



2023-2024

Family Handbook





St. Ignatius School

Family Handbook 2023-2024

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Please note: For the purposes of this handbook, the term *parents* is used broadly to refer to parents, guardians, or any other assigned caregiver to the student.

Community History and Organization

Since its inception in 1908, St. Ignatius Parish has been devoted to providing a quality Catholic education. Our school’s founders, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and the Jesuits, are strong proponents of Catholic education. Under their guidance, one of the first missions of the parish was to open our school in 1912. St. Ignatius Parish supports the school as its primary mission. This community puts faith into action by supporting our school with its time, talents, prayers and bursary funds. *Our mission is to provide quality spiritual and academic growth based on the principle that every child is created in the image of God.*

Legal Organizational Structure

St. Ignatius School is operated as an independent school under the Province of Manitoba's *Education Administration Act* and as a Catholic parochial school under the authority of the Archbishop of Winnipeg. The school building is owned by St. Ignatius Parish and incorporated under provincial law as a not-for-profit educational organization. The corporation's membership is comprised of all registered parishioners. Nominations are called for annually to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors, and parents of children in the school are strongly encouraged to submit their name for nomination.

Administration

The Principal is responsible and accountable for the day-to-day operation of the school, in accordance with the strategic agenda (he/she is also the liaison between the staff and the Board of Directors). The Principal as Chief Operating Officer attends all Board meetings and presents monthly reports on the operation of the school. The Principal provides academic, administrative and spiritual leadership in the school.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is an advisory board comprised of school parents and/or parish members that deliberate on matters concerning budget, policy, and direction, while always focusing on the school mission. The members of the volunteer Board of Directors are representative of the diversity of talents within our school and parish community. Parents of school children and parishioners are welcome to become Board members. The St. Ignatius School Board of Directors works collaboratively with the Principal and Pastor.

Our school is grateful to the individuals who provide vision and leadership through their expertise, dedication, time and generosity. The Board members and their portfolios are listed annually on the school website.

Tuition and Funding

It is the responsibility of the St. Ignatius School Board to provide our community with information related to the cost of school operations, and how the amount of tuition is decided. For the 2023-2024 school year, independent schools will receive funding based on public school net operating expenditures from the 2021-2022 school year. The Government of Manitoba determined the cost of public education for that year to be approximately \$12,946.00 per student. Independent schools will only receive half this amount or \$6,473.00 per student. Therefore, the school principal and the Board of Directors manage a modest budget based on the grant from the Government of Manitoba and the tuition we receive from our families.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Board has passed a 5% tuition increase. In addition to the cost of education, public schools receive additional funds for capital expenses. **Catholic schools do not receive any such additional funding from the government.** For this reason, St. Ignatius School has an additional fee of \$150.00 per student to a maximum of \$200.00 per family for capital expenses. These additional funds will go toward upgrades to our facility.

As we look toward the future of our school, it is full **STEAM** ahead! The future of education requires a strong program in **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math**. To sustain an innovative program, we must continuously replace our well-used technology and attempt to stay current with the latest educational developments. To this end, the Board of Directors has added a new Technology Fee of \$125.00 per student to a family maximum of \$150.00.

Tuition for 2023-2024

Kindergarten \$3,250.00	Grade 1 – 8		
	First child	\$3,000.00	Second child \$2,775.00
	Third child	\$2,275.00	Fourth child no charge
Capital Improvement Fee	\$150.00/child or \$200.00/family		
Technology Fee	\$125.00/child or \$150.00/family		

Staff 2023 – 2024 School Year

The administration is very proud of the quality of its faculty. We hire dedicated, faith-centered teachers and educational assistants who continually pursue professional development opportunities that strengthen and develop their professional skills. All faculty members undergo an extensive interview process prior to being hired.

Faculty		ICT Specialist & Library	Colleen Villa
Principal	Jeannine Pistawka	Music Specialist	Rachelle Matychuk
Vice Principal	Carol Noonan	Support Staff	
Kindergarten	Jessie Kirby		
Grade 1	Madison Meakin	Administrative Assistant	Joy Pollreis
Grade 2	Shelly Ouimet	Nursery Coordinator	Sara Hogarth
Grade 3	Caitlin Mahoney	Nursery Assistant	Janelle Hladik
Grade 4	Carol Noonan/Carol Cenerini	Educational Assistant	Jennifer Belkin
Grade 5	Theresa Kolody-McKay	Educational Assistant	Adriana Berg
Grade 6	Matt Banka	Educational Assistant	Pam Greco
Grade 7 & 8	Kristian Kjell/Savannah Xavier	Educational Assistant	Kim Richmond
Grade 7 & 8	Kelly Sine	Educational Assistant	Julie Ronan
French Specialist	Carol Cenerini	Educational Assistant	Evelin Segura
French Specialist	Sabrina Patrick	Operations Manager	Bob Pistawka
Resource Specialist	Patricia Gerwing	Head Custodian	Abraham Salvador
Physed Specialist	Matt Eichel		

Academic Program

The Faculty at St. Ignatius School teach the curriculum approved by Manitoba Education and Training. We create a dynamic, challenging environment that respects students' differing levels of abilities and motivates them to fully develop their unique talents and skills. Programming is based on the premise that the pursuit of academic excellence fosters a life-long love of learning and active citizenship. In addition to the provincial curriculum, all students are required to participate in the faith development program as taught in daily religion class.

