Dublin, OH 43017  
614-718-5825**

## **A Special Message To Parents**

Our school theme for the 2024 - 2025 school year is "*Seeds of Hope*." As we embark on another exciting school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the importance of fostering hope in our children. Some of you may have read or heard that Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 is to be a Jubilee Year with the theme "*Pilgrims of Hope*." This upcoming Jubilee Year is a special time in the words of Pope Francis, "to rediscover, proclaim and build hope." What a wonderful opportunity for our school, parish and parents to partner to teach our children that even though there are many challenges in the world and that we often experience disappointment, fear, or anxiousness that God's love never ceases. Every day brings with it new ways to see God's love at work in the world. Using the imagery of a seed we can help our children relate to the idea that caring and nurturing a small seed allows it to grow into a beautiful flower, or a strong tree that gives us shade and oxygen or that produces food that we can eat.

Let us truly embrace Pope Francis' message of hope in our daily lives, and together seek ways to spread seeds of hope, love and care making the world a better place for all.

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## **Saint Brigid of Kildare School Mission Statement**

The SBK School community, in order to know and live out our Catholic faith, seeks to nurture grace and wisdom. Each individual's unique gifts are developed through strong academic experiences focused on serving God and His kingdom.

## **Saint Brigid of Kildare School Statements of Belief**

- St. Brigid of Kildare is committed to building a community that knows and lives our Catholic faith.
- Each person is a valued gift from God and worthy of respect.
- In order to be the best version of themselves, students benefit from a variety of instructional experiences while developing and using their unique gifts.
- Students learn to integrate their gifts for moral decision making, critical thinking, and problem solving to build the kingdom of God.

**The principal of Saint Brigid of Kildare School  
is the final recourse and  
reserves the right to amend this handbook.  
Parents will be given prompt notification.**

## **Parent/Student Agreement To Comply With School Policies**

A student is required to know all of the information, policies, and regulations. These policies will be reviewed at the school, and parents are strongly encouraged to review this information with their children.

Acceptance of admission/enrollment to Saint Brigid of Kildare School entails an agreement to comply with all school rules, policies, and regulations as published and those that may be enacted during the school year by either the School Advisory Board or the administration. A statement indicating agreement by students and families is to be signed and returned to Saint Brigid of Kildare School at the beginning of each school year.

The Catholic Church and this Catholic school recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. The education of students at our school is a partnership between parents and the school. If, in the opinion of the administration, the partnership is irretrievably broken, the school reserves the right to require the parent to withdraw his or her child. This is a very serious decision that is not made lightly.

## **Right to a Catholic Education**

Catholic schools exist to collaborate with parent(s)/guardian(s) to foster spiritual growth and the educational development of each child. Catholic schools also serve the community, particularly the Catholic community of the diocese.

Catholic schools of the Diocese of Columbus shall be open to children of parent(s)/guardian(s) who seek the religiously oriented education which Catholic schools can provide. Schools shall recruit and admit students of any race, color, gender (except those schools supporting a single gender according to their mission) or ethnicity to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, English proficiency, or disability (medical or academic) in the administration of its educational programs and extra-curricular activities.

Preference shall be given to members of Catholic parishes. Others shall be welcomed on the basis of availability of space at the discretion of the pastor and/or principal. Pastors and principals shall exercise discretion in judging admission of pupils.

Pastors and principals must refuse admittance to anyone who, in their opinion, seeks to enroll for the purpose of circumventing the law.

Catholic schools are schools of choice. Any parent who wishes to have a Catholic education for his/her child agrees that the parent and child will abide by the policies and regulations of the school.

If the policies and/or regulations are not adhered to, or if the school determines that attendance by a student will not be continued, the child may be asked by the principal and/or pastor at the elementary level and the principal and/or superintendent at the high school level to leave the school (Policy 5000).

## **Academics**

### **Reporting To Parents**

A report of pupil progress (report card) is given at the end of each quarter (4 times a year) in grades kindergarten through 8. Saint Brigid of Kildare School implements the approved Diocese of Columbus Report Cards. Interim reports will be issued to individual students on an as needed basis. Additionally, each student will receive at the end of each quarter a discipleship rubric. This form has been designed by the faculty of our school and aligns with our mission statement and statements of belief.

All parents are invited to attend student-led conferences in the fall, winter, and spring. Parents may contact the school office at any time to schedule a conference or to request a phone call from a teacher.

### **Homework**

The four major purposes of homework are:

1. An extension of class work - to practice and reinforce skills or concepts introduced in the classroom.
2. A preparation for class work - to prepare for in-class discussion or experiments; students are often asked to read or study materials.
3. An enrichment - to allow students to explore in-depth subjects of personal interest and to allow individual creative forms of expression.
4. A basis for developing responsibility - to encourage self-discipline, to establish good study habits, and to motivate students to want to learn more.

Homework assignments may include memorization, practice exercises, outside reading, research, art projects, or family activities. Homework is the responsibility not only of the student, but also of the parents. Parents are not expected to do the work for the student, but their guidance and support are needed to see that the student has enough time and a suitable environment in which to do assignments. It is helpful to check on homework on a regular basis to encourage quality work and provide the parent with information regarding curriculum areas.

Students in grades 2-8 will be given an assignment notebook that is to be used nightly. If a student repeatedly tells parents that he/she has no homework to do, it would be advisable for the parents to check with the teacher. Parental interest, encouragement, and cooperation will surely help the student to feel successful and proud of his/her completed assignments. It would be ideal on school nights for students to begin the habit of scheduling a study time whether or not there is assigned homework.

Time allotments for various grade levels are not specified because of consideration for individual ability and rate of performance. Parents who are concerned about “too much” or “too little” homework should contact the teacher(s) involved.

If failure to complete homework becomes a chronic problem, parents may be contacted by the teacher to plan additional intervention (i.e. contracts, parent signing homework notebook, etc.).

## **Admissions**

### **Guidelines for Acceptance to Catholic Schools (Diocesan Policy 5100)**

All Catholic preschools, elementary schools, and high schools are open to students who sincerely seek a Catholic education and meet the requirements listed below.

1. No person shall be admitted as a student in any Catholic school unless that person and his/her parent subscribe to the school's philosophy and agree to abide by the educational policies and regulations of the school and of the Diocese.
2. Whether the student is Catholic or non-Catholic, the student must agree to attend religious classes and the religious activities conducted in the school.
3. No student shall be admitted to any Catholic school unless he/she is deemed to have reasonable hope of successfully completing the school's program. In doubtful cases, students may be admitted on a probationary basis with dates and criteria of evaluation clearly established in writing.
4. A Catholic education should be made available to as many students as possible, but the school must consider whether it has sufficient resources to meet the educational and financial needs of all applicants. Decisions on enrollment may be made based on these constraints.
5. No student shall be admitted to a Catholic school if there is a financial debt of any amount owed to another Catholic school, inclusive of schools within the Diocese of Columbus and schools in other dioceses.
6. Students shall not be denied admission to a school because of a disability unless this disability seriously impairs the student's ability to complete successfully the school's academic program, or unless the school cannot provide sufficient care or make reasonable accommodation for the disabled child.
7. A birth certificate as proof of age must be presented to the school prior to admission. A baptismal certificate shall be required of all baptized Catholics students. The information on the birth and baptismal certificates shall be entered on the permanent office record in the proper place, but only when verified by the official document.
8. A child entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 30. A student entering first grade must be six years old on or before September 30. No child shall be admitted to first grade who

has not successfully completed kindergarten. A waiver from this requirement may be granted only by the receiving school.

9. Each Catholic school retains the right to set local admissions standards, policies, and procedures in addition to those specified by the Diocese. The admission policy for each school should be made public and clearly stated in the local Family Handbook. Elementary Secondary Both 1000 SER 5000 Series – Students Office of Catholic Schools + Diocese of Columbus 4

10. A copy of the Family Handbook is given to new applicants, either in physical or digital form. Parents are to acknowledge in writing (in either physical or digital form) that they have read and agree to adhere to the policies and regulations therein.

11. Annually, the pastor and/or principal shall review each student’s continued eligibility for re-enrollment in the school.

### **Diocese of Columbus Priorities for Acceptance – Elementary Schools**

1. Children from families registered at and actively involved in the sponsoring parish(es) a. children with siblings currently/previously enrolled, b. children now reaching school age, c. children from families newly moved into the parish whose children have been in Catholic schools where such were available.

2. Children from non-participating, Catholic families residing in the parish boundaries with siblings currently or previously enrolled in the school.

3. Students whose families are active, practicing members of Eastern Rite Catholic Churches that are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church (for example, the Maronite, Syro-Malabar, Ge’ez, Chaldean, and Byzantine Catholic Churches).

4. Children transferring from other Catholic schools:

a. from parish schools that are closing

b. from parishes not offering full K-8 programs

c. schools with a waiting list 5. Children of other, non-Catholic faith traditions.

5. Children of other, non-Catholic faith traditions.

### **Admission for Transfer Students**

Students transferring to Saint Brigid of Kildare School from a school district in Ohio will provide a permanent record or transcript from a school chartered by the state of Ohio.

Students transferring from out of state will provide a permanent record or transcript from a state recognized in the state of origin. These are subject to review by the principal prior to admission and placement.

The schools of the Diocese of Columbus **do not grant credit for home-schooled students**. Therefore, the student must first be evaluated by the public school district to determine grade placement prior to admission.

### **Child Custody**

The custodial parent is required to provide the principal or the person in charge of admission with the most current certified copy of any child custody order or decree pertaining to the student through the registration process or upon acceptance.

Any child custody order or decree changes pertaining to a student’s enrollment must be provided to the school, in hard copy, within two weeks of a court’s decision. It is the parent’s responsibility to notify the school of any change in custody status and to provide documentation promptly. (Policy 5106)

## **Saint Brigid of Kildare School Guidelines for New Student Admission**

Application paperwork will be considered complete after all required documents and the application fee are received. Applications received after the annual designated application window will be placed on the waiting list.

### **Application Materials**

The following information is required at the time of application:

- Birth certificate (copy only)
- Baptismal certificate (if Catholic) (copy only)
- Last 4 digits of social security number
- Recent report card for students entering grades 1-8
- \$120.00 per child non-refundable application fee
- Custody papers if parents are separated or divorced
- IEP, 504, or any other student support documentation or evaluations

### **Priorities for Acceptance**

1. Children from families registered at and actively involved\* in St Brigid Parish
  - a. Children with siblings currently/previously enrolled in K-8 (in good standing)
  - b. Children of current St. Brigid Staff (active at St. Brigid Parish or in their home parish)
  - c. Children of St. Brigid Alumni
  - d. Children now reaching school age
  - e. Children of families newly moved and registered into St. Brigid whose children have been in Catholic schools where such were available.

\*Active involvement ranked by date of registration at the parish, as well as regular contributions and involvement in the parish

2. Children from Non-Parishioners with siblings currently enrolled in K-8
3. Children whose families are active, practicing members of other Eastern Rite Catholic Churches that are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church
4. Children enrolling or transferring from other Catholic Parishes
  - a. with parish schools that are closing
  - b. who do not offer K-8 programs
  - c. with parish school with a wait list
5. Children of other, non-Catholic Faith traditions.

### **Continuous Enrollment**

According to state regulations, all families with children applying for kindergarten must complete the new student application process. Preschool students whose families are active, registered parishioners are guaranteed enrollment for kindergarten. Preschool students whose families are not active, registered parishioners will be considered with the above mentioned priorities and will be exempt from the new student registration fee. Families with children in the Saint Brigid of Kildare Preschool Program will be exempt from the new student registration fee.

Children enrolled in kindergarten through grade 7 are guaranteed admission for the following school year.

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## **Notification of Admission**

Families will be given a status update of their application (admission or position on the waiting list) within two weeks of the annual, designated application window.

## **Waiting List**

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of grade level openings, a waiting list will be established. Following the application period, positions on the waiting list will be assigned using the same ranking criteria stated above.

- Families offered a new admission will have 24 hours to respond.
- If a family is offered a new admission prior to the beginning of the school year and does not accept, the family will be given a choice to either go to the bottom of the current list or be removed altogether.
- If a family is offered a new admission during the school year and does not accept, the family will be given a choice to either apply for the beginning of the next school year or be removed altogether. Special circumstances for not accepting admission (such as illness) will be given separate consideration by the school administration.
- A new waiting list will be established for each school year. Participation in the annual application will be necessary to be considered for the next school year even if the family is on the current waiting list.

## **Allergies**

Saint Brigid of Kildare School strives to provide a safe environment for students with life-threatening allergies. Parents should notify the school nurse and homeroom teacher of any life-threatening allergy on or before the first day of each school year or as soon as an allergy is diagnosed.

Each school year, parents and physicians will be required to complete, sign, and return an “Allergy Action Plan” specific to the student with life-threatening allergies. The school nurse will review all allergy information provided by the student’s parents and physician and share this information with the appropriate teachers and staff.

