

Student Handbook

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I. RIGHT TO AMEND

MCPS reserves the right to amend this handbook. Notice of amendments will be sent to parents in the weekly Friday email or as a stand-alone email to each family at their montgomerycatholic.org email address.

The Student Handbook is comprehensive; however, not all matters can be addressed. Omitted topics will be handled according to Diocesan policy or at the discretion of the administration.

II. THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION ADVANTAGE

2.1 ARCHDIOCESE of MOBILE PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The Archdiocese of Mobile charges Catholic schools with the mission of providing Catholic education that deepens the Catholic faith while providing opportunities for rigorous academic instruction.

Catholic Schools will:

- recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children; therefore, effective collaboration and communication with families as partners are essential to the success of the students;
- focus on the moral and ethical development of all students in accordance with Christ's teachings while preparing them to be citizens of the world and responsible stewards of God's creation;
- challenge all students to achieve the highest academic standards as related to the Archdiocesan Standards and other research-based curricula;
- instruct students in the Catholic faith and promote faith development through worship, participation in the Sacraments, prayer, and community service;
- expect the commitment of all parents, teachers, staff, and administrators for success in carrying out their mission to educate and teach Gospel Values;
- provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environment for the students in order to assure student achievement;
- regard students as valued individuals with unique, spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs;
- recognize and appreciate cultural diversity while welcoming students of all faiths;
- produce graduates who possess a comprehensive understanding of the world, recognize the need for service to others and commit to excellence in their chosen vocations.

2.2 THE MISSION of ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic School's mission is to educate young people on the traditions and faith of the Catholic Church. Primary among those traditions is that we are a community of faith in which the adults - parents and faculty/staff - model to the students the daily meaning of Christ's command: Love one another. This command becomes the mirror that allows us to weigh our interactions with each other, with the parents, and with the students. Have we treated all as "brothers and sisters in the Lord?"

As we realize, an accurate understanding of the nature and mission of the Catholic school cannot be achieved unless we consider the school's relationship to the risen Christ and the teaching Church.

During the past four decades, we who exercise a leadership role in the ministry of Catholic education have been enlightened and guided, comforted, and challenged by timely Church documents. They have discussed significant issues that relate to the nature and mission of the contemporary Catholic school. The Declaration on Christian Education (1965), The General Catechetical Directory (1971), To Teach as Jesus Did (1973), Teach Them (1976), The Catholic School (1977), and The National Catechetical Directory (1977) have assisted us to fulfill our responsibility as educational leaders. The nature and mission of the Catholic school have been described clearly in these documents. They have viewed the Catholic school from a healthy contextual perspective and discussed its unique contribution to implementing the pastoral/educational mission of the Church.

Being sensitive to the insights shared in these documents, how might we describe today's Catholic school? The following statements provide a partial response to that question.

- The Catholic school is identified with the Church as a structured community.
- The Catholic school participates uniquely in the pastoral/educational mission of the Church.
- The Catholic school is a developing community of Faith founded upon Jesus Christ - His person and message, His vision and values.
- The Catholic school is an evangelizing community within which the Gospel's spirit is shared, experienced, taught, and caught.
- The Catholic school is a catechizing community within which the basic teachings of Christ and His Church are shared.
- The Catholic school is a grace-filled setting within which there is a synthesis of culture and faith and a synthesis of faith and life.
- The Catholic school is an environmental setting within which spiritual formation and growth are fostered using liturgical and other prayer experiences.
- The Catholic school is staffed by believers who understand, accept, and strive to implement the goals of Catholic education.
- Committed Catholics staff the Catholic school - whether lay, religious, or priests - and by other Christians who accept and strive to fulfill the goals of Catholic education and who participate in the prayer life of the community to the extent that they are able.

Those who minister within Catholic schools should accept and implement the spirit of To Teach as Jesus Did. Each is called to impart the message, form community, and inspire service. Some will fulfill this responsibility, at least in part, in religion class. Others will do so by how they share truly Christian attitudes and values within the context of their classroom teaching and personal relationships.

2.3 WHO WE ARE

MCPS is a K3-12 school in the Archdiocese of Mobile, under the authority of the superintendent of Catholic schools and ultimately the Archbishop of Mobile. An advisory committee offers guidance and is composed of representatives of each Catholic parish in the Montgomery

Tri-County area and representatives from each campus. Administratively, a president with long-term and financial responsibility for the K3-12 school leads MCPS; however, each campus is led by a principal with responsibility for the day-to-day operations. MCPS is proud of its long history, dating back to its founding by the Sisters of Loretto in 1873. This makes us the oldest, continuous, non-public institution in the state of Alabama. Originally called “St. Mary of Loretto,” we became “Montgomery Catholic High” in 1952. In 2004, we combined with St. Bede and Our Lady Queen of Mercy Elementary, created a separate middle school, and became “Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School.” In 2012, Holy Spirit Elementary opened as part of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School.

2.4 MONTGOMERY CATHOLIC PREPARATORY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT and ADMISSION STATEMENT

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School is an integral part of the Catholic Church’s mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. As an adult community, we share in the responsibility to prepare students for college and beyond while helping them grow to become persons of faith, virtue, and wisdom.

In unison with the mission, Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School admits students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School does not practice discrimination of any sort with regard to sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin in employment.

2.5 BELIEFS

2.5.1 Root Beliefs

- Our school community believes that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the fullness of truth.
- Our school community believes that each person is uniquely made in the image and likeness of God.
- Our school community believes that discipleship is contagious.
- Our school community believes that parents are the primary educators of their children.
- Our school community believes that reciprocal relationships form us.
- Our school community believes that excellence is intentional.

2.5.2 A Catholic Teacher’s Creed of Beliefs

Our relationship with parents and students should be marked by respect and responsibility:

Called to be the spiritual leader of the classroom, we will begin class with prayer

Called to respect each student as a child of God, we

- *presume and then foster cooperation with students in their learning*
- *recognize that the learning experience of students goes well beyond the classroom and work to incorporate the totality of their experiences into the academic effort*
- *listen to as well as talk with students*

- *consistently affirm adult behaviors among students and firmly and charitably correct other behaviors*
- *challenge privately harmful peer activities*
- *inspire respect among students by showing respect to all students*

Called to be responsible to students in our ministry of teaching, we

- *require of ourselves a critically reflective understanding of contemporary methods of education*
- *are active in trying to understand and be compassionate in responding to individual student needs*
- *work to fashion courses around student needs rather than form students to course needs*
- *model punctual work habits by returning graded assignments in a timely manner*
- *model consistently the gospel values which we wish students to emulate*

In short, we stand as an adult model for those emerging into Christian adulthood.

*Called to **respect parents as the primary educators** of their children, we*

- *cooperate with them in the education of their child*
- *accede in decisions about their child unless it has consequences for other students*
- *persuade parents to see a broader viewpoint about their child rather than confront them with an alternative viewpoint*
- *communicate successes with their child as well as share concerns about their growth*
- *discuss the person of the child rather than the student*

*Called to be **responsible to parents as primary educators**, we*

- *value and seek the insights of parents about their child*
- *offer to parents descriptions of observable behaviors rather than a judgment about their child*
- *communicate clearly and kindly to parents on occasions of success and areas of concern about their child*
- *value and promote adult relationships with parents in order to model an adult community to the students, particularly in times of disagreement*

In short, we work in a complementary relationship with our parents.

III. CURRICULUM

3.1 ACCREDITATION

MCPS is accredited by Cognia as a part of the district of the Archdiocese of Mobile. Cognia represents the unified policies and procedures for accreditation and certification from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

3.2 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

VERITAS, our Academic Integrity Policy, means truth in Latin. Students learn self-discipline by living in a community that sets high moral and ethical standards, explains and teaches those standards, and models them for the students. Students also learn self-discipline by accepting responsibility when they fail to meet the community's standards of action and work to regain the trust of parents, teachers, and fellow students.

Students are always expected to complete assignments in accordance with the Veritas expectations set by each teacher. Students in grades 7-12 will write the following pledge on all course assessments: "I pledge before God and man that ALL work is my own, and I have neither given nor received undue aid on the assignment.

The Veritas policy comprises three components of student integrity: Veritas in Conduct, Veritas in Academic Study, and Veritas in Attribution (plagiarism).

Except as noted below, students who violate a Veritas policy will receive a behavioral and/or academic consequence as determined by the Principal. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing. A second academic violation in the Same course for the same semester will result in a failure for that course for the quarter in which the second infraction occurred. The failing grade will be recorded as the lower of 55 or the student's actual grade at the end of the quarter.

Veritas in Conduct

Students are expected to maintain high personal standards in their decisions and actions. Lying or stealing violates the trust placed in each student and is considered a violation of the Veritas policy. For the purposes of this policy, lying and stealing are defined as:

- Lying: knowingly giving or withholding information pertaining to a school related matter to a teacher, administrator, or staff member.
- Stealing: taking or borrowing another person's possession without his/her explicit permission, or assisting someone in doing so.

Violations in Conduct may result in Saturday Detention, suspension or expulsion, as deemed necessary by the principal.

Veritas in Academic Study

Students learn academically through teacher-led classes and activities as well as out-of-class homework, projects, and papers. Completing any in-class or out-of-class assignment using undue aid undermines the integrity of our classes and is contrary to the school's mission. Such undue aid is considered cheating and violates the Veritas policy.

For the purposes of this policy, cheating is defined as obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain credit for coursework or any improvement in evaluation of performance by any dishonest or deceptive means. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from another's test or assignment; discussion at any time of answers or questions on an examination, test, or quiz without specific permission from the teacher; reading, taking, or receiving copies of a quiz, assignment, test, or examination without the specific permission of the teacher; using or displaying—written or digital—notes; "cheat sheets," or other information inappropriate to the prescribed assignment, quiz, or test conditions; allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the same; and providing or benefitting from any source of undue aid.

The middle/high school Veritas pledge specifically prohibits giving or receiving undue aid. Violations of the undue aid provision, even when

inadvertent, constitute a serious violation of the Veritas policy. Common sources of undue aid violations include, but are not limited to,

- Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools when not approved by the student's teacher. These tools may include but are not limited to Grammarly, ChatGPT, etc..
- Accessing a teacher edition text or other source—including web sites and cell phone apps—providing solutions or answers beyond those already provided in the student text. (Odd-numbered answers in the back of a math text, for example, are not undue aid, but any source providing even-numbered answers or additional detail is.)
- Getting well-intentioned assistance (e.g., from tutors, peers, parents, or other resources) that consistently produces higher grades on out-of-class work that the student cannot explain or replicate in the classroom. Aid that benefits a student's grade but not their learning is considered undue aid; students are expected to be able to explain and replicate in class any work completed outside of class. A pattern of work that greatly exceeds what the student can explain or reproduce in class is considered ample evidence that undue aid has been accessed.

Violations in Academic Study may result in a zero on that assignment and further disciplinary action, as deemed necessary by the principal.

Veritas in Attribution (Plagiarism)

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person's ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways (though there are others):

- not citing ideas taken from outside sources (even when not taking direct quotations)
- not putting quotation marks around information word for word from a source (even with a citation)
- copying someone else's work (or part) and calling it their own.

All first-time incidents of plagiarism will receive a 0 and may (at the teacher's discretion) receive an opportunity to revise for a reduced grade. A repeat instance of plagiarism (in that same class or any other) will receive a 0 and an office referral. No opportunities for revision will be given in the case of repeated instances.

Note that incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be tracked across the curriculum and that repeat incidents may not occur with the same teacher. A second instance of plagiarism (with any teacher or in any class) will result in the office referral and more serious consequences.

Teachers will discuss plagiarism with students and how to avoid it. Repeat offenses in a single class may result in failure for the quarter.

3.3 BUCKLEY AMENDMENT

MCPS abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment to the Family Education Rights and Protection Act regarding access to student records. Records will be made available to any parent seeking access within 45 days of receipt of a written request. Records will not be released to third parties without the expressed written permission of the parent.

3.4 CATHOLIC CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

The diocesan curriculum guidelines are followed for the teaching of all secular subject areas. Additionally, a major emphasis is placed on the teaching of religion. The school's religion program addresses Catholic doctrine and tradition, Church history, Bible study, the sacraments, Catholic morality, and social ethics, as well as preparation for the reception of the sacraments of First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation. Enrollment and participation in a program sponsored by the child's particular parish may be required for actual reception of these sacraments.

3.5 CHANGE OF CLASS SCHEDULE (Elementary and High School)

Elementary band students are required to stay in band for the full semester.

High School students enrolled in honors or AP classes must go through a determining process with the high school principal and counselor in order to evaluate the necessity of a class change.

3.6 COUNSELING

We are blessed to have school counselors at each campus of MCPS. Students and faculty may see the school counselor on an as needed basis. In addition, families are invited to call the school counselor to discuss any matters pertaining to their children. Matters discussed with counselors are confidential unless the health and safety of the student or others may be in jeopardy. Refer to our website for contact information for campus counselors.

3.7 DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School (MCPS) students may enroll in college courses offered through early college programs, but those credits earned through colleges or universities do not fulfill any of the 28 credits needed for graduation from MCPS.

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School does not offer classes for dual credit (*courses that count for high school credit and college credit simultaneously.*)

3.8 GRADING, PROMOTION, AND RETENTION FOR GRADES K 3-ELEMENTARY

3.8.1 K3 - Kindergarten

Academic and Self-discipline Skills Progress Code:

- C – Demonstrates consistently and independently. After a skill is taught, the student is able to perform the skill or activity independently
- S – Demonstrates sometimes with support. The student has not yet mastered the objective and needs assistance from the teacher when asked to apply the skill or perform the activity.
- N – Needs continued development. Some children are not ready to master a skill. This indicator does not mean the student is not learning or unable to learn or choosing not to learn. It does mean that the child needs more time to develop before being able to master the skill. Blank space – Not assessed during the marking period.
- All skills on the progress report should at least be introduced by the end of the fourth quarter.
- No yearly averages are given at the K3- K5 level.

3.8.2 Grades 1-2

Grading Scale: Reading, Writing, Mathematics

- A – 90-100
- B – 80-89
- C – 70-79
- D – 60-69
- F – 59 and below
- Reading
 - Comprehension/Listening
 - Phonics
 - Oral Expression/Fluency
- Writing
 - Handwriting
 - Communicating Ideas
 - Punctuation/Capitalization
 - Spelling
 - Grammar
- Math
 - Concepts
 - Computation
 - Problem Solving/Communication
 - Measurement/Data
 - Geometry

Skills Codes

- Student struggling with skill. The student needs considerable assistance for skill being taught.
- Student below grade level with skill. The student is performing below grade level with continuous teacher assistance.