Reporting on Student Progress

Parent-Teacher Conferences are designed to have students share their work and to enable parents and teachers to discuss their progress. Goal review and revision is a key component of these conferences. Report cards provide an update on the student's development and academic growth. In the primary grades, the emphasis is on the development of the student, with a shift in focus to academic performance and product as the student becomes older. Student progress is reported to parents as follows:

Parent-Teacher Conferences – November and March

Report Cards – February and June

The school's goal is to meet the individual needs of all students entrusted to its care; a strong parent/student/teacher relationship is essential for this to be accomplished. Faculty, including the resource teacher and administration, meet regularly to identify students who may require extra assistance. Special programming, outside assistance, or positive remedial measures may be taken to help these students. When students are identified as being "at risk" and in need of additional assistance, the parents will be contacted and invited to take part in the discussion and planning regarding their child's program.

Resource Program

St. Ignatius School offers a quality resource program. The program is based on a consultative-collaborative model utilizing the resource teacher as a support person for the classroom teacher, the students and the parents. Support is often provided within the regular classroom and varies depending on the needs of teachers and their

students. In some cases, the resource teacher may provide specific materials for classroom use. In other cases, individual student testing and/or remedial assistance may be provided. The resource teacher also serves as the link to speech and language, psychology, a reading clinician, and social work referrals made to Clinical Support Services.

Promotion/Retention

Decisions regarding the promotion or retention of students are made in consultation with the resource teacher, classroom teacher, school administration and parents. Factors such as development, maturity, ability level, and attitude are considered prior to making a final decision.

Literacy with Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Literacy with ICT means choosing and using ICT, responsibly and ethically, to support critical and creative thinking about information and about communication. The goal of this curriculum is to enable all students to solve problems, improve their personal performance, and gain the critical and abstract thinking skills necessary to become lifelong learners and active citizens. St. Ignatius School is now a “Bring Your Own Device” school. Information and Communication Technologies used at St. Ignatius School include iPads, Microsoft computers, laptops, digital cameras, video cameras, scanners, and the Internet. Infusion of ICT across the curriculum will continue to evolve as new technologies emerge. Please refer to Section D of the Code of Conduct for the policy regarding responsible and ethical use of technology.

Basic French

All students in kindergarten through grade 8 receive basic French instruction from a language specialist. By learning a second language, students develop a new network of references through which they can better understand the world around them. The study of a second language also helps students acquire a better understanding of the principles of language as a medium of communication. Furthermore, research indicates that students who have studied a second language possess more cognitive flexibility and abstract thinking capabilities. Knowing a second language can also help students in reading, writing, and math.

Physical Education

The physical education program at St. Ignatius School endeavours to enhance the health of all students: mind, body, and spirit. An array of opportunities (competitive, developmental, team and individual) is designed to promote student learning and success. Skill development is balanced to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for physically active and healthy lifestyles. Student feedback is also solicited for program enhancement. The curricular outcomes are as follows:

Movement – Skill development in a variety of sports such as volleyball, track and field, and low-organized games.

Fitness Management – The development and follow through of a personal fitness plan.

Safety – The development of safe and responsible decision-making in order to manage risks and prevent injuries in daily living.

Personal & Social Management - The development of self-understanding and strategies necessary to build positive relationships with others.

Healthy Lifestyle Practices is the development of informed decision making in personal health, active living, and nutritional practices.

Industrial Arts

Students in grades 7 and 8 attend home economics and industrial arts classes at Kelvin High School through the provision of a shared service agreement with the Winnipeg School Division. Classes take place one afternoon of each six-day school cycle (Day 4). **On each day 4, students will be required to eat their lunch at school and will be dismissed at 12:45 p.m. to walk to Kelvin High School as a group.**

Music

Students in nursery through to grade 6 receive music instruction and exposure. This subject falls under the umbrella of the Arts Curriculum. St. Ignatius School has a wide variety of instruments that the students learn to play. Students learn musical language and performance skills, creative musical expression and how to value musical experiences.

Band

Musical training helps develop language, reasoning, memorization, craftsmanship and coordination. Participation in Beginner Band builds a sense of achievement in students. The exposure to a band program provides student with an opportunity to be a part of a team while expressing themselves through music. This program is optional for students in grades 7 & 8.

Homework

The goals of assigning homework are: to reinforce basic skills, to supplement classroom experience, and to develop organization and time-management skills. Research indicates that when students complete homework, the level of engagement in their studies increases; thereby fostering a positive attitude about learning. The amount of homework assigned varies from grade to grade as does how efficiently each student uses class time.

The role of the parent in homework is a significant one. Parents play an invaluable role in the monitoring of homework completion and assessment dates. Take time to dialogue with your child about time management, task definition, resources needed, and workload. Ask to see your child's assignments on a regular basis and continue to communicate with your child's teachers. Please share your concerns or seek clarification on assignment expectations. If you are unclear about how to support your child with his/her homework, please contact your child's teacher. All staff members are accessible by e-mail as listed on our website.