Parents will provide the school with the medications prescribed in the “Allergy Action Plan”. Medications will be kept in the Clinic or with the student as specific needs dictate.’

The parents of a student with a life-threatening food allergy will provide a supply of “safe” snacks for use by their child. Parents of children with life-threatening allergies are responsible for notifying bus transportation providers with information regarding their child’s allergy. Teachers and staff will attend training annually regarding life-threatening allergies.

A “nut-free” table is available daily in the cafeteria for those students/parents who choose to make use of it.

**With our nut and allergy free environment, we do not allow students/parents to bring in treats for any type of special occasion, such as a birthday, a holiday, or an end of the year festivity.**

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

Students should not arrive at school before 7:45 AM and should leave for home promptly at 2:50 PM or when buses depart. The school day officially begins at 8:00.

\*Students should not enter the school building prior to 7:45am unless previous arrangements have been made with a specific teacher. Since supervision of students does not begin until 7:45am, students arriving before this time should be enrolled in our morning latchkey program. This service is offered from 7:00am - 7:45am for a nominal fee.

No student may stay after school unsupervised to wait for sports practice, club meeting, scouts, etc.

Students being delivered to school should follow the drop off procedure described in the Parent Administration Day materials. Students being picked up after school should follow the pick-up procedures described in the Parent Administration Day materials.

Students riding buses are supervised from the time they board the bus until the time they leave the bus at their designated stop.

### **Asbestos in Schools**

Saint Brigid of Kildare School will inform its families and stakeholders, on a yearly basis, as to the presence of any asbestos in the school building.

### **Attendance and Tardiness**

Regular attendance is essential to a student's success in school.

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the school office that morning before 8:30 a.m. (614-718-5825) or email the attendance email at [attendance@stbrigid-school.org](mailto:attendance@stbrigid-school.org) so we can notify the teacher.

Parents should give the student's name, teacher's name, and reason for the absence. If a parent forgets to call or email, the school will call the home to confirm the reason for the student's absence. Absence for more than one hour will be recorded as a half-day's absence.

The following circumstances are the only recognized excused for school absence:

- Personal illness
- Family illness
- Death in the family
- Quarantine of the home
- Medical or dental appointment
- Religious holiday
- Emergencies

**Any absence due to illness or quarantine for more than three days will require a note from a physician.**

**Absences will be monitored, and excessive absences will be addressed by the teacher and the principal. If a student is absent from school for any reason for more than a total of 28 days, the student will not receive credit for that year at the discretion of the principal. According to EdChoice policy, any recipient is allowed no more than 20 unexcused absences. Please refer to the link for more information: <https://calumetchristianschool.org/assets/files/EC-Excused-Absence-Policy-2017.pdf>**

### **Doctor and Dentist Appointments**

Students are encouraged to make every effort to schedule doctor or dentist appointments outside of school hours. However, when this is not possible, students will be excused for these special appointments.

If a student has an appointment during school hours, a written note must be brought to the office in the morning. The note must indicate the person who will be meeting the student. This person must meet the student in the school office and sign the student checkout sheet. Students and their parents/chaperone must again report to the office upon returning to the building. If the appointment is before the student comes to school, notification of this late arrival is requested the day before.

In the event of an absence, the student is expected to make up any missed assignments. Generally, the school allows the same number of days to make up work that the student was absent. Within the limits of a student's maturity, it is his/her responsibility to obtain, complete, and return to the teacher any work missed due to absence. Parents may pick up daily assignments in the office between 3:00-3:30 PM. If you will be picking up your child's work, please notify the office in the morning. No classroom is open after 3:30 PM, Monday-Friday.

In the event that there is a planned absence (vacation, etc.), the parent is required to give advance notice to the school. Students are also to bring a written excuse upon return to school. This note is to explain the absence and must be dated and signed by the parent or guardian. The practice of taking students out of class for a prolonged trip is, of course, something that is beyond our control since such a practice is the decision of the parents of our students. **Vacations are not considered an excused absence.**

We believe that regular attendance is an important part of our educational program because the lesson taught follows a progressive course of studies. If you wish to take your child out of class for whatever reason, please do not ask for work to be given while the child is out. Good teaching demands that one change with the needs of the class, thus what a teacher has planned for a given week is not always accomplished. We will be happy to provide make-up work upon the return to school, but will not give work in advance of it being taught.

### **Tardiness**

One of the purposes of education is to develop habits and patterns of behavior for life. In order to help the students form good habits of punctuality and courtesy, the following procedures are outlined.

### **School Tardiness**

The school day begins at 8:00 AM. The student must report to the school office **accompanied by an adult** to obtain a tardy slip before entering the classroom. The student will not be admitted to class without a tardy slip. All students will be allowed to receive three emergency tardies per quarter in order to provide for inclement weather, traffic conditions, etc. Students arriving or leaving beyond one hour of tardiness will be recorded as a half-day absent.

### **Excessive Tardiness**

Students who exceed the three emergency tardies in any given quarter will be considered to have an excessive tardiness problem. As these tardies accumulate during the quarter, the following penalties will be assessed, hopefully preventing and forestalling habitual tardy problems.

### **Fifth tardy: Teacher contact**

**Sixth tardy: A meeting may be called for the student, parent, teacher, and/or principal to discuss the situation and devise an intervention plan.**

## **Attendance Area**

Criteria for Elementary Schools

1. A student shall attend the school of the parish in which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) are registered members. As stated in policy, if the parish school is full, the student may attend another parish school if the student's pastor and the pastor of the chosen school concur. In the case of a consolidation, a number of parishes shall be assigned to a particular school.
2. If a parish has no school, the student may attend a nearby parochial school.

## **Background Checks**

Saint Brigid of Kildare School requires that all volunteers complete a Civilian Criminal Background Check through the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation by being fingerprinted electronically. We refer people to Fast Fingerprints ([www.fastfingerprint.com](http://www.fastfingerprint.com)).

Please use the Diocesan form found on our parish website at [www.stbrigidofkildare.org/safe-environment](http://www.stbrigidofkildare.org/safe-environment).

Results will be sent electronically to the Diocese of Columbus and then to Saint Brigid of Kildare. This is required regardless of previous fingerprinting by your employer.

A clear record is required for volunteering.

## **Band**

Students interested in band may begin participation in fifth grade. Information will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

## **Breakfast Program**

- Breakfast items will be available for sale from 7:45 - 8:00 AM.
- Items will be sold for \$0.50 or \$0.75 each. The cost will be deducted from the student's lunch account.
- All items will be peanut-free and will be convenient to eat.

## **Bus Conduct and Bus Safety**

It is a privilege to ride the school bus. This service is provided to the students through the public school districts. Students will maintain discipline-like behavior on the bus at all times.

Students will not be permitted to ride home on a bus other than their assigned route. In the case of an extreme emergency, permission may be granted for a transfer with permission of the school administration.

Students riding school buses shall:

- Always obey and cooperate with the bus driver promptly and respectfully.
- Observe the school district's Code of Conduct on the bus.
- Turn in to the bus driver a medical emergency card within a reasonable time. Proper steps will be taken to collect, store and use emergency medical information cards for each student on the bus.
- Arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Buses are on a time schedule and will not return for the late students before or after school.
- Not behave at the bus stop in a manner which may threaten life, limb or property of any individual. When getting on or off the bus, students must cross the street or highway only when

the driver has signaled that the way is clear. Students must remain visible to the driver at all times.

- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before attempting to get on the bus or before getting up from your seat to get off the bus.
- Go directly to an available or assigned seat. Do not stand. Students may not change seats without the driver's permission.
- Remain seated, keeping aisles and exits clear at all times.
- Not put any part of the body out of a bus window. Please do not open or close the windows on the bus without the driver's permission.
- Talk quietly at all times. At railroad crossings there is to be NO talking.
- Not use profane language.
- Not eat, drink, spit or litter on the bus.
- Not throw or pass objects on, from, or into the bus.
- Carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps.
- Not bring animals, dangerous materials or objects onto the bus.
- Not damage the bus in any way. If you damage the bus you will be responsible to pay to have the bus repaired. Report to the driver any damage you find.
- Observe rules regarding electronic equipment. This equipment is restricted on some buses.

### **Discipline On The School Bus**

Student behavior on the bus is critical to the safety of all passengers. Following is an excerpt from the policies on transportation which have been approved by the Dublin Board of Education. Please review the penalties for improper behavior with your child (children).

If the Bus Discipline Referral is for a MINOR MISCONDUCT CODE (eating on the bus, obscene language, student out of seat etc.) violation, the driver must have and document at least one driver to student intervention and document at least one driver to parent intervention before giving the Discipline Referral Report to the building administration.

If the case of a MAJOR MISCONDUCT CODE (fighting, weapons, etc.) violation, the driver may immediately give the Bus Discipline Report to the building administration.

The following are the steps the building administrators will use when they receive a Bus Discipline Referral Report from a bus driver:

- First Bus Discipline Referral: Warning from Administration
- Second Bus Discipline Referral: Administrative Intervention
- Third Bus Discipline Referral: Three-Day bus suspension
- Fourth Bus Discipline Referral: Five-day bus suspension
- Fifth Bus Discipline Referral: Ten-Day bus suspension
- More than 5 Referrals: Repeat Ten-Day bus suspension, possible recommendation to the Superintendent of permanent removal from the bus.

### **Cafeteria**

The same general rules for disciple-like behavior apply in the cafeteria as in the classroom:

1. Be a good disciple at all times.
2. Be kind to everyone and use good manners - " please" and "thank you."
3. Raise your hand if you need something or to ask to get out of your seat.
4. Use your "indoor voice" and only talk with kindness and respect.
5. Students in grades K - 6: Respect "Munch Time" for the last 5 minutes.

6. Leave the cafeteria silently so that you do not interrupt other students who are busy learning.

Food may not be taken out of the cafeteria at any time.

Food from outside vendors (example: McDonald's, Wendy's, Panera, etc.) may not be brought or eaten in the school cafeteria for students or adults.

**Caffeinated beverages (coffee, soda, etc.) are not permitted at lunch or in the classrooms.**

Family members wishing to eat lunch at school must call by 9:00 of that day. Family members may bring a packed lunch (not from an outside vendor such as McDonald's, Wendy's, Panera, etc.) or they may purchase a school lunch.

No student will ever be denied a meal.

Please watch for information regarding lunch account notices. Lunch account information will also be available online as well as an online payment option. Please see the link on our school website.

Our cafeteria will not offer any foods containing peanut products.

### **Cancellation of School**

Cancellation of school takes place only during circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. We are aware of the hardship which can be caused by an abrupt cancellation. Therefore, school will not be canceled unless a significant safety risk has been created by unusual circumstances. Every practical means will be used to notify parents of a cancellation.

In the unusual circumstances when school must be canceled during the school day, teachers and office staff will determine that all students have satisfactory transportation. Parents/guardians must arrange for proper supervision of the released student.

School closings will be announced on local radio and television stations. Parents will also be notified via an emergency notification service through our FACTS Management System. Saint Brigid of Kildare will be announced separately from the Columbus Diocesan Schools. We will not always have a snow day when Columbus Diocesan Schools do, however we do follow Dublin City Schools. Therefore, we will always be closed when Dublin City Schools close.

### **Change of Address/Telephone/Email**

It is very important that every student maintain an up-to-date address and telephone number record at the school office. Please notify the school immediately if you have a change of address, email address, home telephone number, or cell phone number during the school year.

### **Child Care (Latchkey)**

Saint Brigid of Kildare School offers a child care program to students. The daily hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 7:00-7:45 AM and from 2:50-6:00 PM. Saint Brigid's Child Care Program follows the Saint Brigid of Kildare School calendar and is open when school is in session. If school is canceled at the beginning of the day due to inclement weather, Child Care is closed. Child care is open at the normal time during inclement weather delays. The staff will be present if school is dismissed early. Registration and rates can be obtained by contacting the school office.

Please refer to the Saint Brigid of Kildare Child Care Program handbook for additional details and information.

## **Classroom and Birthday Celebrations**

The Home and School Association and the room parents help plan and provide treats for classroom parties. These parties and treats are simple because our academic schedule does not allow time for elaborate parties and activities.

A birthday is an opportunity for a student to celebrate his/her special day. As a school community, we will celebrate in the following ways:

Each student is invited to have a Birthday Special Dress Day. (Students may choose to “dress up” or “dress down.” Please follow the dress code for special dress days.) If the student's birthday is on the weekend, on a vacation day, or on the day of a Mass, he/she is allowed to have his/her special dress day on the school day closest to his/her date of birth. Students with birthdays occurring during summer break may celebrate on their "half birthday".

Students’ birthdays or half birthdays will be recognized on our daily Morning Announcements.

