

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

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Preschool Parent Handbook

2022-2023



This school is accredited by the Virginia Catholic Education Association whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education.

Table of Contents

I.	PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT	1
	Diocesan Philosophy of Catholic Education.....	1
	Diocesan Mission Statement.....	1
	School Mission Statement/Philosophy	1
	Student/Parent Handbook	1
	Parental Role.....	2
	Non-Discrimination Clause	3
	Non-Catholic Children.....	3
II.	CURRICULUM	5
	Supplies and Materials	6
	Assessment.....	6
	Parent-Teacher Communication	6
	Scheduling and Other Conference Information	7
	Progress Reports	7
	Retention/Promotion/Placement	7
III.	ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.....	8
	Admissions.....	8
	Diocesan Initial Admission Requirements.....	8
	Eligibility	8
	General Requirements for Preschool Admission.....	8
	General Conditions of Admission.....	9
	Class Placement	9
	Attendance	9
	Absence/Tardiness/Leaving School.....	9
	Attendance/Reporting Procedures.....	10
	Absence.....	10
	Tardiness	10
	Medical excuses	10
	Anticipated absence	10
	Release of children.....	10
	Transferring to Another School	11
	Lunch/Milk Program.....	11
	Arrival and Dismissal	11
IV.	GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES.....	13
	Administrative.....	13
	Child Custody and Guardianship	13

	Access to Records	13
	Retention of Records.....	14
	School Visitors.....	14
	School Communications	14
	Principal/ Director’s Communication	14
	Take-Home Communication.....	15
	Telephone Use	15
	Inclement Weather/School Closings.....	15
	Photos and Other Media.....	15
	Library.....	16
	Field Trips.....	16
	Overnight Trips.....	17
	Parent Organizations.....	17
	FundRaising	18
	Transportation/Parking	18
V.	FINANCES	19
	School Tuition Policies.....	19
	Tuition and other Fee Schedules.....	19
VI.	CHILD RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR	22
	Code of Conduct	22
	Discipline	22
	Use of Disciplinary Action	22
	Specific Disciplinary Policies	23
	Suspension	23
	Dismissal.....	23
	Expulsion	24
	Regulations and Procedures.....	24
	Care of School Property.....	24
	Dress Code	25
	Dress Code Requirements & Other Pertinent Information	25
	Playground Regulations	25
	Lunchroom Regulations.....	25
	Show & Tell.....	25
VII.	HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE.....	27
	Student Health, Safety, & Welfare.....	27
	Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse.....	27
	Wellness Policy.....	27
	Accidents and First Aid	28
	Illness	28
	Medication Administration Overview	28
	Specialized Student Care Needs	30

Toileting/Incontinence	30
Use of Crutches.....	30
Use of Microwave Oven	30
Life Threatening Allergy.....	30
Control of Communicable Diseases.....	31
DISEASE	31
Lice.....	32
Bloodborne Disease	32
Fire/Emergency Drills.....	33
Sexual Harassment - Students.....	33
Bullying.....	34
Hazing.....	35
Asbestos Mandatory Yearly Notification.....	36
Asbestos Notification (Sample letter).....	36
Video Surveillance Cameras.....	36
VIII. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	38
IX. PROGRAM INFORMATION	39
Licensing Information.....	39
Crisis Management/Emergency Preparedness Plan	39
Over-the-counter Skin Products.....	39
Insurance	40
Tax Information	40
Parental Involvement	40
X. APPENDICES	53
School Forms	
Additional School Information	
Diocesan Forms	
Permission for Emergency Care Form (<i>Appendix F-1</i>)	
Confidential Student Health History Update (<i>Appendix F-1A</i>)	
Virginia School Entrance Health Form (<i>Appendix F-2</i>)	
Virginia School Entrance Health Form Instructions (<i>Appendix F-2A</i>)	
Inhaled Medication or Nebulizer Treatment Authorization Form (<i>Appendix F-3</i>)	
Virginia Asthma Action Plan (<i>Appendix F-3A</i>)	
Nebulizer Treatment Log and Procedure (<i>Appendix F-3B</i>)	
Diocese Epinephrine Authorization Form (<i>Appendix F-4</i>)	
Severe Allergy/Anaphylaxis Action Plan & Treatment Authorization(<i>Appendix F 4A</i>)	
Antihistamine Authorization Form (<i>Appendix F-4B</i>)	
Diabetes Reference Emergency Plan: Hyperglycemia & Hypoglycemia (<i>Appendix F-5</i>)	
Diabetes Medical Management Plan (<i>Appendix F-5A</i>)	
Medication Authorization Form (<i>Appendix F-6</i>)	

Student Injury Accident Report (*Appendix F-7*)
Win Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (*Appendix 15*)
Certificate of Religious Exemption (*Appendix F-18*)
Seizure Action Plan (*Appendix F-20*)
Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (*Appendix N*)
Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation.English (*Appendix R*)
Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Escuela.Spanish
(*Appendix R-A*)
Use of Personal Vehicle (*Appendix R-1*)
Preschool Handbook Agreement Form (*Appendix AG-3*)

2022-2023

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to Blessed Sacrament School Early Childhood Center! Together with you, we will assist your child to recognize and use all of God's gifts to reach the highest potential possible in all areas of development.

It is with much thought and care that this handbook has been prepared for you so that you will have ready access to the policies and procedures that will help you to understand the role we have as professional educators at Blessed Sacrament School Early Childhood Center. We ask you to read the handbook and submit the Handbook Agreement Form no later than August 31, 2022.

Your signature on the form indicates that you have read and agree to all school policies.

Your child is a loving gift from God. We are privileged to be part of your child's journey of discovery and development. May this year be one of growth and wonder as we work in partnership with you for the benefit of God's children.

In Christ,
Joelle Huston
ECC Director

I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT

DIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...
Teaching them to carry out everything I have commanded you.*

Matthew 28:19-20

These words of Christ addressed to the apostles at the Ascension bestowed on the Church the office of teacher. Obedient to this divine challenge, the Church provides education permeated with the spirit of Christ and dedicated to promoting the full development of the human person.¹ The two-fold goal of Catholic schools is to provide an environment which will foster rich religious training as well as solid academic education in a Catholic, value-oriented manner.

¹Declaration on Christian Education #3

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington are an essential component in the educational ministry of the Church. Our schools are committed to providing an education rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ where Catholic doctrine and values and academic excellence prepare each student for a life of faith, service, and integrity.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT/PHILOSOPHY

Our mission at Blessed Sacrament School is to ***create an educated community to serve Christ and one another with integrity and respect.***

We provide a Catholic environment which fosters spiritual, intellectual, social/emotional, and physical development for diverse and life-long learning.

We partner with parents to prepare our students to live out Gospel values in a global society through prayer, liturgy, integrated academic instruction, and service to God and others.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Each school shall utilize the OCS template to develop and distribute a handbook for students and parents. All local policies and procedures must be in conformity with the Office of Catholic Schools' policies, guidelines, and regulations.

A committee, representative of the total school community, shall be involved in the development and periodic revision of this handbook. The handbook shall be updated annually to reflect policy and procedural changes. Principals shall establish a process for review and revision of local school policy to ensure changes reflect the input of key stakeholders. All parents, along with students in middle and high school, are required to provide a signature of receipt acknowledging they have read the rules and regulations outlined in the handbook, and they agree to abide by those rules (Appendix AG-1 and AG-2). A signature form will be provided to students upon receipt of the handbook and the form must be signed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than the date of the school's Parent/Teacher Conferences. Failure to have a signed form on file will not prevent the school from enforcing its policies and or preventing a student from enrolling or continuing to be enrolled at the school.

Faculty and staff members shall be given access to all school handbooks.

Handbooks and all subsequent changes are subject to prior written approval by the Diocese. To the extent any local handbook or policy statement therein may be inconsistent with the policies, guidelines, or regulations of the Office of Catholic Schools, the Office of Catholic Schools' policies, guidelines, or regulations shall be of controlling force and effect.

PARENTAL ROLE

Since parents have given their children life, the Catholic Church recognizes parents as the primary and principal educators of their children. The Catholic parents' promise at baptism to raise their children as Catholic supports this premise. The Catholic school exists to assist parents in the Christian formation of their children.

In this Handbook, the term "parent" refers not only to a child's natural or adopted parent, but to a student's non-parent legal guardian or to any person or agency authorized to act in place of parents.

The Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools respects the role of parents as the primary educators of their children. Since the school is a continuation of the education children are receiving at home, Diocesan schools should demonstrate respect and support for the parents in their important and challenging task.

Parents are expected to support the school's mission and commitment to Christian principles and support the school policies as outlined in school handbooks (i.e., annually sign the school's Handbook Agreement Form). One of the conditions for initial and continued enrollment at the school is receipt of this signed form indicating the parent's support of the school's philosophy, policies, and regulations.

In the event a parent desires to discuss a problem with his/her child's teacher, the parent should make an appointment for a private meeting with the child's teacher. Teachers welcome the

opportunity to discuss a matter of concern with parents before it becomes an actual problem. Any parent who wishes to speak with the principal/director may do so, but after an initial meeting with the classroom teacher. Similarly, parents should discuss matters of concern with the school principal, and pastor when necessary, before bringing them to the Office of Catholic Schools.

If a parent repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students, or displays disrespectful, disruptive or harassing behavior toward teachers or toward school, parish, or diocesan staff (in verbal, written, or digital form), the school may take corrective action. Such corrective action may include, at the discretion of the principal/director (and, for parish schools, the pastor of the parish) the following: imposition of particular rules or procedures the parent must follow in interacting with the school and its students and staff; restriction or termination of the parent's access to school or parish property; dismissal of the parent's child(ren).

The school may impose other appropriate corrective action, without prior recourse, based upon the nature of the parent's conduct and the surrounding circumstances.