Exams

Students in grades 7 & 8 are provided with the opportunity to write exams in January and June. Exams offer students an opportunity to learn more about study skills and to prepare them for formal examination settings. Each exam is weighted 15% of the final course grade. Preparation for exams begins in the classroom. Students learn about study schedules, topic chunking, stress management techniques, and specific study strategies. If a student will not be able to write exams during the assigned time due to a family vacation, they will be required to write their exams prior to their departure. If they do not write exams prior to their departure, students will receive a mark of 0. If a student misses an exam without a reason deemed valid by the Principal, the student will receive a mark of 0. If a student is absent due to illness, they will be required to produce a doctor's certificate and will, unless determined otherwise by the Principal be required to write a make-up exam when they are well. The exams provide practice in writing exams in four subject areas. Due to the importance writing exams in preparation for high school, there will no longer be June exemptions.

Bullying Prevention Program

The staff of St. Ignatius School work hard to identify effective ways to play an active role in supporting our students and demonstrating our disapproval of bullying in all forms: physical, verbal, relational, and electronic. **Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behaviour that involves a power imbalance such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information or popularity, and this power is used to control or to harm others.**

The goal is to reduce and prevent bullying problems among school children and to improve peer relations at school. Our program has been found to reduce bullying among children and improve the social climate of classrooms.

A significant part of the activities and discussions have focused on educating students about what does and does not constitute bullying, outlining the role and responsibilities of the bystander, and helping students to know that our school is a safe place to report any concerns about bullying. Consistent language and responses to reported and witnessed incidents have been employed. Regularly scheduled class meetings are also an important component of our program. A no-tolerance policy for bullying is ultimately the driving force behind these efforts.

At St. Ignatius School, we have a commitment to ensuring that *all* students are free from the negative effects of bullying by encouraging and promoting positive behaviour, valuing differences and promoting sensitivity towards others. We continue to focus on cultivating a warm, welcoming faith-based school climate that enables students to focus on academic excellence and character development.

Faith Formation Program

We recognize that parents are the primary faith educators of their children. We encourage families to continue to develop and deepen their faith through family prayer, participation in parish masses and sacraments, and community outreach.

Religious Education

St. Ignatius School employs the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' full catechetical program as a daily component of the school's academic life. In addition to regular catechetical instruction, the school responds to the mission of Catholic schools by integrating the values and beliefs of the Catholic faith into all aspects of the school's academic program.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation for First Communion (grade 2), First Reconciliation (grade 3) and Confirmation (grade 8) are included in the school's educational mandate. The preparation for receiving these sacraments is a joint undertaking involving parents, the school, and the Parish. Your child will receive instruction in the classroom and you will assist in preparing them at home. Information about this process will be distributed by the classroom teacher.

Prayer

Each school day begins with prayer. We encourage families to develop rituals around daily prayer such as grace at meals, bedtime prayers, or praying for special intentions.

Participating in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations

Mass/liturgical celebrations are scheduled throughout the school year as identified on the school calendar and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. There are also opportunities throughout the school year for students to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation as identified on the school calendar.

Community Service/Social Justice Initiatives

We believe in putting faith in action through community service experiences and social justice initiatives. We teach our students to research, discuss, and respond to needs within our community.

Co-Curricular/Extracurricular

Field Trips

Throughout the year, classes may attend various field trips, requiring students to leave the school. Off-school site education programs are appropriate to the age, developmental level, and learning goals of the students. Risk assessment, staff expertise, staff/student time away from school, and cost to both students and the school are contained within reasonable limits.

The objectives addressed in planning and implementing off-school site programs are to provide educational experiences that are developed in concurrence with the mission and goals of the school, and that complement the regular curriculum of the school. Information regarding all school trips including: date and time of departure, estimated time of return, and the costs will always be provided to parents before a field trip. Parents will also be informed of foreseeable potential risks involved in the off-school site program and must provide informed consent and permission for their child to participate in off-school site programs. A general permission form will

be distributed at the beginning of the year for community-based off-site outings that do not require transportation.

Planning for field trips is completed in accordance with local school policy and the guidelines provided by the *Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Manitoba Schools*. The student/adult ratio is determined based on the age of the students, behavioural concerns, and the nature of the activity. Staff also has the necessary information and tools to conduct the activity safely.

Extracurricular Sports

St. Ignatius School is involved in inter-school competitions which provide students interested in competitive events the opportunity to further develop their athletic skills in a competitive atmosphere. The basis of all activities will be grounded in the fundamentals of fair play and are conducted in accordance with the Manitoba Catholic Schools Athletic Association.

School team members are selected by criteria established by the coach at the beginning of the activity. Coaches endeavour to provide every team member with the opportunity to play a fair share of the time allocated within the rules of the Association.

The school endeavours to provide the opportunity for students less interested in this level of competition to play on teams during intramural activities or through the developmental league. These teams are based on the same fair play principles established for competitive teams, but are open to all students who choose to participate.

Communication

In order to promote a safe and healthy school community, all communications that relate to the school must be approved by school administration (bulletin board notices, announcements, posters, etc.). All bulk e-mail communications will be sent by the principal.

Communication between Teachers and Parents

Communication between teachers and parents can be expedited by the convenience of e-mail technology. However, **e-mail is not an appropriate avenue to engage in the complaint process with a staff member because of the miscommunication that may occur.** At St. Ignatius School, we take pride in the collaborative partnership that is fostered between parents, teachers, students, and staff, and we endeavour to be proactive about meeting the needs of our students.

