



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student and Family Handbook

***"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears
to words of knowledge."***

-- Proverbs 23:12

400 Salt Springs Street / Fayetteville, NY 13066

www.icschool.org

2026-27 School Year

Welcome

to Immaculate Conception School! We are an educational ministry of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fayetteville, New York. Our school welcomes students from families in Immaculate Conception Parish, its Pastoral Care area, and all other families that embrace our educational philosophy.

Founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ, with Mary as our inspiration, Immaculate Conception School has an uncompromising commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ while achieving academic excellence. We pride ourselves on our dedicated teachers, staff and our family-oriented atmosphere.

In this environment, our students develop a strong moral conscience, self-worth and integrity through prayer, example and the sacraments. We provide a challenging and an enriched education following the New York State Inter-Diocesan Curriculum which exceeds the New York State standards.

As a Roman Catholic community we encourage our students to live by Catholic principles and to develop a lifelong enthusiasm for learning that will prepare them to meet any future challenges. ***This is our mission.***

Thank you for trusting us with your children's spiritual and educational journey.



The I.C. Way

We take pride in each other and our school community. With Mary as our inspiration, we show excellence by following the teachings of Jesus Christ, by supporting and encouraging each other, and by recognizing the dignity and value of each person and all life. We create a family-oriented atmosphere by inclusion, open communication and service to the community. We strive to provide the highest quality educational experience through a dedicated staff, rigorous curriculum, technology and a strong home-school partnership. We live our Catholic Principles through the sacraments, service and prayer.

Faith & Values. Academic Excellence. Family & Community

This is the IC Way!

Contents

General Contact Information	4
School Hours / Drop Off and Pickup Procedures	6
Student Behavior, Expectations and Responsibilities / Jack Reid Law	10
Sacramental Preparation / Faith Formation	15
Dress Code	16
Policies / Procedures / Protocol:	22
• Attendance	22
• Appointments and Release of Students	21
• Emergency Contacts	22
• Visitors, Volunteers and Safe Environment Certification	22
• School Closings	23
• Field Trips	23
• Birthdays	24
• Home School Association (HSA) / Advisory Board	24
• Lunch Program	24
• Extracurricular Activities	24
• Nurse's Office / Health & Safety Policies	25
Academic Policies / Device Usage Policies	31
• Homework	31
• Report Cards	31
Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse Policies	32

IC Staff Phone Directory 2026-2027

IC School: 315-637-3961
 IC School Fax: 315-637-2672
 IC Rectory: 315-637-9846

Position/Grade	Teacher/Staff	Telephone Extensions	Class Room Number
Pastor	Fr. Cliff Auth	315-637-9846	
Principal	Ms. Kelly Porter	201	
Director of Mission	Mrs. Erin Zacholl	203	
Office Admin. Assistant	Ms. Brigid Jones	202	
Office Assistant	Sr. Margaret Fay	226	
Nurse	Mrs. Anne Dyczka	219	119
Pre-K 3	Mrs. Amy Barrett / Mrs. Andrea Rapasadi	221	121
Pre-K 3	Mrs. Dawn Smalley / Mrs. Lauri Newbery	220	120
Pre-K 4	Mrs. Christin Schaefer Mrs. Lindsey Keeney / Mrs. Jenna Schanz	223	123
Pre-K 4	Ms. Anna Watkins / Mrs. Theresa Letcher	222	122
Kindergarten	Mrs. Janet Kirkasser / Mrs. Karen Schemm	218	118
First Grade	Ms. Jennifer Centore	217	117
Second Grade	Mrs. Carey Baker	204	104
Second Grade	Mr. Corey Stone	206	106
Third Grade	Mrs. Madelyn Duffy	205	105
Fourth Grade	Mrs. Patricia Pennise	209	109
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Doreen Conrad	211	111
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Danielle Toscano	208	108
Sixth Grade	Mrs. Danielle Paige	210	110

Faculty Room	Faculty Room	212	
Art AIS Reading	Mrs. Valerie Ross Mrs. Jen Hayden	214	114
AIS Math	Mrs. Maureen Pierret & Mrs. Julie Addonizio	213	113
Library	Mrs. Beth Bonacci	215	115
Violin Room	Ms. Brianna Givens	224	124
Music Technology	Mrs. Cathy Gorigala Mr. Francis McCarthy	225	125
Flex Classroom Spanish	Mrs. Joy Carol Kelleher	207	107
Gym	Mr. Don Bell	232	GYM
Communications Teacher Aide	Mrs. Caroline Calimlim Miss Eileen Dunsmore		
ADAPEP Counselor	Mrs. Brenda Reichert	227	103
Multipurpose Room	Kitchen Cafeteria	230 231	
Maintenance	Mr. Louie Fortin Mr. John Seiter	228	

School Hours / Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

School Hours

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. for full day enrollment. Students may be dropped off at school between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Supervision will not be provided prior to that time. The school cannot assume the responsibility of unsupervised students that arrive prior to this time.

The YMCA runs a morning program here at I.C., starting at 7 a.m. Parents that need to drop off students prior to the school's 8:30 a.m. opening time, should register for the YMCA's Before-School program.