As foundation for a faith-community, parents are invited and encouraged to participate in the school's celebration of prayer and Liturgy.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the programs, which are developed for the education of their children. The wide spectrum of this involvement includes volunteer work, participation in parent-teacher conferences, attendance at meetings and seminars designed to help parents assist their children at home, and active involvement in the school's Parent-Teacher Organization.

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

Catholic Schools, administered under the authority of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, comply with those constitutional and statutory provisions, as may be specifically applicable to the schools, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, marital status, disability, national origin, or citizenship in the administration of their educational, personnel, admissions, financial aid, athletic, and other school administered programs.

This policy does not preclude the existence of single sex schools, nor does it conflict with the priority given to Catholics for admission as students. This policy also does not preclude the ability of the school to undertake and/or enforce appropriate actions with respect to students who advocate on school property or at school functions, any practices or doctrines which are inconsistent with the religious tenets of the Catholic faith.

NON-CATHOLIC CHILDREN

The presence of children from other faiths provides a wonderful diversity to the school. However, the presence of non-Catholic children in the school shall not alter the primacy of Catholic religious

formation as an integral component of the educational program in the school. As such:

- a. Non-Catholic children are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the school.
- b. Non-Catholic children must participate in liturgies, retreats, and other religious functions incorporated within the program.
- c. Non-Catholic children may not be exempted from the catechesis held during the school day.
- d. While Catholic teaching respects the various faith traditions of the children attending the Catholic school, parents must be aware that it is the Catholic position that will be taught.

In light of the unique situations which may arise in the educational process, and because it is impossible to foresee all school issues that arise, the faculty and administration reserve the right to address and to take appropriate action for any such situations not specifically referenced in this manual. In addition, in view of the unique and essential religious mission of the school, it is expressly understood that the school may take action in cases where moral offenses occur which reflect adversely on the school, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, or the Roman Catholic Church, or which interfere with the ability of the school to perform its religious mission or effectively maintain the intimate working relationship of the school and the Community of Faith.

This handbook may be modified by the school after reasonable notice to the parents of the effective date of any changes. Any section headings are for convenience of use, and shall not affect the interpretation of any provisions. If the school should elect not to take action in a particular situation, this shall not be construed or interpreted as a waiver, or preclude the school from acting in a subsequent situation of the same or similar kind.

II. CURRICULUM

The curriculum is not just the goals of the program and the planned activities but also the daily schedule, the availability and use of materials, transitions between activities and the way in which routine tasks of living are implemented virtual or in person. Young children are expected to learn through active and positive manipulation of the environment and concrete experiences that contribute to concept development.

Without limiting the rights of the school under section VIII of this handbook, modifications may be made in the environment and staffing patterns for children with special needs.

The daily schedule is intended to provide a balance of activities with attention to the following dimension of scheduling:

- a. Daily outdoor play, weather permitting
- b. Alternating periods of quiet time and active play
- c. A balance of large muscle and small muscle activities is provided.
- d. Various small group or large group activities through most of the day
- e. A balance of child-initiated and staff-initiated activity is provided. The amount of time spent in staff-initiated, large group activity is limited.

Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment that project heterogeneous, racial, gender and age attributes are selected for use.

The school will use media, such as television, films, videotapes and computers, that have been previewed by adults prior to use. Another option for activity is always available. No child is required to view or interact with the program; and the staff discusses what is viewed with children to develop critical viewing skills. Technology is incorporated as an integral part of the day.

The goal of the school is to emphasize concrete experiential learning and to achieve the following goals:

- a. foster positive self-concept;
- b. foster spiritual development;
- c. encourage children to think, reason, question, and experiment;
- d. develop social skills;
- e. encourage language development;
- f. enhance physical development and skills;
- g. encourage and demonstrate sound health, safety, and nutritional practices;

- h. encourage creative expression and appreciation for the arts;
- i. respect cultural diversity.

Staff provides materials and time for activities, but children choose from among several activities that the teacher has planned or the children initiate. Staff respects the child's right to choose not to participate at times.

Children are not always required to move from one activity to another as a group. Unregimented transitions are also used as a vehicle for learning.

Planned or routine activities may be changed according to the needs or interests of children, and/or to cope with changes in weather or other situations that affect routines without unduly alarming children.

Routine tasks such as toileting, eating, dressing and sleeping are incorporated into the program as a means of furthering children's learning, self-help and social skills. Through complimentary actions at home, parents are expected to assist and cooperate with staff to make feeding and the development of other independent skills a positive experience for children. Provision is made for children who are early risers and for children who do not nap.

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Individual teachers will alert parents if specific supplies will be required for classroom use.

ASSESSMENT

The school's program is intended to assist staff and administrators in a systematic evaluation of the program, to diagnose children's strengths and weaknesses and to aid in the revision of the curriculum and planning of instruction.

Teachers will conduct a formal developmental assessment of each child once a year prior to the mandatory parent conference. Informal observational assessments are kept continuously throughout the year. Additionally, a second formal developmental assessment will be conducted prior to the end of the school year.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Teachers are available to parents throughout the school year to keep the lines of communication open in the best interest of the children. Parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled throughout the school year if necessary. Parents should first privately contact a teacher with any concerns about a

child or class situation before seeking intervention of the director or school administration.

SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The program will provide semi-annual scheduled opportunities for parents to provide feedback.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Evaluation of the child must be based on teacher judgment, observation, daily performance, class participation and effort.

Teachers will provide parents with a written semi-annual progress report.

RETENTION/PROMOTION/PLACEMENT

A major goal of the school is to assist children to complete each year satisfactorily. Retention is recommended only when it is deemed necessary and advantageous to the particular needs of the child.

- a. The final decision to promote or retain a child is based on the child's developmental performance and best interests, as determined by the principal/director.
- b. Parents will be kept informed about the inability of their child to progress satisfactorily.
- c. Children who would not benefit from being retained may be "placed" in the next level; however, the school may prepare and implement an Intervention Plan for the child as a condition of placement.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

ADMISSIONS

DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Children who desire an educational experience founded on the Catholic philosophy of education and who fulfill the age, health and behavioral requirements are eligible for admission to the school.

ELIGIBILITY

The school sets registration procedures and admission policies. The availability of space and the order of preference for admission are determined by the school according to the following general criteria:

- a. Children from the parish
- b. Children from parishes without schools
- c. Children from parishes with schools (for sufficient reason)
- d. Children from non-Catholic families

If approved by the pastor, and where practicable, siblings may receive special consideration.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCHOOL ADMISSION

There is no testing for preschool admission. However, readiness assessment may be utilized to determine the developmentally appropriate placement in the preschool program. The following list of documents/information is required:

- a. Presentation of an original birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
- b. Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
- c. Proof of custody where applicable
- d. Progress reports (if available)
- e. Completed Diocesan Application Form (*Appendix J*)
- f. A non-refundable application fee
- g. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or other U.S. state equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 - i. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia. Immunization records are required to be signed and verified by a licensed healthcare provider.

- ii. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to entering school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A pre-school physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even though it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening)
- h. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former Diocesan school if previously enrolled in a Diocesan school.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

A child is admitted to the school on the premise the child intends to learn the Catholic religion and be educated in a Catholic environment. In certain cases, a child may be admitted on a probationary basis subject to the child successfully completing one or more subsequent interim evaluations. A child with academic or other needs (i.e., behavioral), which cannot be reasonably addressed by the school may be denied admission.

School application forms may request disability-related information. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not prohibit a school from asking questions about a student's disabilities provided that information does not discriminate (automatically prohibit a student from applying).

CLASS PLACEMENT

The principal/director and faculty reserve the right to place a child in a class to ensure the best interests of the child.

Parents must register students during the appropriate registration period for the upcoming school year to ensure continued enrollment in the Early Childhood Center.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL

Regular attendance in the program is strongly encouraged for setting the groundwork for a successful school experience. Neither the school, the Diocese, the Office of Catholic Schools, nor any of its employees/staff are responsible for ensuring actual attendance; this is the responsibility of the child's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Except in cases of emergency as determined by the principal/director and/or a staff member (as applicable or necessary), a child may only be released from school to another authorized adult with

the prior written or verbal authorization of the child's parent. The adult will be required to produce identification before the child is released.

ATTENDANCE/REPORTING PROCEDURES

ABSENCE

If a child is ill or cannot attend classes for any reason, parents are asked to call the school office by 9:00 a.m. A written excuse, explaining the reason for absence and signed by the parent, should be presented upon a student's return to school. Students who are absent due to illness must check in with the clinic upon their return.

TARDINESS

A student who is tardy should report to the principal/director's office or attendance office. A student who arrives late with an excused reason (i.e. director's note) is counted tardy.

Frequent cases of tardiness should be brought to the attention of the principal/director so that the parent may be contacted.

Students who are tardy must be signed in at the school office.

MEDICAL EXCUSES

Students who are absent due to sickness must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.

Additional requirements for a student's return to school after contracting a contagious illness (strep, flu, Covid, etc.), or being in close contact with someone with a contagious illness, may be necessary. The school will rely on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) when making these decisions.

As frequently as possible, the requirements for Covid related illness or close contact will be detailed in the school's Covid Mitigation Plan. All final decisions on requirements for a student's return to school after a contagious illness rests with the principal.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCE

Please notify your child's teacher and the front office staff of any anticipated and/or extended absences.

RELEASE OF CHILDREN

Parents must sign their children in/out when arriving late or being released outside of regular school hours.

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

The school must be notified in writing by the parent(s) of a child regarding a decision to transfer a child to another school, including the last day the child will attend classes at school. All school-owned materials must be returned to school and all fees paid before leaving. Scholastic information will be sent to the new school upon a “Release of Student Records Form” from the new school. All fees and tuition **MUST BE PAID** prior to the release of the child’s records.

LUNCH/MILK PROGRAM

Rules for acceptance and participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs are the same for all children without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250.