Grading Scale: Religion, Social Studies, Science

- 4 – Meeting targets and performing above expectations
- 3 – Meeting targets
- 2 – Working towards targets with continuing assistance
- 1 – Needs more time to develop

Grading Scale: Physical Education, Art, Music, Foreign Language, and Computer

- S – Successful
- N – Needs Improvement

Components for Grades

- Grades are determined using 3-5 components with no one component weighted more than 40%
- Teachers should grade worksheets and daily work on a point scale rather than a percentage/letter grade.

Yearly Averages

- Reading, Writing, Math: Average the percentage number grade from each quarter. A letter grade is given for the numerical average.
- No “+” or “-” used
- Religion, Science, Social Studies: a number grade is given for the numerical 4,3,2,1, average. Any average resulting with a .5 decimal should be rounded up.

Evaluating Conduct Code

- O – Outstanding
- G – Good
- I – Inconsistent
- U – Unsatisfactory

3.8.3 Grades 3-6

Grading Scales/Codes:

Religion, Reading/Literature, English/Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education*

- A – 90-100
- B – 80-89
- C – 70-79
- D – 60-69
- F – 59 and below

*PE teachers may use S or N, if determined appropriate by the Principal

Art, Music, Computer

- S – Successful
- N – Needs Improvement

Components for Grades

Grades are determined using 3-5 components with no one component weighted more than 40%

Yearly Averages

Average the percentage number grade from each quarter. A letter grade is given for the numerical average.

- No “+” or “-” used
- Averages resulting with a .5 decimal should be rounded up.

Evaluating Conduct Code

- O – Outstanding
- G – Good

I – Inconsistent
U – Unsatisfactory

3.8.4 Elementary Promotion and Retention

In the Elementary School, these decisions are based on the maturity of the child, the achievement of at least the minimum of course requirements, and regular attendance. Final decisions will be made at the end of the year. Failure in one core subject must be remediated for the next academic year per instructions of the school. There is no conditional promotion. The teacher and principal must alert the parents of a possible retention some time before the end of the 3rd quarter. Retention is considered when:

1. A yearly average of “1” or “F” is earned in either reading or math and if the teacher believes the child needs additional time for growth.
2. In grades 3-8, a yearly average of “F” is earned in two core subjects.
3. Excessive absenteeism (see attendance policy) 31
4. In K-6, summer school may be a good idea for strengthening skills in preparation for next year. However, it is not a basis for promoting students who have failed courses during the year.
5. In K3- K5, retention is the decision of the parents who should consult with the teacher. If the parents decide to do so, they must notify the teacher and office in writing by April 1.
6. If a student is recommended for retention for a second time, there will be a consultation with the family to determine whether or not MCPS is the right place for the student, with the school making the final determination.

3.9 GRADING, PROMOTION, AND RETENTION MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

3.9.1 Grading Scales

- Middle School - Grades 7 and 8
 - A (90-100)
 - B (80-89)
 - C (70-79)
 - D (60-69)
 - F (59 and below)
- Conduct Code
 - O – Outstanding
 - G – Good
 - I – Inconsistent
 - U – Unsatisfactory
- High School - Grades 9-12
 - A (90-100)
 - B+ (88-89)
 - B (80-87)

C+ (78-79)
C (70-77)
D (60-69)
F (59 and below)

3.9.2 Averaging and Reporting of Grades

- Middle School, the “yearly average” is determined on the basis of the percentage average in grades 7-8 of all 4 quarter grades for year- long classes and 2 quarters for semester long classes. Only the yearly/semester average is archived for transcript purposes.
- At the Middle School, the “semester average” is the average of the semester’s work (homework, quizzes, projects, tests, etc.) 90 percent (45% is locked at the mid-semester) and the semester exam 10 percent. Only the semester averages are archived for transcript purposes.
- At the High School, the “semester average” is the average of the semester’s work (homework, quizzes, projects, tests, etc.) 80% (40% is locked at the 1st quarter and 40% locked in at the 2nd quarter) and the semester exam 20 percent. Only the semester averages are archived for transcript purposes.

3.9.3 Exam Exemptions

- 7th – 8th grade students will not have the option to be exempt from exams.
- 9th-11th grade students will have an option for exam exemptions during the second semester only. Exam exemptions are not an option for first semester (Fall) for 9th – 11th grade students. For these students to be exempt for the second semester (Spring), two criteria must be met:
 1. Students must have an average of 92 or higher in the class.
 2. Students cannot miss more than three days of class (excused or unexcused, excluding medical excuses). Remember, 3 tardies = 1 absence.
- 12th grade students will have the ability to be exempt from both Fall and Spring semester exams. For these students to be exempt, the following criteria must be met:
 1. Students must have an average of 92 or higher in the class.
 2. Students cannot have missed more than three days of class (excused or unexcused, excluding medical excuses). Remember, 3 tardies = 1 absence.

3.9.4 Frye Rule

High School students who fail the first semester of a two semester course may avoid making up the first half of the course by passing the second half of the course with a passing grade which, when averaged with the failing grade from the first semester, meets or exceeds 60 (Frye Rule). The second semester must be passed for credit to be applied. The student must also attend tutorials on a regular basis for the Frye Rule to be considered. Frye Rule only applies to two semester courses and does not apply to single semester courses, such as, but not limited to, Government and Economics, nor does it apply to any Theology class. If a student succeeds in using the Frye Rule the first semester grade will be adjusted to a 60.

3.9.5 Promotion and Retention

- **Middle School**

1. Retention is considered when a student earns an “F” for the yearly average in two or more core academic subjects (Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Religion.)
2. Failure in band or one core subject must also be remediated for the next academic year per instructions of the school. (see Summer School policy)
3. Beyond that minimum, students who are doing poorly may be asked by the school to withdraw, depending on the school’s assessment of the child’s academic effort.
4. Excessive absenteeism may result in losing credit in all classes during an academic year (see attendance policy).

- **High School**

1. At a minimum, a student is not accepted for enrollment or re-enrollment at our High School when that student is unable to make up classes he or she has failed over the summer time. This means a student may fail not more than four semesters of course work (out of 14) in an academic year, and cannot earn more than two credits during the summer months. (see Summer School policy)
2. Students who fail the first semester of a two semester course may avoid making up the first half of the course by passing the second half of the course with a passing grade which, when averaged with the failing grade, meets or exceeds 60 (Frye Rule). The second semester must be passed for credit to be applied. The student must also attend tutorials on a regular basis for the Frye Rule to be considered. The Frye Rule only applies to two semester courses and does not apply to single semester courses, such as, but not limited to, Government and Economics, nor does it apply to any Theology classes. If a student succeeds in using the Frye Rule the first semester grade will be adjusted to a 60.
3. Beyond that minimum, students who are doing poorly may be asked by the school to withdraw, depending on the school’s assessment of the child’s academic effort.
4. Excessive absenteeism may result in losing credit in all classes during an academic year (see attendance policy)

3.10 GRADUATION

In order to be eligible for graduation from Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, a student must earn 28 credits as listed below and complete the active ACT or SAT (prior to April of their senior year).

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Theology* | 4 credits |
| English | 4 credits |
| Mathematics | 4 credits |
| Social Studies | 4 credits |
| Science | 4 credits |
| Foreign Language | 1 credit |
| Physical Education** | 1 credit |
| Health | 1/2 credit |
| Fine Arts | 1/2 credit |
| Electives | 5 credits |
| Total | 28 credits |

*1 credit per year at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School

**Band satisfies the PE requirement

Transfer Students: Transfer credits from accredited institutions are accepted as proof of satisfactory completion of course work up until the point of transfer.

Participation: All eligible seniors are required to attend Graduation Practices, Senior Day, Baccalaureate Mass, and Graduation. All school uniform rules apply.

Financial Requirements: Seniors who have financial obligations to the school are not permitted to participate in graduation activities including Senior Day, Baccalaureate and Graduation. Transcripts, diplomas, report cards, and laptops will be released once all financial obligations are met or satisfactory arrangements have been made. Students with outstanding financial obligations will not be allowed to register for summer school, if necessary.

3.11 **RECOGNITION**

Elementary School:

Academic Honor Roll is awarded to students who have achieved the following:

“A” Honor Roll for straight A’s, “A/B” Honor Roll for all grades B, or better. (Students who receive a “U” for the quarter in conduct will not qualify for Academic Honor Roll.)

Conduct Honor Roll requires all “G’s” or “O’s” in conduct.

Middle School: “A” Honor Roll for straight A’s, and “A/B” Honor Roll for all grades B, or better, are determined on the basis of semester grades. All conduct grades at the Middle School level must be in the “G” or “O” range to qualify for any Academic Honor Roll. All classes are considered for Honor Roll and students will be recognized in January.

High School: The President’s List will be awarded to students who achieve a semester GPA of 4.0 or better. The Principal’s List will be awarded to students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.80-3.99. Students will be recognized each spring at Academic Awards Night, and we will honor students from the two previous semesters (The Spring of previous year and the Fall of the current year.) All classes are included for these lists of distinction. Honors and Advanced Placement course weighting will be accounted for in the GPA calculation.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian: The Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the graduating class will be determined by the school administration based upon MCPS’s weighted grade scale and courses completed. The students must have attended Montgomery Catholic for the full junior and senior years.

3.12 RESOURCE PROGRAM

The Resource program serves students who have a diagnosed disability that impedes learning. Before a student can receive services, a psychological-educational evaluation must be on file with MCPS and be current, within the last three years. This assessment must include a specific diagnosis and recommendations that can be reasonably implemented in our academic settings. A diagnosis of ADD or ADHD alone, is not sufficient to qualify for the Resource program.

Our Resource program strives to use small group and individual instruction in grade level curriculum, while also teaching study skills, evaluating academic strengths and weaknesses, and providing academic accommodations that align with those recommended in the psychological-educational report. The primary goal of our Resource program is to guide our students to become independent learners.

MCPS will strive to meet the academic accommodations for students that have undergone a complete evaluation but fall short of the Resource program requirements. All determinations for placement will be based on documented educational needs.

Acceptance into the Resource program does not guarantee academic success. It is vital that the student and parents partner with the resource teacher and the classroom teachers in order to successfully complete the academic expectations for all classes.

3.13 STANDARDIZED TESTING

IA (Iowa Assessments) grades 2-8

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) grades 2-5, and 7

CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) grades 3-8.

ARK (Assessment of Religious Knowledge) grades 2-12

Placement testing for incoming students to the Middle School and High School

Orleans-Hanna Algebra Assessment for upcoming 8th grade students

Pre-ACT grades 9 and 10

PSAT (Qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships) Select students grades 9 and 10; grade 11
ACT (American College Testing) or SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

ALL students MUST take the active ACT or SAT (prior to April of their senior year) to be eligible to graduate.

3.14 SUMMER SCHOOL

In order to protect the integrity of the academic program, students needing to attend summer school to restore credit due to failure must take courses at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School's summer program. All failed courses, including those needed for graduation, must be made up during the summer school time frame.

Middle and High School students may recover no more than 2 credits during each summer, but no more than 4 credits (8 semesters) throughout their four high school years (9-12). All students who fail more than the allowed number of credits will not be allowed to return to MCPS for the upcoming school year unless there are extenuating circumstances to be approved by the administration. Families must be current with the Business Office in order to register for Summer School.

3.15 TUTORIALS

Elementary: Tutorials occur before or after school and are scheduled by individual teachers.

Middle and High School:

Students have the responsibility to seek help and work with initiative and perseverance. Each faculty member will be available to assist students outside of regular school hours at times prescribed by the teacher or school (Mon.-Thurs. 3:05-3:35 pm). Students are expected to be on time for tutorials; otherwise they may not be allowed to attend. Students must remain in one teacher's tutorial the entire session unless a written pass from another teacher verifies that he/she also needs to attend an additional tutorial. Failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary action.

IV. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

4.1 ADVERTISING

The use of the name "Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School" (MCPS), or any variation of that name, or identification of any MCPS campus site in any advertisement, brochure, mailer, or similar item is not permitted without authorization from the president, or communications and marketing director, or their designee. Any and all marketing materials, advertisements, logos, brochures, announcements, apparel, or other publicity that references MCPS must also be

approved by said administration, or their designee, before publication to insure that Montgomery Catholic and its mission is accurately represented.

No individual or organization may use the institutional name or its likeness in the solicitation of gifts or in buying or selling merchandise of any kind, either on or off campus, without written permission.

4.2 ATTENDANCE

4.2.1 Elementary, Middle, and High School Campuses

Children should be in school and on time each day. Medical appointments, physical therapy, vacations, and other interruptions to the child's daily schedule should be minimized.

Absences are excused for the following reasons: student illness, serious illness, medical emergency, or a wedding or death within the immediate family. A parent or doctor's note must be submitted to the office within two days of the return to school.

MCPS Absence and Tardy Policy: Students who miss more than 9 classes in a semester, excused or unexcused (Middle/High School), are liable for loss of credit in that class for the semester. Three tardies or early checkouts count as one absence; at the elementary level, tardies or checkouts of more than one hour are counted as "half-day" absences. Students who are more than 20 minutes late per class will be counted as absent for that class at the Middle and High School. Medical excuses and death in the family are not counted in the 9 absence per period limit until the student reaches 18 total absences. After the 18 total absences, loss of credit may occur. Excessive tardies may result in denial for enrollment the following year.

There will be progressive consequences for excessive tardies up to loss of credit.

Saturday School Due to Excessive Absences: In the event that a student misses more than 9 classes per subject (excused or unexcused) in the Middle/High School per semester, he or she will be expected to attend Saturday Academic School. Students will attend a minimum of two hours per class and no longer than a regular school day. The fee for Saturday Academic School is \$50.00 per subject not to exceed \$150.00 payable the Friday before the Saturday School. Students are to attend in their school uniform and bring their lunch if necessary. All the usual school rules apply. Families will be notified by mail of the dates for these Saturday sessions, and each Academic Saturday voids only one day's absence over the 9 class limit. (i.e. Each day absent over the 9 for High/Middle School requires 1 day Saturday Academic School). Medical excuses and death in the family are not counted in the 9 absence per period limit until the student reaches 18 total absences. After the 18 total absences, loss of credit may occur.