Each student will receive a birthday ice cream treat provided by the school during his/her lunch period. The treat will be presented to the student and classmates will be invited to sing “Happy Birthday!” **(This will eliminate the doughnuts/cupcakes/candy brought to school by the birthday student.)**

Other optional means of celebrating could include:

- Parents could make a donation to a service organization in the name of the student. Examples include: The Dublin Food Pantry, Furniture Bank of Mid- Ohio, Catholic Social Services, etc. or possibly to the St. Brigid Tuition Assistance Fund.
- Students could provide a classroom gift, such as a classroom game, a playground ball, or something from the classroom wish list.
- Students are permitted to bring a non-food treat for their classmates on their birthday. Please make sure that this is a non-food item. Examples: pencils, fun erasers, stickers, small coloring booklets, bookmarks, small key chains, magnets, etc.
- Students are invited to participate in the Birthday Book Club. For a donation of \$10.00, your child will pick out a new book from the birthday book shelf. The student’s name and birthdate will appear on a special bookplate placed in the front of the book, and he/she will be the first to check out that book. This is a wonderful way to honor your child on his/her birthday and to share the enjoyment of reading with others for years to come.

Please be advised that these are just suggestions and none of the above is necessary or required.

Students must seek permission from the teacher for distribution of invitations to home parties. These may be distributed in school only if ALL students will receive an invitation. In the case of a party for only boys or only girls, ALL boys or ALL girls must receive an invitation in order for those to be distributed at school.

## **Class Observation**

Parents of Saint Brigid of Kildare School students or parents who are interested in enrolling a child in the school are invited to observe the school program. However, parents need to call and schedule an

appointment in order to avoid disruption of class. We also encourage prospective new students and parents to attend our school tours given throughout the school year by our tour committee.

## **Class Sizes**

According to Diocesan Policy, Kindergarten classes will be no larger than 25 students and classes in grades one through eight will be no larger than 35 students, without pastor and superintendent approval.

## **Code of Conduct**

### **School and Diocesan Policies on Suspension, Expulsion, Bullying and Harassment**

The purpose of Saint Brigid of Kildare's Code of Conduct is to maintain a Christian atmosphere of respect for human dignity and responsibility, as well as to provide order and to nurture self-control. Each person is expected to do his or her part to bring about this climate and to act as a disciple at all times and in all places. Each person is also expected to act as a disciple and to be a good ambassador of our school outside of the school day. Teachers and staff have the authority and responsibility to consistently maintain discipline in the classroom.

Saint Brigid of Kildare School's Code of Conduct reflects the expectation of disciple-like behavior in our classrooms, in our hallways, in our cafeteria, on the internet and when using technology, and on our playground as well as on busses, on field trips, at school-sponsored events, and in any place or at any time when students can be considered ambassadors of our school and of the Catholic faith.

Saint Brigid of Kildare School's Code of Conduct also reflects our four tenets of discipleship: kindness, respect, responsibility, and readiness for learning. These tenets are discussed in every classroom, and have a great impact on our students' understanding of their call to live as disciples in our school.

### **Code of Conduct**

Students at Saint Brigid of Kildare School are called to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Students will measure their actions by our four tenets of discipleship: kindness, respect, responsibility, and readiness to learn. Actions in keeping with these four tenets will naturally be in keeping with the mission of our school. Actions opposed to any or all of these tenets will naturally be against the mission of our school and therefore in violation of our code of conduct.

Actions opposed to the mission of our school and in violation of our code of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

Examples of actions that are opposed to the mission of our school and in violation of our code of conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Unkind behavior, actions, or language, including name-calling, threats, and bullying
- Disrespectful behavior, actions, or language, including profanity and class disruptions
- Personally disrespectful behavior, including drug, tobacco, and alcohol use
- Dishonest behavior or language, including cheating, lying, forging parent signatures
- Irresponsible behavior or actions, including mistreatment of or damage to school resources or property, dress code violations, and chewing gum
- Any actions that are considered unkind, disrespectful, irresponsible, or impeding of learning that involve technology, electronic devices, and/or weapons of any kind



Consequences for actions that are opposed to the mission of our school and in violation of our code of conduct will be weighed based on the severity of the issue. Consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Oral warning
- Notification to parent/guardian
- Telephone call to parent/guardian
- Conference with parent/guardian
- Time out
- Loss of privilege
- Demerit
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- At-home suspension
- Probation
- Expulsion

### **Diocesan Policy on Suspension and Expulsion (Policies 5406 and 5407)**

Serious misconduct is cause for suspension and/or expulsion. Serious misconduct is that which disrupts the academic atmosphere of the school; threatens the safety of or endangers fellow students, teachers, or school officials; damages property; or flagrantly or repeatedly violates regulations or policies of the diocese or school. A student may be placed on suspension for serious misconduct occurring on-campus, during school related activities off-campus, off-campus behavior, or for continued misconduct after having been placed on probation. For such serious misconduct, the principal or administrator in charge may immediately suspend the student from school. Only an administrator has the authority to suspend a student. The student may be sent home during the school day provided that the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) has been notified. Expulsion shall not take place except as a result of the suspension procedure described below:

#### **Suspension Procedures**

1. At the time of the suspension, the principal or administrator in charge shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the suspension in a written format stating the reason(s) for the suspension and request that the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) meet with the principal to review the matter.
2. Within three (3) school days of the suspension, the principal or administrator in charge shall meet with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s). The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be given an opportunity to express their views.
3. By the school day following the meeting, the principal or administrator in charge shall advise the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the decision, either to readmit the student to school, extend the period of suspension, or expel the student.
4. If the decision is to extend the period of suspension, the length of this period shall be indicated. The suspension period may not exceed ten (10) school days per incident. If the student has served an in-school suspension, the in-school suspension counts toward the total suspension time. An administrator's decision to suspend a student is a final decision.

#### **Expulsion Procedures**

The permanent dismissal of a student from a school is an extreme measure to be taken only as a last resort: a) after all other efforts of motivation and counseling have failed; b) where attendant circumstances of crime, scandal, immorality, or disruption constitute a threat to the physical or moral welfare of other persons; c) as set forth in the Student Withdrawal on Grounds of Parental Behavior, Policy 5408; or d) when the contractual relationship between the school and a family has been irreparably broken in the determination of the school.

The following procedures shall be observed:

- A record shall be kept of the previous measures of remediation, counseling, probation, conferences, and/or suspensions. This documentation should include written communication between the school and the family.
- Except in extreme circumstances of crime, scandal, immorality, or disruption that constitute a threat to the physical or moral welfare of persons, a student should be suspended prior to expulsion.
- A conference shall be held with the parents, student, administrator, pastor, and, if appropriate, teachers at which time the grounds for dismissal will be presented and discussed.
- The final decision to expel a student rests with the administrator and pastor in a parochial school and, in a diocesan school, with the principal with the knowledge and consent of the superintendent.
- If the decision to expel is made, the administrator shall notify the parent/guardian and the superintendent in a written format clearly stating, “[student name inserted] is being expelled from [school name inserted]”, and include the reasons for the expulsion within three (3) days the decision to expel the student is finalized.
- The administrator shall notify the parents of the appeal process within the written expulsion letter (Policy 5409).
- The principal shall properly document all expulsion cases involving the grounds, record of conferences, and final notice. Such documentation shall be maintained in a file separate and apart from the student’s permanent record.
- The student’s permanent record shall indicate that the reason for transfer was expulsion.
- Consideration of admitting a student who has been expelled from a Catholic school will be done in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools, the pastor, and the administrator of both the expelling school and the new school.
- Consideration of re-admitting a student who has been expelled from a Catholic school the year prior will be done in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools, the pastor, and the administrator of the school.

### **Diocesan Policy on Bullying (Policy 5411)**

The Diocese of Columbus schools and their staff shall not tolerate any bullying on school grounds or at any school activity on or off campus whether these actions are committed in person, written or electronically transmitted.

Bullying is defined as a conscious, willful, and deliberately hostile activity intended to harm, induce fear through the threat of further aggression, and create terror. Bullying includes these three elements: imbalance of power, intent to harm, and threat of further aggression. Bullying behavior may include physical intimidation or assault; extortion; oral or written threats; electronically transmitted acts; threatening looks, gestures, or actions; cruel rumors; false accusations; and social isolation.

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices such as cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, text, and mobile applications (apps) or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else, causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.

Staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying shall take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report to the school principal for further investigation.

The Diocese expects students and parent(s)/guardian(s) who become aware of an act of bullying on school grounds or at any school activity on or off campus to report it to the school principal for further investigation. The principal will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) of the aggressor and the victim. This investigation may include interviews with students, parent(s)/guardian(s), teachers, school staff, and reviewing records.

Consequences for students who bully others may include but are not limited to counseling, parent conference, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion depending on the results of the investigation. No retaliation shall be taken against a person who reports bullying.

Schools shall have a policy on bullying, which incorporates the essentials of this policy, printed in their parent/student handbook.

Teasing behavior alone does not necessarily constitute bullying. Children may regularly interact in a manner that would be unacceptable among adults. Students are still learning how to interact appropriately with their peers. It is understandable that, in the school setting, students often engage in teasing, insults, banter, shoving, and pushing that is upsetting to students. Teasing behaviors in and of themselves – while needing to be addressed by school officials – does not constitute bullying or harassment and the interventions and consequences are of another level.

### **Diocesan Policy on Harassment (Policy 5412)**

1. The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Columbus shall maintain a working and academic environment, in all programs and activities, free of all forms of harassment and intimidation. No student, teacher, other staff member or volunteer (male or female) should be subject to harassment in any form, and specifically not to unsolicited and/or unwelcome sexual overtures or conduct, whether verbal, physical, or electronically transmitted.
2. Harassment can take many forms. Harassment can occur at any school activity, and/or can take place in classrooms, halls, cafeterias, or even at programs sponsored by the school at other locations. It does not include compliments of a socially acceptable nature. Harassment is verbal, physical, or electronic conduct that embarrasses, denigrates, or shows hostility toward a person because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, sex, national origin, age, disability, or other protected characteristics.
3. Conduct which constitutes sexual harassment is prohibited. Sexually harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. offensive sexual flirtations, advances, propositions; jokes;
  - b. continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual or gender-based nature;
  - c. explicit or degrading sexual or gender-based comments about another individual or his/her appearance;
  - d. the display or circulation of sexually explicit or suggestive writing, pictures or objects;
  - e. any offensive or physical conduct which shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of gender or sex;
  - f. graffiti of a sexual nature;
  - g. fondling oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others;
  - h. spreading rumors about or categorizing others as to sexual activity.

Sexual harassment is not limited to conduct that is sexual in nature - it also includes harassment that is based on gender. Gender-based harassment, which is also prohibited, is conduct that would not occur except for the sex of the person involved. An example would be referring to a woman by or as a female body part, or a demeaning sex based term, or treating people differently because of their gender. The same prohibitions apply with regard to inflammatory or offensive comments or conduct which is based

upon race, color, age, religion, disability, or national origin. In short, working relationships between employees and peer relationships among students must be based on mutual respect.

Sexual harassment also includes the taking of, or refusal to take, any personnel or academic action on the basis of a person's submission to or refusal of sexual overtures. No person should so much as imply that an individual's "cooperation" or submission to unwelcome sexual activity will have any effect on the individual's employment, assignment, compensation, advancement, development, academic evaluation, participation in school programs or activities, or any other condition of employment or academic achievement.

Not all physical conduct is necessarily considered sexual in nature. (For example, a coach hugging a minor after an accomplishment, a teacher consoling a minor with an injury, or physical conduct during athletic events would not be considered sexual conduct.) However, peer-based sexual harassment (e.g., student to student) can be a form of prohibited conduct where the harassing conduct creates a hostile environment.

4. A sexually hostile environment can be created by a school employee, volunteer, another student, or a visitor to the school.
5. Any person who believes he/she is the subject of harassment or intimidation must contact either the principal, assistant principal, or pastor at the elementary level; or the principal, assistant principal or Office of Catholic Schools at the secondary level. A complaint must be filed in writing. In the case of harassment involving a student or students, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the respective students shall be duty notified. In the event that an individual alleges harassment by a principal, assistant principal or a pastor, the individual shall file the complaint with the superintendent. All complaints will be promptly investigated, and the person initiating the complaint will be advised of the outcome of the investigation. A student who believes he or she has been sexually harassed (or a parent/guardian who believes that his/her minor has been harassed) must contact one of the appropriate persons as listed above.
6. Where it is determined that harassment has occurred, the appropriate authority will take immediate disciplinary action against any administrator, teacher, staff or student engaging in harassment. The response shall take into account the individuals and circumstances. Such action may include, depending on the circumstances, disciplinary measures up to and including termination of employment or expulsion in the case of a student
7. No retaliation against anyone who reports harassment shall be tolerated. The Diocese prohibits such retaliation and will take appropriate responsive action if retaliation occurs.