Parents with a concern are asked to make an appointment with the teacher to discuss the details of their concern. Please keep in mind that teachers' days are focused on student learning, and they often check e-mail and phone messages only once daily. When contacting a teacher by phone or e-mail, please allow for a 24 hour response time. Please note that teachers are not expected to return phone calls or e-mails on Saturdays or Sundays.

Complaint Protocol

From time to time, parents may have concerns they wish to raise. **The correct procedure is to deal directly with the individual staff person involved.** If the matter involves a teacher, the classroom or other students in the room, the concerned parent should speak directly with the classroom teacher. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, then it should be drawn to the attention of the Principal. If the matter remains unresolved, it is then referred to the Board of Directors. Parents are not advised to deal directly with other parents or their children regarding a concern. Actions may not be interpreted as intended. Matters concerning the general operation and administration of the school should be directed to the Principal.

E-Updates

Maintaining effective communication with parents is very important to us. Notices will be sent home or e-mailed. The Friday Folder is sent out every Friday throughout the school year. This gives parents a reminder of school activities and events for the upcoming week.

School Safety

Pickup and Drop Off of Students

Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:35 a.m., when adult supervision begins on the school playground. **Students are expected to be picked up promptly at 3:30 p.m.**, or otherwise, (11:40 a.m./2:30 p.m.) as indicated on early dismissal days on the school calendar). Parents must arrange for pick-up at that time or register their children in the Extended Day Program if they will be unable to pick up or drop off their children on time. **Students who have not been picked up at 3:30 p.m. will be sent to the After-School Program and drop in fees will be applied.**

To facilitate the safe and orderly transportation of our students to school please consider that the protection of our students is our highest priority. Please pass this information on to family members who transport your child to school. Please observe the following guidelines during peak drop off and pick up times (8:30– 8:50 a.m. and 3:25–3:45 p.m.):

- Jessie Avenue should be treated as a **one-way west**. Please do not attempt to turn east from Harrow onto Jessie Avenue;
- Remember that the spots on Jessie Avenue between Harrow Street and the driveway are for loading only. Please do not park there for more than 5 minutes or leave your vehicle unattended in that area – if you need to come into the school, please park elsewhere;
- if there is no space on Jessie in front of the school to pull into, please proceed across Harrow to the other side of Jessie to help us reduce the congestion that backs up to Stafford Street. Patrols are on duty daily at Harrow and Jessie to help students cross the street;
- do not double park (stop beside a parked car on Jessie Ave) while your child gets out of the car because this encourages children to walk between idling cars that may unexpectedly pull away from the curb;
- do not try to turn your vehicle around in the driveway as students are instructed to proceed up the driveway to the playground to line up each morning;
- do not stop in the handicapped parking spot, even for drop off.

School Entrances

We value the involvement of parents and volunteers in our school and endeavour to be a welcoming community. However, keeping track of who is in the building and ensuring adequate supervision at all times is a safety measure that we take seriously. All school entrances are locked during the day. Access is through the Jessie Street main entrance via a camera/buzzer system. **Please do not knock on the Corydon/Harrow entrance as we have instructed students not to let anyone in at that door.**

All visitors to the school must sign in at the school office. In order to decrease classroom disruption during the school day, items that are being dropped off for students are to be left in the school office. This way, we can call the student to the office during a natural break which keeps classroom interruptions to a minimum. If a parent needs to pick up their child during regular school hours, they must report to the school office, and we will bring the child to the office.

Supervision on the playground begins at 8:35 a.m. When the first bell goes at 8:50, homeroom teachers meet students at their designated recess doors. Parents are welcome to stay on the playground until the bell rings, but are asked to say good-bye at the door. For inclement weather, patrols are stationed at all recess doors. Students may always use their regular entrances.

Dismissal

Parents are asked to wait outside the building for dismissal. Students will be dismissed from their regular recess doors. Parents are asked to wait outside for their child. Early years teachers will make eye contact with parents before releasing the child.

Children who have been picked up by a parent and are staying to play on the playground after 3:30 p.m. **must be supervised by the parent.** Our Extended Day Program maintains an adult/student ratio of 15/1 for school age children as regulated by the government. The Extended Day Staff are unable to safely monitor additional children.

If a parent is coming to pick up a student early, they should come to the office to sign the child out. If you need to see your child, please come to the school office, and we will bring your child to you.

Extended Day Program Before School

Parents/students will have access to the school only through the front door using the door bell to be buzzed in. Parents of early years students should accompany their child(ren) to the classroom between 7:30 a.m. and 8:35 a.m.

After School

Parents must use the front entrance and will be buzzed in by our Extended Day Staff in order to pick up their child(ren). Children who attend the extended day program must be signed out by their parent.

Playground guidelines

To ensure consistency, all playground supervisors are asked to follow these guidelines. It is appreciated if parents enforce these rules as well.