Family Absences or Tardies: Students who miss work for family absences or tardies will be allowed to make up missed work; for each day absent, the student will be allowed two days in which to submit the missed work, per the number of days absent, up to a maximum of 5 days. If a student is absent the day of an announced test, the student may be required to make up that test on the day he/she returns to school. At MCPS, it is the student's/family's responsibility (not the teacher's) to find out what was missed and to make arrangements with teachers to make up work,

and teachers will then assist students with the work. Failure to do so will result in a zero for missed work.

Medical Excused Absences or Tardies: Students returning with a doctor's note will be given 2 days to make up work for each day of the absence, up to a maximum of five days.

Procedures when a child is sick: Parents must call or email the campus office before 8:30 AM on the day a child is sick to let the office know. The office reserves the right to call home or place of work to determine the nature of the student's absence if a call has not been received by 8:30 AM. When the child returns to school, he or she should bring a note from the parent explaining the reason for the absence. Absences are considered "unexcused" unless a note is submitted within two days of the absence. Please note: To ensure the health of all of our students and faculty, students must be fever free (with no medication) and no vomiting for 24 hours before they will be permitted to return to school. Students with lice must be re-checked by office personnel prior to returning to school.

Checkouts: If it is known beforehand that a child will need to leave school early, the student should bring a note/email to the school office before school begins. This allows for prompt notification to the child's teachers of his/her absence. Only the child's legal custodian whose name is on file with the office can give permission for a child to check out of school. Only the approved person(s) listed on the student data sheet may come to the office to check out the child.

In the High School, the student must call the parent, and the school must receive verbal permission from the parent to allow that student to check out. The next day, he/she should bring in a note from the parent. No student is allowed to leave the school without administrative permission, no matter what the intent.

Definition of Attendance Codes in Powerschool:

- TX – Tardy Excused (parent note submitted) 3 tardies = 1 absence
- TU – Tardy Unexcused (no written note or reason submitted) 3 tardies = 1 absence
- TM – Tardy Medical (doctor's note submitted) Does not count toward total days absent/exam exemption
- T20 – Tardy, 20 or more minutes late (no written note or reason submitted)
- A – Absent Unexcused (no parent note submitted)
- ME – Medical Excused (doctor's note submitted) Does not count toward total days absent/exam exemption
- FAM – Family (note from parent for wedding, retirement, graduation, etc.)
- ILL – Sick (parent note received for sick child)
- EXEMPT – (exam exemption)
- DF – Death / Family (death in family, excused) Does not count toward total days absent/exam exemption
- DN – Death / Non-Family (death of family friend, excused)
- DL – Driver's License (excused 1/2 day) Does not count toward total days absent/exam exemption
- COL – College Visit (excused)
- CO – Checked Out Early
- ISS – In-School Suspension
- OSS – Out-of-School Suspension

- OU – Office Unexcused (in office for discipline issue)
- OE – Office Excused (in office for non-discipline issue) Does not count toward total days absent/exam exception
- SACT – School Activity (missing class for a school event) Does not count toward total days absent/exam exemption

4.2.2 Elementary School

Procedures when a child is late: At the Elementary Schools, students arriving late must be accompanied to the office by their parent or driver. Students not signed in by a parent or driver will remain in the office until a parent is phoned and verifies the tardy. All missed classes will be counted as absences.

4.2.3 Middle and High School

In the Middle and High School, a student must bring in a note from his or her parent explaining the reason for being late, or the parent may call the office.

Driver's Permit and License: Students will be permitted to take a one-time ½ day for permit and ½ day for a driver's license which will not count against a student's exam exemption but will count toward the cumulative absence.

Late Procedure: In the Middle and High School, a student must bring in a note from his or her parent explaining the reason for being late, or the parent may call the office.

Middle and High School Exams needing to be rescheduled must be approved by the principal two weeks prior to the start of exams. Family absences do count toward exam exemption requirements in the High School.

College Visitations: (High School Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors only): To help students choose colleges, with the prior approval and completion of required forms from the high school guidance counselor, sophomores, juniors and seniors are allowed to make two visits each year to attend college orientations. With proper documentation, (on the day they return to class) from the college or university visit, the absence will not count against exam exemptions but will count against the cumulative absences. Please obtain a college visit form from the high school office before the visit.

Chrism Mass: Sophomores are required to attend the Chrism Mass in Mobile.

4.3 CHANGE OF CAMPUS

Elementary students must receive prior approval from the administration to change elementary campuses.

4.4 CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

We are required by laws governing the state of Alabama and the Archdiocese of Mobile to report to state authorities even the suspicion of child abuse.

4.5 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

4.5.1 Archdiocese of Mobile

As per the Office of Child Protection for the Archdiocese of Mobile, all volunteers who have substantial contact with minors must have a completed background check before being assigned to a volunteer position. In addition, all volunteers who have substantial contact with minors must complete the initial Child and Adolescents Protection Program (CAPP) training and the annual on-line retraining thereafter.

This training should take place prior to the person's first day of ministering, working, or volunteering for the Archdiocese. This training can be accomplished in the Montgomery area by attending *(one)* class which is offered monthly *(excluding December, June, and July)* at 6:30 PM in the High School *(Schedules can be found on the Child Protection page of www.mobilearchdiocese.org website.)*

Initial Child Protection Training REGISTRATION

1. Go to <https://mobile.cmgconnect.org/>
2. Complete the required information. *(Fill in red star items completely.)*
3. Select the Live Event. *(the blue box.)*
4. Start the Curriculum – Follow steps and review the Archdiocesan policies
5. Pre-register for the training class – Review the list of available trainings and RSVP for your event.
6. Complete background check information – This must be completed in order to be approved. Note: *Please make sure you provide your legal name when completing the background check information.*
7. Attend the training class

If you have any trouble, please contact the Office for the Protection of Minors and Adults at (251) 434-1559 or childprotection@mobarch.org.

These religious, employees, and volunteers are also required to complete annual retraining. Retraining can be done by logging on to www.mobilearchdiocese.org and selecting the Child Protection page. There the person retraining can read articles and take the corresponding short quiz. *All annual retraining should take place between August 1 and October 31 of each year, regardless of the date of the initial training.*

All school employees *(including custodians, secretaries, and cafeteria workers)* are required to submit fingerprint impressions to the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources and to undergo an Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and FBI background check.

All other Archdiocesan employees *(including youth ministers, DREs, CREs)* are required to have background checks. These are completed through Mind Your Business, Inc. This check consists of a statewide check of felonies and misdemeanors, a social security trace, and a check against the national register of criminal offenders.

All volunteers with direct contact with children are required to have a background check which is also completed through Mind Your Business, Inc. It consists of a social security trace and a check against the national register of criminals.

All priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and paid lay persons are required to submit fingerprint impressions to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and to undergo an FBI background check.

4.5.2 Non-Custodial Parent

At the time of registration, parents shall provide accurate information regarding custodial care of the student and visitation rights. Upon request, parents shall furnish the administration a copy of any relevant court order so as to ensure the safety and welfare of the student. Parents shall have a continuing duty to apprise the school of any change in the custodial care of the student and of the issuance of any court order restricting or prohibiting parental or third party access to the child.

Unless prohibited by order of the court or other legally binding instrument, a non-custodial parent shall have the right to access academic records relating to his or her child and, upon written request, may receive copies of all notices relating to academic and school activities. He/She may be able to check the students out. The non-custodial parent is responsible for any costs incurred by the school relating to these provisions.

4.6 COMMUNICATION

4.6.1 Parent Communication

Parents are asked to refrain from calling or texting their student via the student's personal cell phone, computer, or school device during school hours.

The reasoning for this action is to assist our students in curbing their phone usage and text messaging. Students may use the office phone in the case of an emergency, illness, or other instances deemed necessary by the office personnel. For emergency preparedness, faculty members will keep their cell phone on their desk.

4.6.2 Academic Communication

The following methods of communication are used by MCPS:

- Subject Syllabus
- Online Communication
- Weekly emails to all montgomerycatholic.org family email addresses and students.montgomerycatholic.org student email addresses.
- PowerSchool Parent Portal to review student grades. This platform gives parents and students a look at the student grade book as grades are earned by their student(s). Parents are issued a username and password exclusive for their student(s), as well as instructions during registration, or information will be mailed to families who enroll at a later date. (contact the school for difficulties logging in)
- Planbook.com for teacher lesson plans.
- In order to respect our teachers and their time with their families, teachers will not respond to parent communications after 5:00 PM; however, teachers will make every effort to respond to emails/phone calls from parents within 24 hours of receiving

4.6.3 Telephone Use

Students may use telephones in the office for emergencies ONLY (not for field trip forms, homework, etc). The school phone is reserved for official school business. Students will not be called from class to the telephone except in the case of an emergency. Telephone messages for students are discouraged; however, in case of necessity, a message will be delivered to the student at the end of the school day. Students wishing to contact their

parents must do so in the office and not via personal cell phone. Parents are asked to refrain from calling or texting their student via any electronic device during school hours.

4.7 DRESS CODE

4.7.1 General Rules

MCPS requires students to wear uniforms; styles differ at Elementary, Middle School, and High School campuses. Parents are required to purchase new uniforms from our official uniform providers: *Southern School Uniforms*, 1721 Eastern Blvd.

Used uniforms can be purchased through the Annual Used Uniform Sale held at the high school campus each summer. Please donate used uniforms to the school for distribution to our needy families.

What we wear reflects who we are as a community. Students should not present themselves in an extreme or unusual way. Modesty and neatness are the standard, and where there is an issue not addressed specifically in the rules, the school will decide on the appropriateness of the dress.

The following apply to all MCPS uniforms when on campus and during school related activities:

1. **Shirts** must be tucked in all the way around, except in the special case of those shirts that are designed to be worn on the outside - banded at the bottom.
2. **Length:** Girls' skirts, skorts, or jumpers should be the acceptable length. When standing with hands at her side, a skirt's length should fall below one's fingertips. The hemline should be no higher than 4" from the back crease in the back of the knee.
3. **Condition:** Uniforms should be kept in good repair. No items should be tattered, frayed, or torn. All items must be hemmed and may not be marked or discolored.
4. **Undergarments:** Visible t-shirts for boys should be solid gray or white with no printing. No visible undergarments for girls or boys.
5. **Fit:** Uniforms should fit correctly. Excessively tight or loose clothing is not acceptable.
6. **Shoes:** - All shoes should be closed-toe, covering the entire foot including the heel. Students may wear dress or casual shoes in solid black, white, gray, brown, buck, royal or navy in color. Tennis shoes may be worn provided they are in good repair and are predominantly black, white, gray, brown, royal or navy in color. Boots must follow the color code as listed and can only be worn under long pants. Beach/pool footwear, slippers, flip-flops, light-up shoes, and facsimiles are not acceptable.
- Mass Day shoes (Middle and High)** must be more formal than traditional athletic shoes and follow the color scheme of solid black, white, gray, brown, buck, royal or navy in color. No tennis shoes, fleece lined slipper shoes, or shoes that show any semblance of an athletic shoe sole are acceptable. Heels may be no higher than 2".
7. **Socks, Tights, and Leggings:** Socks, full-length tights, or ankle length leggings can be worn in solid navy, white, black, or brown colors. No flared leggings or sweat pants may be worn.
8. **Head Coverings:** No hats, caps, or other head coverings may be worn in the school building or during school hours. Exceptions may be made for particular field trips, field day, and dress down days..
9. **Hair:** Students should keep their hair neatly groomed at all times. Radical hairstyles unbecoming of a professional environment are not allowed. Hair coloring must be natural or of natural appearance. Boys' hair should not touch

their shirt collar and not lay below their eyebrows. Hair should be clean, combed, and neatly trimmed or arranged. Ponytails are not acceptable for boys. Administration reserves the right to direct students to get a haircut at any time, and it must be done within one week of the notice. All male students (7-12) must be clean-shaven (see 6.3 for accommodation policy).

10. **Jewelry:** Elementary students cannot wear rings or bracelets and only post earrings. Wearing expensive jewelry at MCPS is strongly discouraged. Students may wear unobtrusive jewelry, such as a small religious medal on a fine metal chain. Middle School girls may not wear dangling or hoop earrings. Middle and High School girls must choose jewelry befitting a professional work environment. Middle School and High School girls may wear two post earrings per ear lobe. Boys may not wear earrings. Students are not allowed to wear jewelry or other facial piercings, such as gauged ears, bars on the upper ear, or nose piercings.

11. **Tattoos:** No visible tattoos are allowed at MCPS.

12. **Belts:** Must be worn in grades 2-12 on all uniform pieces that require them. They must be navy, brown, or black in color.

13. **Make-up and fingernail polish:** Elementary students are not allowed to wear make-up or fingernail polish. Make-up for girls grades 7-12 should be natural looking and appropriate as judged by the administration. Fingernail polish and length for girls 7-12 should not be distracting to the learning environment.

14. **Outerwear:** All students (K3-12) will also have the option to wear outerwear purchased from the uniform store, our school sanctioned vendor (*BSN Sports*), and the online spirit store including sweaters, sweater vest, approved royal blue hooded sweatshirt (**for K3-6 ONLY**), navy/royal crew neck sweatshirt or gray soft shell jacket.

Additional outerwear options are allowed for grades 7-12 if sanctioned by the school and should have the knight head logo, school name, or sport/activity. Older Catholic articles with hoods, front pockets, nylon and fleece jackets and off colors have been eliminated from the middle and high school approval list. Varsity athletes may wear the school letter-jacket.

Students who violate a dress code policy will be asked to report to the office the following morning to show that the violation has been remediated. If a student fails to show or remediate the violation, detention will be assigned. Repeated violations will also result in detention.

Students will be given one week to comply with our hair policy. A student who does not comply within that week will not be allowed to attend school until in compliance.

4.7.2 Elementary Campus

K3/K4 Girls' uniform options:

- Yellow "Peter Pan" blouse or banded bottom shirt bearing the school insignia
- Navy shorts or long pants (pleated or flat front)
- Navy 3-pleat skort (#907) or navy front wrap skort (#23)
- Navy gingham dress with school insignia
- Navy polo dress with school insignia
- Plaid baby doll style or dropped waist style jumper with yellow blouse or banded bottom shirt bearing the school insignia

- Navy shorts or biker shorts must be worn under the jumper or dress at the acceptable length.