#### Filing of Harassment Information

1. The investigator must keep extensive notes of all aspects of the investigation.
2. These notes must include what the investigator did, what the investigator concluded, and how the investigator followed up as a result of the findings and conclusion.
3. These notes must include verbal statements made by persons questioned and any written statements.
4. All of the above details must be summarized to include:
  - a. how the investigation was conducted;
  - b. what conclusion was reached and why;
  - c. what action was taken;
  - d. how, when, and to whom the conclusion was communicated; and
  - e. notification of warning against retaliation.
5. All of the above is kept only in the investigator's file.
6. If no action is taken, nothing is placed in the personnel file or student file.

7. If an action is taken against the accused (i.e. warning, restrictions, leave, or release from contract in the case of personnel, or warning restrictions, suspension or expulsion in the case of students), the action taken is:
- a. formalized by putting in writing,
  - b. a copy is given to the person or student against whom the action is taken, and
  - c. a copy is placed in the personnel or student file.
8. The Harassment Complaint Form and Administrative Summary Form can be found on the Office of Catholic Schools website.

#### Harassment – School Responsibilities

1. Annually, at the start of each school year, the school shall publish the Diocesan Harassment Policy for Students in the parent/student handbook.
2. Each school shall follow diocesan procedures for timely investigation and response to complaints.
3. Each school shall periodically train administrators, teachers, staff, and volunteers and use age-appropriate classroom information for students to ensure that they understand which types of behavior constitute harassment and how they should respond in the event of experiencing such behavior. Records are to be kept of training dates and names of those in attendance.

#### **Behavior Off Campus (Policy 5404)**

Students may be subject to the full range of discipline policies, penalties, and procedures that apply to unhealthy, dangerous, or immoral conduct that occurs off-campus, including conduct that adversely affects the education process or the mission of the school community. Examples of such off-campus behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Electronic/internet or cell phone threats and harassment;
- Threats of violence;
- Alcohol use;
- Fighting;
- Hazing;
- Drug possession or sale;
- Reckless driving;
- Sexual assaults.

The Diocese of Columbus has a concern with conduct by students at school or away from school that may bring discredit or harm to the name of the school or the reputation of the student body. Consequently, conduct at school or away from school that is inappropriate to Christian moral standards, conduct that is in violation of the law, including the use of social media, conduct that is detrimental to the common good, threatening, harmful, or offensive to other students or staff or conduct that is of such nature as to jeopardize the good name of the school, may subject a student to discipline. Discipline for such conduct shall be at the sole discretion of the school.

#### **Communication**

Effective and open communication helps to ensure the best working relationship between parents/guardians and school staff. The Wolfhound Wednesday will be emailed to parents each Wednesday during the school year, and will include items of interest, news, updates, and announcements. In addition, photo stories will be added to our website on a regular basis featuring news from all grade levels.

Students in grades K-8 will either bring home Friday folders containing their academic work, receive their assessed work electronically to share with parents/guardians, or a blend of both systems. We ask parents/guardians to please sign and return the Friday folders by the following Monday. Each Friday,

teachers in K-8 will also send out a weekly email which outlines what has been covered, what may be coming home, and/or any upcoming announcements.

Please see our Curriculum packets for each teaching team's Communication Plan.

## Conferences

Student-led conferences will be held three times yearly, typically in September/October, in January/February, and in May. In addition, faculty members are always available for conferences throughout the school year. Please call the school office to schedule an appointment.

## Daily Schedule

Office Hours: 7:30 AM – 3:45 PM daily

School Hours: 8:00 AM - 2:50 PM (K-8)

Students may not enter the school building prior to 7:45am unless previous arrangements have been made with a specific teacher. Since supervision of students does not begin until 7:45am, students arriving before this time should be enrolled in our morning Latchkey program. This service is offered from 7:00am - 7:45am for a nominal fee.

## Directory Information Notice

Directory information regarding students will be released in various formats including websites unless a parent notifies the school that such information is not to be released regarding his/her child. Directory information includes names of students, grade levels, activities, sports, awards, and date of graduation.

## Dress Code

The purpose of the dress code is to minimize the influences that distract from the goals of the school while limiting competition among the students. The dress of our students should reflect the worth of and respect for each person in the light of Christian principles. Therefore, we expect each student to dress neatly and in good taste.

Parents are requested to see that their children come to school dressed in accordance with the dress code. Any student reporting to school out of uniform and/or deemed to be in inappropriate attire may not be permitted to attend classes. The parents will be called to discuss the situation and to be informed of any disciplinary action.

### Boys Uniform: Preschool - Grade 8

Pants:

- Navy blue dress uniform trousers.
- No contrasting stitching or outside patch pockets.
- Corduroys not permitted.
- No logos.

Shirts:

- White knit shirt with collar (short or long sleeve)
- White oxford cloth button-down collar dress shirt (long or short sleeve)

- White turtleneck may be worn under a uniform sweater, sweater vest, ¼ zip fleece, ¼ zip polyester/nylon, or sweatshirt.
- No logos.
- No athletic or dry-fit type materials.
- Only solid white undershirts may be worn under uniform shirts.

Layering Options:

- The following layering options must be purchased at a uniform store, School Belles or Educational Apparel.
  - Green crew neck sweatshirt with school crest
  - “V” neck vest with school crest
  - Cardigan letter sweater with school crest
  - Green ¼ zip fleece with school crest (no longer available for purchase)
  - Green ¼ zip nylon with school crest
  - Green ¼ zip sweatshirt with school crest
  - Black full zip PE jacket with school crest
- An approved uniform shirt must be worn under a layering option.

Shoes:

- Solid black, navy, dark brown, or tan dress shoes.
- Tennis shoes that are solid white, solid black, or black and white.
- Silver and gray can appear on athletic shoes only as a slight border or outline.
- No moccasins, slippers, boots, cloth shoes or cloth tennis shoes, canvas shoes or canvas tennis shoes, hightops, or crocs.
- The newer mesh fabric tennis shoes are allowed.
- Shoelaces must be the same color as the dominant color of the shoe.
- No flashing or light-up shoes or any other type of embellishment.

Socks:

- White crew socks that can be folded over and still reach the ankle.
- Navy blue or black crew socks may be worn with pants only, not with shorts.
- No low-show socks or no-show socks.
- No logos.

Shorts:

- Navy blue walking shorts worn with white uniform socks and white knit shirt.
- Shorts must be between the top of the kneecap, and 2" above the kneecap.
- Shorts may be worn August to September 30th and May 1st through June.
- No logos.

Belt:

- Required on shorts or slacks for grades 1-8.
- Navy blue, dark brown, or black only.
- No ornamental belt buckles.

**Girls Uniform: Preschool - Grade 8**

Jumper:

- Blue and green plaid uniform jumper.
- School crest on left shoulder panel.
- Must touch the top of the kneecap.

Blouse:

- White peter pan collar (short or long sleeve)
- White oxford cloth button-down collared dress shirt (long or short sleeve).
- White turtleneck may be worn under a uniform sweater, sweater vest, ¼ zip, or sweatshirt

- White knit shirt with a collar (short or long sleeve) may not be worn with the jumper but may be worn with shorts or pants.
- No lace or eyelet trim is allowed either on the blouse or the knit shirt.
- No athletic or dry-fit type materials.
- No logos.
- For all grades, only solid white or skin-toned undergarments may be worn under blouses.

Socks:

- White crew socks (that can be folded over and still reach the ankle)
- White knee socks, or navy knee socks with jumpers.
- Plain white, navy, or black opaque tights, not hose, may be worn.
- Navy blue or black crew socks may be worn with pants only, not with shorts.
- No low-show socks or no-show socks.
- No logos.
- November 1 - March 1: Girls (grades K-8) are permitted to wear leggings under their jumpers. Leggings must be solid navy blue or black, no logos. Leggings must be worn with crew socks; ankles must be covered.

Layering Options:

- The following layering options must be purchased at a uniform store, School Belles or Educational Apparel.
  - Green crew neck sweatshirt with school crest
  - "V" neck vest with school crest
  - Cardigan letter sweater with school crest
  - Green ¼ zip fleece with school crest (no longer available for purchase)
  - Green ¼ zip nylon with school crest
  - Green ¼ zip sweatshirt with school crest
  - Black full zip PE jacket with school crest
- An approved uniform shirt must be worn under a layering option.

Shorts:

- Navy blue uniform walking shorts (cuffed), worn with a white peter pan collar, white knit shirt, or white button down oxford cloth shirt.
- To be worn with white uniform socks.
- Shorts must be between the top of the kneecap and 2" above the kneecap.
- Shorts may be worn from August through September 30th and May 1st through June.
- No logos.

Shoes:

- Solid black, navy, dark brown, or tan dress shoes.
- Tennis shoes that are solid white, solid black, or black and white.
- Silver and gray can appear on athletic shoes only as a slight border or outline.
- No moccasins, slippers, boots, cloth shoes or cloth tennis shoes, canvas shoes or canvas tennis shoes, hightops, or crocs.
- The newer mesh fabric tennis shoes are allowed.
- Shoelaces must be the same color as the dominant color of the shoe.
- No flashing or light-up shoes or any other type of embellishment.

Pants:

- Navy blue twill with no outside patch pockets and no contrasting stitching.
- Pants may be worn with a white blouse, white knit shirt, white oxford cloth button-down collared dress shirt (long or short sleeve).

Belt:

- Required on shorts or slacks on grades 1-8.



- Navy blue, dark brown, or black only.
- No ornamental belt buckles.

\*Boots may be worn to and from school in inclement weather only. Uniform shoes must be worn during school hours.

\*Shirts must be tucked in at all times.

### **PE Uniforms (required for students grades 5-8):**

Students will not change their clothes at school for PE but rather will come to school dressed for PE on their assigned PE days. Students in grades 5-8 will wear our traditional green PE t-shirt with solid black athletic pants and an **optional** solid black athletic suit jacket.

#### **PE Shirt (required for grades 5-8):**

- The green uniform PE t-shirt must be purchased through one of the uniform stores, or obtained through one of our periodic “Uniform Exchange” events at school.

#### **PE Pants (required for grades 5-8):**

- Black PE athletic pants can be purchased through a uniform store or online/in store at a local retailer (example: Morganheimer, Amazon, Target, Old Navy, etc.)
- PE pants must be made of 100% polyester, a polyester-spandex blend with less than 10% spandex, or a poly/tricot blend.
- Pants must be solid black, with no other colors, stripes, or logos.
- Pants must be open at the ankle; not cuffed or gathered.
- Pants must be loose fitting.
- Pants may have a short zipper at the ankle but this is not preferred.
- Fleece pants, tight fitting pants, leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, or any other kind of athletic pants will not be allowed.

#### **PE Jacket: (optional):**

- PE jackets can be purchased through the uniform stores and are required to have the uniform crest on them.
- PE jackets with the school crest that are purchased through the uniform store are approved to be worn for PE AND as a layering option to the uniform.
- No other kind of athletic jacket will be allowed.

### **PE Uniforms (optional for students grades K-4)**

Students grades K-4 are not required to purchase a gym uniform.

- Students grades K-4 have the **option** of wearing the PE athletic pants and jacket with the uniform PE green t-shirt.
- All of the above rules for the pants and jacket must be followed.
- Students in K-4 may also wear their regular school uniforms on their PE days, with uniform tennis shoes.
- Girls must wear a pair of shorts under their jumpers for modesty.

### **General Information**

Girls’ and boys’ uniforms are available online and in-store at the following locations:

#### **Schoolbelles**

867 Bethel Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43214

**Educational Apparel**

3906 Brown Park Dr.

Hilliard, OH

614-876-3030

It is strongly recommended that parents use the school's suppliers for all uniform needs. This will allow students to strictly comply with the school's Dress Code.

1. Uniforms are required from the first day of school through the end of the school year.
2. Organizational uniforms (Cub Scouts, Brownies, etc.) may be worn on meeting days.
3. If it is necessary for a student to come to school in clothing other than the prescribed uniform, parents must send a note explaining the reason.
4. Natural make-up (concealer) that covers blemishes is permissible in grades 7-8.
5. Clear or light pink nail polish, or french tips at a natural length are permissible.
6. Artificial/acrylic nails may not be worn.
7. Girls may have no more than two earrings per ear. Earrings are to be simple and small. Post type or small hoops (approximately ½ inch in diameter) are permitted. Boys may not wear earrings. Only one necklace, two bracelets per wrist and two rings per hand may be worn. Excessive jewelry is not permitted. Hairbows and headbands must be subtle (small bows; no characters, cat ears, etc.)
8. Good grooming is expected. Hair should be kept clean and cut in a manner that is appropriate for school. Traditional haircuts are required. The maximum length for boys' hair shall be above the collar and off the ear. No etching is permitted. Neither girls' nor boys' hair may cover the face or eyes. Bangs must be at or above the eyebrow. Trendy or unusual hairstyles are not permitted. Hair should not appear to be unnatural and artificially colored. Bleaching or tipping that appears to be colored is not permitted. The principal will make the final decision concerning any issue regarding the length of hair.
9. No tattoos of any kind will be permitted.
10. No body piercing of any kind (with the exception of earrings for girls) will be permitted.
11. When applicable, 8th grade boys must be clean-shaven.