Parents are asked to provide a nutritious snack (and, where applicable, lunch) daily. The snack and lunch container must be labeled with the **child’s name and date every day**. Children who eat lunch at school will have the opportunity to purchase milk through the school milk program. Water will be provided during snack.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Each school should formulate a policy of traffic, pedestrian, bike, and bus safety for its students and communicate this policy to all school personnel, students, and their parents. Older students in elementary schools and secondary school students may serve as traffic/pedestrian safety patrols at the discretion of the school principal. Within the scope of this designation, the students shall work under the supervision of and in cooperation with the school principal and the local police liaison for safety issues.

Class sessions begin at 8:45 a.m. for the ECC. **Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and will be locked promptly at 8:45 a.m.** Parents should pull into the Braddock Road parking lot, turn right, and pull up along the sidewalk next to the Parish Center. A staff member will assist the child(ren) out of the car and walk them into the building. If a child is having difficulty separating from their parent, the parent may park in a parking spot and walk their child to the classroom door. Parents may not enter the classroom during arrival. Students who are tardy (after 8:45 am) must report to the school office to check in.

For safety reasons, children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children and families are not permitted to play or congregate in the parking lot, medians, or in any areas adjacent to the parking lots.

The ECC playground is reserved for Extended Day use between the hours of 7:00-8:30 AM and 1:30-6 PM Monday-Friday.

DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE LANE AT ANY TIME. Fire lanes are located in front of the school and along the parish center.

Please drive slowly and with great caution on school grounds.

The students will be dismissed through the same doors as for morning arrival. Parents are asked to wait outside the doors for teachers to escort the students to parents.

In the case of inclement weather students will be dismissed from the playground doors unless it is unsafe to do so, then they would be dismissed from the front office. Parents/Guardians will be notified via School Messenger if there will be a change to dismissal procedures.

Arrival and Dismissal procedures are subject to change.

IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

ADMINISTRATIVE

CHILD CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

At the time of school entry or at any other time where a change in custody status/arrangements occurs, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) to provide the principal/director with a true and correct copy of the legal document for any child for which there is a legal custody agreement or for any child not residing with his/her parent.

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

- a. Custodial parents should identify, in writing, other adults who may have access to information regarding their child.
- b. Non-custodial parents may receive information (when requested) regarding the child unless specific documentation to the contrary is provided in the legal custody agreement.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

Parents have a right (unless prohibited by the courts in a custody agreement) to the timely inspection of the educational records (cumulative and confidential) of their child during school hours. The school shall respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records.

If the educational records of a child contain information on more than one child, the parents are limited to the specific information about their child only.

Student records shall be open to authorized school personnel only (principal, director, assistant principal, and those to whom they extend access within a given year.)

The school administration may elect to provide, at cost, photocopies of a child's educational records to parents, but documentation is to be stamped "unofficial."

Parents are obligated to share educational/psychological testing results and any resulting plan with the school. If a student has a documented disability, a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Services Plan (ISP), 504 plan, and/or Student Assistance Plan (SAP) should be maintained in the student's confidential file. The refusal to provide such information is a ground for terminating enrollment in the school.

Confidential records for dis-enrolled students are merged with the students' cumulative files.

RETENTION OF RECORDS

The following student records are to be retained indefinitely:

Permanent record card (to include transcripts, attendance record and standardized test results)

The following student records are to be retained for 25 years:

- a. IEP/ISP or 504 Plan
- b. Student Assistance Plan
- c. Eligibility Minutes
- d. Student Assistance Team minutes

The following student records are to be retained for 7 years, or when the student reaches the age of 25, whichever is greater:

- a. Application
- b. Counselor notes
- c. Discipline notes
- d. Court Documents
- e. Psychological reports

SCHOOL VISITORS

All persons other than school staff and currently registered children must first report to the school office immediately upon entering school grounds, sign in and wear an identification tag when visiting the school.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

PRINCIPAL/ DIRECTOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Principal/Director will regularly communicate with the parent community through the weekly school newsletter. Newsletters are distributed weekly via email to all parents and are archived on the school website. The principal/director is available to speak with parents by appointment via telephone or in person as needed. Please feel free to call the school office to schedule an appointment time that is mutually convenient.

Every effort will be made to promptly respond to voice mail, e-mail, and other messages; however, the supervisory nature of a principal/director often requires that the principal/director be present in the school building with the students and teachers and, as such, is limited in the ability to respond to inquiries immediately.

Blessed Sacrament School uses a School Messenger Alert System for emergency announcements whereby alerts will be sent via text, voice mail, and email

TAKE-HOME COMMUNICATION

All materials prepared by parents for release to the parish or school community must be approved by the principal/director or his/her designee.

Students will take home pertinent announcements in a designated folder on Thursday (or Friday in the case of the Fuzzy Bear-3 class). Parents should remove all papers from the folder and return the folder the following school day. In addition, parents should check their child's backpack each evening in case other time-sensitive communication has been distributed.

Additional information is also available on the website: <https://bssva.org>

Emergency announcements will be distributed via the School Messenger System

TELEPHONE USE

Use of the telephone is reserved for emergencies only.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If school closes unexpectedly for a single day, there will be no academic requirements for that day. If, however, the school will be closed for an extended period due to weather or public health concern, the school will transition into on-line (virtual instruction) for the required duration and students will meet academic requirements.

When schools are operating in a virtual instruction model and there is a weather related closure of schools, principals shall determine whether a "snow day" is appropriate for the general health and well-being of the students.

For the most part, Blessed Sacrament School follows the weather-related opening and closing decisions of the Alexandria City Schools when they are in session. If Alexandria City schools are closed, Blessed Sacrament School will be closed. If Alexandria City schools are delayed, Blessed Sacrament School will be delayed. **If there is a two-hour delay, drop off for all ECC classes is from 10:00-10:15. All ECC classes will begin at 10:15. The half-day classes will dismiss at 12:00 pm. The 5 day ³/₄ day classes will dismiss at 1:30 pm.** *If Alexandria City Schools are learning virtually due to weather-related concerns, Blessed Sacrament School will make its own decision regarding closure, delay, or on-time opening.*

Weather related early dismissal procedures include the use of school messenger by the office staff to alert parents of an unexpected early closing.

Emergency announcements will be distributed via the School Messenger System.

PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA

Parents may opt their children out of participating in videotaping, audio recording, school pictures, other photography or participation involving the Internet. When a parent decides to exercise this right, the school is required to use the *Waiver/Right to Object* form (Appendix N). All student or parental publications are subject to review and approval by the school administration prior to publication.

LIBRARY

All books chosen for classroom reading in Diocesan schools must be appropriate for students, not only in age level and reading ability, but also for the moral development which we are working to foster. All books shall conform with Diocesan policies and guidelines regarding Catholic education.

Parents or teachers who object to reading or audio-visual/computer materials must complete an Objection to Content Form (*Appendix K*) and submit it to the school principal/director. A review committee (to include an Office of Catholic Schools member) will subsequently discuss the objection and decide the disposition of the challenged material. The parent or teacher initiating the review should be personally notified of the results of the review.

FIELD TRIPS

Class visits to places of cultural or educational significance enhance the lessons of the classroom. Field trips are (virtual or in person) planned by teachers and approved by the school administration with educational purposes as the primary objective and in light of financial considerations.

Field trips are considered an extension of the school day and the code of conduct will apply.

A child must give to the sponsoring teacher a permission form signed by a child's parent(s) prior to a child participating in each activity (*Appendix R*).

In the event private automobiles/vehicles of children, parents or other authorized adults of at least 21 years of age are to be utilized to transport children on field trips, the drivers and/or the vehicle owners must have a valid driver's license and sufficient liability, medical and uninsured motorist insurance coverage as defined by the Diocesan Risk Manager. Evidence to this effect must be presented to the principal/director for review and approval prior to the use of such vehicles. Appendix R-1 must be used for this purpose. The principal/director shall have the right to prohibit, for any reason, a proposed driver from transporting children on a field trip. Youth weighing less than 100 pounds may not be seated in the front seat. Phone calls and texting are not permitted while driving.

Teachers and other school employees should not drive students in their personal vehicles.

Parents/guardians are to be furnished with detailed written information about the field trip, and must be given the opportunity to “opt out” their children from the field trip.

It should also be understood, in light of world conditions and specifically threats of terrorism against Americans, that it may be necessary to cancel school-sponsored trips due to world and national developments at any time.

All medications given on field trips must comply with medication administration policies. For a student with prescription medication and/or medically necessary health related procedures or treatments, a trained individual needs to be present on the field trip such as a school nurse, parent/guardian or designated family member to ensure care in the case of an emergency. If a trained individual of the school is unable to chaperone the student on a field trip, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide a trained individual to accompany the student.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Overnight trips are not permitted for preschool children.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Parent-Teacher Organizations (and like-named entities) support the critical relationship between schools and parents, the primary educators of their children. These organizations help the head of school/principal advance the school’s mission.

"...since parents have conferred life on their children they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, most parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it. For it devolves on parents to create a family atmosphere so animated with love and reverence for God and men that a well-rounded personal and social development will be fostered among the children. Hence, the family is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs..." (Declaration on Christian Education – Vatican Council II)

All parent organization activities and all materials prepared by parents must be submitted to the principal/director for approval prior to implementation and/or distribution.

All PTO monies must be deposited in the parish or school account as designated by the pastor. In consultation with the principal/director, the PTO officers should prepare a budget and submit it to the pastor and principal/director for approval.

Persons nominated to serve as a PTO board member must receive the approval of the pastor and principal/director.

Every school should have an effective Parent-Teacher Organization. An effective Parent-Teacher Organization helps the principal/director regarding advancement of the school's mission. It can also help mobilize the parents and legislative issues concerning the school as directed by school leadership.

One ECC parent is designated as the ECC parent representative to the PTO Board.

FUNDRAISING

Any program of generating additional revenue should have the approval of school leadership (pastor, principal, director). These activities should be organized and executed so that the school program is not interrupted.

Students may participate in and cooperate with worthy collections and fundraising projects conducted by a school or parish, provided such activities have been approved by the school leadership (pastor, principal, director).