K3/K4: Boys' uniform options:

- Yellow polo style shirt bearing the school insignia
- Navy shorts or long pants (pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance) No belts should be worn.

K5: Girls' uniform options:

- Light blue "Peter Pan" blouse, dri-fit or fem-fit polo or banded bottom shirt bearing the school insignia
- Navy shorts or long pants (pleated or flat front)
- Navy 3-pleat skort (#907)
- Navy or houndstooth front wrap skort (#23)
- Navy gingham dress with school insignia
- Navy polo dress with school insignia
- Plaid baby doll style or dropped waist jumper with the light blue blouse, dri-fit or fem-fit polo or banded bottom shirt bearing the school insignia
- Navy shorts or biker shorts must be worn under the jumper or dress at the acceptable length.

K5: Boys' uniform options:

- Light blue polo or dri-fit polo bearing the school insignia.
- Navy shorts or long pants (pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance) No belts should be worn.

GRADES 1-6 Girls' uniform options:

- White "Peter Pan" blouse or banded bottom shirt with school insignia
- Gray, white, or navy dri-fit or fem-fit polo shirt with school insignia
- White knit banded-bottom shirt (long or short sleeved) bearing the school insignia
- Navy shorts or long pants with belt (pleated or flat front)
- Navy polo dress with school insignia
- Navy gingham dress (1st & 2nd grade ONLY) with school insignia
- Navy skort (#907)
- Navy or houndstooth front wrap skort (#23), or navy houndstooth skirt (#34)
- Plaid baby doll style or dropped waist jumper with the white blouse, polo or banded bottom shirt bearing the school insignia
- Navy shorts or biker shorts must be worn under the jumper or dress at the acceptable length.

Boys' uniform options:

- White or gray polo or dri-fit polo shirt bearing the school insignia
- White oxford shirt bearing the school insignia (long or short sleeved) bearing the school insignia • Navy shorts or long pants (pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance) must be worn with the belt
- Belts are required.
- MCPS Mass day tie (for 5th and 6th grade boys)
- There will be no dressing out for P.E. at the elementary level.

ELEMENTARY MASS DAY UNIFORM:

- K3-K5 students do not have a specific Mass day uniform and will wear the regular uniform for Mass.
- GIRLS (1-6): White "Peter Pan" blouse bearing the school insignia with the plaid baby doll style or dropped waist jumper, or navy skort, or houndstooth front

- wrap skort (#23).
- BOYS (1-6): White oxford shirt with the school insignia and long (no shorts) uniform pants.
- In grades 5 and 6, boys must wear the striped MCPS Mass tie with the white oxford shirt.
- Shoes must follow the uniform requirement for boys and girls.
- Hoodies or t-shirts are not permitted for Mass. • Outerwear should be the uniform sweater, navy crewneck sweatshirt, or gray soft shell jacket with the school insignia.

Elementary dress down days:

- On dress-down days, students may wear non-uniform outfits, but no sleeveless outfits are permitted, and all items must be appropriate in fit and length.
- Leggings are only permissible if worn under a dress, skirt, or shirt that fully covers the hips.
- Shoes must still follow the regular uniform guidelines but do not have to be uniform colors.
- Occasionally, we will have theme days where students will wear blue jeans or uniform bottoms with a t-shirt. The kind, color, or style of t-shirt will be indicated according to the theme of the day but will never allow offensive language or pictures.

Field Trip Dress Code will be defined in the permission form for each individual field trip.

Picture Day Dress Code: Students may dress up for pictures, but no sleeveless outfits are permitted and all items must be appropriate in fit and length. Leggings are only permissible if worn under a dress or skirt of appropriate length. Leggings should not be worn as pants. Shoes must still follow the regular uniform guidelines but do not have to be uniform colors.

Special event shirts with school uniform bottoms may be worn on the next school day following the event, providing it is not a Mass day. Special event or team shirts may not be worn on Mass days. Permission from the campus principal is required.

4.7.3 Middle School

Girls' uniform options:

- Light blue $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve blouse bearing the school insignia (*with a camisole under the shirt*)
- Light blue knit banded-bottom shirt (*long or short sleeved*) bearing the school insignia. Shirts without bands must be tucked in.
- Gray or Light blue dri-fit or fem-fit polo shirt bearing the school insignia. Must be tucked in.
- Khaki or navy 3-pleat skort (#907), khaki or houndstooth front wrap skort (#23), houndstooth skirt (#34).
- Navy jumper (only to be worn with white "Peter Pan" blouse)
- White "Peter Pan" blouse (only to be worn under the navy jumper option)
- Khaki pants (*pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance*) must be belted. Skinny fit or denim pants are not allowed.

Boys' uniform options:

- Light blue/white striped oxford shirt (*long or short sleeved*) bearing the school

- insignia
- Royal blue or gray polo shirt (knit or dri-fit) embroidered with the school insignia. Must be tucked in.
- Khaki pants (*pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance*). Skinny fit or denim pants are not allowed.
- Belts are required.
- Shorts are not part of the regular school uniform.

Mass day uniform:

- Boys:** Light blue/white striped oxford shirt (*short or long-sleeved*).
- Striped uniform MCPS tie or bow tie - Boys are encouraged to purchase a non-clip-on necktie or bowtie and will have the opportunity to learn how to tie it properly with support from faculty.
- Khaki uniform pants. Belt must be worn.
- Girls:** Light blue $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve blouse (*with a camisole under the shirt*), khaki or navy houndstooth uniform bottoms.
- Mass Day Shoes** must be more formal than traditional athletic shoes and follow the color scheme of solid black, white, gray, brown, buck, royal or navy in color. No tennis shoes are acceptable or show any semblance of an athletic shoe sole. No fleece lined slipper type shoes.
- Outerwear:** Students will not be allowed to wear outerwear during Mass.
- The new Navy Blue jumper may not be worn to Mass.

Physical Education (PE) uniforms may be purchased from our official school uniform vendor. Approved school outerwear may be worn as weather permits.

Field trip uniform:

The complete Mass day uniform is the field trip uniform, unless otherwise communicated.

Picture Day Dress Code: The complete Mass day uniform will be worn for school pictures.

4.7.4 High School

Girls' uniform options:

- White $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeved blouse (*with white camisole*) bearing the school insignia
- White oxford cloth shirt (*with white camisole*) bearing the school insignia
- White or navy banded bottom shirt with the school insignia. Shirts without a band must be tucked in.
- Navy dri-fit or fem-fit polo style shirt with the school insignia. Must be tucked in.
- Khaki 3-pleat skort (#907), khaki or houndstooth front wrap skort (#23), or houndstooth skirt (#34)
- Khaki pants (*pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance*) must be belted. Skinny fit or denim pants are not allowed.
- Navy jumper (only to be worn with white "Peter Pan" blouse or Mass day shirt)
- White "Peter Pan" blouse (only to be worn under the navy jumper option)
- Navy blazer is required for Mass, field trips and all special events

Boys' uniform options:

- Light blue oxford shirt (*long or short sleeved*) bearing the school insignia
- White or navy short or long sleeved knit polo or dri-fit shirt bearing the school

insignia. Must be tucked in.

- Khaki pants (*pleated or flat front/poly cotton or performance*) must be belted. Skinny fit or denim pants are not allowed.
- Shorts are not part of the regular school uniform.

Mass day uniform:

- **Boys:** Light blue short or long sleeved oxford shirt with striped uniform tie or bow tie, khaki uniform pants, and navy blazer. Boys are encouraged to purchase a non-clip-on necktie or bowtie and will have the opportunity to learn how to tie it properly with support from faculty.
- **Girls:** White $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeved blouse or white oxford cloth shirt (*with white camisole*), khaki or navy houndstooth uniform bottoms and navy blazer.
- **Mass Day Shoes** must be more formal than traditional athletic shoes and follow the color scheme of solid black, white, gray, brown, buck, royal or navy in color. No tennis shoes are acceptable or show any semblance of an athletic shoe sole. No fleece lined slipper type shoes.
- The new Navy Blue jumper may not be worn to Mass.
- Additional clothing cannot be worn under or over the blazer.

Physical Education (PE) uniforms can be purchased from our official school uniform vendor. Approved school outerwear may be worn as weather permits.

Field trip uniform: The complete Mass day uniform is the field trip uniform, unless otherwise communicated.

Picture Day Dress Code: The complete Mass day uniform will be worn for school pictures.

Dress Down Days for Middle and High*: Specifics or changes in the dress-down dress code will be posted in the hall prior to the event. On dress down days, students may wear:

- Shoes: there is no relaxed dress code
- No pajamas, leggings, or tights may be worn.
- Loose athletic long pants may be worn
- Shorts for girls or boys should not be shorter than fingertip length
- Shirts should cover the whole torso, from neck to waist and over the entire shoulder
- Any words or depictions on shirts should be positive, appropriate, and apolitical
- Clothing should be in good repair – no holes or rips.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- Boys may not wear earrings and must be clean shaven (see 6.3 for accommodation policy)

*Students that violate the policy can lose the opportunity to participate in the school day until a parent brings them a change of clothes.

As part of our commitment to fostering a respectful, professional, and disciplined school environment, male students are expected to be clean-shaven while on campus and during

school-sponsored events. This standard supports uniformity and aligns with our school's code of appearance (see 6.3 for accommodation policy).

4.8 DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

4.8.1 K3/K4 Drop-off and Pick-up (8:00 AM- 3:15 PM)

All K3/K4 students must be signed in and out daily. Parents must come inside to sign-in their student and must come in to sign-out their student. Early dismissal time for K3/K4 students is 12:00 PM.

4.8.2 Elementary School (8:00 AM- 3:15 PM)

The bell rings at 8:00 AM, and all students arriving after that time will be marked tardy. School is in session from 8:00 AM until 3:15 PM each day. Tutorials occur before or after school and are scheduled by individual teachers. Students may be dropped off at the elementary campuses as early as 7:15 AM.. Students must be picked up by 3:35 PM each day, or late pick up fees will be assessed. The fee for a late pick up (per family/per day and payable upon late pick-up) will be 1-10 minutes late \$5.00, 11-30 minutes late \$25.00, and 31-60 minutes late \$50.00. After the 3rd late pick up (per semester), the student MUST be registered with the YMCA Goodtimes Program or after school care program.

4.8.3 Middle School

Drop-off: Students may be dropped off at the Middle School at 7:20 AM. At 7:45 AM, all students will be allowed to go to their lockers and report to their 1st period class. There is no supervision before 7:20 AM.

Pick-up: (Monday - Friday / 7:50 AM – 3:03 PM) - Students must be picked up by 3:20 PM each day, or late pick up fees will be assessed. The fee for a late pick up will be billed by the business office will be 1-10 minutes late \$5.00, 11-30 minutes late \$25.00, and 31-60 minutes late \$50.00.

After the 3rd late pick up (per semester), the student must be registered with the YMCA Goodtimes Program. Students should be dropped off and picked up at the middle school only.

Early dismissal for middle school is 12:30PM.

Afternoon tutorials: Tutorials are held Monday through Thursday from 3:05-3:35 PM. Parents must sign their child up ahead of time before attending daily sessions. Students should go directly to tutorials after school is dismissed. Tutorial seats per teacher will cap off at 10; therefore, parents cannot sign up their child for multiple days without the teacher's approval.

4.8.4 High School

Drop-off: (Monday - Friday / 7:50 AM – 3:03 PM) Students will be supervised beginning at 7:20 AM and should not arrive prior to that time. All students must be off campus by 3:40 PM. Early dismissal time for High School students is 12:30 PM, excluding exam days.

Afternoon tutorials: Tutorials are held daily from 3:05-3:35 PM.

MCPS does not authorize or allow students to leave and return to campus without prior parent permission. This includes after school trips on foot or in vehicles to obtain food or for various other reasons.

4.9 DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Any student who possesses, uses, distributes, or has evidence of the effects of using illicit drugs or alcohol is liable for expulsion and may be reported to the police.

DRUG TESTING (7th-12th grade only):

1. Background: Beginning in October of 2002, the High School Council began a study of drug testing as a means of preventing drug abuse by our students. The Council has concluded that mandatory random drug testing may be used as our means to help prevent drug use among our students. This policy went into effect in 2004 for grades 9-12, and in the summer of 2007, the MCPS Board voted to extend the testing to our Middle School students.

2. Scope: A percentage of students, selected at random, will be tested at various times throughout the school year. The testing method used has a several month period for detection. This means that illegal drug use in the summer will most likely result in a positive test result at the commencement of the program in the fall. Baseline samples may be taken at the president's discretion.

3. Testing Method: Hair analysis has been selected as the method of testing. All samples will be sent to *Omega Laboratories*, a state-of-the art advanced specimen testing laboratory offering Hair Drug Testing with FDA cleared screening tests, industry leading turnaround times, advanced technology and reporting solutions, forensic testing accredited to the ISO-IEC 17025 Standards.

4. Hair Procedures:

- The student's school ID number will be used in selection for testing. A trained member from *Drug Free Schools* will perform the hair collections using established chain-of-custody procedures. A Montgomery Catholic designee and school administrator will be the only person's privy to those selected for testing.
- A sample of approximately 100 strands, one inch, in length, is cosmetically cut near the crown of the student's scalp. Students with insufficient head hair will have body hair collected, such as arm, leg, or underarm hair. The sample will be sealed by the designated collector and initialed by the tested student under full chain-of-custody procedures to ensure the correct identification of the hair sample and results. The sample will be shipped to the *Omega Laboratories*. *Omega Laboratories will process results to Drug Free School.*
- Omega's 5-panel test can detect cocaine, marijuana, opiates (*codeine, morphine and 9-acetylmorphine*), amphetamines (*amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDMA, MDA*) and phencyclidine (*PCP*). Omega's extended Opiates panel adds oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone. Hair testing provides quantifiable results across a 90-day standard testing timeframe.
- Results will be confidentially returned to the school typically within two to three days. Appropriate action will be taken if the student deliberately tries to avoid this collection process. All positive results are confirmed using a highly reliable confirmation technology called Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry. This prevents false positives resulting from other drugs or substances that have been ingested. However, if a student who tests positive wishes to contest the result, he or she may do so within ten (10) days. He or she has this option with any hair test; however, the re-test will be at his/her own expense.