Morning Drop Off Procedures

If you plan on dropping your child/ren off at school in the morning, please pull-up to the Multi-Purpose Entrance of the School and properly follow the sign guidance indicating traffic direction. Parents should not get out of the car. Cars should remain in a line and the line should keep moving.

If it is necessary for a parent to come into the school for any reason, then please park your car in the lot and enter the facility through the Main Entrance. This is for security protocol.

The only parents that should be parking and walking their children to their designated entrance, are the Pre-K parents. Pre-K parents are asked to park in the Multi-Purpose Room Parking Lot and meet staff outside of the building for drop-off.

Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures

We ask that students are not picked up in the Main Office between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m. This will help greatly with the safety of the bus dismissal. No child will be dismissed from the Main Entrance of the school during Pickup / Dismissal time. Only bus students will be dismissed from the front of the school.

If you are picking up children in the afternoon, please follow the same driving lanes as the Morning Drop-Off. Last year, we successfully implemented Pick Up Patrol as our method for dismissal. Please make sure you are registered with Pick Up Patrol at the beginning of the school year.

School Hours / Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures



Convenient

Submit changes from your smartphone or computer.



Flexible

Make plan changes days, weeks, or months in advance.



Better Communication

Tracking of student plans is more accurate and efficient.



Safe & Secure

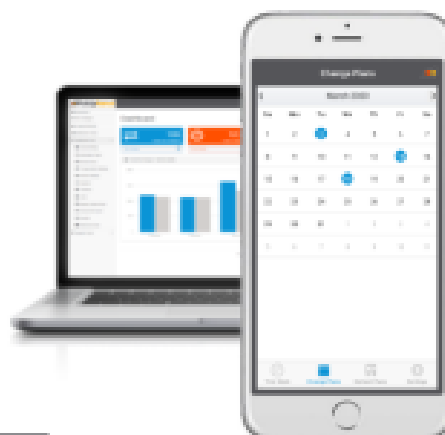
Student data is secure and the program is managed entirely by our school staff.



PickUp Patrol eliminates the need to write notes or make phone calls when changing your student's dismissal plans.

REGISTER

- When it's time to sign up, you'll receive a registration email. Use the provided link to create a password.
- Already registered? Add app.pickuppatrol.net/parents to your home screen for easy access.



MAKE A PLAN CHANGE

Submit a plan change whenever there is a change to your student's regular schedule.

- 1 A date
- 2 Your student
- 3 A plan change option and a message if needed
- 4 Hit submit and that's it!

AFTER YOU HIT SUBMIT

- Our school will be notified of the plan change
- Teachers will relay the information to your student before dismissal on the day the change occurs
- You'll receive a confirmation email for each change

CONFIRM YOUR STUDENT'S DEFAULT PLANS

A default plan is the regular dismissal plan your student follows when no changes have been submitted. For example:

- Katie rides Bus #2 every day
- Jacob goes to Aftercare M, W, F, and is a Pickup every T, H

Please set/confirm your student's default plan the first time you log in.

To learn more visit www.pickuppatrol.net

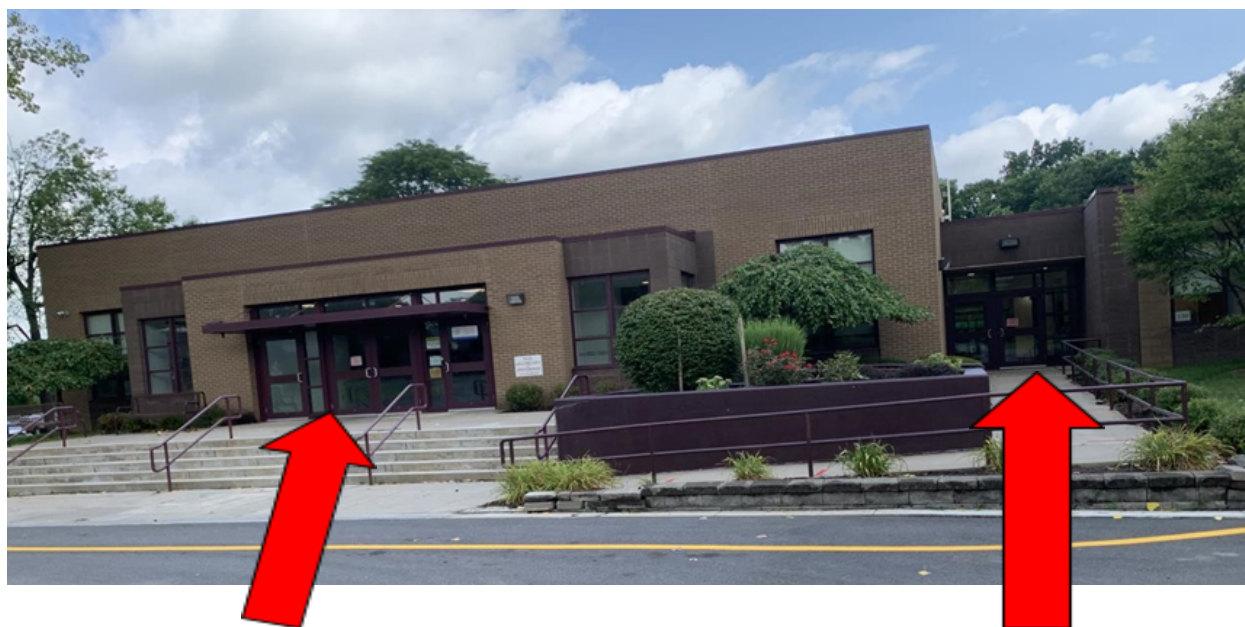
School Hours / Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