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

During arrival and dismissal, children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children and families are not permitted to play or congregate in the parking lot, parking medians, or areas adjacent to the parking lot.

DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE LANE AT ANY TIME.

Please drive slowly and with great caution on school grounds.

For safety reasons, the six parking spaces between the ECC door and Parish Center are for staff only.

V. FINANCES

SCHOOL TUITION POLICIES

A family’s tuition obligation continues even when the school shifts to an eLearning model. The education of each student continues with teachers planning and delivering lessons and assessing student progress. Report cards will be distributed at the end of each grading period. If a parent/guardian cannot make the regular tuition payment, the principal should be notified as soon as possible to create a payment plan.

TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

A family’s tuition obligation continues even when the school shifts to an eLearning model. The education of each student continues with teachers planning and delivering lessons and assessing student progress. Report cards will be distributed at the end of each grading period. If a parent/guardian cannot make the regular tuition payment, the principal should be notified as soon as possible to create a payment plan.

Blessed Sacrament School is funded to the maximum extent possible through tuition income. Timely payment is essential to the fiscal stability of the school.

Families are required to use the FACTS Management Company for tuition payment. A link to FACTS Management Company can be found on our website.

Tuition assistance is available for qualified families. Application forms can be obtained in the office. BSS also uses the FACTS Management Company for tuition assistance assessment.

If for any reason a parent is not able to make a payment on time, the school office should be notified immediately so that an alternate arrangement can be made. Delinquent accounts may Jeopardize registration for the following school year.

Tuition/fee payments are nonrefundable.

ECC TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

Tuition:	1 st child	2 nd child	3 rd child
3-day ½ day class	\$6,449	\$5,805	\$4,837
5-day ½ day class	\$7,062	\$6,356	\$5,297
5-day ¾ day class	\$7,534	\$6,781	\$5,651

Application Fee: \$35.00

Registration Fee (non-refundable): \$175

Plus one month's tuition for new students only (non-refundable)

Activity Fee ECC: \$110 per student (included in FACTS payment divided over 11 months)

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION FEE

A yearly non-refundable fee of \$35.00 per new student or \$25.00 per returning student must be paid when the application for enrollment is submitted. (Maximum of \$75.00 per year per family.)

Session A (11:45 am - 3:00 pm- (Butterflies & Fuzzy bears))

5 day - \$480.00/month	\$283.00/month
3 day - \$289.00/month	\$171.00/month
2 day - \$192.00/month	\$113.00/month

Session A (1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (Rainbows & Shooting Stars))

5 day - \$248.00/month	\$144.00/month
3 day - \$148.00/month	\$86.00/month
2 day - \$100.00/month	\$59.00/month

Session B (3:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Rainbows, Shooting Stars, Sunshine's & Fuzzy Bears))

Session B (3:15- pm – 6:00 pm (K-8))

5 day - \$480.00/month	\$271.00/month
3 day - \$289.00/month	\$164.00/month
2 day - \$191.00/month	\$104.00/month

Session B with Early Release (12:00 pm - 6:00pm)

5 day - \$480.00/month	\$271.00/month
3 day - \$289.00/month	\$164.00/month
2 day - \$191.00/month	\$111.00/month

Early Release **only** (12:00PM-3:00PM (K-8) (ECC Shooting Stars & Rainbows 11:45-1:30PM)

\$45.00	\$33.50
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Drop-in Rates

1st child	Sibling
Sessions A & B - \$14.50/hour	\$9.50/hour

ADMISSION POLICY

Early Childhood Center students may use Session A. Kindergarten and Grade School students may use Session B and Early Release segments. Please note: ECC students who are registered for the “Session B” do not need to register for Early Release. On the registration form, it is possible for K-8 students to register for Early Release without the B session. The fee for this session is clearly listed above.

Families are required to use the FACTS Management Company for Extended Day Program payments. A link to FACTS Management Company can be found on the school website.

Regular users will be billed monthly in advance through FACTS and payment must be collected in advance. The first payment for the school year is due on September 1st. All remaining payments are due on the 1st of each month. Fees for Grade School students will be collected September – May (9 payments), whereas payments for preschool students will be collected September – April (8 payments). Credit will not be given if the student fails to use the program on any regularly scheduled day due to sickness, etc. These fees include a provision for snow days and holidays. All changes in schedule must be made known prior to the end of the current month for billing purposes, and must apply to the entire month to be considered.

Drop-in users are charged for **each hour or part of an hour** from the time the student is checked in till the student is picked up. The Session A is counted as 4 hours, and Session B as 3 hours.

RETURNED CHECK FEE

A fee of \$15.00 per returned check will be added to the total bill.

SESSION A, LATE PICK-UP FEES

A penalty equivalent to the **hourly drop-in rate** will be imposed on a family who picks up its child/children after 3:00 p.m. Billing for late pick-ups will appear in the following month’s statement.

SESSION B LATE PICK-UP FEES

A penalty of \$5.00 **per minute** will be imposed for pick-ups after 6:00 p.m. Cash or check payments **will not be accepted** for late pick-ups at the time of pick up. The charge will be collected through FACTS.

VI. CHILD RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR

CODE OF CONDUCT

In all areas of learning, discipline must be considered in the development of children. The Code of Conduct is based on the Gospel message of Jesus. Growth in self-discipline, a responsibility for Catholic moral values and a loving respect for the rights of all persons is encouraged and nourished by the Code of Conduct. To achieve these ends, parents, staff and children work together to create a Catholic school environment. Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, children:

- a. will be truthful.
- b. will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers and adults.
- c. will refrain from harassment of any kind.
- d. will use appropriate language.
- e. will speak respectfully to and about others.
- f. will respect all school and personal property.
- g. will play only in assigned playground areas with good sportsmanship and cooperation.
- h. will bring to school only appropriate show & tell items from home.

The school observes this Code of Conduct because it is built on fundamental Catholic social teachings. The role of the principal/director and staff is to work with the children and parents to assist the children in developing a strong Christian attitude toward life.

DISCIPLINE

Classroom rules are designed to protect persons and property and to promote pro-social behaviors, such as sharing and taking turns. If problems arise, the children in question will be reminded of acceptable behaviors and redirected to more positive activities.

USE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In cases where a child is continually disruptive of others or in the case of a single serious disciplinary infraction, the teacher will apprise the principal/director of the situation. They will assist in the development of a course of action to be taken to correct the situation.

Children who lack self-discipline or who violate the rights of others can expect disciplinary action. Each offense will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the age of the child,

the nature of the infraction and the severity of the case. Repeated infractions can result in more serious consequences, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, but there is no requirement for progressive discipline.

SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

The goal of discipline for young children is to achieve autonomy. Success will result in a display of self-control and self-direction on the part of the child. Positive self-esteem is a natural by-product of this autonomy.

Behavior is complex and highly variable among young children. Many influences, such as parenting styles, playmates, siblings, have helped to form much of the behavior children exhibit when they arrive to the school setting for the first time. In addition, children have their own distinct personalities and temperaments, as do all human beings.

When a child engages in a pattern of inappropriate behavior, the teachers (in consultation with the Director, the Principal and the child's parent) will assess the classroom-learning environment to determine which positive prevention methods, reinforcement techniques, and intervention methods can be implemented to successfully resolve the discipline issue. However, input from an independent source is occasionally necessary. In that case, the teacher may recommend that a student be referred for an evaluation with a specialist, such as a speech therapist or Child Find. Inappropriate behavior is often related to frustration on the part of the child. When changes in the immediate environment cannot positively influence the behavior, it is in the best interests of the child to research other causes and work closely with parents to find new avenues for success in school.

There are times, however, when we must release a child from the program. The primary concern is always for the child's best interests.

SUSPENSION

Suspension may be imposed as determined by the principal/director. Once the principal/director suspends a child, parents may be required to sign a behavioral contract in which they signify their understanding of the problem and agree to work with the school in correcting the situation.

The failure of the parents to execute the above referenced agreement shall preclude the child from returning to the regular program.

DISMISSAL

Conduct which is disruptive to the learning atmosphere and/or contrary to the school's Code of Conduct is justification for a principal/director to dismiss a child at the close of the school year.

Children who are dismissed may apply for readmission to any Diocesan school after one full year.

EXPULSION

Expulsion may be resorted to when one or all of the following are present:

- a. a serious infraction of school rules occurs;
- b. the child has demonstrated continuing disregard of school rules for which other means of discipline have proven ineffectual;
- c. the child's continued presence in the school is considered by school officials to be a serious hindrance to the safety or welfare of the school community;
- d. a parent repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students or displays disrespectful, disruptive or harassing behavior toward teachers or toward school, parish or diocesan staff.

If the principal/director believes it necessary to expel a child, the principal/director will notify the child and the child's parents about the child's actions and provide them with an opportunity to respond in accordance with the school's disciplinary hearing process before making any final decision on the matter.

A parent whose child is expelled may appeal this decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within five working days from the time of written notification.

During the pendency of any appeal, the expelled child shall be removed from the school community in compliance with the expulsion notice unless otherwise directed in the discretion of the principal/director.

Children who have been expelled from any Diocesan school may not apply for admission to that school or another Diocesan school for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of expulsion.

REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Privacy of individual children must be balanced against the need to protect the health, welfare and safety of other members of the school community. The principal/director or his/her designee has the right to protect the health, welfare and safety of school patrons by searching a child's person and/or personal property on school grounds or at school activities. Lockers and desks are school property and are subject to searches by school personnel.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Children are to care for school property in a respectful manner. Children who deface or damage school property or the property of others will make financial restitution.

DRESS CODE

The dress code provides a standard for our children that fosters an environment conducive to learning and respectful behavior.

Final decisions regarding the school uniform rest with the principal/director.

DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

For safety purposes, the children **must wear rubber-soled, flat shoes**. No open toed shoes will be allowed. Additionally, pretend/costume shoes are not allowed. In addition, washable, comfortable **play clothes** should be worn.