5. Confidentiality and Dissemination of Results: The student school ID number identifies all hair samples and results.

- *Omega Laboratories* will confidentially provide test results of students to the administrators. All test results of students will remain strictly confidential between the student, the parent/guardian, and the administration.
- The principal will notify the student's parents/guardians of a positive test result.
- No test results of the students will be disclosed to any person or agency without signed consent by their parent/guardian.

6. Consequences of Positive Test Results:

- School personnel will not initiate criminal charges or other legal action against the student based solely on a positive drug test.
- After the first positive test result, the following provisions apply:
 - a. The School requires a conference between the student, the parents/guardians of a student testing positive, and the principal.
 - b. The School will require that any student who tests positive will obtain a treatment plan through a counselor or community agency recommended by the School. This treatment plan shall be provided to the principal and counselor.
 - c. The principal may require the student to enter a drug treatment program as a condition of his or her remaining at MCPS.
 - d. All costs for required counseling and treatment are the responsibility of the parents/guardians.
 - e. Participation in extra-curricular activities will be subject to review. All decisions regarding such participation will rest solely with the principal.
 - f. Failure to comply with the above provisions will result in immediate dismissal of the student, and no tuition refund will be given.
 - g. Alternate procedures for seniors requiring follow up testing, which fall within 90 days of graduation, will be implemented at the parent's expense.
- Any student who tests positive a second time during his/her enrollment at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School in grade 7-12 will be dismissed, and no tuition refund will be given.
- Any student who has tested positive on a test administered in the random drug testing program remains subject to all other disciplinary policies and procedures of the School as listed in the Student Handbook, including provisions of being under the influence of drugs or in possession of drug paraphernalia or alcohol on campus or at school sponsored events. Violation of these provisions of the Student Handbook will continue to be dealt with as very serious offenses subject to immediate expulsion and referral to legal authorities.

7. Consent: By execution of the electronic signature portion of the annual family bio update, students and parents/guardians agree that:

- Students and their parents/guardians understand the purpose and reason of the universal and random drug testing and give their consent thereto.
- Students and their parents/guardians will release and hold harmless Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, its Councils, Board, employees, the Archdiocese of Mobile, agents and representatives, and any professional agency or business the School deems necessary to carry out this policy, from any liability, claims or damages with respect to the administration of this Drug Testing Program, including, but not limited to, any claims arising out of alleged negligence on the part of such parties.
- Any student refusing to submit to drug testing, including the random test or any follow-up test as deemed necessary by the principal, shall be subject to

dismissal.

4.10 FACULTY WORKROOM AND RESTROOMS

The use of the faculty room, faculty copy room, and faculty restrooms are reserved for faculty members, guests, and school personnel only. Parent volunteers are asked to refrain from bringing children into the faculty workroom. The faculty encourages students to seek them out when they need help, but, if possible, they should avoid coming to the faculty room during breaks and lunch except in the case of an emergency.

4.11 FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to students’ education records. These rights are:

- a. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- b. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education record that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal (or appropriate official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student on the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- c. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

d. The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-5901

4.12 FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. Parents have an ethical responsibility to remain current with all tuition obligations and fees.
2. When checks or automatic withdrawals do not clear the bank, parents will be notified, assessed a fee and have one week upon notification to bring in cash, a cashier's check, or money order as a means to remedy the bounced check.
3. An account is no longer in good standing when it becomes 30 days past due. It is a family's responsibility to contact the business office and establish a plan for payment.
4. When an account is no longer in good standing, the following consequences will occur:
 - a. No transcripts or official records will be released nor will students be allowed to register for summer school. Access to Powerschool will be suspended.
 - b. Students will not be allowed to participate in overnight field trips including but not limited to retreats, Camp McDowell, Camp Chandler, Washington DC, March for Life, Guatemala and other non-academic extracurricular activities that carry a fee.
 - c. Students may not be allowed to try-out for a team sport or organized group, or participate in practice or competitions until financial obligations to the school are current or satisfactory arrangements have been made.
4. If a particular month brings an unusual hardship on a family, parents have an obligation to contact the president's office in a pro-active fashion. The school reserves the right to grant temporary relief to that family based on that family's financial history with the school.
5. The school awards financial aid based on need. Current MCPS families wishing to apply for financial aid must do so by the deadline. For further information, go to <http://www.montgomerycatholic.org>. Grades, disciplinary records and family volunteer time will be taken into consideration in the awarding of financial assistance.
6. Registration fees for next school year, along with a completed tuition contract are due in February to hold a spot for that student (contingent on the student successfully completing the year.) Those who do not pay registration fees on time risk forfeiting their spot for the next year. Registration fees are nonrefundable.
7. Report cards and transcripts will not be released to families for present, former, or graduate students who are delinquent with their school accounts or have unfulfilled contract obligations. The Parent Portal will be turned off and recurring delinquency is grounds for removal from school.
8. Because our school budget is based on the projected number of students, the following are non-refundable: application fee, registration fee, and capital assessment fee. Per the signed Tuition Contract, the tuition balance is payable in full upon early withdrawal. Withdrawal of a registered student prior to July 15 will require payment of one-half of the annual tuition.
9. A tuition refund plan is available for the school year. The premium must be paid by early September. Details available from the business office.

4.13 FUNDRAISING AND GIFT SOLICITATIONS

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory fundraises annually to support the school's in the classroom,

band, athletics, student clubs and groups, and extra-curriculars. All fundraising to benefit MCPS or in the name of any MCPS school program must be approved by School administration through the Development Office. Fundraising may not be done without prior approval.

For any questions about fundraising, please contact the Development Office.

Montgomery Catholic encourages each family to participate in school-wide fundraising efforts to support and strengthen the mission of the school.

4.14 HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCE (Holy Thursday – Easter Sunday)

All extra-curricular activities which include athletic games and practices, school clubs/organizations, competitions or meetings are prohibited beginning the morning of Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday.

4.15 IMMUNIZATIONS and MEDICATIONS

Immunizations: All students enrolled in the Archdiocese of Mobile's PreK-12 Catholic schools, daycare centers and Mother's Day Out programs will be required to be immunized. Students must supply the school with evidence of immunization from the Alabama Department of Health. Immunizations must be current with age requirements. Archdiocesan Policy – August 2023

Medications: Students required to receive prescription medications during the school day must do so as follows:

1. All medication should be brought to the office by the parent/guardian. This medication must be kept in the front office; students are not allowed to carry it around. Exceptions can be granted only by the authority of the principal. (for example, rescue inhalers and EpiPens®)
 2. Parents must complete and sign an authorization form in the school office giving their child permission to take this medication.
 3. Only medication prescribed by a doctor is allowed to be taken as evidenced by the prescription bottle. (Please do not send in medication in an unmarked container!) This prescription bottle must contain the student's name, the name of medication, and directions for correct dosage and usage.
 4. If an over the counter drug is to be used, the doctor must prescribe the medication, and this prescription must legibly describe the elements in #3 above.
 5. In the case of doctor prescribed samples, all prescription instructions in #3 above must accompany the medication.
 6. In general, permission to take Tylenol and other over the counter drugs will not be honored
- *Please see attached medication permission form in the forms' area.

4.16 LUNCH TIME, BREAK, and FOOD AND DRINK

4.16.1 Lunch Time

- Students may not leave the school grounds during lunch and must remain within designated areas as dictated by each campus. Students and parents must either order from the school menu or bring lunch from home. Carbonated drinks are not allowed for Elementary students.
- Due to frequent interruptions in the office, no lunches can be delivered to the office or student during school hours. Elementary students without a lunch will be provided a nutritious snack type food/drink, and the parents will be charged.
- Middle and High School students may purchase food or drink from the cafeteria.
- **Lunch ordering Process:** Lunches will be ordered online for all students K3-12. Lunch options will be greater and the price is determined by the a la cart selection.
- Through a secured website, you can quickly place your lunch order from your smartphone, tablet or computer in a few easy steps highlighted below. The deadline to order is noon on the previous day. Lunch can be ordered up to one month in advance. No refunds or lunch credits are available; however, lunch orders may be canceled by noon the day before the order is to be delivered. If your child is absent and you have ordered lunch, your student's lunch will be available for pick-up at noon at the elementary and middle school and at 12:30 at the high school.
- Menu choices can change regularly so that you have a variety of selections, and we encourage you to look at the options we provide on a regular basis as you order with us.
- To request an account:
 1. Go to www.welunchit.com and click (Register)
 2. You will then receive an email with your username, password, and the four-digit PIN number for when ordering and picking up your order.
- **How to Place a Lunch Order:**
 1. Go to www.welunchit.com
 2. Login with your email address and password.
 3. Click on the "Name tab" and select who you are ordering for.
 4. Click "Order Now" for the day you desire to have us provide lunch for you.
 5. Enter the quantity of the preferred food item(s).
 6. Press "Add to Cart".
 7. Proceed to the check out by pressing "Pay Now".
- Please note: Lunch orders are created individually. Simply repeat steps 3 thru 7 for each person you are ordering for. We look forward to serving you and are available and here should you have questions during your ordering process with us.
See the school's website for the ordering links.

4.16.2 Break

The middle and high school offers a 10 minute break on most days. Food can be brought from home or purchased in the break line

4.16.3 Food and Drink

There should be no food or drinks in the classrooms, hallways, or any MCPS building. Eating and drinking should be confined to the cafeteria and outside, except in special circumstances.

4.17 LOCKERS

Student lockers will be assigned in certain grades. The lockers are in good condition and will be assigned to the students during registration for Middle/High School students or during the first week of school for Elementary students. The student will be responsible for the condition of the locker and the return of the lock if issued. Lockers can be inspected at any time at the discretion of the president, principal, or administrative designee.

4.18 PARKING AND THE PARKING LOT:

For safety reasons, please keep your speed at, or below, 10 mph and refrain from using your cell phone while driving on any MCPS campus. Please follow the instructions of the parking lot monitors.

High School:

1. Students are to park only in the parking lots designated for student parking located to the left of the school and at the Ida Bell Young parking lot. Students may not park in faculty or visitor spaces or the front of the school.
2. Students must exit their vehicle immediately upon arrival. They must exit the school premises immediately following dismissal. No loitering or lingering in cars or the parking lot will be permitted.
3. Students are NOT to block the dumpster. Also, students may not park in any handicapped space (without proper identification) or park on the grass.
4. All students' vehicles must be registered through the office. Vehicle registration will take place before school starts, and students will be notified of the specific date they are to register their vehicles. Students will need to have their car registration and driver's license with them when they register their vehicle. Students will receive a parking hang tag to visibly place in their vehicle. \$10.00 will be collected for each hangtag. If a student turns 16 during the school year and will be driving to school, he or she must register that vehicle in the office at that time.
5. Specific student parking will be assigned at the beginning of each school year with a corresponding hang-tag and parking place number.
6. MCPS assumes no responsibility for vehicle damage or theft occurring in the parking lot. Owners park at their own risk.
7. High School students are not permitted to park in the Middle School parking area at anytime during the school year.

4.19 PARENT COOPERATION

4.19.1 Partnership With the School

It is an expectation of enrollment at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School that the parents/guardians of students shall conform themselves to standards of conduct that are consistent with the Christian principles of the school, as determined by the school in its discretion. Students and parents/guardians may respectfully express their concerns about the school operation and its personnel. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, rumor driven, disruptive, threatening, hostile, or divisive. It is not acceptable to post negative comments about our school and/or its employees on social media. These expectations for

students and parents/guardians include, but are not limited to, all school-sponsored programs and events (e.g. extended care, athletics, field trips, etc.)

The school and the parents are partners in the education of their children. If, in the opinion of the school administration, that partnership is no longer viable, the school reserves the right to require the parent to withdraw the student from the school.

4.19.2 Parent Volunteerism

As a Catholic school, we encourage all parents and guardians to become part of our MCPS community through a spirit of volunteerism. There are a plethora of opportunities throughout the year for families to actively participate in the school's mission and life. All families are expected to give 40 service hours to the school. You are to sign in at the particular volunteer venue to record your time.

4.20 RESPECT FOR OTHERS: THREATS OF VIOLENCE POLICY, BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND HAZING

Threats of Violence (Archdiocese of Mobile Revised 2019)

Students who make threats either verbally, via social media or physically may be suspended, removed from extra-curricular activities, asked to withdraw or be expelled, as determined by the administration. In addition, local law enforcement may be notified. In some cases, a student may be required to have a threat assessment from a qualified mental health professional. If this occurs, written documentation is required stating that it is safe for the student to return to school.

Archdiocese of Mobile (Revised October 2015)

Respect for the dignity and worth of each individual is a basic tenet of the Catholic faith. Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School (MCPS) is dedicated to the Christian principle that all people are created in the image of God and therefore must be treated with dignity and respect. It is the policy of MCPS to provide all students a learning environment and all employees a workplace that is free from all forms of bullying.

MCPS will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student or staff member. A student, staff member, teacher, parent, volunteer, coach or substitute teacher shall not intimidate or harass another person through words or actions. This policy prohibits any unwelcome physical, social, electronic, sexual, verbal or written conduct from one person/persons towards another person. Violation of this policy will be cause for disciplinary action.

Definition: *Bullying, harassment, or intimidation means intentional unwanted, aggressive behavior with an imbalance of power, it may include verbal, physical, written or electronic conduct/communication that is **repeated**.*

Bullying may include but not be limited to physical (hitting, pushing, shoving), verbal (teasing, threatening, coercing, calling derogatory names, sharing derogatory videos/photos, in person, through written form, or through social media), or relational (spreading rumors, or ostracizing) behaviors.

Scope: *This policy prohibits bullying that occurs on school premises, on any bus or vehicle as part of any school activity, or during any school function, extracurricular activity or other school-sponsored event or activity.*

Reporting Breach of Policy: *Students, teachers and parents have the duty to report any bullying to the school administration immediately. If a student experiences, or parent or other student witnesses any incident of bullying, the incident must be promptly reported to the school administrator. The administration will provide the student/parent with the Bullying Report Form, which must be completed, dated, and signed by the reporting party in order to assist the school in its investigation.*

Report forms (found on page 47) will be retained at school until the students involved leave the school.

Disciplinary Action: *Any student found to have violated this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include: temporary removal from the classroom, loss of privileges, detention, counseling, parent conference, suspension, expulsion and/or notification to appropriate authorities. The disciplinary action may be unique to the individual incident and may vary in method and severity based upon the principal's discretion.*

False reports or accusations of bullying also constitute a violation of this policy and may subject the offending party to appropriate disciplinary action.