Front of School / Main Entrance



Bus Drop Off and Pick Up / *(Parent Drop Off and Pick Up During School Hours)*

Side of School / Cafeteria Entrance

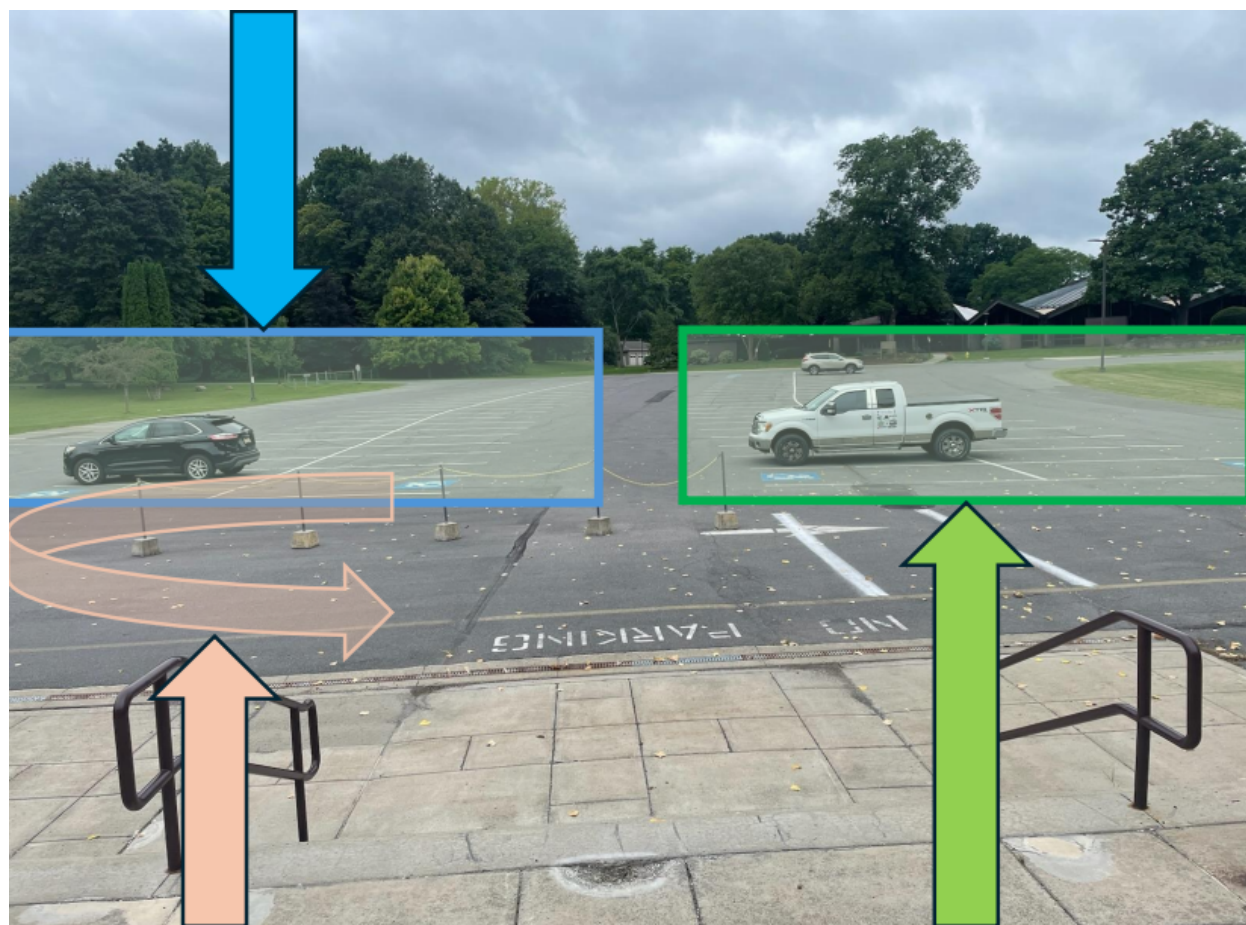


Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Entrance

PreK Parent Drop Off and Pick Up

School Hours / Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

Kindergarten through 6th Grade Parent Parking



Kindergarten through 6th Grade
Drop Off & Pick Up Path

PreK Parent Parking

Student Behavior, Expectations and Responsibilities

Expectations and Responsibilities

I.C. Students have the right to a full and complete education along with spiritual development in a safe and supportive environment. In order to ensure this right for themselves and others, they have the following responsibilities:

- The responsibility to be attentive, cooperative and respectful to all adults and to each other.
- The responsibility to complete assignments according to each teacher's direction and to participate in activities in all classrooms.
- The responsibility to walk quietly through the halls.
- The responsibility to use play equipment safely and follow the directions of the staff and / or volunteers, while participating in approved activities.
- The responsibility to attend assembly programs, prayer services and Masses quietly and respectfully.
- The responsibility to dress appropriately and in full uniform at all times, unless otherwise specified.
- The responsibility to present themselves with attention to personal cleanliness.
- Each student has the right to enjoy lunch in a pleasant, clean and orderly place. The responsibility to show good eating habits, to speak quietly to others and keep their area neat and clean as well as enter exit lunch periods and recess periods in a calm and orderly way.
- The responsibility to care for school property and to respect the wishes of others regarding their personal property.
- The responsibility to ask and receive permission before handling the property of others.
- The responsibility to observe all good conduct and safety rules when riding the school bus.
- The responsibility to treat others with respect. They do this by choosing words and actions that will not hurt others.
- I.C. Students are expected to use appropriate behavior and use positive language when communicating with one another.
- I.C. Students are to consider the feelings of their peers.
- I.C. Students are expected to resolve disagreements without physical contact.

Students Behavior and Responsibilities

Our philosophy around managing student behavior is centered on the notion that the more actively engaged students are in learning, the less apt they are to present with behavior concerns. There are several practices teachers employ on a regular basis to ensure engaged students. These include:

- Making procedures and objectives clear to the students
- Setting realistic and reasonable expectations and explaining them to the children
- Challenging students' energy toward the learning process
- Utilizing positive reinforcement (rewarding good behavior) charts for individuals, small groups and whole classes to encourage positive behavior.
- Setting up special classroom activities as a reward for good behavior

If behavioral problems persists, teachers reflect on the behavior and ask questions such as:

- What is causing the behavior?
- When does it occur most often? Least often? With who? Where?
- Does it occur with some activities more than others?
- Is the behavior triggered by social or structural factors?
- Does the student 'know' a better way of behaving?
- Would the student respond to a different style of interaction?
- Is a motivation system needed?
- Does the student need to develop new skills?

At our school management of student behavior is considered part of the learning process. Children learn to change behavior patterns when people show they care and allow proper time for changes in conduct. Our goal is to provide students with a school wide environment that fosters faith and values, promotes excellence in education, respect and safety for self and others.

Behavior Interventions

In general, discipline will be progressive; a second violation will have more severe consequences than the first, and so on. The Pastor and the Principal reserve the right to take the most severe action in a first event of serious misconduct. The ranges of behavior interventions for violations of these expectations, which may be imposed, include the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Verbal or written notification to parents/guardian
- Administrative detention
- Parent/Guardian conference
- Classroom management such as change of seat, assignments
- Unstructured area safety plan
- Remedial instruction or other relevant learning of service experience
- Counseling with school counselor
- Behavior assessment/contract
- Removal of privileges
- In-School Suspension
- Suspension for transportation
- Suspension from social or other related activities
- Out of school suspension
- Expulsion from school

Even though this handbook explains penalties that can be imposed for certain types of misconduct or prohibited behavior, be mindful that the Pastor and the Principal have the right and the authority to impose different or additional interventions for offenses that are not specifically listed in this handbook, if they conclude that the conduct or behavior is harmful to the good order and discipline of the school, its religious mission, or its educational objectives. This includes disciplinary action for conduct that occurs on the school premises or at other locations.

Anti-Bullying & Harassment Policy (Jack Reid Law)

Since our inception, Immaculate Conception School believes that all students should have a safe and inclusive school environment. Bullying is wholly inconsistent with the values and principles of I.C. and is not tolerated. On October 23, 2025, the Jack Reid law was enacted in New York. The Jack Reid Law states that non-public schools are required to:

- Adopt a clear policy defining and prohibiting bullying and harassment:

Immaculate Conception School is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment in which every student is valued and treated with dignity. As a Catholic school, we believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be treated with kindness, compassion, and respect.

Bullying*, harassment, intimidation, and cyberbullying* are not consistent with the mission or values of Immaculate Conception School and are not permitted.

- Require school staff to promptly report and document instances of bullying and harassment
- Promptly investigate instances of bullying and harassment
- Communicate age-appropriate information to victims about the outcome of the investigation and take action to protect the victim's safety
- Ensure that the bullying and harassment has stopped and there is no retaliation

** **Bullying** is behavior that is intended to hurt, intimidate, humiliate, or exclude another person. Bullying may be physical, verbal, social, written, or electronic. It may involve repeated behavior or a particularly serious incident that causes a student to feel unsafe, threatened, or unable to fully participate in school.*

Not every disagreement, argument, or instance of unkind behavior constitutes bullying. Children are still developing social and emotional skills, and ordinary conflicts may occur. However, all reports of behavior that may harm or negatively affect a student will be taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

****Cyberbullying** is bullying or harassment that occurs through electronic communication or technology. Cyberbullying may include sending or posting hurtful, threatening, embarrassing, or humiliating messages or images; spreading rumors online; creating fake accounts or profiles to harm another student; deliberately excluding a student from online groups; or encouraging others to participate in harmful online behavior.*

The school may address cyberbullying that occurs outside of school when it involves members of the school community or has an impact on the safety, well-being, or educational environment of the school.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their children's use of technology and social media and to contact the school when online behavior negatively affects a student's ability to feel safe and participate fully in the school community.