Appropriate winter outerwear is **required** when temperatures and wind-chills reach below mandated safety levels. Appropriate winter outerwear includes winter coat, hat/hood, and mitten/gloves. **Children without the appropriate outerwear will not be allowed outside for play.**

PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS

Students have an outdoor play period each day, unless it is raining or the temperature is dangerously high or low according to the OCS Wind Chill/Heat Stress Index. **If a child is not well enough to take part in the outdoor play period, they should be kept home until they are able to do so.**

Children must follow the safety rules of the playground and the direction of the supervisors.

LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS

Given the risk of potential harm, students' access to and use of microwave ovens is prohibited. Student meals provided by parents must not be heated in microwave ovens by school personnel and/or school volunteers.

Only the Rainbow, Shooting Star, and extended day classes eat lunch at school in their individual classrooms.

SHOW & TELL

Children are allowed to bring toys from home for the purpose of Show and Tell only. Weapons (whether real or toys) of any kind are not appropriate Show and Tell items, and shall not be

brought to school for any reason. If weapons of any kind are brought to school, the child shall be subject to immediate disciplinary action which may include, but not be limited to, expulsion.

Each teacher will inform parents about the Show and Tell policy within their individual classes.

VII. HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

STUDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

Parents and guardians have the primary responsibility for the health and well-being of their children. School health services supplement, rather than substitute, for parental care and concern for the health of the students.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR CHILD ABUSE

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington Policy on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse generally applies to all clergy, all employees, and all volunteers.

It is the policy of the Diocese that sexual misconduct and/or child abuse while performing any work or activity under the auspices of the Diocese is contrary to Christian principles and outside the scope of any authority, duties, and/or employment of any clergy, employee, or volunteer.

Any clergy, employee, or volunteer with the Diocese who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an incident of child abuse or illegal sexual misconduct has been perpetrated by any individual, including clergy, employee, or volunteer with the Diocese,

- a. must comply with applicable reporting and other requirements of state and local law;
- b. must report the incident to the Vicar General of the Diocese of Arlington.

Virginia law imposes upon school personnel the legal responsibility of reporting to the local child protective services agency any incident of suspected child abuse or neglect.

School personnel who suspect the abuse or neglect of a student must report the matter directly to Child Protective Services and to the school principal/director who in turn will call the Vicar General. At that point, confidentiality must be respected.

In accordance with the *Code of Virginia*, (Section 63.2 –118), “Any person required to make a report or conduct an investigation or family assessment, pursuant to this chapter, may talk to any child suspected of being abused or neglected or to any of his siblings without consent of and outside the presence of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in *loco parentis* or school personnel.”

WELLNESS POLICY

The Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools Wellness Policy (2006) meets minimum federal standards and establishes goals for physical education, nutrition, and healthy environments in schools. All schools must develop, and continue to evaluate, local school wellness policies. The local policies create a framework for increased student activity, staff wellness, safe and healthy environments, and the elimination of foods of minimal nutritional value during the school day. All schools have wellness committees to implement, sustain, and evaluate the local wellness program.

ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

The parents of an injured student will be notified of the accident/injury by the principal/administration or the principal/administration's designee as soon as reasonably possible, taking into consideration such factors as the apparent severity of the accident/injury and the priority of providing assistance to the student.

If an incident results in a medical condition or injury which can be reasonably known to the appropriate supervisory faculty/staff member and/or the principal/director, the school and/or its staff are authorized to render reasonable basic first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion of the school, serve to minimize the severity of the injured person's condition. In addition, staff may secure a professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion of the school, appears to be reasonably warranted. The school and school officials shall be expressly held harmless from any liability costs or expenses associated with the professional diagnosis and/or any treatment or first aid provided (including but not limited to the cost of transportation), such costs or expenses being the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

ILLNESS

Each school will provide a health office or comfortable space, apart from the student population, where children who become ill or injured can be cared for following *Virginia School Health Guidelines*.

Children with fevers, contagious, or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and excluded from school while in that condition, per Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a healthcare provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school, afterschool, and extracurricular activities.

When a student is requesting a waiver from participating in Physical Education classes and/or recess, parents are required to submit a written statement from their child's physician which states any activity restrictions with regard to participation in Physical Education classes and/or recess. The statement is expected to include a specific time frame for the activity restrictions.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

All school clinic, administrators, and staff are required to administer medication within the framework of the procedures outlined in Diocesan policy and summarized here.

All prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications may be administered during the school day under the following conditions:

- a. When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration);

- b. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;
- c. When the parent/guardian provides and transports the medication to and from school and the medication is given directly to the school nurse/health assistant or a senior member of the school administration;
- d. When there is a health care provider's written order signed by the parent/guardian requesting the school administer the medication or to permit the student to self-administer the medication;
- e. When the medication is brought to the school in its original container stating the name of the student, the dosage, and method of administration prescribed by a physician. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription. The new prescription must also be brought to the school in the original container as stated above;
- f. When the appropriate medication authorization form (*Appendix F-6*) has been completed, signed and accompanies the medication.
- g. For any medication, parents must document the number of tablets or dosages to be secured for administration by authorized school personnel. If tablets are to be divided, the parent or guardian is responsible for dividing the tablets in order to achieve their child's proper dosage.
- h. Herbal and homeopathic medications will not be given in Diocesan schools without written authorization by a LHCP that shall include desired and adverse effects. Protein supplements will not be administered unless directly requested by a physician with a health treatment plan.
- i. Under no circumstances are medications to be shared with other students.
- j. Picc Lines, Heparin/Saline Locks, and Central Venous Lines may be present in students with specialized health care needs. Dressing changes, heparin flushes, and other medication administration via these lines are to be done at home and should not be done at school.

All OTC and prescription medications are to be kept locked in the clinic/school office and be administered by the school nurse, clinic aide, principal/director or trained designee. No student is to carry/possess medications without appropriate medical authorization. No medication will be administered unless the school has received a signed copy of the Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*). OTC medications do not require a health care provider's signature unless the medication is required for four (4) or more consecutive days.

It shall be the student's responsibility to come to the clinic/school office at the appropriate time for medication unless a health care provider or parent indicates in writing that the student cannot do this.

Students are NOT permitted to self-medicate. The school does not assume responsibility for medications taken independently by the student. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis for students who demonstrate the capability to carry and self-administer emergency life-saving

medications (e.g. inhaler, Epi-pen).

Within one week after expiration of the effective date on the order, or on the last day of school, the parent/guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication. Medications not claimed within that period will be destroyed.

SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS

The parent of any student on a continuing regimen for a non-episodic condition shall inform the school principal/director/administration and identify, in writing, the student's supervising health care provider. If necessary, and with parental written consent, there may be occasions when the school needs to communicate with the health care provider regarding possible effects on the pupil's healthcare management, special emergency procedures, or behavior at school.

TOILETING/INCONTINENCE

Although the vast majority of school staff would assist in an emergency situation, as no child should be left in wet or soiled clothing, it is important to note that there is no expectation that routine and predictable incidents are to be dealt with by school staff.

Parents will always be contacted in incidents of soiling.

The exception to this policy is the student with a prescribed health-related treatment or procedure plan obtained in writing from a LHCP, with proper authorizations in writing by the parent or guardian.

For preschool students, it is recognized that continence training is an area of development which is reached at different ages for all children and that every child has individual needs which are respected. The preschool director will determine age appropriate protocols for the student population.

USE OF CRUTCHES

An order from a Licensed Healthcare Provider (LHP) is required to use crutches at school. If a student arrives at school on crutches without an order form from a LHCP, the parent will be called to take the student home.

USE OF MICROWAVE OVEN

For preschool, given the risk of potential harm, students' access and use of microwave ovens is prohibited.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY

Schools will utilize current resources and reputable materials such as; Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) and the CDC's *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Programs* to develop allergen management communications for

student handbooks, classrooms, and parental publications.

All schools must provide an annual in-service, educating school faculty and staff about the policy. Training will include minimizing the risk of exposure to life threatening allergens in the school setting as well as anaphylaxis recognition, medical management, and incident reporting.

Schools will utilize the policy to develop allergen management communications for student handbooks, classrooms, and parental publications. Schools will select and train staff to be utilized as anaphylaxis response teams responsible for managing an allergic crisis.

Parents and guardians of students with a life threatening allergy must inform the principal/director and school health personnel of any allergies and provide schools with fully executed Diocesan documents. Parents/guardians are expected to supply schools with any emergency medications as prescribed and may additionally provide the student with “safe” foods for classroom celebrations involving food. Schools will utilize Diocesan documents to formulate an emergency care plan for the student and will share this care plan with those involved with the student including, but not limited to teacher(s), food service, bus drivers, and janitorial staff.

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DISEASE

Parents must notify the school within 24 hours if their child or any member of the immediate household has developed a communicable disease. Parents must notify the school immediately if the disease is life threatening. Parents must pick up their sick or injured child in a timely manner when contacted. If the parent cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called to pick up the child.

The protection and welfare of each individual student is of importance in the schools of the Diocese of Arlington. In an effort to enhance the protection of students:

- a. No daycare/preschool student may attend class without documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health’s school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213G).
 - i. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption form (Appendix F-18), which will be retained in the student health record.
 - ii. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for five months or more, where tuberculosis is common, are required to provide documentation, prior to school entry, of a negative tuberculosis skin

test or chest x-ray result. All Diocesan schools are responsible for compliance with local health department regulations pertaining to tuberculosis screening and treatment.

- b. Children with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to the Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a health care provider, or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school.
- c. School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart, found in the *Virginia School Health Guidelines*, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.
- d. The Diocese of Arlington has comprehensive guidelines for school/parish-based influenza vaccination clinics. The liability associated with the vaccination of children is great. The Diocese of Arlington does not promote school based vaccination clinics for children during school hours, and in the absence of the parent, with the exception of a state or federal emergency. Any school wishing to offer an onsite school influenza vaccination program must comply with all aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement. Vendors wishing to serve as vaccinators must be fully vetted by the Office of Risk Management prior to the consummation of any contract for services.