Education: *In order to ensure that a safe, healthy, caring, respectful learning environment exists for all students at MCPS, educating students, teachers, and parents about the policy must take place annually. Therefore, MCPS will file an annual Bully Education Plan with the Department of Catholic Education by September 15 of each school year. The plan will include educational components for students, teachers and parents.*

Hazing

No student, parent, or employee of the Archdiocesan Catholic School System shall be subjected to any type of harassment/hazing. Our school system is dedicated to the Christian principle that all people are created in the image of God and, therefore, must be treated with dignity and respect. Respect for others is shown through language, behavior, and personal interaction. Therefore, any type of demeaning behavior involving verbal, physical, visual, or sexual affronts will not be tolerated.

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a student organization that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school is considered Hazing.

Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or Montgomery Catholic policies or regulations is considered hazing. Hazing in any form will not be tolerated at Montgomery Catholic and will result in disciplinary action.

4.21 RESTROOMS

There are ample breaks during the school day for our students to use school restrooms. Generally speaking, students are not allowed to leave class for personal reasons. As a matter of common practice, students needing to leave during class time MAY be assigned some consequence to

discourage this behavior. Students may not take cell phones or other electronic devices to the restroom.

4.22 SEARCH POLICY

The school, operating in loco parentis (in place of parents), reserves the right to inspect and search lockers, book bags, and the personal property of students. The administrators of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School are co-tenants of lockers and desks, including vehicles on school property, and reserve the right to search them at any time without notice. When a specific search is conducted, at least two school officials will be present.

4.23 SEVERE WEATHER

In the case of severe weather, MCPS will notify ALL parents via our School Messenger alert system and our Montgomery Catholic app. An automated message will be sent to your home and cell phone numbers, as well as to your montgomerycatholic.org email address. Parents should listen to local radio and TV stations as well concerning the opening and closing of MCPS campuses. During inclement weather, all students are moved to a safe area and remain there until the warning is lifted. We are able to closely monitor the weather through the weather radio and computers. Please do not come to check your child out during a tornado warning because it jeopardizes your child's safety and yours, as well as the safety of the school personnel, and it takes our attention away from our responsibility of attending to the safety of all of our students. If you choose to check out your student(s) during a tornado warning, you must come into the school to sign out ONLY your child or children during a warning.

4.24 SOCIAL MEDIA AND BLOGGING

Archdiocese of Mobile Policy for Electronic Communication with Minors Effective April 1, 2011 (Revised April 21, 2016)

All who serve the mission of the Catholic Church within the ministries of the Archdiocese of Mobile must comply with this "Policy for Electronic Communication with Minors" and with the "Child Protection Policy" issued by the Archdiocese. In case of conflict between the two policies, the "Child Protection Policy" shall govern. As dictated in the Child Protection Policy, a minor is an individual who is 18 years of age or younger.

This policy covers all forms of electronic communication, including but not limited to: social media platforms, blogs, websites, phones and related devices, email, texting, video conferencing and/or streaming, etc.

When communicating electronically with minors:

- *The pastor, principal or supervisor (in non-parish or school entities) must approve of all methods of communication utilized for communication with minors. The primary purpose of any approved platform is for providing information and communication related to a ministry or event and not for socialization or other personal interaction.*

- *Parents must be notified of all methods of communication that are used in each particular ministry and must be granted access to participate in such communications.*
- *When communicating in mass, another adult within the ministry must be included in the recipient list. The originator and the other adult cannot be related.*
- *No one-on-one communication between an adult and a minor can take place. In the case where a minor contacts an adult and a response is necessary, the adult must include another unrelated adult within the ministry on the response.*
- *Acceptable delivery time span for all forms of electronic communication is 6:30am to 9pm. Communication outside of these acceptable delivery hours may be used only in emergency situations or to communicate time sensitive information related to the ministry or event.*
- *Avoid any communication which might be construed as having sexual overtones. Do not reply to any such communication received from minors; notify your pastor/principal/supervisor immediately, make and keep a copy of the inappropriate communication, and share the copy of the inappropriate communication with your supervisor within 24 hours.*
- *Communication from minors which conveys the potential of harm to themselves or others can be attended to immediately, regardless of the hour. Notify your pastor/principal/supervisor immediately.*
- *Counseling is not appropriate for electronic communication.*

Policies specific to platform types:

Via Social Media and other web-based platforms:

- *All interactions must be through ministry accounts, never personal accounts.*
- *Accounts must be monitored by at least two adults of the organization, one of which must be an employee of the parish, school, ministry or archdiocese. Names of sites used, usernames and passwords/codes for access to the site must be given to the pastor, principal or supervisor and/or their designate.*
- *Identifying information and/or photo or video depiction of minors web-based platforms may only be used with parental permission.*
- *Age guidelines established by the web-based platform must be followed.*
- *Platforms which allow content to “disappear” are not permitted.*
- *Care must be exercised when utilizing platforms which allow for streaming video in real time, with respect to privacy issues and possible conflicts with Catholic belief and values.*

Via phones and related devices:

Parents of students 8th grade and younger must give prior written permission for their children to be included in group ministry communication.

In regards to personal social media accounts:

If an employee, cleric or volunteer identifies himself/herself with a ministry of the Archdiocese, the following must be reasonably prominent:

- *“The views expressed on this website are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Archdiocese of Mobile and all its entities.”*
- *Any information that causes embarrassment to the Archdiocese and all its entities must be avoided.*
- *Archdiocesan, parish and school trademarks or logos may not be used as personally identifying features.*
- *Employees or volunteers of the Archdiocese and its entities may not initiate or respond to personal social media*

requests involving minors where no relationship outside of the ministry had been previously established.

- Any information on their Personal Social Media website that causes embarrassment to the Archdiocese must be avoided. Archdiocesan trademarks or logos may not be used on personal websites.

Student and parent guidance:

Students and parents should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, and/or Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School. This includes any activities conducted online, before, during, or after school hours.

- Potential employers, colleges and universities, and scholarship committees now search these sites to screen candidates and applications. Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate on social networking web sites:
- Before participating in any online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online - even if you limit access to your site.
- You should not post information, photos, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, or Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School.
- You are personally liable for any copyright violations committed, such as posting photographs, audio, or video that is not your personal property. This includes the use of any logos pertaining to Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School.
- You are personally liable for any violations of another student's privacy rights, especially those that fall under federal privacy laws (*FERPA or HIPPA*) or that violate Montgomery Catholic handbook guidelines.
- You should not post your home address, local address, social security number, phone numbers, birthday, or other personal information such as your whereabouts or your plans. You could be opening up yourself to predators.
- The malicious use of online social networks such as derogatory comments about any member of the Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School (*community, parents, faculty, staff, administration, or extended family*) demeaning statements about or threats to any third party, and incriminating photos or statements depicting hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, illegal drug use, or other inappropriate behavior will be subject to disciplinary action by the president, principal, or a member of the administrative team if they gain knowledge of such violations.
- Sanctions may include verbal or written notification requiring the unacceptable content be removed, loss of tuition assistance, temporary suspension and/or dismissal from the school, or other punishments as seen fit by the administrative staff at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School.

4.25 STUDENT CONDUCT

Any student enrolled at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, will respect Catholic teachings concerning human sexuality and Faith. The student will conduct him/herself in accord with his/her sex at birth, at all times, both on campus and when representing the school at off campus events.

4.26 STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Students are representatives of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School and are expected to exhibit behaviors in accordance with our beliefs. A student who engages in conduct at any time which negatively affects the culture, climate, and reputation of the school, could lead to school imposed consequences.

Disciplinary plans will be presented at parent orientation. A copy is available upon request. The administration reserves the right to deviate from the following prescribed disciplinary plan for just cause.

4.26.1 Elementary

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS): PBIS is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health by using three rules: be safe, be respectful, and be responsible. Students are taught these rules and what the expected behaviors look like in every aspect of the school day. There is a focus on modeling and practicing these behaviors. Students can earn rewards when they are caught demonstrating the desired behaviors. Any behaviors that need correcting can be handled in the classroom by the classroom teachers. If repeated or more serious issues arise in the classroom, students will receive an office referral, and will meet with the principal. Consequences such as detention or ISS may occur and the parents will be notified by either the principal or the teacher.

4.26.2 Middle and High School

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, like any institution, must be structured so that our values are reflected in the daily behavior and operations of the school. As a learning institution, MCPS has established a progressive discipline system as a teaching tool that allows students to make minor mistakes and correct their actions. When a student's behavior violates the rules or values of the school, consequences will be assessed.

Consequences may include but are not limited to:

Parent Phone Call or Conference

Teacher Led Detention

Before or After School Detention

Class Suspension

In School Suspension

Saturday Detention

Out of School Suspension*

Expulsion

*Suspensions: For all suspensions, the student may not participate in any extra-curricular activity/practice that day and will receive a “o” for participation grade in each class they miss. All missed assignments/tests must be made up on the day the student returns to school. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule make-up work with the teacher.

Additional Unacceptable Behaviors and Dispositions

In addition to minor infractions such as class disruption, dress code violations, and attendance, the following behaviors are considered unacceptable and will be addressed by administration.

Alcohol/Tobacco Products: The possession, use, distribution of, or pictorial display of alcohol, tobacco, and nicotine in any form, including vaping, and possession of any paraphernalia, is prohibited on or off campus and/or under jurisdiction of MCPS, and disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the administration.

Defacement of School Property and Vandalism: Defacement, theft, or vandalism of school property violates the rights of our entire school community. The administration will handle any instances of vandalizing, damaging, or losing school property. Students involved in these serious acts of behavior will be subject to disciplinary actions which may include expulsion, financial restitution, suspension, or other actions as deemed necessary by the administration. The school will fully cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

Displays of Affection: The school administration understands that dating and social relations occur among students who attend MCPS. However, overt public displays of affection cannot be tolerated because they detract from the cohesiveness of the learning environment and can make other people uncomfortable. Instances of inappropriate public affection will be discussed with the students involved and addressed by the administration, if necessary.

Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices: see 4.27.1 for the policy and violation disposition.

Disciplinary Saturday Detention: A four-hour Saturday detention has been created as an alternative to out-of-school suspension. Students may be assigned Saturday detention for repeated minor administrative referrals as well as for a single major administrative referral. Detention is scheduled no more than once in any single month. Students who violate detention rules or are a discipline problem during Saturday detention will be asked to leave and will be suspended; these students may no longer be eligible for Saturday detention.

Saturday detention is scheduled by the administration and late students will not be admitted. Students are to wear work clothes and, if possible, bring work gloves. Students will either do grounds-keeping or cleaning in the building.

Inappropriate off-campus behavior may result in disciplinary action by the administration.

4.27 TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

4.27.1 Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Overview

We understand that parents want their children to own cell phones as a means of keeping in touch in case of emergencies. Due to the potential abuses of technology, which include but are not limited to smart watches and cell phones, and the distraction that each causes to the instructional process, all personal electronic devices with the exception of calculators and electronic readers (*for instructional purposes only*) are not permitted to be used, seen, or heard when entering the building in the morning until the dismissal bell, or while attending tutorials. Headphones or earbuds are not allowed when entering the building in the morning until the dismissal bell, or while attending tutorials. The only exception for use of headphones or earbuds would be the rare instructional need of a teacher for students to individually view media with sound.

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices that are brought on campus.

If an electronic device of any kind is brought to school, it must remain turned off and inside the child's backpack. Montgomery Catholic Preparatory is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices that are brought on campus.

Recording of interactions in the classroom without permission of the principal or a teacher is not allowed, unless it is a resource accommodation.

Smart watches and wrist-worn devices are not permitted at the elementary campuses.

Students may wear these devices in middle and high school, however, they will be required to remove these devices during all in-class assessments or at the teachers' discretion. The use of these devices as a form of communication is prohibited. Please understand that the ability of these devices to send and receive messages makes them a major and viable threat to the integrity of the classroom learning environment.

Cell phones may not be used to take pictures, videos, for playing games, texting, accessing Internet or email, gambling, or making purchases of any kind. No harassment or threatening of individuals via the cell phone is permitted.

Sexting, a combination of the words "sex" and "texting", is the slang term for the use of a cell phone or other similar electronic device to distribute pictures or video of sexually explicit images. It can also refer to text messages of a sexually-charged nature. Sexting includes sending, forwarding, displaying, retaining, storing or posting sexually explicit, lewd, indecent or pornographic photographs, images or messages by or on a cell phone, computer, or other electronic means. All sexting is punishable under State and/or Federal law and is subject to disciplinary action by the administration.

Violation of Cell Phone and Electronic Device Rules

If seen, used, or heard during normal school hours, including tutorials the item will be confiscated, turned in to the office, and the following rules apply:

- **First Offense:** the student can retrieve the item from the office for a \$10.00 donation to the Burse Club and the parent will be notified by email.
- **Second Offense:** the student can retrieve the item from the office for a \$25.00 donation to the Burse Club and the student will serve the next administrative

- detention.
- **Third Offense:** only the parent can retrieve the item from the office for a \$50.00 fee, and the student will serve the next Saturday Detention. Failure to report to Saturday Detention will result in further disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the administration.

4.27.2 School Related Technology

Overview

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School is committed to student use of technology as a tool to expand learning opportunities and conduct scholarly research. The use of technology facilitates global collaboration--a vital skill for our 21st Century learners. This "Technology Expectations and Acceptable Use Policy" is designed to give students and their families clear and concise guidelines regarding the appropriate use of technological devices, systems, and methods used for academic and social interaction that affect the school and school environment. Students and teachers at MCPS utilize laptop computers on a wireless network. Campus computers and the interactive network are strictly for educational use consistent with the educational goals of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School. Along with the opportunity this provides comes responsibility. The underlying premise of this policy is that all members of the MCPS community must uphold the values of honesty and integrity. The proper use of technology reflects the strength of one's character as does one's behavior. We expect our students to exercise good judgment and to utilize technology with integrity. All information created, sent, or received via the MCPS email system, network, Internet, Intranet, including all email messages and electronic files, is the property of MCPS. When deemed necessary, MCPS reserves the right to disclose text or images to law enforcement agencies or third parties without the student's consent.