Reporting Bullying

Students are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult if they are being bullied, witness bullying, or believe another student may be experiencing bullying. Students may report concerns to a teacher, school administrator, counselor, school nurse, or another trusted adult.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the school when they have concerns about bullying or cyberbullying involving their child. Students are expected to report concerns honestly and in good faith. No student will be punished for making a good-faith report of bullying or for seeking help.

Sacramental Preparation / Faith Formation

Sacramental Preparation

First Communion and Penance Grade Two – These two sacraments are taught to the children in their regular classes. When it comes near the date of receiving these sacraments the students (parochial and non-parochial) must attend special classes together for final preparation. There is a specific set of guidelines that is mandated by the Diocese. These classes are arranged by the Parish Director of Religious Education.

Liturgy / School Masses

The part which liturgy plays in the life of the students at Immaculate Conception School is a vital one. “A fully Christian life cannot be conceived without participation in the liturgical services in which the faithful, gathered into a single assembly, celebrate the Paschal Mystery.” School Masses are celebrated frequently. The students will prepare and participate in these liturgies. All parents and friends are welcome to attend and share in this liturgy. Students will participate in liturgies on Holy Days. Each grade (1-6) plans and lectures at the Masses.

Service Projects

A main focus of our mission at Immaculate Conception School is to engage students in reaching out to others in our community. One way this is done is through the various service projects that take place throughout the year. Some of the projects are school wide, such as the Thanksgiving food collection and others are done by grade level. More information regarding the projects will be given throughout the year.

Dress Code

Uniform and Appearance Policy for All Students K-6th Grade

Our Immaculate Conception School Uniform is a show of pride for our school. It sets us apart and communicates a message of excellence at I.C. The I.C. Uniform Policy is guided by a philosophy that uniforms promote a common bond among students and provide school identification, fostering a more accepting environment. This unity and identification create an environment where the students' focus is on Christian values and education.

Students are to be well groomed, clean and neat at all times in order to develop a healthy self-concept:

- Uniforms are to be pressed, free of stains with no rips or holes and of appropriate length.
- Cosmetics of any kind—including but not limited to lipstick, lip tint, eye shadow, eyeliner, mascara, and false eyelashes—are strictly prohibited for all students. Any student wearing makeup will be asked to remove it immediately.

Parents are responsible for making sure students comply with the uniform policy set forth. Please keep your child's modesty and safety in mind, as well as our Catholic values, when buying clothing. Clothing should be size appropriate for the student. PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE DRESSED IN THE REQUIRED SCHOOL UNIFORM EACH DAY (UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED). There will be regular "uniform checks" and parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing to the school for children who are not in proper uniform attire.

We ask for your cooperation in strictly enforcing these uniform regulations. The administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate for both dress and grooming.

Uniform Resources

I.C. School maintain a partnership with Flynn O'Hara Uniforms. All components of our school's uniform are available at: <https://flynnohara.com/>

Uniform Exchange

Parents turn in "gently used" uniforms that then are available for other families to take. These uniforms are made available at various times throughout the year. Please take advantage of this great opportunity.

- Proper School Shoes or sneakers (clogs, Crocs, jellies, open-toed shoes, sandals or shoes with heels are never permitted on any day including non-uniform days)
- Athletic Shoes must be worn on gym days and may be worn on non-uniform days.
- All school and athletic shoes must have non-marking soles (as they track in dirt)
- No light up shoes are allowed as they are a distraction to the learning process
- Shoes are to be laced up and tied at all times

Please Refer to the Following Pages for Dress Code Specifications:

Boys Regular Uniform

Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade

*** November 1st- April 30th**

- White or Blue Knit “Immaculate Conception” imprinted polo shirt, short or long sleeve
- Navy blue dress pants
- Navy sweater or “uniform approved” sweatshirt from spirit store (examples pictured)
- Brown or black belt
- Black, navy or white crew-length socks (above the ankle)
- Black, navy or brown dress shoes. (examples pictured)



Girls Regular Uniform

Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade

*** November 1st- April 30th**

- White or blue peter pan collared dress shirt, long or short sleeve, with jumper (K-4) or skort (K-4) and skirt (Grades 5 & 6).
- Navy blue tights, bike shorts, or leggings under jumper and skirt
- Knit “Immaculate Conception” imprinted polo shirt, short or long sleeve, with navy blue dress pants.
- Navy or white cardigan or “uniform approved” sweatshirt from spirit store
- Brown or black belt
- Black, navy or white crew (above the ankle) or knee length socks.
- Black, navy, or brown dress shoes. (examples pictured)



Boys Seasonal Uniform

Kindergarten - 6th Grade

*** September – October 31st and May 1st to end of school year**

- White or Blue Knit “Immaculate Conception” imprinted polo shirt, short or long sleeve
- Navy blue dress pants or navy blue dress shorts
- Brown or black belt
- Black, navy or white crew-length socks (above the ankle)
- Black, navy or brown dress shoes or sneakers (examples pictured)