**Dress Code Violations**

**Students Grades K-2**

1st Offense - Warning

2nd Offense – Warning

3rd Offense – Phone call home by teacher

4th Offense – Consequence

**Students Grades 3-4**

1st Offense – Written Warning

2nd Offense – Phone call home by teacher

3rd Offense – Demerit

#### 4th Offense – Automatic Detention

#### **Students Grades 5-6**

1st Offense – Warning (first quarter only)

2nd Offense - Demerit

3rd Offense – Demerit

4th Offense - Detention

#### **Students Grades 7-8**

Email notification to parent/guardian. After a 1-week warning to correct the issue, the student will lose recess until corrected. A parent meeting can be scheduled to discuss.

\*The above consequences are cumulative during each quarter.

#### **Dress Down Day Dress Code**

Shoes:

- Clogs, sandals, shoes without a back are not allowed.
- Socks are always required.

Pants:

- Sagging pants, oversized pants, and pants with holes are not allowed.
- Leggings are permitted as long as the top is loose and of fingertip length.

Shorts:

- Approved in August, September, May and June only
- Shorts must be no more than three inches above the knee.

Shirts:

- Shirts must be long enough to tuck in.
- Muscle shirts, tank tops, halter tops, belly shirts, spaghetti straps and tube tops are not allowed.
- Tight fitting or undersized tops are not allowed.
- Low cut tops are not allowed.
- Rude messages/improper advertising are not allowed
- None of the above mentioned “not allowed” apparel are permitted to be worn above, under or with another shirt or sweater.

Make up:

- Natural make-up (concealer) that covers blemishes is permissible in grades 7-8.
- Tattoos and body glitter are not allowed

Hair:

- No changes from a typical day
- No hair paint/color allowed

Other:

- 2 earrings only (girls)
- boys – no earrings
- One necklace or choker only
- Appropriate, tasteful jewelry
- No pants chains

Students in violation of the above mentioned Dress Down Day Dress Code will be placed in the office with work to do until a parent/guardian is able to bring a change of clothing.

## **Cell Phone/Smart Watches/AirPod/EarBud Policy**

Students may not have cell phones/personal technology (may include smart watches, air pods, ear buds, Kindles, etc.) during the school day. Students may not use cell phones/personal technology at any time during school hours (7:45am- 2:50pm). Exceptions to this policy will be made for overnight field trips at the discretion of the Principal.

Students are not permitted to have or to use any type of cellular phones, iPods, iPads, smart watches, etc., during the school day. Photography or videotaping of any kind during the school day is prohibited unless given permission by a teacher or administrator. If a student is caught photographing, videotaping and/or recording a teacher, coach, advisor, other students, etc., this behavior may result in suspension or expulsion. Plug-in headphones are acceptable with teacher permission. Prohibited items include any smart device (e.g. Apple Watch, FitBit) in which you can access the internet, take photos, send/receive messages, etc. Students will be asked to remove smart watches/devices during the school day.

This policy includes any event or activity that is school sponsored including, but not limited to, field trips, special programs, etc. If it is necessary for students to have access to a cell phone/personal technology after school hours, the phone must be kept in the student's locker and turned off during the school day.

Cell phones/personal technology will be confiscated from students who are caught using them or whose cell phone/personal technology "goes off" during/the school day. Confiscated cell phones/personal technology will be turned into an administrator. Parents may reclaim the cell phone/personal technology at a mutually convenient time for the parent and the administrator.

## **Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy**

Alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, harmful intoxicants, any illegal substance and/or paraphernalia are defined as banned substances. Banned substances are not to be used, possessed, or sold on the property of schools/parishes of the diocese. This also applies to all school-related events held off of the school property (e.g. away games).

Saint Brigid of Kildare School recognizes that individuals who are experiencing problems with drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or other intoxicants are in need of assistance. The type of assistance may vary; however, the school will try to assist these students and their families in finding alternatives from which they can benefit. Drug and alcohol education and referral to counseling shall be viewed as instructional and rehabilitative, NOT an alternative to the disciplinary measures specified in this policy.

Students shall not possess on their person, in their locker, or in any place under their control, use or distribute, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, drug, or intoxicant of any kind. Violations will result in immediate notification of parents. This rule applies to all school activities and functions, whether or not on the school or parish grounds. This includes time on school buses, rented carriers, and student/parent transportation.

### **Offenses and Disciplinary Action:**

The action set forth below will be considered routine disciplinary measures for tobacco, drug and alcohol abuse.

Students who voluntarily request assistance or counseling in situations where no offense, as specified below, has been detected by the school officials will not be deemed in violation of school policy based on information divulged.

**First Infraction:**

Students will be referred to the office, whereupon parents will be immediately contacted by the principal. The student will not return to the classroom until a conference has been held with the parent(s), principal, guidance counselor, and pastor. The police may be notified. Consultation with parent(s) and students will emphasize available counseling services. A drug-screening procedure may be recommended. The student will be placed in in-school suspension for a period of no less than 2 days.

**Second Infraction:**

Students will be referred to the office, whereupon, parent(s) will be contacted by the principal. The student will not return to the classroom until a conference has been held with the parent(s)/principal/guidance counselor/pastor. The police may be notified. The student will serve an in-school suspension of no less than 3 days. Prior to re-entry to the classroom, the school must receive written notification that the student has been entered into an approved Guidance Center Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Abuse Assessment Program. Parents must sign an authorization to have this information released to the school.

**Third Infraction:**

A third infraction will result in immediate removal from school. Parents and students must meet with the principal and the pastor. A determination will be made regarding the student's continued enrollment.

**Early Release Schedule**

Several times during the year students will be dismissed at 1:30 PM in order to allow additional time for staff development meetings. The schedule for the 2022-23 school year is as follows:

- September 19th
- October 17th
- November 21st
- December 20th
- January 16th
- February 20th
- March 20th
- May 15th

**Field Trips**

Field trips within our city and to nearby points of interest are scheduled by various classroom teachers throughout the school year. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the classroom curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community.

Parents will be asked to sign permission slips indicating that they will permit the child to join the class in this educational tour. Children having no permission slip will NOT be allowed to accompany the class.

Parents will occasionally be asked to act as chaperones for small groups. Parent chaperones will be asked to have a clear BCI fingerprint check and must have attended Protecting God's Children training sessions.

Fees for these field trips will be covered by the Annual Fund, with the exception of grade eight.

## **Graduation**

A graduation ceremony is held at the end of the fourth quarter for students who have successfully completed grade 8. Eighth grade families may be charged a graduation fee.

## **Health**

### **Emergency Medical Records**

Each student is required to have an Emergency Medical Record on file in the school office at the beginning of the school year. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to enter the information online in FACTS and keep this current throughout the school year.

### **Health Forms**

Health forms are submitted once upon admission. Each student's health file must contain the following forms:

1. Health History – signed by parent or guardian
2. Immunization Record – signed by parent or health care provider; due by the **15th day of school** on the year of admission, and when updated thereafter
3. Physician Form – signed by physician

### **Sick Policy**

Sick children often expose other students and school staff members to illnesses and germs. These illnesses are disruptive to the educational process and to other children and their families. Students who are ill should be kept home to help control the spread of germs.

Please follow the guidelines below to help keep our school safe and healthy.

### **If your child shows these signs of illness, they must remain home (or will be sent home from school):**

- **Fever** - Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100.0 F or higher. A student needs to be fever free for a minimum of 24 hours without the help of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- **Diarrhea, Stomach Ache and/or Vomiting** - Students must remain home for 24-48 hours after stomach ache, diarrhea, and/or vomiting has stopped. The student should be feeling better and food intake has returned to normal before returning to school.
- **Difficulty Breathing** - Students should stay home until he or she is feeling better and activity level has returned to normal.
- **Sore Throat** - Students should stay home if he or she complains of a sore throat or has a red throat, swollen glands, or difficulty swallowing.
- **Red Eyes and/or Eye Discharge** - Students should stay home until recovered or seek evaluation by a healthcare provider.
- **Loss of Taste and Smell** - Students should seek medical evaluation.
- **Uncontrolled cold symptoms that interfere with the student's ability to learn (e.g. persistent coughing and/or persistent/active runny nose)** - Students should stay home until symptoms are

improving and can participate in class.

- **Undiagnosed Rash** - Students should seek evaluation by a healthcare provider.
- **Other Symptoms** - Students exhibiting symptoms such as extreme fatigue, body aches and/or headache and are not able to participate in class should stay home (or will be sent home) until recovered or seek evaluation by a healthcare provider.

## **Communicable Diseases**

Please report to the school (nurse) if your child has a communicable disease, defined as a disease that can be passed from one person to another. Examples include but are not limited to upper respiratory tract infections including COVID-19, influenza, strep throat, pink eye, vomiting and/or diarrhea, and skin infections.

Children are expected to remain home during the communicable period of the disease as defined by a healthcare provider.

Before your child returns to school after an illness, please email the school office AND the school nurse with the following: your child's symptoms, the date symptoms started, and the best contact number for parent/guardian.

If your child sees a healthcare provider for any illness, please provide a note from the healthcare provider upon return that includes your child's diagnosis and the date when your child is able to return to school.

In the event a child becomes ill during the school day, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be called. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be called. Student(s) should be picked up within 30 minutes of notification.

## **Immunizations**

The minimum immunization requirements mandated by the Ohio Department of Health must be met or the student will not be permitted to attend classes. An updated immunization report for all students must be on file in the school office by the 15th day of school.

## **Medications/Medication Forms**

If a student must bring medication to school, the following requirements must be met:

### **Prescription Medications**

- Must be in the original container.
- The medication label must have the child's name, drug identity, dosage instructions, doctor's name, and prescription date.
- Must be brought to school by parent/guardian.
- A Medication Administration form, dated and signed by the parent and prescribing physician, must accompany the medication, giving the child's name, dosage amounts, specific dosage times, and other instructions if necessary. Medication forms are available on the school website. Any time a change is made to a medication, a new prescription medication form must be filled out and signed by a doctor.
- Refrigeration is available for medications, if needed.

- Medication will be kept in the Health Office.
- Prescription asthma inhalers and Epi-pens may be carried by individual students if the permission form is completed by parents and prescribing physician. Forms are available in the Health Office. There is a separate FARE form (for allergy/Epipens) and a separate form for asthma/inhalers.

### **Non-Prescription Medications**

- Must be in the original container (pill bottle, cough medicine bottle, etc).
- Must be clearly identified as to the name and type of medication and dosage instructions.
- A Medication Administration form signed and dated by the parent giving the child's name, medication name, dosage instructions, specific dosage times and other necessary instructions **must** accompany the medication. Medication forms are available on the school website.
- Medications will be kept in the Health Office.
- Students may carry 1-2 cough drops from home in their pocket. Additional cough drops should be kept in the health office.

**No medication, prescription or non-prescription, will be dispensed to a student until the proper school medication form is on file in the school office.**

### **Nurse**

A nurse or clinic aide will be on duty from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM every day in the health office.

### **Tuberculin Skin Screening**

It is no longer necessary to have any routine screening of school pupils including those pupils entering the system, unless it is required by the local Board of Health. This is true, with the exception of exchange students and students visiting from countries with a much higher rate of tuberculosis than Ohio or the United States. Consult the school nurse for a current list of affected countries if traveling outside of the United States.

### **Vision and Hearing Screenings**

Vision and hearing screenings are done on all new pupils without records from previous school and routinely in selected grades. If you receive a letter recommending further examination, please return the physician's report to the school.

### **Immunizations**

Ohio Law requires each student to demonstrate compliance with immunizations requirements via medical documentation. All students must provide a record of immunization compliance to their school by the 14th day from the first day of attendance. If no immunization record was provided when the student registered, a record must be submitted to the school showing compliance by the 14th day of school to avoid exclusion as required by Ohio law. Please see ORC 3313.671 for further information as to exceptions to immunization requirements.

**For a complete list of required immunizations, click here: [Ohio Immunization Requirements for Schools](#)**

### **High School Attendance Areas**

The location of the residence of the student's legal guardian is used to determine the assigned high school. Boys may also attend Saint Charles Preparatory High School.



## **Home and School Association**

The main purpose of the Home and School Association is to assist and support the programs and operation of Saint Brigid of Kildare in cooperation with the Administration. School families are encouraged to support the efforts of the Home and School Association. Communications regarding Home and School functions will be included in the students' Friday Folders and/or will be available through the Wolfhound Wednesday.

## **Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program**

St. Brigid of Kildare is a provider of this scholarship. For scholarship information, please visit the following website:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/Jon-Peterson-Special-Needs-Scholarship>

## **Lockers**

A locker is issued to each fifth-eighth grade student at the beginning of the school year. Each student in grades 6-8 will be given a rotary, numeric combination lock, and the homeroom teacher will keep a record of locker assignments and combinations. Students are expected to keep their lockers locked and clean, and not abuse them in any way.