Laptop Acceptable Use Policy and Guidelines

- Laptops must be carried and transported appropriately on campus. They should be carried in their cases at all times. Otherwise, they should be closed and carefully carried. Failure to close the lid of a laptop before transporting it could exacerbate damage and result in permanent loss of data. Note: Students are entirely responsible for backing up their own data. Lost or damaged data is not the responsibility of the school. All school-issued laptops must be in the school-issued laptop case.
- No food or beverages should be in the vicinity of the laptops. Laptops may not be used in the cafeteria during lunch.
- Laptops should be handled with respect and care. Inappropriate treatment of school laptops is not acceptable.
- Students are not allowed to create any administrative passwords on their laptops.
- When not in the care of the student, laptops must be locked in the student's locker.
- Laptops not in the care of the student will be collected and charged a \$25 fee, or the student can serve three administrative detentions to retrieve the laptop.

Technology Protocols, Expectations, and Acceptable Use Internet and Network

- **Acceptable Use** – Access to the MCPS internet must be for the purpose of education or research and must be consistent with the educational objectives of the school.

- **Privileges** – The use of the MCPS internet is a privilege not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The school will make all decisions whether or not a user has violated this policy and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.
- **Unacceptable Use** – Students are responsible for their actions and activities involving the use of the network. A detailed explanation is provided in the section below, but some examples of unacceptable uses are:
 - Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation
 - Downloading of software without authorization by the supervisor (teacher) regardless of whether it is copyrighted or found “virus free”
 - Downloading copyrighted materials for other than personal use
 - Using the network for private financial or commercial gain
 - Using resources in a wasteful manner, such as network or computer file space
 - Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities, including protected school information
 - Invading the privacy of individuals
 - Using another user’s account or password
 - Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent
 - Posting anonymous messages
 - Using the network for commercial or private advertising
 - Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, saving, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, ethnically offensive, harassing, or illegal material
 - Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked
 - Plagiarism of any type
 - Circumventing or attempting to circumvent the security, procedures, or policies governing MCPS technology and usage
 - Bitcoin Mining / Digital Currency Mining
- **Network Etiquette** – Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Being polite. Students should not be abusive in their messages to others.
 - Using appropriate language. Students should not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
 - Protecting private information. Students should not use their full name, personal address or telephone numbers, nor those of other students. (First name is acceptable.)
 - Understanding that email and other communication may not be kept private. Email and IM’s leave written texts that the receiver may share with other people. Students should not share confidential information with each other using these means.
 - Including your name and school at the bottom of email but never giving out home address or cell phone number.
 - Using all capitals only to highlight a word. If you use them for an entire message, people will think you are shouting.
- **Security** – Network security is a high priority. Students should keep their accounts and passwords confidential. They may not use another individual’s account. Attempts to

log-on to someone else's account or as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

- **Vandalism** – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- **Telephone and Credit Card Charges** – MCPS assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges for fees, including credit card charges, telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs. Users should be cautious of any “free” offers. There is usually a hidden charge.
- **Viruses** – Students are not allowed to bring in their own external hard drives or flash drives to use on the MCPS system without explicit permission. Users are responsible for checking their own drives and downloaded materials for possible viruses. MCPS assumes no responsibility for any damages caused by viruses which may or may not have been acquired on school computers. Students may be charged a fee to cleanse the computer. See detailed information below.
- **Inspection** – The equipment and access to the internet remains the property and responsibility of MCPS which offers it to students for their convenience and educational use. The district reserves the right to limit use or inspect the contents of the files. All users are advised that they have no expectation of privacy in the information contained in school owned or leased machines.
- **Filters** – In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) of December 2000, MCPS uses Internet filtering to restrict access to inappropriate websites which contain visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and harmful to minors. Users are cautioned that due to the continuous proliferation of websites, there can be no guarantee that inappropriate sites will never be accessed.
- **Internet Safety** - MCPS filters internet access to provide a safe learning environment for students. No filtering product is 100 percent effective; students should contact a teacher or the system administrator to report any inappropriate material.
- **Privacy Is Not Guaranteed** - At any time, school and network administrators are authorized to monitor communications, inspect files, and track internet usage to ensure users are acting responsibly.
- **“Cyber-bullying”** - is cruelty to others through electronic means. It can be done through email, instant messaging, chat rooms, or online sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Snapchat, etc. Students at no time may harass other students. Harassment will be handled as outlined in the school discipline policy.
- **Policy Violations** may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of computer/internet access, a “0” on classroom assignment, suspension, and/or dismissal. Each incident will be handled according to the nature of the violation. Any non-acceptable use of a criminal nature may be referred to proper authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. Any effort to disrupt internet services or computer systems by spreading computer viruses, vandalism, unauthorized entry, or destruction of computer files can result in criminal prosecution under state and federal laws. Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School reserves the right to update and change this policy at any time without notice.

Student Email

- Student email accounts established by Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School should be considered an official means of communication between students and teachers.
- Students will be expected to use their official student email address for communication with teachers instead of personal email accounts.
- Student email accounts grant students access to a variety of resources including but not limited to the services provided through Google Apps for Education: Google Mail, Calendar, and Drive, which includes the online creation and storage of documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School expects all students to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis. Some emails may be time critical, and unchecked email will not be considered an acceptable excuse.
- Student email should only be used for emailing Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School staff and when assigned other MCPS students.
- Online collaborative work is only acceptable when assigned by a teacher. Otherwise, the work will be deemed as cheating and subject to rules within the Student Handbook.
- The use of email during class is prohibited unless authorized by faculty or administration.
- Students should always use appropriate language in their email messages. Email services provided by the school are to be used only for the exchange of appropriate information.
- No inappropriate email is allowed including derogatory, obscene, or harassing messages. Email messages of abusive or harassing nature will be regarded as a major violation and will be subject to disciplinary response.
- Chain letters of any kind and spam are prohibited. Chain letters are defined as any email message asking you to pass information or messages on to other individuals or groups via email.
- Username and passwords should not be shared by students.
- Username and passwords will be made available to parents upon request.
- Only approved mail programs may be used for student mail.
- School email addresses are not to be given to ANY websites, companies, or other third parties without the explicit permission of a teacher or administrator.
- Only school-related attachments may be sent on the school email system.

Chatting and Blogging/Social Media

- Instant-messaging is prohibited on campus except as part of an assigned, in-class activity that is supervised by faculty or administration.
- Participation in chat rooms during school hours is prohibited during the school day, except as part of an assigned, in-class activity.

Audio and Video

- Audio on computers should be turned off unless required for the activity being conducted.
- Listening to music either aloud or with earphones is not permitted on campus unless required for the activity being conducted. Faculty and staff may relax this policy at their discretion.
- When sound is needed, headphones provided by the student must be used.
- The use of laptops to watch movies and DVD videos, unless assigned by a teacher, is not permitted during the school day.
- Any audio or video recording may be done only with the prior permission of all parties being recorded.
- Sharing of music (including iTunes music sharing) over the school network is strictly prohibited and is subject to appropriate consequences.

Games

- The viewing and/or playing of electronic games is not permitted during school hours except as part of an assigned, in-class activity.
- The school reserves the right to remove any game from a school computer that is considered inappropriate or impedes the educational purpose of the laptop program.
- Games that are “played” over the school network are not allowed.
- Games which include violence, adult content, inappropriate language, and weapons are not to be installed or “played” on school computers including the laptops.
- Screensavers that include inappropriate gaming components are not allowed.

Network Access

- Students must not make any attempt to access servers or network information that is not open to the public.
- The utilization of VPN’s, proxies, redirect websites, and cloaking programs are strictly prohibited.
- Students may not use the school network for personal or private business reasons.
- Students are not to knowingly degrade or disrupt online services or equipment as such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law. This includes tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws.
- MCPS is not responsible for damaged or lost data transferred through our network or stored on laptops, computers, or our file servers.

File Sharing:

- File sharing is the public or private sharing of computer data or space. Any program that creates a point-to-point connection between two or more computing devices for the purpose of sharing data is considered file sharing.
- File sharing of any kind is prohibited both on campus and off campus. The only exception to this is when it is a specific assignment given by a faculty member.
- No file sharing software of any kind is to be installed on school computers including laptops. Examples of this type of software are Limewire, Bearshare, Kazaa, iMesh, Torrents, etc. Although these types of programs are software downloads, they automatically create file sharing connections.
- There is a \$25 re-imaging charge to get rid of any unapproved software or files.

Deleting Files

- Do not delete any folders or files that you did not create or that you do not recognize. Deletion of certain files will result in a computer failure and will interfere with your ability to complete class work and may affect your grades.
- There is a \$25 re-imaging charge to correct system files.

Downloading and Loading of Software

- Care should be taken regarding the loading of additional software. Viruses could be transmitted in this manner.
- All installed software must be a legally licensed copy. The downloading of music files, video files, games, etc. through the school’s network is absolutely prohibited unless it is part of an assigned, in-class activity.

- The school reserves the right to remove any software that has been loaded onto the computer that impedes the educational purpose of the laptop program.
- Copyrighted movies may not be “ripped” from DVDs and placed on the laptops nor may copyrighted movies be downloaded to the laptops from the Internet.
- Only commercial videos (such as television programs) legally purchased from the iTunes music store or another like entity may be downloaded to the laptops.
- Shareware and freeware can only be installed on school laptops with prior approval of the Technology Department.
- Shareware and freeware programs such as animated cursors (i.e., Comet Cursor), screen savers, and others similar to these automatically open connections to the computers from outside the MCPS network. Such connections are Spyware and they not only monitor the activities on that computer, but they also slow down the operation of the computer and the network connection.
- There is a \$25 re-imaging charge to get rid of any unapproved software or files.

Screensavers

- Inappropriate or copyrighted media may not be used as a screensaver.
- Presence of weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drug, gang related symbols or pictures will result in disciplinary actions.
- There is a \$25 re-imaging charge to remove any of the above.

Internet Use

- The Internet is a rich and valuable source of information for education. Inappropriate materials are available on the Internet and are strictly prohibited. These materials include items of a sexual or pornographic nature, extremist or militant materials, gambling, depictions of violence, images that are intended to be abusive or harassing, etc. Students must not access, display, or store this type of material.
- Information obtained through the Internet must be properly cited and in compliance with copyright laws. Due to the quickly changing nature of the Internet, a hard copy of referenced material is recommended.
- Students are required to give proper credit to all Internet sources used in academic assignments, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text.
- Plagiarism includes the use of any information obtained from the Internet that is not properly cited. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incidences of plagiarism.
- If a student accidentally accesses a website that contains obscene, pornographic or otherwise offensive material, he/she is to notify a teacher, the Network Administrator, or the Technology Coordinator as quickly as possible so that such sites can be blocked from further access. This is not merely a request; it is a responsibility.

Privacy, Use, and Safety

- Students may not give any personal information regarding themselves or others through email or the Internet including name, phone number, address, passwords, etc. unless they are completely sure of the identity of the person with whom they are communicating. Frequently the identity of someone on the Internet is impossible to confirm. Therefore, contact with such individuals is considered inappropriate and unsafe.

- Students are not to provide the email addresses or other personal information regarding other students, faculty, or administration to anyone outside of the school without their permission.
- Students must secure and maintain private passwords for network and laptop access. This is important in order to protect the privacy of each student. Do not share personal passwords or usernames.
- MCPS respects the privacy of every student, faculty member, and administrator with respect to stored files and email accounts. However, if inappropriate use, including honor code violations or harassment, are suspected, the school administration has the right to view these files in order to investigate suspected inappropriate behavior.
- The school will monitor computer activities that take place on school-owned computers including logging website access, newsgroup access, bandwidth, and network use.
- Students are prohibited from accessing faculty, administration, and staff computers as well as school file servers for any reason without explicit permission from the user or administrator of that computer.
- Students are prohibited from utilizing the command prompt interface. In addition to this, students are prohibited from using any method to obtain control of another person's computer through the use of their own computer.
- Students are prohibited from utilizing peer-to-peer networking or any method of file sharing between computers unless authorized by the technology staff.
- Cyber-bullying is the use of electronic information and communication devices to willfully harm either a person or persons through any electronic medium, such as text, audio, photos, or videos. Examples of this behavior include but are not limited to:
 - Sending/posting false, cruel, hurtful or vicious messages/comments;
 - Creating or contributing to websites that have stories, cartoons, pictures, and jokes ridiculing others;
 - Breaking into an email account and sending vicious or embarrassing materials to others;
 - Engaging someone in electronic communication, tricking that person into revealing sensitive personal information and forwarding that information to others.
 - Posting of a student picture without their permission. Any electronic communication that creates a hostile, disruptive environment on the school campus is a violation of the student's and staff member's right to be safe and secure.
 - Actions deliberately threatening, harassing, intimidating an individual or group of individuals; placing an individual in reasonable fear of harm; damaging an individual's property; or disrupting the orderly operation of the school will not be tolerated.
- Laptops that are provided by the school continue to be the property of the school. Therefore, the school has the right to view all content at any time.
- Any electronic device used on the school network, even if privately owned, is subject to all policies and consequences of the Acceptable Use Policy including: the right to view the content of the device at any time; the right to remove content from the device; and the right to retain the device in the school's possession if there is an infraction to the AUP that merits this consequence.

Copyright

- Unauthorized duplication, installation, alteration, or destruction of data programs, hardware, or software is prohibited.

- Data, programs, hardware, software, and other materials including those protected by copyright may not be transmitted or duplicated.
- No identifiable photographs of students, faculty, or administration will be allowed to be published on the Internet or used in print without appropriate written consent. Concerning a student, appropriate written consent means a signature by a parent or legal guardian of the student.

Consequences

- The school reserves the right to enforce appropriate consequences for the violation of any section of the Acceptable Use Policy. Such consequences could include the loss of privileges on a laptop, the loss of the use of the computer for an amount of time determined by the administration and members of the Technology Department, possible disciplinary action, and possible legal action.
- These consequences apply to students participating in the laptop lease program at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School as well as to students who are using the school's laptops and computers on campus.
- Computers with illegal or inappropriate software or materials on them will be reformatted or "re-imaged," and the student will be charged a \$25 AUP violation fee PER incident for this service. This amount may be increased for repeat violations.
- In the case of repeated laptop abuse and/or damages, the school has the right to revoke the use of the school's laptop, and the student will be restricted to using only on-campus computers. Repeated AUP offenses or laptop abuses may lead to the loss of a student's privilege of using a laptop on campus.
- Students are to report any known violations of this Acceptable Use Policy to appropriate administrative staff members. Random checks of student laptops will be conducted throughout the year to ensure that these policies are being followed.
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School takes no responsibility for activities conducted on school computers and laptops or materials stored on computers, laptops, or the school's network.