On the Field

- Always ask an adult if a ball needs to be retrieved from outside of the fenced area;
- Soccer and football is only allowed on the field (even on hard top days) due to the number of slips and falls that occur on the gravel.
- Tackle football is not allowed; one-hand tag only on shoulders.
- On hardtop days, all students must not use the field (including the garden)

On the play structure

- Please go **down** the slides on bottoms, feet first. Go **up** the stairs.
- Absolutely no “grounders”, tag, or chase games within the structure area.
- You must be in at least grade 3 (after Christmas) to go on the red rings.
- Go on the rings in consecutive order (1-2-3) and get off at the end. Only 1 person per ring.

On the basketball court

- Students may **not** play football or soccer on the basketball court.
- Kindergarten to grade 2 are expected to stay off of the basketball court during all recesses.

Out of bounds / off limits areas

- Students are expected to stay within the fenced area
- The following areas are considered **off limits**:
 - Outside the fence
 - On and under all stairs (church steps, Nursery School, fire escape)
 - All ledges (by K/1 door, fire escape ledge)
 - On and under all bars (outside 2/5/6 door)

Students are expected to:

- follow directions of duty supervisors and will be sent to the office if they do not comply
- not throw dangerous objects (e.g., stones, snowballs, etc.);
- treat all community members with respect;
- line up promptly at the sound of the buzzer

Buddy Bench

If ANYONE is sitting on the BUDDY BENCH, they MUST be asked to participate in whatever game you are playing!

Volunteers

All volunteers and school visitors are asked to sign in and pick up a Visitor’s Badge at the school office.

Fire Drills

All schools are required to practice 10 fire drills per year. Parents are asked to participate in the evacuation if they are in the school at that time.

Lockdown Drills

We will be holding two lockdown drills per year. Staff will prepare students in an age-appropriate way for the purpose of such a drill, and parents will be notified prior to the practice. There are two types of lockdowns: a *Hold and Secure* is designed to secure all school entrances, reduce visibility to the outside, and minimize movement within the school; essentially, students and staff continue with their school day. Parents may or may not be permitted to enter and/or exit the school depending on the circumstance. A *Lockdown* is designed to minimize access into the school and to shelter students, staff, and visitors in secure locations. In the event that you arrive at the school during a lockdown, a notice will be placed on the front door indicating that a lockdown is in progress, and no school entry or exit will be permitted.

Emergency Evacuations

In the event that students are required to be evacuated (toxic spill, school emergency), the church basement will be used as the emergency location (telephone: 474-2351). The alternate location is Crescentwood Community Centre at 1170 Corydon Avenue (telephone: 452-9844). Students will not be dismissed in an evacuation until parents have been contacted.

Tornadoes

We have received an *All Hazards Alert Weather Radio* that will inform us of weather-related emergencies. In the event of a tornado warning in the area, students will be assembled in the lower level of the school, or time-permitting, in the church basement.

Student Information

Attendance

Students are expected to report promptly each day. Attendance will be taken twice daily and an ongoing record of student attendance is maintained. Students will be considered late if they are not present in their classroom when the final bell rings at 8:55 AM. Students who are late will be sent to the office for a late admission slip.

From time to time, students may be absent from school. Parents are asked to inform the school office when students will be away.

Parents are strongly urged to arrange their holidays around the school schedule. If students must be taken out of class for an extended period, the office should be advised in writing. Classroom teachers are not obligated to provide assignments for the purpose of a family holiday.

Bicycles, Roller Blades, Scooters, Skateboards

Students who choose to bring their bicycles to school should ensure they have a good quality lock enabling them to secure the bike to the fence on Harrow in front of the school. This area is the most open and visible area around the school. Bikes are not allowed in the playground at any time. Roller blades, scooters, bikes and skateboards are not allowed on the playground at any time.

Dress Code

All students and staff at St. Ignatius School should be dressed in neat and clean clothes and be well groomed. Dress or grooming which is too casual or which draws too much attention is not appropriate. Specific guidelines when representing the school in the community at large must also be adhered to:

Daily Dress Requirements:

1. Tops must have fronts, backs and be long enough to tuck into bottoms.

2. Tops that have spaghetti straps, or are cropped, halter, tube, tank, or muscle shirts are **not** acceptable.
3. No exposed midriff is allowed.
4. Bottoms can include shorts or skirts that are no shorter than mid-thigh, pants or capris.
5. Jeans and jogging pants are acceptable providing they are neat, clean, hemmed and not cutoffs.
6. Pajama pants or other sleepwear are not allowed.
7. Children are required to have a separate pair of running shoes for gym/indoor use.
8. Clothing graphics must be appropriate, must not contain any obscene language, or advertise such products as alcohol or cigarettes. Other items are left to the discretion of the Principal.

B. Physical Education Dress Requirements:

1. The physical education uniform (P.E. uniform) is mandatory for all students in grades 2-8.
2. The physical education uniform consists of white socks, non-marking running shoes and the St. Ignatius School t-shirt, shorts and/or St. Ignatius School sweatpants.
3. All P.E. uniform items with the exception of socks and running shoes will be purchased at the school.
4. For intramural or sports team practices, track and field events and running club, students must wear the St. Ignatius School P.E. uniform.
5. For athletic team games, students must wear St. Ignatius School shorts with the team jersey.
6. Student athletes on school teams may wear their sports uniforms to class on game days.
7. The P.E. uniform t-shirt and shorts may not be worn to regular classes except as specified above.