The school cannot be responsible for valuables left in lockers. Sometimes there may be special circumstances which require a student to carry significant cash or valuables to school. Cash or valuables can be safe-guarded by registering them with the classroom teacher or leaving them in the main office.

Any pictures used on the inside of a locker must reflect the mission of Saint Brigid of Kildare School. Saint Brigid of Kildare School is co-tenant of all lockers. Therefore, the staff may search lockers at any time with good reason.

## **Nondiscrimination Policy**

"The governing board of St. Brigid of Kildare School located at 7175 Avery Road in Dublin, Ohio 43017 has adopted the following racial nondiscrimination policies. "The St. Brigid of Kildare School recruits and admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs. The St. Brigid of Kildare School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel."

## **Parish Sports Programs**

The Parish Athletic Association runs the sports program at Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish. Saint Brigid of Kildare School and administration have no authority or jurisdiction over the sports program. However, in the firm belief that the school is an integral part of the parish family, Saint Brigid of Kildare School and its administration support, in spirit, the philosophy of the athletic program. The Saint Brigid sports program is open to all children of the parish and to those who attend Saint Brigid of Kildare School. Many sports teams are offered to both boys and girls on many levels. We encourage parents to look into the opportunities available.

## **Personally Identifiable Information**

Directory information regarding students will be released in various formats including websites unless a parent notifies the school that such information is not to be released regarding his/her child. Directory information includes names of students, grade levels, activities, sports, awards, and date of graduation.

A consent signed and dated by the parent(s) of a student must be obtained to release personally identifiable information. Personally identifiable information is information that makes the identity of a student more traceable. Personally identifiable information includes picture with and without names, addresses, social security numbers, ID numbers, personal characteristics (height, weight etc.), and educational records.

The “Personally Identifiable Information Release Form” that is provided at the beginning of each school year at Parent Administration Day must be signed and dated by the parent of a student prior to releasing personally identifiable information.

## **Phone Calls**

The office telephone is a business phone and is not to be used by students except in an emergency. Students are not allowed to use the phone to make personal arrangements (such as requesting permission to go to another student’s home after school).

Students will not be called from class to the phone.

Forgotten books, gym clothing, lunches, etc., may be delivered by leaving them in the school office.

Important messages by phone will be delivered to the student in case of an emergency.

## **Playground Guidelines**

As good disciples, students should remember:

- Share the equipment and play areas.
- Be good sports.
- Be safety minded.
- No rough play.
- Only “touch” football is to be played - no tackling.
- No dodgeball.
- Use softballs or a “soft” ball for baseball. No hard balls permitted.
- Do not pull or grab another student’s clothing at any time.
- No throwing of any objects (rocks, sticks, snowballs, etc.).
- No electronics.
- No fighting or arguing.
- Do not leave the playground for any reason, without permission of a teacher.
- Stay away from and off of the dirt areas and mounds around the playground.
- No climbing trees.
- Do not approach automobiles parked along the side of the playground.
- Stay within the area designated for recess.

When entering the building from recess, students are to enter in a single file. They should walk into the building and walk down the halls quietly.

There should be no playing on the playground after school (excluding childcare).

Teachers have the right to make judgments on any activities they feel may be unsafe or in some way may jeopardize students.

## **Promotion/Retention (Policy 5320)**

### Promotion

The promotion of students shall be based on completion of academic work and mastery of academic skills. Credit for courses shall not be given solely on the basis of class attendance.

### Graduation

Eighth grade graduates shall not be dismissed for summer vacation before the rest of the student body.

### Retention

It shall be mandatory to consider various factors when making a retention determination. Of primary consideration is whether or not a second year in the same grade will enable the student to gain the skills and knowledge not learned in the first year. Other factors that must be considered are academic progress, knowledge of the English language, possible learning disabilities, and social and emotional maturity. When reviewing academic progress, multiple indicators should be used including daily work, assessments, progress reports, standardized testing, Academic Support Plans, Services Plans/IEPs, and Written Plans.

A student who has not met a significant number of benchmarks in language arts and/or mathematics (primary grades) OR language arts, mathematics, religion, social studies, and science (Grades 4-8) should be considered as a possible candidate for retention.

Certain issues concerning retention apply to all grade levels. Although the elementary school principal makes the ultimate decision about promotion or retention, below are essential procedures to follow when considering retention of a student:

1. The student's lack of progress must be clearly documented and communicated to the parent(s)/guardian(s) by the teacher.
2. Lack of student progress toward meeting a significant number of the benchmarks must lead to an intervention process, based on the flow chart in the Diocesan binder "Procedures for Identifying Special Needs Students."
3. A meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s), teachers, and school administration at the beginning of the third quarter should address student progress in meeting the benchmarks. The intervention plan should be reviewed at this time to determine if the plan has been followed and if retention should be considered as an intervention.
4. A meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s), teachers, and school administration is required by the interim of fourth quarter to determine if retention is the appropriate intervention at this time. School requirements for summer intervention should also be made at this meeting.

## **Registration and Tuition Policies - Under revision to be completed by January 2025**

### **New Students**

A new student is one who is not currently enrolled in Saint Brigid of Kildare School or Preschool.

### **New Student Application**

Families applying for admission for new students in preschool - grade 8 must submit the following:

- Completed application packet.
- Application fee of \$120.00 per student. The application fee is nonrefundable and is not credited toward student tuition.

### **New Student Acceptance**

Upon notification of acceptance, families should complete the online enrollment packet through FACTS. This include the following:

- Acceptance fee of \$150.00 per student for grades preschool through eight. This one-time acceptance fee is nonrefundable, but the amount will be credited toward the student’s tuition.
- Set up FACTS Tuition Payment Plan for automatic tuition payments (“FACTS Enrollment Form”).

### **Deadline for Acceptance Fee and Facts Enrollment**

The acceptance fee and the FACTS on-line enrollment packet must be completed within seven (7) business days of notification of acceptance. Families failing to submit the acceptance fee and the FACTS on-line enrollment packet by the deadline will forfeit their place(s) for the upcoming school year. We are unable to hold places. Families forfeiting a place, but wishing to re-apply, will be accommodated if space is available. However, the family will be assessed a \$50.00 per student late fee. This fee is nonrefundable and is not credited toward the student’s tuition.

### **Tuition Payment Plan**

Saint Brigid of Kildare School offers several payment plans: full pay plan, semi-annual, quarterly, ten monthly payments, or twelve monthly payments. Families may elect to have payments drawn on the 5th or 20th of the month beginning in July.

### **Withdrawal of Students**

A withdrawal includes new families who have signed an acceptance form or families who have re-enrolled for the upcoming school year.

#### **The following policies apply to students who withdraw prior to the beginning of the school year:**

- If the school is notified of the withdrawal between June 30th and July 31st, a withdrawal penalty equal to 10% of your total tuition bill will be charged to your FACTS account.
- If the school is notified of the withdrawal between August 1st and the first day of the new academic year, a withdrawal penalty equal to 20% of your total tuition bill will be charged to your FACTS account.
- If the withdrawal is due to special family circumstances (such as moving out of the geographic area, loss of job, change of financial status, etc), once the principal or pastor approves, a withdrawal penalty will not be assessed.

#### **The following policies apply to students who withdraw during the school year:**

- A withdrawal conference must take place with the school principal or the pastor.
- Once the school principal or the pastor approves the withdrawal from the school, the tuition account will be reconciled based on the number of months partially and/or fully attended. (Example: A student in attendance in August through October 15th will pay for 3 months of tuition)

### **Questions and Additional Information**

Please call Saint Brigid of Kildare School at 614-718-5825 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

## **Returning Students**

A returning student is a student who, at the time of re-enrollment, is currently registered at Saint Brigid of Kildare School in grades preschool through seven.

## **Re-Enrollment**

Continuous Enrollment Kindergarten through grade 7 children currently enrolled are guaranteed admission for the following school year.

Re-enrollment occurs in January of each year. Families of returning students must electronically submit their re-enrollment packet through the FACTS Family Portal by the deadline as determined by the school each year.

## **Commitment Deadline**

Families of returning students must electronically submit a re-enrollment packet (one per student) along with a \$10 re-enrollment fee (\$10 per student) within 7 business days. Families failing to electronically submit their re-enrollment packet within 7 business days will forfeit their place for the upcoming school year.

We are unable to hold places. Families who have forfeited one or more places, but wish to re-register, will be accommodated if space is available. However, families will be assessed a late fee of \$50.00 per student. This fee is nonrefundable and is not credited toward student tuition.

## **Tuition Payment Options**

All tuition payments are processed through FACTS. Tuition payment plans are established when you complete enrollment or re-enrollment.

Families may choose from the following options:

- Full pay plan
- Semi Annual
- Quarterly
- 10 month installments
- 12 month installments

Payments will be processed on the 5th or the 20th of each month beginning in July.

## **Withdrawals**

A withdrawal includes new families who have signed an acceptance form or families who have re-enrolled for the upcoming school year.

### **The following policies apply to students who withdraw prior to the beginning of the school year:**

- If the school is notified of the withdrawal between June 30th and July 31st, a withdrawal penalty equal to 10% of your total tuition bill will be charged to your FACTS account.
- If the school is notified of the withdrawal between August 1st and the first day of the new academic year, a withdrawal penalty equal to 20% of your total tuition bill will be charged to your FACTS account.
- If the withdrawal is due to special family circumstances (such as moving out of the geographic area, loss of job, change of financial status, etc), once the principal or pastor approves, a withdrawal penalty will not be assessed.

**The following policies apply to students who withdraw during the school year:**

- A withdrawal conference must take place with the school principal or the pastor.
- Once the school principal or the pastor approves the withdrawal from the school, the tuition account will be reconciled based on the number of months partially and/or fully attended. (Example: A student in attendance in August through October 15th will pay for 3 months of tuition)

**Questions and Additional Information**

Please call Saint Brigid of Kildare School at 614-718-5825 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

**Religious Instruction**

The unique feature of a parochial school is the process of religious development and formation of its students.

At Saint Brigid of Kildare School this is maintained through a complete graded course of study in religion, which is taught in grades K-8, covering the basic tenets, beliefs, traditions, and practices of the Roman Catholic faith. Sacramental preparation for Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation are incorporated into the curriculum at the appropriate grade levels.

Eucharistic participation is of the highest priority. The children will attend morning Mass every Thursday. Other important liturgies are scheduled throughout the year, as noted below:

August 23rd – 9:00 AM - Opening of School  
November 26th – 9:00 AM – Thanksgiving  
January 30th – 9:00 AM - Feast of St. Brigid  
March 5th – 9:00 AM – Ash Wednesday  
May 30th – 9:00 AM – Closing of School / Leadership Mass

The student body also has the opportunity to experience traditional devotions and practices of the Catholic faith including the rosary, Stations of the Cross, Lenten sacrifices, mission education, vocation awareness, and prayer. Please see our school calendar for many of these dates. Parents are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their children regularly so that their children will associate this experience with family worship rather than as a school experience.

All of the above components, as well as a prevailing atmosphere of faith, contribute to the process of internalizing values that are distinctively attributed to the Catholic faith.

**Safe Environment Program**

As a community of faith, we believe that our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us and that the prevention of child abuse begins with each person.

Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish, in coordination with the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, is committed to the protection and safety of all children. This commitment follows the fundamental mission of the Church to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to give authentic witness to the moral teaching of the Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church, and to uphold the human dignity of every person. Increased awareness and a willingness to take action are steps for every person to eradicate abuse in our society, in the community, in the neighborhood, and in the family.

At Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish, “Best Practice” policies have been established to ensure the safety of our children in every parish and school activity. Our Safe Environment Program was designed for the protection of our children. With that in mind, ALL VOLUNTEERS 18 years of age and older (Athletics, Club Sports, Nursery, School, Scouts, Religious Education, High School Youth Ministry and all other programs involving children) who have “care, custody or control,” or regular supervised or unsupervised access to children must complete parish approved procedures prior to the first day of volunteering:

<http://www.stbrigidofkildare.org/safe-environment/>

### **Ohio Code 2151.421: Mandatory Reporters**

A mandated reporter is anyone who works in a professional capacity with children. Mandated reporters are required by law to report if he/she suspects or knows that child abuse is occurring.

The Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.421 clearly removes the option of choice, and requires immediate reporting of known or suspected alleged child abuse and neglect for the following professionals:

Attorneys	Audiologists	Child care workers	Children Services personnel
Coroners	Day care personnel	Dentists	Nurses
Podiatrists	Social workers	Social workers	Animal control officers/agents
Psychiatrists	School authorities, employees and teachers		
Speech pathologists	Physicians, including hospital interns and residents		

Although Ohio law encourages everyone to report alleged child abuse and neglect, in most cases it is an option left for personal and moral decision. The exception is those professions that have an inherent responsibility to report. The ethical commitment to families and children that these professionals have accepted through virtue of their positions is recognized under Ohio law, and thus they are mandated to report alleged child abuse and neglect.