4.28 VISITORS

School visitors (volunteers, parents, etc.) must come to the main office or front desk. For safety and security reasons, each person is required to sign in when he/she enters the building for any reason. All visitors and/or volunteers will be given a visitor's badge and are required to wear it while on campus. Visitors and/or volunteers need to sign out at the time of departure.

Any non-custodial visitor (friend, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, etc.) not listed on the family bio update must make a formal request to visit the student through the principal at least 24 hours in advance.

If you would like to visit a particular classroom, we ask that you make a formal request through the principal at least 24 hours in advance as a matter of professional courtesy.

Lunch visitors must follow the above guidelines and be either alumni, parents, or receive special permission from the administration.

4.29 WEAPONS POLICY

Our Lord Jesus Christ came that we might live and have life in all of its fullness. Therefore, Catholic Schools promote the sanctity of human life and express concern for the dignity of

every human being. It is essential that Catholic Schools provide a safe, academic, and social environment for their students, teachers, staff and parents. The possession of dangerous weapons is a threat to the health, safety and well being of students, teachers, staff and parents in Catholic Schools. Therefore, it is appropriate to adopt a policy applicable to all schools banning the possession of dangerous weapons on school premises or at school sponsored activities.

Policy: It is strictly forbidden for any student, employee, volunteer or visitor to possess a dangerous weapon on school premises, in a school owned vehicle, or during any school sponsored trip or activity. A dangerous weapon or instrument is defined as follows:

DANGEROUS WEAPON – A dangerous weapon is a firearm (defined in section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code) or anything manifestly designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or serious physical injury. The term includes but is not limited to, a pistol, rifle or shotgun; or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword or dagger; or any billy, blackjack, bludgeon or metal knuckles. (Alabama Code)

If a violation of this policy occurs, the principal should immediately notify the Superintendent. Any student found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon or facsimile of, shall be expelled or suspended. The principal of the school where the violation occurred shall determine whether the student shall be expelled or suspended. Suspension from the school where the violation occurred may last to the end of the current school year. The student may return to his home school at the beginning of the next school year. In the cases where there are substantial mitigating circumstances, the principal may reduce the term of suspension upon consultation with the Superintendent.

The steps and procedures used when the Weapons Policy of the Archdiocese of Mobile is violated, shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- Immediately notify the Superintendent.
- Contact Parents.
- Suspend child from school immediately pending investigation. • Complete an investigation as soon as possible.
- Discipline student according to Archdiocesan policy.
- Should student be expelled for a firearm (as defined by section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code) violation, it should be reported to law enforcement
- Should a student be expelled for a firearm (as defined by section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code) violation, it should be noted in any student records transferred to any other school.

4.30 WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

Neither administration nor faculty will provide letters of recommendation for students, except in limited cases of college admissions, internal scholarships, or application to enrichment or extra-curricular programs.

V. EXTRACURRICULAR

*Students may not remain on campus for any type of extra-curricular activity unless their supervising coach, sponsor, or faculty representative will also be present for supervision.

Repeated non-compliance of the above will result in the school's notification of DHR

Eligibility for all extra curricular activities is dependent upon the financial clause in 4.12.

5.1 ATHLETICS

Children in **grades K 5-6th** have a number of options for athletics through programs sponsored by the YMCA, Hoops League, and parish-based teams. Students who play athletics in grades 7-12 do so under the auspices of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, and we are governed by both their rules and our own policies relative to eligibility, participation, and conduct during sporting events. Some MCPS policies and procedures may be more stringent than the AHSAA requires.

Athletic Eligibility: As a member of the *Alabama High School Athletic Association* (AHSAA), certain rules apply that affect athletic eligibility in the state of Alabama for all students in middle and high school. Additionally, MCPS has additional guidelines that must be followed and could be more stringent than the AHSAA.

MCPS Academic Eligibility: Students eligible for High School Extracurricular and Athletic activities must have obtained a composite numerical average of 70 in all 7 classes for two consecutive semesters, including summer school, if applicable. This will be evaluated at the end of each semester to determine eligibility for the following semester. This does not preempt individual coaches or sponsor's academic requirements for participation.

Students eligible for Middle School extracurricular and athletic activities must have obtained a composite numerical average of 70 in all 7 classes. Stand-alone quarter electives will be averaged together to obtain a quarter grade, (*i.e. cooking, archery*)

Student Athlete Responsibility:

- We expect athletes to be good students. Keeping one's passion for athletics in balance with one's commitment to studies is critical.
- We expect athletes to be committed to the team and their teammates. Athletics demand a large commitment of time and energy. Athletes are expected to make all practices, work hard, take constructive criticism from their coaches, put the team before individual statistics, and finish what they started.
- We expect athletes to represent our school, their team, and themselves with dignity and class befitting a school that professes to put the gospel of Jesus Christ before all else.

Parental Responsibility: During athletic events held at MCPS, parents of each athlete will be responsible to work at the gate and/or concession stand. Team Parents will coordinate with each parent to schedule a time for the parents to assist. When parents do not make it to their assigned shift or arrange (through the team parent) for someone to take their place, it places a heavy burden on all of those who are already giving of their time.

Quitting: Students who quit the team during a season will not be allowed to participate, practice or play on another MCPS team during that same season without the permission of the principal and athletic director.

School Day Attendance: Students must be present by the end of 2nd period and stay the remainder of the day in order to practice that day or play in games, except in circumstances pre-approved by the principal and/or the athletic director.

Sportsmanship: Students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Public and flagrant displays (*such as fighting or ejection from a game*) may result in a minimum one game suspension and payment of a fine levied by the AHSAA. Additional suspension and/or disciplinary action by the coach and/or principal may be appropriate depending on the particular

incident, including removal from the team if warranted.

Transportation to/from Athletic events: Advanced notification will be given for the purpose of obtaining the written consent of parents on an official permission form as a prerequisite for leaving school grounds. Telephone permission or handwritten notes will not suffice as a substitute for this official form. Athletes will not be permitted to phone home on the day of the event to request the form. Athletes that have not submitted the signed parental permission form by the due date may not attend the event.

Tryout/Practice Eligibility: Students who wish to try out or participate with an athletic team for the following school year must be fully enrolled at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School for the following school year at the time of the tryout and not have any past due accounts with the business office.

5.2 DANCES

- For high school dances, all guests must be pre-approved through the high school office and all students and guests will be breathalyzed upon entrance and before exit.
- No alcoholic beverages or narcotics are permitted.
- Once a student leaves the dance, he/she will not be readmitted. No loitering in the parking lot.
- No smoking or vaping (All tobacco products are prohibited.)
- Shoes must be worn to the activity.
- Designated arrival and departure times will be scheduled prior to each event.
- parent/guardian.
- Poor conduct will not be tolerated. Failure by students/guests to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner will result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the school administration.
- At all times, students are expected to dress and behave in a manner that is consistent with our Catholic mission.
- Dress code requirements for girls:
 - No visible cleavage
 - Cutouts in dresses are only acceptable in the back and must not go below the natural waistline. No other cutouts are acceptable, this includes cutouts with mesh. See-through fabrics (including mesh, tulle or “illusion”) are considered the same as bare skin. Open backs can go as low as the natural waistline ONLY.
 - Sheer fabric is only allowed on top if you have another fabric under it
 - Two-piece dresses are only allowed if there is no visible midriff.
 - The bottom of the dress, or slit length, must reach your fingertips when arms are placed by the side
 - No excessively tight clothing
- Dress code requirements for boys:
 - Suit and tie/tux.
 - No revealing clothes.
 - This dress code applies to everyone – even those who do not attend Montgomery Catholic.
- An adequate number of chaperones must be present at functions/meetings.
- Chaperones must be responsible adults approved by the principal and have met all Child Protection requirements. Dances are subject to cancellation if an adequate number of chaperones are not secured.
- Entrance and dismissal times must be adhered to and appropriately communicated

- prior to the dance.
- Those not following these guidelines will be denied entrance or asked to leave; no refunds will be given.
- At a Middle School dance, only Montgomery Catholic Middle School students are admitted and may leave only when accompanied with the pre-approved.
- Dress code for Middle School dances will be posted prior to the dance.

5.3 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students eligible for High School Extracurricular and Athletic activities must have obtained a composite numerical average of 70 in all 7 classes for two consecutive semesters, including summer school, if applicable. This will be evaluated at the end of each semester to determine eligibility for the following semester. This does not preempt individual coaches or sponsor's academic requirements for participation.

Students eligible for Middle School extracurricular and athletic activities must have obtained a composite numerical average of 70 in all 7 classes. Stand-alone quarter electives will be averaged together to obtain a quarter grade, (i.e. cooking, archery)

National Honor Society (NHS) - Loretto Chapter: The MCPS high school will follow NHS's constitution and the chapter's by-laws.

5.4 FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may be periodically arranged by teachers for certain classes to augment the curriculum. Advanced notification will be given for the purpose of obtaining the written consent of parents on an official permission form as a prerequisite for leaving school grounds. Telephone permission, email or handwritten notes will not suffice as a substitute for this official form. Students will not be permitted to phone home on the due date of the event to request the form. The dress code for each field trip will be listed on the parental permission form. Students that have not submitted the signed parental permission form by the due date may not attend the event.

Practically, field trips are usually not possible without the help of parents to supervise and to drive. Drivers are only permitted to travel to sites designated with NO side trips. Vehicles used for field trips must have operational seat belts for each passenger. Students cannot be double buckled. Certain diocesan regulations apply:

1. All drivers must be 21 or older
2. Hold a valid driver's license
3. Have minimal car insurance of \$100,000/300,000 in liability
4. Present proof of all this to the school office for verification. Re-submission of all volunteer driver information will be required at the beginning of each school year.
5. Parents who act as chaperones on a school field trip must have also completed a Child Protection class.

No alcohol or tobacco may be consumed by chaperones during a field trip; if so, you will lose all chaperone privileges. All chaperones are required to dress in an appropriate manner. Because of the responsibility of chaperones on a field trip, younger siblings may not accompany their parents who are field trip chaperones.

5.5 OFF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The school has responsibility for the student during published hours and school related activities, and the parents have responsibility for their children outside those hours. In the event the school learns of student behavior that is harmful to the student's health or safety, the school will notify the parents.

If, however, a student's off campus activity reflects poorly on the institution of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, the administration will take disciplinary action that, in his or her estimation, is proportional to the damage done to the school in the eyes of the community.

In a similar vein as an adult community, we share responsibility for each other's children and so should communicate issues of concern about those children with their parents. We should be receptive and appreciative of such calls! However, we are sovereign over our own children alone and, therefore, cannot substitute our judgment for other parents. Parents who knowingly allow another family's children to participate in illegal or immoral activities while under their jurisdiction violate a trust among our families and may be asked to withdraw their children from our school.

5.6 PRIVATE PARTIES/SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TREATS

We are a community. Invitations for private parties can be distributed on school grounds at our Elementary and Middle School Campuses only if all students in that class/grade level or all students of the same gender are invited. Otherwise, invitations must be mailed. Treats commemorating birthdays or special occasions during the school day must be provided for all students in a class/grade level and can only be distributed during lunch or break.

5.7 SERVICE HOUR AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT REQUIREMENT FOR GRADES 7-12

Service Hour Requirement: As a part of our mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, we believe all students are called to be good stewards of their own time, talent, and treasure engaging in service as part of their educational growth. The Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School service hour requirement is intended for students to go beyond their current school and/or church obligations.

Students in 7th-8th grade are required to attend one service day organized by the school throughout the year. Opportunities for service will also be provided through the year.

Students in 9th-12th grade will participate in works of service and community outreach through multiple opportunities with their family and assigned House. Additional individual service hours can be earned for House service competitions through various clubs, organizations, groups, and athletic teams. .

Cultural Enrichment Requirement: In an effort to encourage our students to develop an appreciation for God's majesty revealed through the arts, students in 7th-12th grades have a cultural enrichment requirement. All students in grades 7th-12th may attend school sponsored performances or

other cultural opportunities in the community. As evidence of their attendance, students must bring in a program, signed note, or ticket from the performance or event.

Students must attest that the program or other evidence comes from their own attendance. There will be a reflective component to the cultural enrichment experience. Please ask for approval of an event if in doubt. Students in 7th-12th grade are required to experience three (3) hours of fine arts and/or cultural experience per semester. Student completion of these activities will be recorded as a component of each English semester exam. Specific guidelines for reporting and reflecting will be identified in the 7th-12th grade English course syllabus

VI. EMERGENCY & MEDICAL CONDITIONS

6.1 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Automated Phone/Email Messaging/App Communication: This system will alert families on our website, via phone or email, based on the information provided on the Family Bio Update each summer. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school regarding a change in the student/family information.

6.2 MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

All MCPS staff members are CPR trained in the event of a medical emergency. Non-emergency situations where medical care is needed and we are not able to contact the parents, 911 emergency personnel will be contacted in order to provide needed medical care.

6.3 SKIN CONDITION

Male Grooming Policy: Shaving Expectations and Accommodations for Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB)

As part of our commitment to fostering a respectful, professional, and disciplined school environment, male students are expected to be clean-shaven while on campus and during school-sponsored events. This standard supports uniformity and aligns with our school's code of appearance.

However, we recognize that certain medical conditions, such as **Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB)**—a chronic skin condition commonly affecting individuals with coarse or curly facial hair—can make frequent shaving painful, damaging, or medically inadvisable.

Policy for Students Diagnosed with PFB:

- 1. Medical Documentation Required**

Students with a diagnosis of PFB must submit a signed note from a licensed dermatologist confirming the condition and recommending modified shaving practices.

- 2. Grooming Expectations with PFB**

- Students with documented PFB are **not required to shave daily**.
 - Facial hair must be **neatly groomed, trimmed**, and **not exceed 1/4 inch in length** to maintain a tidy and professional appearance.
 - Beards and facial hair styles must not appear unkempt, patchy, or exaggerated.
3. **Review and Renewal**
Medical accommodations for PFB must be reviewed and resubmitted **annually** to ensure current documentation is on file.
4. **Discretion of Administration**
The school administration reserves the right to evaluate whether a student is in compliance with grooming expectations, even with a medical exemption. Students may be required to maintain a consistent and well-kept appearance to remain in good standing.
5. **Alternative Grooming Options**
Students are encouraged to consult their healthcare provider about grooming methods suitable for PFB, such as the use of electric clippers, depilatory products, or dermatologist-recommended techniques.