Use of Technology in School

St. Ignatius School promotes digital literacy and supports students and staff in bringing their own devices to school. The school provides WIFI so that staff and students are able to use their devices to access the web-based portal Microsoft 365, educational software and the Internet within a secure environment that includes filters to restrict the ability to access social media. Using Microsoft 365, students can access and share their work with their teachers and parents anywhere at any time of day, and they are able to collaborate with each other on-line.

At St. Ignatius School, we believe that technology is a tool. Infusing technology in a classroom setting will enable our students to develop 21st Century skills including: creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving. It will also enable students to learn responsible digital citizenship and to practice what it means to be a responsible person in a digital world.

Ultimately, we believe that it is important for all students to see these devices as creative and collaborative tools and not simply distractions. Cell Phones, cameras and iPods may be used in the classroom at the teacher's discretion. Students permitted the use of personal devices during class are expected to use them appropriately as per the Student Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement. Unauthorized use of such devices will result in the device being confiscated. Confiscated items may be retrieved from the office **by parents only**. Where a question of suitability arises with respect to use of a device, the Administration's decision shall be final.

"If you give people tools and they use their natural ability and their curiosity, they will develop things in ways that will surprise you very much beyond what you might have expected." Bill Gates

Library

Students are encouraged to make use of the school's library for research and recreational reading. Books may be signed out for the time allowed by library staff and must be cared for. Students will be responsible to pay for lost or damaged library books.

Encyclopedia and reference texts may not be removed from the school. Students are expected to work quietly in the library to ensure a pleasant atmosphere conducive to learning. Times are arranged for classes to visit the library to select and return books each cycle. The library is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Lockers and Desks

Lockers and desks are the property of the school and contents may be inspected by the administration in order to maintain a safe and healthy school environment. Locks are provided by the students and lockers should be kept closed and locked to prevent theft.

Special attention should be paid to the condition that desks are left in on Friday afternoons. St. Ignatius Sunday School uses our classrooms on weekends, so care should be taken on the part of students to ensure that their personal possessions are put away.

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles, but every effort will be made to investigate cases of theft and to deal firmly with those caught stealing. Students are encouraged to report items they believe stolen to their classroom teacher and to the principal.

School Telephone Use

If students must make telephone calls, they should ask the classroom teacher for permission. In urgent cases, students may use the office telephone with the permission of the Principal.

Parents needing to contact their child during the school day should call the school office and leave a message. The child will return the call at the next recess break.

Student use of cell phones is not permitted inside the school or on the playground during school hours. Student may keep cell phones in their lockers during the school day, but they must be turned off. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

Textbooks

Students are provided with provincially approved textbooks for all curricular areas and are required to take care of them. Replacement fees are assessed for lost or damaged books.

School Operating Guidelines

Bad Weather Days – Indoor Recess

On bad weather days, the principal will determine if students are to remain in the building for recess breaks. The cut-off for cold weather days is -27°C with the wind chill factor. Students should always enter the school through the recess doors even if the *Indoor Recess* sign is posted; patrols are stationed at recess doors for this purpose. Additional indoor supervision will be provided as required.

Emergency Closures

Should the city experience a storm, the decision to close the school in the early morning will be made by the principal in consultation with the pastor and the Board of Directors chairperson and in conjunction with the director of Catholic schools; it will close in conjunction with The Winnipeg School Division. An announcement will be aired on CJOB 680 AM.

Calendar

An extensive amount of planning goes into the school calendar published and distributed annually in June. The administration follows the planned calendar as much as possible. During the year, however, revisions to the calendar may become necessary. **All revisions are made on the monthly calendar are included on the website calendar, in e-updates and in the weekly Friday Folder.** Parents are asked to keep track of important dates, especially those relating to in-service days and early dismissals.

School Day Cycle

The school operates on the same six-day school cycle as The Winnipeg School Division.

Staff Meetings

Staff meetings are held on early dismissal days at 2:30 p.m. as noted on the school calendar. Parents are expected to pick up their children early on these days, or register them in the After-School program.

In-Service Days

Professional Development and Administration Days

St. Ignatius School prides itself on its competent teaching staff. In order to keep our teachers current on information relating to teaching and learning, the school is closed on selected dates for teacher in-services. These dates are identified on the calendar and follow the provincial guideline; five in-service days are included in each school year. As well, teachers will attend individual sessions relating to topics that will improve their practice as identified in their Professional Growth Plans. When a teacher is absent, classes are covered by qualified substitute teachers.

St. Ignatius School is closed five days per year in order for faculty to attend to administrative tasks such as report card writing, parent-teacher-student conferences, and meetings.

Child care is available on In-Service Days. If you require child care, you must register in advance. The cost of the program is \$35.00/day for the first child and \$17.50 for each additional child.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items are stored near the primary wing, where students are welcome to look through them. Periodically, items will be placed on display in the hallway. Unclaimed items are donated to charity at Christmas and at the end of the school year. Parents are strongly encouraged to label items.