### **School Advisory Committee**

The purpose of the School Advisory Committee is to provide the pastor of Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish and the principal of Saint Brigid of Kildare School with advice and to make recommendations regarding issues affecting the school. The committee is composed of members who have been appointed by the Pastor with the assistance of the nominating committee. The current members are:

Pat Durant  
Jessie Hoffman  
Ashley Guzzo  
Jen Obers  
Leila Ulrich  
Leah McCoy  
Emily McCurdy  
Kelly Norton  
Lindsey Meadows-Chair  
Brian McDaniel  
Kyle Stinehart  
Nichole Hartranft

The mission of the School Advisory Committee is to promote and support a distinctive religious learning environment that provides for the propagation of the Catholic faith and values, fosters academic excellence, and develops fully the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional capabilities unique to each student.

## **School Records**

### **Access to Educational Data**

Principals must provide parents of students under the age of 18 or eligible students (those 18 years of age or older) access to educational data, including the right to review, inspect, and/or obtain copies. The request for access should be made in writing. A person seeking copies of school records may be required to pay the cost of reproduction, not to exceed the school's actual cost. Full rights of access are given to either parent (natural or adoptive) unless there is evidence of a court order, state statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody, which specifically revokes these rights. Specifically, a student's "non-residential" (formerly "non-custodial") divorced parent is entitled access to all the student's school records, the same as the residential parent, subject to any agreement between them or court order limiting access by the non-residential parent to information pertaining to the student, the school should abide by the most recent order. (Policy 2800)

## **School Safety Drills**

Fire drills and tornado drills are conducted regularly throughout the school year. Detailed escape plans are posted inside the door of each classroom.

During tornado drills, each class goes to a designated area within the building. All children sit with their heads covered and their faces toward a wall. For fire drills or other emergency procedures, each class has an escape route to an outside area a safe distance from the building.

A detailed emergency preparedness plan is available in the school office. The school is prepared for a variety of emergency situations.

If evacuation to another location is necessary, the students and teachers will proceed to St. Brigid's Green or if necessary to Karrer Middle School. Parents will be directed to follow the instructions that will be shared via phone and email through the school communication system. Additionally, if appropriate, local TV and radio stations will also broadcast necessary information.

## **Social Media Policy**

<https://stbrigidofkildare.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Digital-Media-Guidelines-3.13.24-Final.pdf>

## **SPiCE Program**

The Special People in Catholic Education program (SPiCE) supports the education of children in our school with special learning needs. As we work to serve a broader range of student needs, the SPiCE program provides financial support to assist with our commitment that each child in our parish is a child of God and possesses his/her own unique spiritual and educational needs. Since we are committed to serving the needs of all of our children, SPiCE serves as a means to raise awareness, promote discussion, and raise funds to employ needed personnel and to provide specialized educational support.

## **Student Support Team (Response to Intervention)**

The Student Support Team uses a group based problem-solving team which assists teachers in providing options or alternatives to meet the individual needs of students experiencing academic, emotional, or behavioral concerns.

## **Supervision of Students**



Students must be supervised by an adult at all times during the regularly scheduled school day, on school sponsored field trips, during school sponsored activities, and at any other times during which the school accepts responsibility for supervision. All safe environment policies and regulations must be adhered to at all times.

Supervision requires both physical presence and attention to the students. Since emergencies will occur, it is not always possible for a teacher or staff member to be physically present to all students. It is important, therefore, that teachers inform students what they are to do if a teacher is not present.

Personnel charged with supervising students outside the classroom are to be provided with information relating to student supervision. This information may include the following:

- A basic or local in-service update on emergency procedures
- A written list of all procedures and rules to be followed relating to the conduct of students in the school or on school property
- A specific diagram of the outdoor space to assist in stationing supervisory personnel

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that adequate supervision of students is provided.

Supervisors shall be present and actively supervising students in a reasonable and prudent manner appropriate to the activities/classes to which they have been assigned.

Since Catholic schools are partners with parents in their children's formation and in providing for their safety, the school administration may notify parents when they become aware of concerns about student life or behavior, even when off-campus. Both civil law and the Gospel demand that whatever can be done to protect God's children must be done.

## **Technology**

Technology has become an increasingly significant part of the educational process. Students have more and more access to computers and the internet, and appropriate supports and safeguards must be in place to secure their well-being and safety. With that in mind, Saint Brigid of Kildare School's technology policies must remain as current and responsive as possible.

Saint Brigid of Kildare School students are expected to be digital disciples, applying our four tenets of discipleship to all computers and other devices, internet, social media, and electronic activity inside and outside of school. As stated in our Code of Conduct, we are all called to maintain a Christian atmosphere of respect for human dignity and responsibility, as well as to nurture self-control. Each person is expected to do his or her part to bring about this climate and to act as a disciple at all times and in all places, including when using technology.

Students are called to daily measure their actions by our four tenets of discipleship: kindness, respect, responsibility, and readiness to learn. This includes all actions involving technology and the internet. Online or electronic actions in keeping with these four tenets will naturally be in keeping with the mission of our school. Online or electronic actions opposed to any or all of these tenets will naturally be against the mission of our school and therefore in violation of our technology policies and our code of conduct. Online or electronic actions opposed to the mission of our school and in violation of our technology policies and our code of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

Examples of actions that are opposed to the mission of our school and in violation of our technology policies include, but are not limited to:

- Unkind behavior, actions, or language, including name-calling, threats, and bullying
- Disrespectful behavior, actions, or language, including profanity and insults
- Personally disrespectful behavior towards teachers or students
- Dishonest behavior, language, or AI technology in order to cheat or plagiarize.
- Irresponsible behavior or actions, including mistreatment of or damage to school resources or property and inappropriate internet searches
- Inappropriate use or personal use of apps, online tools, cameras, microphones, or websites
- Any actions that are considered unkind, disrespectful, irresponsible, or impeding learning that involve technology, the internet, and/or electronic devices

Consequences for actions that are opposed to the mission of our school and in violation of our code of conduct will be weighed based on the severity of the issue. Consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Conference with parent/guardian
- Loss of technology privileges
- Demerit
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- At-home suspension
- Probation
- Expulsion
- Referral to proper authorities for disciplinary/legal action

### **Diocesan Policy on Technology Acceptable Use (2600)**

Catholic schools within the Diocese of Columbus have implemented voice, data, and video electronic communication systems that will allow unprecedented educational opportunities for students and staff to communicate, learn, and publish information. These network resources provide students and staff access to electronic resources and are to be used for educational purposes. Communication over the diocesan network is not to be considered private. Network supervision and maintenance may require review and inspection of network activity.

### **Terms and Conditions for Internet Access and Use:**

The use of the Internet must be in support of education or research and adhere to the educational goals and objectives of the Diocese of Columbus Office of Catholic Schools. While some materials accessible via the Internet may contain information that is inappropriate or inaccurate, the Office of Catholic Schools believes that the benefits to students and school employees exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using network resources.

### **Acceptable Use of the Internet:**

Students and school employees are responsible for appropriate behavior when using the Internet just as they are in a classroom or hallway. Students and school employees are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette:

- Do not view, send or access abusive, obscene or harassing materials. A good rule to follow is never view, send or access materials which you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Should students or school employees encounter such material by accident, they should report it to their teacher or administrator immediately.
- Do not access or participate in chat rooms, or multi-user environments including but not limited to IM, MUDs or MOOs; download or play games; subscribe to or access listservs; use AI for cheating or other dishonest reasons; use camera or microphone for activities unrelated to an

assignment; download music files or check, send or receive email or files unless prior permission is granted by a teacher.

- Do not give out any personal information including names, addresses, phone numbers or credit card information pertaining to themselves or any other person without appropriate staff approval.
- Do not engage in any commercial, for-profit activities.
- Do not violate copyright laws. Materials accessed through the Internet must be properly cited when referenced.
- Do not download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks. Do not copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.
- Do not waste school resources by printing excessively or consuming limited hard drive space or network space.
- Do not use the Internet in any way which disrupts the service or its operation for others.
- Do not attempt to find or use a VPN.

### **Consequences for Inappropriate Use of the Internet:**

Since internet access is a privilege and not a right, users have the responsibility to use the Internet in an appropriate manner. Consequences of misuse or abuse of the Internet, depending upon the severity of the situation may include one or more of the following:

- A warning followed by re-clarification of the acceptable use guidelines.
  - All students in grades 3 through 8 take part in discussions and activities to review these guidelines at the start of each school year. Students must sign our technology agreement before receiving their device.
- Loss of privilege of internet access for not less than 45 school days.
- Notification of parents and administrators by phone or personal conference.
- Referral to proper authorities for disciplinary and/or legal action.

### **Terms and Conditions for Technology Network and Equipment Access and Use of School Owned Materials:**

Schools within the Diocese of Columbus provide a variety of technology resources that will allow unprecedented educational opportunities for students and staff to communicate, learn, and publish information. These resources include computers, software, scanners, printers, digital cameras, video cameras, robots, ipads, and much more. Students and school employees will be required to act appropriately when utilizing technology equipment and work areas.

Refer to the St. Brigid Chromebook Technology Handbook regarding fees incurred for damaged school technology.

### **Acceptable Use of Networks and Technology Equipment:**

Students and school employees are responsible for appropriate behavior when using diocesan or school technology resources. Students and school employees are expected to abide by the following rules:

- Do not intentionally damage computers, computer systems or computer networks. Students and school employees should take special care with the physical facilities, hardware, software, and furnishings.
- Students and school employees do not remove/move, unplug, alter or add equipment or software to the network without the approval of the network administrator.
- Do not create or willfully disseminate computer viruses. Students and school employees should be sensitive to the ease of spreading viruses and should take steps to ensure that disks and files are virus free.

- Do not attempt to gain unauthorized or illegal access to diocesan technology resources or any other technology resources.
- Do not attempt to gain access to the diocesan or any other computer system or go beyond your authorized access by entering another person's password or accessing another person's files.
- Do not download, install or run any software without the express permission of your teacher or the network administrator.
- Personal technology equipment brought to school is subject to the procedures outlined in the Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- Do not alter the computers or change the settings or system configurations in any way.
- Do not alter, damage or vandalize diocesan technology equipment or software in any way.
- Do not use diocesan resources to create, manage or access personal web pages or or personal servers without the express permission of your teacher or network manager.

### **Consequences for Inappropriate Use of Networks or Technology Equipment:**

Users have the responsibility to use technology resources in an appropriate manner. Consequences of misuse or abuse of these resources by students, depending upon the severity of the situation may include one or more of the following:

- A warning followed by additional clarification of the acceptable use guidelines.
- Loss of access to diocesan technology resources.
- Notification of parents and administrators by phone or personal conference.
- Referral to proper authorities for disciplinary and/or legal action.
- Students who have lost technology privileges may not use personal equipment in lieu of diocesan or school equipment.

### **Conclusion**

School personnel will exercise reasonable oversight to ensure that the communication and technology resources of the school and diocese are used in the appropriate manner.

The diocese makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the diocesan system will be error-free or without defect. The diocese will not be responsible for any damage suffered, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The diocese is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information attained through or stored on the system. The diocese will not be responsible for financial obligations arising from unauthorized use of the system.

### **Textbooks**

- A book bag of some durable, protective material must be used for carrying books to and from school. Parental assistance in this matter is requested as textbooks can be easily damaged by weather and misuse. Lost or damaged books will be replaced by students.
- As we move into the era of electronic textbooks (ebooks,) parents and students are reminded that electronic textbooks and their electronic delivery devices are also the property of our school and should be treated with the same care and respect as traditional textbooks. Misuse of an electronic textbook will result in the loss of a student's access privileges.

### **Tuition**

Please refer to this link for more information regarding tuition rates and tuition assistance.

<https://stbrigidofkildare.com/admissions/tuition/>

### **Use of Name/Branding**

Attaching the school's name, logo, or other insignia to an event, activity, or publication implies a close connection with the school, usually sponsorship or endorsement. However, involvement by individual faculty, staff, students, or parents is not, by itself, sufficient basis to title an activity, program, or event as "school" sponsored. Rather the activity, program, or event must be one for which the school takes institutional responsibility. Faculty members, staff, students, parents, and parish members may use or authorize the use of the school name, logo, or insignia (alone or in conjunction with the name of a specified organization or activity) only with the written approval of the pastor and principal. No individual, company, or organization may seek to use the school name, logo, or insignia for any commercial benefit without the written approval of the pastor and principal. In appropriate cases determined by the pastor/principal, permission for ongoing events, activities, or publications requiring approval under this policy may be given.