LICE

All students determined to have an active case of lice will be excluded from school until they receive treatment. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide appropriate and adequate treatment for the student and home environment as recommended by their health care professional. Readmission to school is determined by the school nurse/administration based upon re-inspection and the effectiveness of treatment. Follow up treatment is expected and verified by the school nurse/administration. Classroom contacts may be inspected.

Our school has a “**NO NIT**” policy. After proper scalp treatment and the removal of ALL nits, the student may return to school and report to the clinic with his/her parent for a head check by the nurse. If the student is found to have nits, he/she will not be permitted to return.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE INFORMATION

Blessed Sacrament School will follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Alexandria Health Department (AHD) regarding infectious diseases, including but not limited to Covid.

BLOODBORNE DISEASE

The Christian community is called to respond to the sick in our midst with compassion and justice. The diocese recognizes its obligation to protect the rights of individual students infected with Hepatitis and HIV and to provide a safe environment for students, staff members, and the public. Students who are infected with bloodborne Hepatitis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or HIV-related conditions must be provided the opportunity to receive a Catholic school education in a regular classroom unless the student's health interferes significantly with school performance.

Since it is known that bloodborne Hepatitis and HIV are not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is infected will continue education in a regular classroom assignment unless his or her health status requires otherwise. It is the intent of the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools to follow the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health which state that most bloodborne Hepatitis and HIV-infected children be allowed to attend school in an unrestricted setting and that decisions regarding school attendance be based on the medical condition of each child and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting.

Persons involved in the implementation and monitoring of this policy shall maintain confidentiality of records in compliance with federal and state law and diocesan policy. All diocesan schools shall also maintain a program of information and training for school staff members to ensure a consistent and accurate understanding regarding prevention of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. This includes training related to the proper application of universal/standard precautions.

FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are conducted periodically to ensure safety for the students. Evacuation directions are posted in each classroom. Students are expected to walk in a single file and remain silent during fire drills.

Additionally, tornado, severe weather, earthquake and intruder drills are practiced periodically through the year to ensure safety in all situations.

In the event of a bomb threat, the school community has made arrangements to evacuate to nearby Alexandria City High School at 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA. (703) 824-6800, until authorities verify the security of the building.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT - STUDENTS

Sexuality affects all aspects of the person including, in a general way, the aptitude for forming bonds of communion with others. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Arlington endeavor to provide for their students an atmosphere free from sexual harassment.

No student is to sexually harass another member of the school community. Any student who engages in sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to, and including, expulsion.

Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advance, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. “Unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” includes, but is not limited to, the deliberate, repeated making of unsolicited gestures or comments, or the deliberate, repeated display of offensive, sexually graphic materials via any media source which is not necessary for school purposes.

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. Bullying includes cyber bullying. Bullying does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Physical intimidation or assault
- b. Extortion
- c. Oral or written threats, including text messaging
- d. Malicious teasing
- e. Putdowns
- f. Name calling
- g. Threatening looks
- h. Gestures or acts of aggression (Overt and Covert)
- i. Cruel rumors & false accusations
- j. Social Isolation
- k. Cyber bullying

School personnel will not tolerate any bullying on Diocesan school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity (on or off school grounds). In addition, the Office of Catholic Schools expects students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying to report it to appropriate school personnel (e.g. principal/director, teacher, school counselor). The Office of Catholic Schools expects staff members who become aware of an incident of bullying or cyberbullying to take appropriate steps to intervene unless intervention would be a threat to staff members’ safety. If a staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report the bullying to the school principal/director for further investigation.

In cases of reported bullying, the principal/director or designee shall interview all students involved (i.e. the aggressor(s) and the victim(s)) and investigate, as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying may be subject to appropriate consequences.

Consequences for students who bully others shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include:

- a. Counseling
- b. Parent conference
- c. Detention
- d. Suspension and/or Expulsion

Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the principal/director may also report incidents of bullying to law enforcement, if appropriate.

HAZING

Hazing is defined as the imposition of strenuous, often humiliating, tasks as part of a program of rigorous physical training and initiation. Hazing is prohibited. School personnel will not tolerate any hazing on Diocesan school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity (on or off school grounds). In addition, the Office of Catholic Schools expects students and parents who become aware of an act of hazing to report it to appropriate school personnel (e.g., principal, teacher, school counselor). The Office of Catholic Schools expects staff members who become aware of an incidence of hazing to report the hazing to school administration for further investigation.

In cases of reported hazing, the principal or designee shall interview all students involved (i.e. the aggressor(s) and the victim(s)) and investigate, as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents, and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting hazing may be subject to appropriate consequences.

- a. Consequences for students who engage in hazing shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include:
 - i. Counseling
 - ii. A parent conference
 - iii. Detention

- iv. Suspension and/or Expulsion Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the principal may also report incidents of hazing to law enforcement if appropriate.

ASBESTOS MANDATORY YEARLY NOTIFICATION

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION (SAMPLE LETTER)

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retardant capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contains some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Every _____ years, _____ School has conducted an inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last inspection, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and found to be in good condition.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place. The _____ School Asbestos Management Plan has several on-going requirements.

It is the intention of _____ to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a health and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan at the school during regular business hours. _____, as Director of Operations, is our designated asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to him/her at _____.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

School leadership at each individual school must install video surveillance cameras in order to maintain a safe and secure environment.

- a. At the discretion of the principal/director or his/her designee, video surveillance cameras may be placed in public locations deemed appropriate. Such locations may include, without limitation, school entrances/exits, lobby areas, hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, athletic areas, gathering spaces, and outdoor grounds, as well as school buses.
- b. Restrooms, changing rooms, private offices, nurse's offices, and locker rooms are excluded from security camera use.
- c. It is recognized that it will not be possible to monitor all building areas, rooms, and grounds, or to monitor any location at all times.

Schools making use of video surveillance cameras will provide notice to staff, students, and parents/guardians, by means of inclusion of this policy in their respective handbooks, that video surveillance may occur on school property. In addition, school leadership may elect to install signs at building entrances or other locations deemed appropriate to inform visitors and invitees that video surveillance may occur.

To the extent video images may be deemed appropriate to create student records or personnel records, the school shall comply with any applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance, retention, and disclosure.

Video images obtained by the school shall be viewed by authorized school and diocesan personnel as necessary. The school and the diocese may rely on the images obtained by the video surveillance cameras in connection with the enforcement of diocesan or school policies, regulations, codes of conduct, building rules, and other applicable laws or rules, including, but not limited to, use of such images in student and staff disciplinary proceedings and matters referred to local law enforcement agencies in accordance with applicable law. Video images may become part of a student's educational record or a staff member's personnel record in accordance with applicable law.

All video recordings shall be stored in a secure place. Recordings will be saved for no less than 30 days, and may be retained longer if deemed appropriate. All video recordings are the sole property of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. Release of such videos will be made only with the permission of the diocesan Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

Recordings for instructional purposes must be retained no less than one year.

VIII. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Catholic Schools recognizes the beauty and potential inherent within each child. In an effort to foster continued growth, the school embraces the opportunity to provide assistance and services for children with disabilities according to the resources available within/to the school. Parents are considered an integral part of the process.

In order to accommodate a child who has been evaluated for special learning needs, parents are obligated to share educational/psychological testing results and any resulting plan with the school. The refusal to provide such information is a condition for negating enrollment in the school. A child may be admitted on a probationary basis with dates and criteria of evaluation clearly established in writing.

If a child has a documented disability, a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Services Plan (ISP), 504 plan, and/or Student Assistance Plan (SAP) should be maintained in the child's confidential file. Children who have a documented disability, but do not qualify for services through the local public school, may be eligible for accommodations through a Student Assistance Plan written at the Catholic school.

When a student qualifies for special education services through the public school and will not receive services, an Individualized Catholic Education Plan can be written following the information in the Guidelines for Serving Students with Disabilities.

Failure of the parent to sign the Student Assistance Plan or Individualized Catholic Education Plan does not prevent the implementation of the plan.

Children with disabilities are expected to follow the school's policies and honor code.

IX. PROGRAM INFORMATION

LICENSING INFORMATION

The Commonwealth of Virginia helps assure parents that child day programs that assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child for any part of a 24-hour day are safe. Title 22.1, Chapter 14 of the Code of Virginia gives the Virginia Department of Education authority to license these programs. While there are some legislative exemptions to licensure, licensed programs include child day centers, family day homes, child day center systems, and family day systems. The state may also voluntarily register family day homes which are not required to be licensed.

Standards for licensed child day centers address certain health precautions, adequate play space, a ratio of children per staff member, equipment, program and record keeping. Criminal record checks and specific qualifications for staff and most volunteers working directly with children are also required. Standards require the facility to meet applicable fire, health, and building codes.

Compliance with standards is determined by announced and unannounced visits to the program by licensing staff within the Department of Education. In addition, parents or other individuals may register a complaint about a program which will be investigated if it violates a standard.

Three types of licensing may be issued to programs. Conditional licenses may be issued to a new program to allow up to six months for the program to demonstrate compliance with the standards. A regular license is issued when the program substantially meets the standards for licensure. A provisional license, which cannot exceed six months, is issued when the program is temporarily unable to comply with the standards. Operating without a license when required constitutes a misdemeanor which, upon conviction, can be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for each day's violation.

If you would like additional information about the licensing of child day programs or would like to register a complaint, please call the Office of Child Care Licensing toll-free at 833-778-0204.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

A Crisis Management/Emergency Preparedness Plan has been developed and approved. All employees have been trained accordingly.

OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS

All non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products

shall not be kept or used beyond the expiration date of the product.

For all over-the-counter skin products:

- a. written parent authorization noting any known adverse reactions shall be obtained;
- b. shall be in the original container labeled with the child's name;
- c. does not need to be kept locked, but shall be inaccessible to children under five years of age;
- d. any center-kept sunscreen shall be hypo-allergenic and have a minimum SPF of 15;
- e. children nine years of age and older may administer their own sunscreen, if supervised.