Medical Treatment

The health and safety of students is of utmost concern. Parents are asked to assist in the following areas:

1. **Records:** The school is required to maintain up-to-date student health records. Significant changes in a student's health should be reported to the administration.
2. **Medication:** Medication, including pain relievers such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen, may not be taken at school without written permission from the student's parent. The permission slip and medication must be handed in to the office where the medication will be dispensed.
3. **First Aid:** In cases of minor abrasions, wounds will be washed and a bandage applied. In more serious cases, parents will be contacted and asked to take the student for professional medical attention. In the case of an accident when parents cannot be contacted, the student will be taken to the Children's Hospital by the principal or a designate. Every effort will be made to contact the parents. When the injury is serious enough to raise concern about moving the student, an ambulance will be called. In all cases, the well-being of the student is the determining factor guiding the decision-making process.

Allergy Management: Several of our children have a life-threatening, medical condition called Anaphylaxis – a severe allergic reaction that can result in death. Parents of all children are requested to not pack any foods containing nut products in their children's lunches.

Extended Day Services

Before and After School Programs

St. Ignatius School offers space for students in the Before and After School Programs.

The Before-School Program is available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:35 a.m. After this time, students are released onto the school playground, where adult supervision is provided until the bell rings at 8:50 a.m.

The After-School Program begins at 3:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m. on early dismissal days) and ends at 5:30 p.m. Students in the After-School Program report directly to the program coordinator upon dismissal from their classrooms. The After-School Program is run by qualified staff and includes a nutritious snack, outdoor play (weather

permitting), indoor activities, movie Fridays, and quiet time for homework. *Please note: this is not available on 11:40 a.m. early-dismissals.*

Lunch Program

Lunch supervision is provided, in addition to our regular academic services. Parents are asked to pack nutritious lunches in accordance with our School Nutrition Policy.

The school participates in the *Milk Producers Marketing Board* School Milk Program. Parents will receive a form to purchase milk from the program each month. The milk is delivered to the students daily, or as ordered. Parents are required to submit milk order forms and payment by the monthly due date.

The school discourages parents from giving their children permission to leave the school grounds to purchase lunch. All students under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when leaving the school property during the time they would ordinarily be in the charge of the school.

Parent Involvement

St. Ignatius School Parent Advisory Council (SISPAC)

It is the goal of SISPAC to have all parents volunteer in some capacity, given the variety of events and opportunities that we sponsor and the fundraising to which we are committed.

St. Ignatius School is a nurturing, faith-based environment where school staff, parish, and parent partnerships flourish. The education of our children is a shared responsibility that we value; positive outcomes for our students are reaped from the contributions of time by parents. SISPAC has a wide range of volunteer opportunities that allow parents to choose how often or how little they become involved.

Every parent is automatically a member of the St. Ignatius School Parent Advisory Council (SISPAC). SISPAC strives to build community in the organization of activities in the school and parish. SISPAC also acts as a Parent Advisory Council to the Board of Directors.

SISPAC meetings are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings take place in the school staffroom. All members (i.e. all parents) are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The main objectives of SISPAC are to:

- build spirit and community;
- interact with parents of other students, the Board of Directors and the parish council;
- support school activities through fun and fundraising;
- organize special lunches and bake sales;
- host receptions for school and liturgical celebrations;
- host the annual family barbeque;
- host an annual parent community building event;
- co-ordinate class representatives who liaise with classroom teachers to ensure communication of needs and endeavors being undertaken in each classroom;
- be aware of joyful and stressful situations occurring for families and recognize them with cards, support and prayers.

School Community Involvement

Our school values a collaborative partnership amongst parents, teachers, students, staff and the parish community. The faculty welcomes the support and assistance of parents.

Parent volunteers serve the school community in numerous ways: in the resource room, the library or directly in the classroom. Many also choose to support the school through their involvement in the Board of Directors or SISFAC. Parents are encouraged to become involved as much as they can.

For the safety of our staff and students, volunteers in the school during school hours **must wear identification at all times** (please pick up the volunteer I.D. badge at the school office). All volunteers are also required to have a Child Abuse Registry (CAR) check completed every three years.

Code of Conduct

The *Code of Conduct* outlines the responsibilities that students, parents and staff must accept to maintain a safe, secure, productive and faith-based learning environment.

Section A: Expectations and Responsibilities

Staff shall:

- create a positive faith-based learning environment where all students are accepted and encouraged to develop self-esteem and respect;
- encourage the involvement of parents in educational decisions involving their children;
- operate on the premise that school, parish and home work together for the benefit of all students; treat students and parents with courtesy, respect, consistency and fairness;
- teach and model by positive example.

Students shall:

- respect the rights and safety of others by:
- developing self-discipline;
- demonstrating behaviour that contributes to an orderly, supportive and safe learning environment;
- respecting and demonstrating consideration for other cultures;
- complying with the school's dress code;
- resolving conflicts and difficulties with others through discussion or by seeking assistance from school personnel.
- make a commitment to promote their academic success by:
- attending school regularly and punctually;
- coming to class on time with all necessary materials, e.g., texts, pens, notebooks, etc.;
- completing assignments and handing them in on time;
- participating to the best of their ability in class and school activities.

Parents shall:

- ensure regular and punctual attendance and encourage completion of all school assignments by their children;
- attend school meetings and events to support the school;
- maintain open communication with staff by addressing concerns through proper lines of communication;
- treat all staff with dignity and respect;
- assist their children to establish positive attitudes towards achievement as well as respect for peers, school personnel and property;
- inform the school of problem areas or areas of behavioural concern;
- discuss with their children and support the school's *Code of Conduct* and policies.