Girls Seasonal Uniform:

Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade

*** September – October 31st and May 1st to end of school year**

- White or Blue Peter Pan collared dress shirt, long or short sleeve, with jumper (K-4) or skort (K-4) and skirt (Grades 5 & 6).
- Navy Blue tights, bike shorts, or leggings under jumper and skirt
- Knit “Immaculate Conception” imprinted polo shirt, short or long sleeve, with navy blue dress pants.
- Brown or black belt
- Black, navy or white crew (above the ankle) or knee length socks.
- Black, navy, or brown dress shoes or sneakers (examples pictured)



Boys Mass Uniform

Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade

- White or blue dress shirt, short or long sleeve.
- Navy blue tie
- Navy blue dress pants
- Navy sweater
- Brown or black belt
- Black, navy or white crew-length socks (above the ankle)
- Black, navy, or brown dress shoes. (examples pictured)
- ***No knit polo shirts or sweatshirts allowed on Mass days***



Girls Mass Uniform

Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade

- White or Blue Peter Pan collared dress shirt, long or short sleeve, with jumper (K-4) or skirt (K-4) and skirt (Grades 5 & 6).
- Navy Blue tights, bike shorts, or leggings under jumper and skirt
- White or blue dress shirt with navy blue dress pants.
- Navy or white cardigan
- Brown or black belt
- Black, navy or white crew (above the ankle) or knee length socks.
- Black, navy, or brown dress shoes (examples pictured)
- *** No Knit polo shirts or sweatshirts allowed on Mass Days***



¹Mass Uniforms should be followed as described above unless specified by your classroom teacher.

Boys and Girls Gym Uniforms

Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade

*** Worn twice a week on designated gym days**

- Immaculate Conception blue tie-dye gym shirt
- Navy or Immaculate Conception logo mesh shorts or sweatpants
- Athletic sneakers (examples pictured)
- Immaculate Conception "Uniform approved" sweatshirt (examples pictured)



Gym Uniforms are available for purchase through the school's main office.

Field Trip Uniform:

- The tie-dyed I.C. Spirit (gym) shirt is the typical uniform for school field trips unless otherwise specified.

Non-Uniform Day Guidelines:

- Good jeans or pants may be worn.
- For Girls - skirts, dresses (no mini-skirts) good jeans or pants.
- NO - short shorts, cut-off jeans, leggings, cropped shirts, Spandex, bike shorts, jeans or pants with holes, halter tops, sheer material, etc.
- NO - clothing or accessories with inappropriate sayings.
- Good Taste - Modesty - Cleanliness - Propriety - will be expected at all times.

Seasonal Uniform Option

Please note that participation in the seasonal uniform is optional. The uniform may be worn September through October 31st and begin again May 1st through the end of the school year. Should you decide to have your child/children participate in the optional policy, purchasing the uniforms through Flynn & O'Hara, or utilizing our Uniform Exchange.

The Seasonal Uniform consists of Navy blue dress shorts, white or blue knit shirt imprinted with "Immaculate Conception School", worn with white, black or navy crew socks (above the ankle) and nice looking sneakers. Shorts and shirts may be purchased through Flynn & O'Hara Uniform Company. Shirts must be purchased through Flynn and O'Hara. (No Exceptions).

Special “Out-of-Uniform” Dress Code

Students may dress out-of-uniform on specified days, such as Halloween and when specifically announced by the school. All out-of-uniform clothing must be appropriate and meet the following expectations:

- No words, sayings or images may be on clothing if they do not reflect Christian values.
- Clothing should not be tight-fitting or revealing. No tank tops or crop tops are allowed; shoulders must be covered.
- Nice jeans may be worn; no shorts.
- Tights must have shorts or a skirt over them; tights should not be worn alone.
- Clothing should be in good repair with no holes or rips.

Spirit Wear

On Spirit Wear days, students may wear any I.C. Spirit Wear, including I.C. sweatshirts.

Policies / Procedures / Protocols

Attendance

There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance and academic performance. Students are expected to be in attendance on every school day. It is in the students' best interest to be in attendance every school day. We understand that illness may prevent attendance, however, school attendance should be regarded as the first priority in other circumstances.

Children who are tardy to school, must enter the school at the Main Entrance. Tardiness is considered when students are not seated in the classroom by the 9:00 a.m. bell. If students are late to school, they must bring in a written excuse of explanation, unless it is due to a bus problem.

Absences

When your child is absent, for any reason, please contact the School Nurse by calling the school between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Provide the date, student's name, grade and reason for absence. The School Nurse will contact parents / guardians of absent students if you do not call the school.

Excuses for all absences must be noted in PickUp Patrol and the reason for and dates of the absence must be included. Any absence without documentation in PickUp Patrol is considered an unexcused absence.

Excused Absences:

- Sickness
- Medical or Dental Appointment
- Serious Family Illness
- Court
- Death of a Family Member or Close Friend
- Approved School-Related Program
- Religious
- Participation in a School Sponsored Event

Policies / Procedures / Protocols

Attendance, con't.