## **Visitors**

Parents and other visitors are welcome and encouraged to visit the school. State law requires all visitors, including parents, to report to our school office upon entering the building. Upon entering the building, parents and visitors must each sign in at the school office and receive a yellow visitor badge to wear throughout the visit. Upon departure, each visitor must sign out in the school office. Visitors wishing to observe a particular classroom must coordinate the school in advance so that appropriate arrangements may be made with the teacher(s.)

## **Volunteerism**

Different kinds of knowledge, skills, interest, and experience are required to provide a well-rounded education for your children. Volunteers can participate in many ways by reinforcing skills, monitoring small groups of students, assisting in the Media Center or technology lab, and helping with the many planned activities and committees of Home and School. We welcome and deeply appreciate parent involvement. A volunteer application form can be found on the parish website at [www.stbrigidofkildare.org/safe-environment](http://www.stbrigidofkildare.org/safe-environment). Please note that all volunteers are required to take Protecting God's Children training, complete a background check, complete the volunteer application form, and sign the volunteer code of conduct prior to volunteering with children. Please refer to the Safe Environment section of this handbook for further details.

## **Volunteer Code of Conduct**

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth at Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish.

As a volunteer, I will:

- Safeguard children and youth entrusted to my care at all times.
- Faithfully represent and practice the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth at Church activities, ensuring that two-deep ministry is a standard practice.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.

- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor. I understand that I have a moral obligation to report suspected abuse.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.
- Obey all traffic laws when driving children and youth and adhere to the Diocese of Columbus Volunteer Driver Form and Cell Phone Policy.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Drive a vehicle not in compliance with regulations and/or inspections while driving children.

### **Weapons/Threats to Welfare and Safety (Policy 5410)**

No student shall use, possess, handle, transmit, or conceal any object which is, or can be considered, a weapon or instrument of violence. Furthermore, no student shall make threats of any kind about the use of or intention to inflict harm by means of a weapon or instrument of violence. Objects which are explosive or incendiary in nature, or any object reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of any person, are prohibited on school premises, and at school-related functions.

“Possession” is defined as a) physically holding and/or carrying a deadly weapon, weapon, or replica of a weapon, or b) the deadly weapon, weapon, or replica is under the control of a student whether it is located in a car, locker, backpack, or other location, or c) being under control of or belonging to the student while on the school grounds and/or participating in a school activity. Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a deadly weapon, weapon, or replica on school grounds, when being transported in vehicles to/from a Catholic school, during a school sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any school-sponsored event without the authorization of the school is prohibited.

A deadly weapon, weapon, or replica is defined as: a) a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; b) any pellet, BB gun, or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air; c) a fixed blade knife with a blade that measures longer than three inches in length or a spring-loaded knife, or a pocket knife with a blade longer than three inches; d) any object, device, instrument, material, or substance – whether animate or inanimate – used or intended or threatened to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury including, but not limited to, slingshot, nunchakus, spring gun, throwing star, bludgeon, brass knuckles, or any similar objects.

If a student is found to be in violation of the policy, a report will be made to local law enforcement. Any or all of the disciplinary actions listed below may be imposed by the administrator, depending on the severity of the offense as well as the previous disciplinary record of the student. Consequences may include: counseling/family counseling; approved school/community service; in-school suspension; referral to Juvenile Court and/or other appropriate law enforcement agency; suspension from school; expulsion from school following suspension; and diversion programs.

However, expulsion without suspension is mandatory for the possession of a deadly weapon on school grounds.

## **Wellness**

### **St. Brigid of Kildare School Wellness Policy**

Saint Brigid of Kildare School believes that it is essential to educate the whole child academically, spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally. To accomplish this goal our school aims to teach, encourage, and support a healthy lifestyle for students and staff while embracing reverence for life, self-respect, and respect for others. Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. This policy outlines our approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day.

Saint Brigid of Kildare Wellness Policy can be located on the school website.

#### School Wellness Committee

This committee will be composed of a school administrator, several teachers, students, and staff (including school nurse, nutrition services director, physical education teacher and school guidance counselor). The committee meets monthly during the school year.

#### Setting Goals for Nutrition Education

Saint Brigid of Kildare School aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. As a school community we will provide nutrition education that:

- Follows the sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program outlined in the diocesan health and science courses of study.
- Promotes the consumption of nutrient-dense fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and lean protein. It also promotes healthy food preparation methods and health-enhancing nutrition choices.
- Emphasizes the relationship between calorie intake and energy expenditure (physical activity).
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing.
- Includes educational displays encouraging healthy food choices in the cafeteria.
- Involves the school garden as a classroom for learning about food production.
- Encourages school staff to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

#### Setting Goals for Physical Activity

As a school community, Saint Brigid of Kildare School aims to provide and stress the importance of physical activity by:

- Following the standards-based diocesan physical education course of study.
- Providing physical education classes at a minimum of once per week for all students. Providing physical education classes at a minimum of twice per week per quarter, for all students. Each grade level will have physical education for two of the four quarters.
- Incrementally increasing the time spent in physical education class as grade levels progress (minimum of 30 minutes/week). Maintaining the time spent in physical education classes per grade level (minimum of 80 minutes/week per quarter).
- Including recess (minimum of 20 minutes/day) in the schedule of every student. Recess will be outdoors whenever possible. All students will be encouraged to be active during this time. Teachers and recess monitors will serve as role models by being physically active alongside students whenever possible. Organized games as well as the opportunity to participate in Walking Club (restarting in the '23 - /24 school year) will be available during recess whether indoor or outdoor.

- Posting open gym times for classroom teachers to utilize for indoor recess.
- Understanding that recess will complement, not substitute, Physical education class
- Not restricting primary recess as a disciplinary method.
- Encouraging students to participate in school or community extracurricular programs outside of the school day.
- Offering enrollment in diocesan athletic programs for students in grades 4 - 8.
- Offering after-school programs (ALSO) at Saint Brigid that encourage physical activity.

#### School Food Nutrition Standards

Foods offered/sold at Saint Brigid of Kildare School will:

- Be appealing and attractive to students and served in a clean and pleasant setting.
- Meet, at a minimum, the nutrition requirements established by state and federal regulations for portion size and nutritional value as detailed by the National School Lunch Program and the Ohio Department of Education.
- Include a variety of foods from the 5 food groups: fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy, and protein.
- Include fat-free and low-fat milk with school lunch and available for purchase for those students bringing lunch from home.
- Be offered (not served) to students. Students must choose a meal representing at least 3 food groups and must include at least one fruit (1/2 cup) or one vegetable (3/4 cup). This requirement applies to a tray lunch and a salad bar lunch.
- Be periodically reviewed by a survey of parents and students.
- Include access to drinking water during lunch for all students. Students are encouraged to have capped water bottles filled at the hydration stations throughout the day.
- Include classroom snack breaks when determined appropriate by teacher based on lunch schedule. Parents will be educated and encouraged to send healthy snacks to school.

School Lunch will:

- Be scheduled to provide nutrition and nourishment within an appropriate time frame from the start of the school day.
- Be scheduled for a 30 minute period to allow for a minimum of 20 minutes of seated eating time.
- Provide students with access to handwashing/hand sanitizing prior to eating lunch/snacks.
- Not conflict with club or organizational meetings, tutoring sessions, or other activities.
- Discourage sharing of food and beverages during lunch and snack times.
- Offer a la carte foods for purchase to supplement purchased or packed lunch. These foods will have no more than 35% of its calories from fat (with no more than 10% of its fats from saturated fat and zero trans fat) and no more than 35% of its weight from added sugars.
- All items sold as a la carte will be approved by USDA Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines.

Breakfast

School will offer an optional, for purchase a la carte menu during morning arrival.

Visit <http://www.regulations.gov> and search "Nutrition Standard for All Foods Sold in School".



After-school Care Program will provide a snack daily. Snacks will be selected to add calories and nutrients to the diet of the children involved. Food will include fruits and vegetables as the primary snack with water as the primary beverage. Milk and/or other sources of dairy will also be included.

All food must follow USDA Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines.

Free and Reduced-price school meals will be available to all students who qualify. We will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to the use of this program. Students who utilize this program will use the same electronic identification and payment system as all other students.

School Food Service Staff will receive continuing professional development. These programs will include certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors and cafeteria workers according to their level of responsibility.

#### Setting Goals for Healthy School Environment

Students learn best in an environment that includes clean and safe facilities for students and staff.

This is accomplished by the following:

- Classrooms will be vacuumed daily by janitorial staff.
- Common areas, hallways, and restrooms will be cleaned daily and as needed by janitorial staff.
- Repairs to the building will be completed by appropriate staff or contract workers in a timely manner.
- All doors to the school will be locked throughout the school day. Doors will have key card entry for staff.
- All visitors will be identified via camera and enter through the front door of the school. Any and all visitors will register in the school office and be identified by a visitor badge while in the building.
- Handwashing facilities will be readily available to students and staff.
- Lawn care and exterminating chemicals will be applied while students are not present.
- Communicable diseases will be tracked by the school nurse and reported to parents and the health department when appropriate.

#### Evaluation of Wellness Goals

The Wellness Policy will be reviewed by the School Wellness Committee every three years for school-wide compliance and effectiveness. Revisions to the policy will be reviewed and approved by the principal and the School Advisory Committee.

**Updated and approved March 2023**

### **Withholding of Student Records**

A school may choose not to release the cumulative records of students whose financial obligations to the school have not been met. However, grade placement/credits earned, standardized test scores, and health information must be released to the receiving school. Unless an arrangement which is acceptable to both schools can be reached, a Catholic school should not accept a student whose financial obligations to another Catholic school have not been met. (Diocesan policy 3240.1)

### **World Language**

Spanish classes will be offered for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The curriculum will be based on the national and state standards for world languages.

Please note that students who enter Saint Brigid of Kildare School in grades 4-8 will typically not receive report card grades in Spanish for a minimum of one year.

### **Amendment Statement**

Statements in this handbook are subject to amendment with or without notice. The school principal will attempt to keep the school families informed of all changes as soon as practical. Some changes might have to be made immediately due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Acknowledgement Statement**

I have read and agree to abide by the policies contained in the St. Brigid of Kildare Parent/Student Handbook. I acknowledge that the information contained herein is subject to modification, change, interpretation, and elimination at any time by the School in its sole discretion, without notice. The specific diocesan policies identified in this Handbook are summaries only. For complete copies of the policies referenced, refer to the Office of Catholic Schools Administrator's Manual. In the event of any conflict between the summary and the complete policy, it is the Administrator's Manual that governs. This agreement form must be signed by the parents/guardians and students in all grades and returned to the School Office no later than September 1.

### **Acknowledgement of Risks and Pledge to Follow Health and Safety Guidelines – Family Handbook, Updated: July 3, 2024**

We, the parent(s) and student who are signing this student handbook for St. Brigid of Kildare School, acknowledge and agree that, as a student at the School and as parent(s) of that student, entering into the School or being on the School premises or entering into the parish or being on the parish premises (as applicable), having personal contact with teachers, classmates, and other School/parish staff, involves a certain degree of risk, including contracting and passing on communicable diseases (such as influenza, colds, COVID-19, etc.), and then potentially passing it on to others, including family members. Due to the inherent risk and the close proximity of persons at the School, there is an elevated risk of student and parent(s) contracting a disease simply by being in the School/parish building, on the School/parish premises, or at any School/parish function. By signing this School Handbook, we acknowledge and agree that after carefully considering the risks involved, we voluntarily and willingly accept those risks of being in an in-person environment, including the risk of contracting communicable diseases. If I have underlying health concerns which may place me at greater risk of contracting communicable diseases, , and all reasonable accommodations have been met, I acknowledge and agree to assume these risks.

## **Confidentiality of Student Records Diocesan Policy 2800**

### **Educational Data**

Schools shall compile and maintain for the period designated in Policy 2710 after the student has left the school the following classes of records where the entries are made, dated, and signed by certified personnel (or their authorized agents) and the records are necessary to promote the student's educational welfare.

1. Educational Data Forwarded to Transferring School a. General Policy: Only the most objective data should be sent to a school of transfer. Even here the rights of parents, guardians, or 18 year olds must take precedence. A written request/authorization from the parent/eligible student for this transfer is a local option. b. The following items may be considered educational data: i. Scores on standardized intelligence and aptitude tests. ii. Record of extracurricular activities. iii. State mandated health data (immunizations, vision screening, etc.). iv. Attendance data. v. Description of student progress including grade level completed, schools attended, academic certificate, and reason for leaving the school.

2. Disciplinary Data a. Student discipline records should never be placed in a student's cumulative folder, but should be retained in a separate file. b. Disciplinary data includes reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns, provided that reports contain only factual information and not subjective information.

3. Psychological Testing Data a. The files of students who have had psychological testing must be kept permanently. b. Included with the psychological testing, the school should keep the formal plan (Service, Written, Academic Support) developed to meet the needs of the student. See Policy 5210 for personnel having access to the records on a need to know basis. These records are released only by a signed request from the parent(s)/guardian(s), or by the student if he/she is 18 years old or older.