Section B

Bullying or abusing physically, sexually, or psychologically – verbally, in writing or otherwise – of any person is unacceptable. Bullying is harmful and hurtful. Staff and students have the right to be safe at school. Bullying is any physical act, verbal comment, gesture, facial expression or action that would intentionally hurt someone physically or emotionally. It also includes leaving people out. Bullying is a deliberate and typically repeated attempt to hurt a victim, resulting in gratification for the aggressor.

Types of bullying may include, but are not limited to:

- **physical** – gesturing, slapping, hitting, choking, poking, punching, pinching, kicking, scratching, spitting, defacing property, physical acts that are embarrassing, locking in and out of space, physical violence against family or friends, threatening with a weapon, or inflicting bodily harm.
- **verbal** – name calling, gossiping or embarrassing another, spreading rumours, ethnic slurs, setting up to take blame, taunting, teasing, threatening, phone calls, threats of violence against family or friends.
- **social/relational** – rejecting, excluding, manipulating, setting up to humiliate in person or through the use of technology.
- **cyber-bullying** – using information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging (IM), defamatory personal websites and defamatory online personal polling websites that support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.

Discriminating on the basis of any characteristic set out in subsection 9(2) of the *Human Rights Code* is unacceptable. Using, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs at school or on school related activities – inside or outside the school – is unacceptable.

Section C

Gang involvement will not be tolerated inside or outside the school. Possessing a weapon, as defined in section 2 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, will not be tolerated at school.

Section D

Students and staff must adhere to school policies respecting appropriate use of e-mail and the Internet, including the prohibition of accessing, uploading, downloading or distributing material that the school determines to be objectionable. **Access is a privilege and not a right.** To gain access all students must obtain parental permission and must have their parents sign and return the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Staff must also complete and return the staff AUP.

Section E

Disciplinary consequences for violating the school's *Code of Conduct* include, but are not limited to:

Minor infractions

- warning by teacher or principal
- telephone call to parents by teacher or principal
- detention
- restitution

Major infractions

- formal meeting with parents
- in-school suspension
- out-of-school suspension
- expulsion/non-re-admittance

Parents have the right to appeal the disciplinary consequences by submitting a written request for a meeting with the Board of Directors. A copy of the full policies and procedures regarding suspension/expulsion is available .

Student Behaviour Guidelines

St. Ignatius School cultivates a nurturing, safe environment based on discipline and structure in order to help students reach their fullest potential. Students will be supported and called to develop a sense of self-discipline in order to grow academically, spiritually and emotionally within a positive and encouraging environment. Through teaching and example, opportunities are provided that lead students to look beyond themselves to principled living, as exemplified by Jesus Christ. Management of student behaviour flows from the belief that each student is created in God's image. It is this fact that calls faculty and administration to respect the dignity and rights of

each and every student. Students are therefore respected as individuals who have the ability to make choices about their behaviour. The following guidelines have been formulated to guide student behaviour and create a learning environment that is **supportive, positive and consistent**.

Specific School Behaviour Guidelines

To ensure the safe and efficient operation of the school, students will

- remain on the school grounds during school hours;
- walk quietly in the hallways;
- chain their bicycles to the front fence;
- not chew gum in the school;
- remove hats when in the school;
- use the playground doors unless they are on crossing guard duty, entering for team practice or in the Before and After School programs;
- only be in a classroom between instructional times when directly supervised by a teacher;
- participate in all outdoor recesses unless a note or telephone call is received from the parent.

Playground expectations

Students will:

- stay in assigned areas (may not leave the playground without permission);
- follow directions of duty supervisors;
- not throw dangerous objects (e.g., stones, snowballs, etc.);
- treat all community members with respect (i.e. not tease, swear, push, fight or bully);
- line up promptly at the sound of the buzzer.

Lunch-time expectations

Students will:

- remain seated at all times;
- not throw objects;
- speak quietly;
- follow directions of duty supervisor;
- ask the supervisor's permission to use the washroom facilities;
- only leave the room then they have cleaned up and are dismissed by a supervisor.

Classroom Behaviour Expectations

Teachers will communicate the behavioural expectations of their classroom community and ensure that these expectations are clearly stated, taught and modelled. Plans will be communicated to the principal in order to ensure consistency of action (both positive and disciplinary). Whenever possible, teachers will work proactively to support students through behavioural issues. In these instances, the Principal and parents may act as supports.

Principal's Behaviour Management Plan

The Principal's philosophy in dealing with all behaviour is based on the belief that as educators, we have a responsibility to teach, support, and guide students towards **self-discipline** and **appropriate decision-making**. **The principal's goal in dealing with serious behavioural concerns is to create a situation where learning and forgiveness can grow.** Disciplinary actions may range from requests for the intervention of outside professional services, in or out-of-school suspensions, and/or removal from school.

Suspension and Expulsion of Students

The Board of Directors will support the teaching staff in the maintenance of proper conduct and a safe Christian learning environment. To this end, the Board of Directors authorizes the principal to suspend or expel students whose conduct, upon investigation, is considered to be injurious to the welfare of the school or other persons within the school.

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