Unexcused Absences:

- Oversleeping
- Missing the School Bus
- Weather-Related
- Late Ride
- Family Vacation
- Traffic
- Non-School Trips

Students and / or parents are responsible for contacting teachers (upon return to school) to arrange to make-up missed work and assignments.

Vacations

All vacations that do not follow the school calendar are Unexcused Absences. Tests and work missed for these vacations must be made up by the student. Time missed is difficult for children, teachers and parents to make up. Vacations scheduled during school time should be avoided.

Participation in After-School Activities

Students who are absent, or leave school due to illness, are not eligible to participate in any after school activities. These include practices, special events and concerts.

Absence Intervention

The principal will schedule meetings with the students and parents when attendance issues interfere with academic progress. Together, the group will formulate an attendance improvement plan. Consequences for unexcused absence / tardiness may result in additional disciplinary sanctions, including suspension, probation, dismissal and exclusion from co-curricular activities. The principal may request a physician's note for cases of excessive absence.

Appointments and Release of Students

Please keep the school calendar in mind when it is necessary to make dental, eye, medical and other appointments for your child to minimize the loss of instruction time. If a parent is aware that a student must leave the building during the school day, a written request must be submitted by the parent or guardian to the principal stating the date, reason, time and anticipated time of return (if applicable). The student's parent or guardian must also come to the school office to sign the student out. Upon the student's return, the student must be signed back in by the parent.

Policies / Procedures / Protocols

The school will presume that either parent may obtain the release of their child unless the school has been provided with a certified copy of a legally binding instrument, such as a court order or a decree of divorce, separation or custody, which specifically directs otherwise. The school will not be held responsible for failing to honor arrangements that have not been made known. A student may not be released from school to anyone other than the parent or guardian without explicit written permission. This permission must be directed to the principal, state the name of the person to whom the student is to be released, the date and time this person will report to the school office, and it must be signed by the parent. The principal will attempt to contact the student's parent or guardian or the parent's designated emergency contact.

Emergency Contacts

Each parent/guardian shall provide the school with telephone numbers where they may be contacted in the event of emergencies. Further, the school requests that the parent provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals who act in the parent's absence should an unexpected event occur and the parents cannot be contacted. Persons on this list who are not personally known to the school staff will be permitted to take the students from school only after providing appropriate identification.

Visitors

All parents and visitors must report to the Main Office, sign in, and be prepared to show proper I.D. All visitors are required to wear a Visitor Badge while in the school. If parents are entering the school to drop items off for a student, the Main Office Staff will receive them and deliver them to the student.

Visits by parents, potential students and tours are arranged through the Principal's Office. Please contact the Main Office to make an appointment.

Teachers are not able to meet with parents during school hours, when they have classroom responsibilities. If you wish to speak with or meet a teacher or the principal, please call for an appointment.

Policies / Procedures / Protocols

Volunteer Policy

Volunteers are a vital part of Immaculate Conception School and we encourage everyone to give of their time and talents. Volunteers coming to school during the day must report to the main office upon entering the building, sign in and wear a Visitor's Pass while in the building. Upon leaving the building, please return to the office to sign out and return the pass. Several things should be kept in mind when visiting the school:

- classrooms should not be disturbed
- respect the confidential nature of the school
- you are a guest in the building
- the safety of all students

Safe Environment Certification

Without exception, ALL employees and volunteers coming into the school MUST be currently certified in the Safe Environment Training.

School Closings

If the decision is made to delay or close school due to weather, I.C. will follow the Fayetteville-Manlius School District closing. Please look for a text alert from the school for statements regarding delays and closings. Local media resources may also have notification about delays and closings, including local TV stations.

Emergency Closing During School

Occasionally, it is necessary to send students home early because of poor weather or other emergency conditions. Student safety is the primary consideration when deciding about a school closing. We recognize that this can cause difficulty for parents. Please know that we will make every effort to get information out as early as possible.

Field Trips

Field trips are a privilege and should be a learning experience for the student and one that correlates to what is being taught in the classroom. In order to participate in any field trip sponsored by Immaculate Conception School, the student must present a consent form, signed by his/her parent on or before the date established by the teacher or principal. Consent of one parent is sufficient to authorize the student's participation. All field trip costs must be paid in full prior to the actual event.

Policies / Procedures / Protocols

Birthdays

Birthdays may be acknowledged in the classroom with prior arrangements with the classroom teacher. If you plan on bringing in a special birthday treat for your child's birthday, please check with the School Nurse to make sure it is correctly labeled Tree Nut Free/Peanut Free - "School Safe." (Italian Ice is a favorite). Any treat MAY NOT be homemade, due to the allergies.

Children's birthday party invitations are not to be sent to school for distribution unless the entire class is invited. Always keep in mind the feelings of the child that is not included.

Home School Association (HSA)

All parents in the school belong to the Home School Association (H.S.A.) This organization is the backbone of the many social and classroom events which take place in the school. Meetings are held throughout the school year and parents are encouraged to attend and become involved. This group also consists of our room parents who assist teachers in the various activities that take place in the classroom for the holidays and special events. A complete listing of the officers and room parent coordinators can be found in the I.C. School website.