When insect repellent is used, a record shall be kept that includes the child's name, date of use, frequency of application, and any adverse reaction. Manufacturer's instructions for age, duration, and dosage shall be followed.

INSURANCE

The program is covered by public liability insurance through the Diocese of Arlington and the Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America. Student insurance must be provided by the family through their own policy or purchased through an independent school insurance provider.

TAX INFORMATION

Because the Internal Revenue Service requires identification of care givers in order to claim a credit for child and dependent care expenses, the school will complete and return to the parent any W-10 that is sent in, provided Part II is already completed by the parent.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

In compliance with state regulations for state licensed programs, a custodial parent shall be admitted to any child day program. Such right of admission shall apply only while the child is in the child day program (63.2-1813 of Code of Virginia).

X. EXTENDED DAY

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

The school offers an extended day program on days when the school is in session for students who are currently enrolled in the school's academic program. See Section IV, *General School Policies*, regarding fees to utilize this program. Parents/guardians must sign their child(ren) in/out when they are being placed in/released from the program at the beginning and end of the school day, respectively. All provisions in this handbook (except Section II, *Academics*, but including the section on *Technology*), apply to the Extended Day Program.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

A Crisis Management/Emergency Preparedness Plan has been developed and approved. All employees have been trained accordingly.

OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS

All non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall not be kept or used beyond the expiration date of the product.

For all over-the-counter skin products:

- a. written parent/guardian authorization noting any known adverse reactions shall be obtained;
- b. shall be in the original container labeled with the child's name;
- c. does not need to be kept locked, but shall be inaccessible to children under five years of age;
- d. any center-kept sunscreen shall be hypo-allergenic and have a minimum SPF of 15;
- e. children nine years of age and older may administer their own sunscreen, if supervised.

When insect repellent is used, a record shall be kept that includes the child's name, date of use, frequency of application, and any adverse reaction. Manufacturer's instructions for age, duration, and dosage shall be followed.

LICENSING INFORMATION

The Commonwealth of Virginia helps assure parents/guardians that child day programs that assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child for any part of a 24-hour day are safe. Title 63.1, Chapter 10 of the Code of Virginia gives the Department of Social Services authority to license these programs. While there are some legislative exemptions to licensure, licensed programs include child day centers, family day homes, child day center systems, and family day systems. The state may also voluntarily register family day homes, which are not required to be licensed.

Standards for licensed child day centers address certain health precautions, adequate play space, a ratio of children per staff member, equipment, program and record keeping. Criminal record checks and specific qualifications for staff and most volunteers working directly with children are also required. Standards require the facility to meet applicable fire, health, and building codes.

Compliance with standards is determined by announced and unannounced visits to the program by licensing staff within the Department of Social Services. In addition, parents or other individuals may register a complaint about a program, which will be investigated if it violates a standard.

Three types of licensing may be issued to programs. Conditional licenses may be issued to a new program to allow up to six months for the program to demonstrate compliance with the standards. A regular license is issued when the program substantially meets the standards for licensure. A provisional license, which cannot exceed six months, is issued when the program is temporarily unable to comply with the standards. Operating without a license when required constitutes a misdemeanor which, upon conviction, can be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for each day's violation.

If you would like additional information about the licensing of child day programs or would like to register a complaint, please contact the Regional Office of Social Services closest to you.

Warrenton, VA 22186
(540) 347-6345

Fairfax Licensing Office
3701 Pender Drive, Suite
125
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 934-1505

Northern Virginia Regional
Office
320 Hospital Drive, Suite
#23

Central Regional Offices
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 130
Richmond, VA 23229-5008
(804) 662-9743

Eastern Regional Office

Pembroke Office Park
Pembroke Four Office Building,
Suite 300
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-
5496
(757) 491-3990

Verona Licensing Office
Post Office Box 350
Verona, Virginia 24482-0350
(540) 248-9345

Piedmont Regional Office
Commonwealth of Virginia Building
210 Church Street, S.W., Ste. 100
Roanoke, VA 24011-1779
(540) 857-7920

Abingdon Licensing Office
190 Patton Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
(540) 676-549

INSURANCE

The extended day program is covered by public liability insurance through the Diocese of Arlington and the Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America. Student insurance must be provided by the family through their own policy or purchased through an independent school insurance provider.

TAX INFORMATION

Because the Internal Revenue Service requires identification of care givers in order to claim a credit for child and dependent care expenses, the program staff will complete and return to the parent/guardian any W-10 that is sent in, provided Part II is already completed by the parent.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

In compliance with state regulations for state licensed programs, a custodial parent/guardian shall be admitted to any child day program. Such right of admission shall apply only while the child is in the child day program (63.2-1813 of Code of

Virginia).

The Program operates from 7:00 to 8:35 a.m. and again from 11:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on each day that the school is open. The Program does not operate during school vacations or holidays. If there is a one-hour delayed opening of the school, the Program will open at 8:00 a.m. If there is a two-hour delayed opening, our Program will open at 9:00 a.m. If there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather, the BSSEDP will close.

When weather conditions become dangerous after the school closes, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their children as soon as possible. If the school is closed because of snow or other inclement weather, the BSSEDP will be closed.

Blessed Sacrament School follows the emergency closings and delayed openings of the Alexandria City Public Schools. If the principal feels that road conditions or the parking lot at Blessed Sacrament necessitate a different decision from that of the Alexandria schools, the staff will notify parents.

School Messenger Alerts will be issued as information becomes available.

Admission Policy

The BSSEDP is open to the following children who are enrolled in Blessed Sacrament Grade School and Early Childhood Center during the time periods indicated:

Session A:

11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Fuzzy Bears & Butterflies
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Shooting Stars & Rainbows

Session B:

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	All ECC Classes
3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Kindergarten and GS

Session ER (Early Release):

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	All Grade School students on “Early Release” days (i.e., when the Grade School has “Half Days” - refer to School Calendar)
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Each child’s health records, immunization information and Emergency Care form must be on file in the school office prior to attendance in the Extended Day Program. No student may use the BSSEDP unless registered for the Program with appropriate emergency and health information submitted to the school office. **All families are strongly encouraged to register their children.** The registration fee will not be charged until the first time the Extended Day Program is used.

Students can use the Program on a “Regular Basis” (i.e., from 3-5 days per week, every week of the month), or on a “Drop-in Basis” (i.e., day-to-day on an irregular basis).

To use the Program on a Drop-in Basis, it is preferred that the student’s parent notify the

Extended Day Director no later than **two days** prior to the desired attendance date, except in case of an emergency. Drop-in use will be charged through the FACTS system after the fact. Admittance will be granted if space is available. In case of emergency use, parents should contact the Director (703-998-4170 or aoroc@bssva.org or kchelak@bssva.org) and/or the school office by phone or email.

Enrollment in each session is limited by the size of available space and our ability to maintain the necessary adult-to-student ratios. Priority will be given to children whose custodial parents work outside the home, are actively studying towards employment outside the home, or are gainfully employed while working from their home, in that order. In addition, the following rules apply:

Priority in Session A will be given to students enrolled on a regular weekly basis (eg. 5 days per week); who have siblings in the Grade School; who are enrolled on a regular weekly basis; then to “Drop-in” users (one day at a time) on a first-to-sign-up basis.

Priority in Sessions B and ER will be given to students who use the Program on a regular weekly basis (eg. 5 days per week); then to “Drop-in” users (one day at a time) on a first-to-sign-up basis.

Supervision

The Blessed Sacrament School Extended Day Program is staffed by an Administrator/Principal (who is in charge of the total operation of the Program), a Director, child care supervisors, child care aides, and a bookkeeper.

The Administrator and other staff have at least the minimum educational background and/or related work experience required by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

Classes including preschoolers have a minimum caregiver/student ratio of 1/10. All other classes will have a minimum caregiver/student ratio of 1/18 for students 5-8 years old, and 1/20 for students 9 years old and up.

Registration

Yearly registration for the Program occurs at the time of school registration. The registration form **must include two local emergency contact persons** that are not the parents of the child. If space is available, applications for registration will be accepted throughout the year. Every child who will use the Program, whether on a regular or

drop-in basis must be registered.

Termination

A decision whether to terminate enrollment of a child will be made only for good cause after consultation with the child's parents or guardians and written approval of the Principal and the Director of the Program. Parents will be notified in writing in advance of any proposal to terminate the enrollment of any child.

When a parent wishes to terminate the enrollment of their child in the Program, they must give at **least one week's written notice to the Director**. Any payment of fees made for care beyond the termination date will be refunded to the parents when the Director is given one week's written notice.

Transportation

BSSDP does not supply transportation for students. When students are picked up, care should be taken to drive safely, park legally and be alert for pedestrian traffic. No cars are allowed to park in the fire lanes.

While students are at recess outdoors, barriers will be placed on the parking lot to clearly mark the limit of the parking area for pickups that occur at this time.

Activities

Each segment of the Program provides the children an opportunity to eat lunch or snack (depending on the time of day), to rest, play (outdoors when weather is permitting), study, and participate in loosely structured supervised activities such as arts and crafts, games, and sports appropriate to the children's ages

Time is allowed for homework after snack. This does not mean that all homework will be completed. Parents are asked to inform the BSSDP in writing their expectations concerning homework for their child. Please be sure to check your child's assignments. The Program is located in the main preschool room, the cafeteria (Quinn Hall), the gym, and outdoor play areas.

Check-In Procedures

For the After School sessions, preschoolers are escorted by the staff to their meeting place in the Big ECC Room. Grade School children are to report directly to Quinn Hall and/or alternate announced Program rooms upon dismissal from school. Attendance is taken immediately each day.

Upon arrival, the children are instructed as to the appropriate place to store their

belongings (i.e., coat, backpack, change of clothes).

If a child arrives at the center with obvious signs or symptoms of a communicable disease, the child shall not be allowed to attend for that day.

Absences

If a child is expected to be absent, late, or leaving earlier than usual, the Director and school office must be notified in writing as soon as possible in either hard copy or email. Emergency or unexpected changes may also be notified by phone (703-998-4170, x-136) but should be followed-up in writing (preferably by email).

Change of Clothes

Parents of Kindergarten and Grade School students are encouraged to send play clothes with their children each day. Children are given an opportunity to change their clothes before play begins. It is strongly recommended that girls change into a pair of pants or wear shorts under the jumper or skirt, so that they may comfortably engage in physical play.

Rest Period Policy

Preschoolers are given a one-hour rest period on cots during the 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. segment. Sheets are provided for the cots. In addition, a small pillow, light blanket, or small object of security may be brought from home.

Kindergarten and Grade School students are not given a special rest period.

Children showing symptoms of fatigue or illness will be permitted to rest on a cot if needed in a quiet area separate from the rest of the students until picked up.

Dismissal and Pick-Up Procedures

The students wait under the supervision of an appointed staff person for their parents or other designated pick-up person. They may not wait outside unattended. All persons picking up a child must come to the center and sign out that child. On non-early release days, persons picking up before 3:00 p.m. should access the building at the front entrance on Braddock Road. ECC students picked up during Session A should come to the ECC Playground Door. After 4:00 p.m., and on early-release days, the building should be entered by way of the church side cafeteria/Quinn Hall door. At these times admittance is gained by knocking on the door. Only adults are permitted to open the door. Signs will be placed on the doors advising of alternate locations when the students are not in their assigned rooms.

If someone other than the parent or planned pick-up person is picking up the child from the Program, their name must be on the registration form under "EMERGENCY"

CONTACTS,” or on the school Emergency Care form, **and** a note must be sent by the parent to the Director stating that person’s name. This note should be received ideally no later than upon arrival of your child at the Program that day. Alternate pick-up information may also be emailed to the Director. Persons other than the regular pick-up people are to show identification to the staff before signing a child out of the Program. Any change in the regularly expected pick-up routine should be communicated in writing (including email), or by phone (703-998-4170, x-136) if unplanned. **If no advance notification of a change in pick-up has been received, the parents will be called for verification before the student is released.**

If a caregiver will be late picking up their student (after 6 PM), the caregiver must call or send an email to the Director **before** 6 PM.

In the event that a child has not been picked up at closing time, the staff of the BSSEDP will attempt to reach the parents or guardians, using all the available phone numbers. Attempts will also be made to reach all listed emergency contact people for that child. The radio will be monitored for news of adverse weather conditions or traffic problems that would cause a delay in arrival.

If, after employing these measures for 1 ½ hours beyond closing, no contact is made and the person picking up has not made known to the BSSEDP his/her impending arrival, the Director (or staff person in charge), after consulting with the Administrator/Principal, shall call the local office of Child Protection Services.

Communication Between Parent and Staff

On-going communication between parent/guardians and staff members is encouraged at all times. Visits during hours of operation are welcome. No advance notice is required.

If a caregiver will be late picking up their student (after 6 PM), the caregiver must call or send an email to the Director **before** 6 PM.

Parents or guardians may leave messages for the staff or your child until 4 PM at the school office (703-998-4170). When the school office is closed, you may contact the caregivers by email addressed to the Director or by calling the school telephone line. Informational notices are posted on the bulletin boards in the Program Rooms and updates are published on the school’s web page as well as in the school’s weekly newsletter. In an emergency, information will be dispensed via the school website and/or through the School Messenger system.

The BSSEDP requests that at least once during the year parents confirm that all required information on their child is up to date, and that any changes in contact information be communicated immediately.

Child Abuse

The Blessed Sacrament School Extended Day Program follows the Diocesan guidelines concerning child abuse as found earlier in this handbook under the subsection entitled: **Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse.**

Emergency Procedures

Emergency evacuation procedures are posted in locations that are conspicuous to staff and children. Emergency procedures are practiced with drills at various intervals throughout the year.

Emergency telephone numbers are posted in a conspicuous place near each telephone.

The Program staff will notify a parent immediately in the event of a serious accident or injury, and will notify the parent of a minor accident or injury at the end of the day. Written documentation of the type of injury, date, steps taken and method of notification will be kept on file at the center for two years after the injury or accident.

There is at least one staff person on the premises during all hours of operation trained in rescue breathing, CPR & AED, and certified in standard first aid from a course approved by the Department of Social Services, as well as trained in daily health observation of children.

In case of illness or accident, appropriate first aid will be administered. If the illness or injury is serious, the child's parent or guardian, as designated on the student's "Registration Form", will be contacted and emergency care will be solicited immediately.

Medication Policy

The Extended Day staff with MAT (Medication Administration Training) may administer prescription and non-prescription medication to a child only when written authorization from the parent or child's physician is on file.

Authorization from the parent shall be for a limited time period (not to exceed 3 consecutive school days). Authorizations for a longer period of time must be signed by a physician, and will be retained during the effective period. All medication must be in the original container, labeled with the child's name, the name of the medication, the dosage amount and the method of administration. In addition, the first dose should have been administered at home. All medication will be kept in a locked area and returned to the parent as soon as it is no longer being administered. Forms authorizing the staff to administer medication are available in the office and on the school website.

The Extended Day staff will not administer sunscreen or insect repellent unless required by prescription. For students nine years of age and up, parents desiring their child to

have sunscreen must supply a labeled container to be kept at Extended Day, which the student may apply on his/her own. Any insect repellent should be applied prior to sending the child to school.

Discipline Policy

The discipline policy of the Blessed Sacrament School Extended Day Program complements the School's established policy on discipline. Discipline will be positive, gentle, timely and appropriate to the infraction. There will be no physical punishment of any form administered to a child. Children will never be shaken. No staff member will force or withhold food, force or withhold naps, or punish toileting accidents. No staff member shall verbally abuse a child, including but not limited to, threats or belittling remarks about any child or the family.

Students are expected to abide by the same discipline policy in force in the school. Violence and/or verbally abusive behavior will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to fighting, punching, pushing, or any activity that causes or could cause injury, verbal teasing, bullying or threatening. If a student behaves violently or is verbally abusive, the parents will be notified to come and take the student home. The student will remain at home for that day and will serve an out-of-school suspension the following school day.

Students who exhibit disrespectful behavior (i.e. answering back, rudeness) to Extended Day personnel and/or each other, deliberate disobedience, continual loud talking during homework time, throwing food, school or personal objects will be subject to the following disciplinary actions.

1. Students will be given a written notification of misbehavior to be signed by a parent or guardian and returned on the following school day.
2. **Three** such notifications will warrant a **mandatory conference** with the Director, parent or guardian, and student, which must take place within three school days of the third notification. If the conference has not taken place in this time period, the student may not use the Extended Day Program until a conference has taken place.
3. **Two more** notifications of misbehavior after this conference will result in an immediate **one-day suspension** from the Program and an **additional conference**.
4. Continued misbehavior and a **total of three suspensions** may result in the dismissal of the student from the Extended Day Program.

Food Policy

ECC students, Kindergarten and Grade School students are expected to bring a lunch and drink for consumption during 11:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. segments. Milk can be ordered through the school office. A nutritious snack is provided during the after school segment. The snack menu is posted in each of the base rooms used by the Program.

In order to ensure the health and safety of all children in our care, your cooperation is

requested with the following policies regarding food brought from home:

1. The food must not require refrigeration.
2. The food must be properly wrapped to prevent it from becoming dirty or otherwise inedible.
3. The food container must be sealed and clearly **dated** and **labeled** in a way that **identifies the owner and date of consumption**.
4. You must instruct your child **not** to share his/her food because of possible food allergies or special diets of other children.
5. The food must be nutritionally sound. We ask that you not send candy or other empty calorie foods. While cookies or other dessert-type foods may be sent, they should only be as a supplement to a nutritional component such as fruits, vegetables, muffins, cold dry cereal, or fruit juice (not sweetened, water-based beverages).
6. If your child has a **food allergy** or is on a special diet, the staff must be **informed in writing**, even if you provide a daily snack from home.
7. **Because of the possibility of nut allergies, peanut butter and other nut containing products are not permitted.**
8. All unused portions will be discarded or returned to parents (if the parents so wish) at the end of each day.

IF A CHILD FORGETS OR LOSES HIS/HER LUNCH OR BRINGS A LUNCH WHICH IS NOT NUTRITIONALLY SOUND, THE STAFF WILL FURNISH THE CHILD WITH A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FROM THE STOCK OF FOOD KEPT FOR EMERGENCIES, AND THE PARENT WILL BE BILLED

X. APPENDICES

For School Forms access our [School Website](#)

Diocesan Forms

- Permission for Emergency Care Form (Appendix F-1)
- Confidential Student Health History Update (Appendix F-1A)
- Virginia School Entrance Health Form (Appendix F-2)
- Virginia School Entrance Health Form Instructions (Appendix F-2A)
- Inhaled Medication or Nebulizer Treatment Authorization Form (Appendix F-3)
- Virginia Asthma Action Plan (Appendix F-3A)
- Nebulizer Treatment Log and Procedure (Appendix F-3B)
- Diocese Epinephrine Authorization Form (Appendix F-4)
- Severe Allergy/Anaphylaxis Action Plan & Treatment Authorization(Appendix F 4A)
- Antihistamine Authorization Form (Appendix F-4B)
- Diabetes Reference Emergency Plan: Hyperglycemia & Hypoglycemia (Appendix F-5)
- Diabetes Medical Management Plan (Appendix F-5A)
- Medication Authorization Form (Appendix F-6)
- Student Injury Accident Report (Appendix F-7)
- Win Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (Appendix 15)
- Certificate of Religious Exemption (Appendix F-18)
- Seizure Action Plan (Appendix F-20)
- Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (Appendix N)
- Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation.English (Appendix R)
- Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Escuela.Spanish (Appendix R-A)
- Use of Personal Vehicle (Appendix R-1)
- Preschool Handbook Agreement Form (Appendix AG-3)