I.C. Advisory Board

The School Advisory Board is a group made up of parents, faculty and Parish members. The purpose of the school Advisory Board is to advise the principal and Pastor on various matters dealing with the school. A complete listing of members can be found on the I.C. School website.

Lunch Program

Lunch Service is available to all I.C. Students for the 2024-2025 School Year through School Eatery. School Eatery coordinates lunch service through area restaurants and allows for easy and direct ordering and payment. Ordering and payment set-up information is provided by registering at: <https://schooleatery.com/our-services-parents/>

Extracurricular Activities

I.C. offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Many of these take place during school hours or require extra time after school. Interscholastic athletics are extracurricular.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege for students. They, in turn, have a responsibility to themselves, their team, school, family and community to maintain high standards of physical and mental fitness and citizenship, thereby allowing the education benefits of the activities.

Policies / Procedures / Protocols

Immaculate Conception's Medical Policy Standards

Health / Nurse's Office

There is a Full-Time Nurse at I.C. during school hours. Our nurse is provided by the Fayetteville-Manlius School District.

Health Office Information

The goal of our health office is to facilitate the educational process by helping your children stay in the best possible health. Our school nurse is present throughout the day to provide intervention as necessary. If the nurse deems it necessary, parents will be notified of an injury, the nature of the first aid and what further precautions to take place.* Our nurse also verifies compliance regarding immunizations and NYS annual physicals. In addition, she performs annual vision and hearing screening for students in odd number grades (K,1,3&5).

Student Illness

If a child becomes ill at school, the parent will be notified to make arrangements for transportation home. When your child is absent from school due to a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, they must be symptom free without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child was given an antibiotic, they may return 24 hours after the initial dose of medication has been administered. Antibiotics for ear infection is the only exception. Ear infections are not contagious, but anything that can reduce the spread of germs will help to reduce ear infections.

If your child shows any of the following signs or symptoms, it is best that they remain out of school or seek further medical assistance:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or more (If 100.4 in school - you will be asked to pick your child up from school)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Redness, itching, crusting and/or drainage from eye
- Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill that persists longer than 48 hours
- Unexplained rash on any part of the body
- Severe ear pain or drainage, severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- General unwell feeling, accompanied by fever and/or loss of appetite

**It is essential that we have a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in case you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify the school nurse immediately.*

Physicals for Students

The New York State Department of Education requires physical examinations of students in grades PreK3, PreK4, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th. In addition, all new entrants regardless of grade, and new students to the district are required to submit a physical exam within 30 days of entry. The school nurse will provide vision and hearing screenings as mandated by New York State.

Medication

Any medication (prescription or over the counter) to be taken at school must be brought to the nurse's office by a parent or guardian in its original container. A written request from the physician and parent/guardian indicating the frequency, dosage, reason for administration and duration of any medication must be provided. A medication authorization form is available if needed from the Nurse. All medications must be picked up at the end of the school year by a parent or guardian. A new request is required each school year.

- **Allergy Care Plans** need to be current for every student who has food allergies/intolerances that may be life threatening and require an epi-pen. If you have a student that requires this, please have your child's allergy action plan and medication forms filled out by your physician and signed. Once signed please bring these documents along with your child's medication to me. Also, you can bring in some safe snacks for your child to have in the classroom in case there is a time they need something extra.
- **Asthma** If your child needs an Asthma medication/inhaler please have your doctor's office fill out the medication form, signed by the parent and bring it in with the medication.

Immunization Requirements

The New York State Department of Health requires that all students are immunized prior to starting school. Check with your child's physician about changes in requirements and always send in the most up to date immunization record to the school nurse. Medical exemptions must have the proper paperwork filed with the nurse and the district office and are the only reason for immunization exemptions. Medical exemptions must be renewed every year.

Sunscreen

Per the updated NYS Education Law Article 19 - Section 907 Use of Sunscreen

Allows students to carry and use topical sunscreen products approved by the FDA with the written permission of the parent or guardian of the student. A record of this permission must be maintained by the school nurse. A student who is unable to physically apply sunscreen may be assisted by unlicensed personnel when directed to do so by the student if permitted by a parent or guardian and authorized by the school.

We suggest that your written permission is given at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, and it will carry your student through the end of the school year. It is encouraged that sunscreen is provided for your student at this time as well. At the end of the year, the sunscreen will be returned.

Excuse from Physical Education

Excuse from Physical Education requires a note from a physician for excusing activity and a separate note for resuming activity.

Screening

New York State Education Law requires the following screening to be done during the school year in these grades:

- Vision –Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3 & 5
- Hearing – Pre-k, K, 1, 3 & 5
- Color Vision – K and new students
- Scoliosis – 5 If any irregularity is found, you will receive a written notice. If screening is within normal limits, you will not hear from us. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the nurse's office to discuss the matter.

Nurse's Notes: Best Practices

A Layered Approach to Illness

We recommend that your child stay home from school if experiencing flu or cold symptoms. To decide whether or not to send your child to school, please consider the following guidelines:

Consider keeping your child at home for an extra day of rest and observation if he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- Very stuffy or runny nose and/or cough
- Mild sore throat (no fever, no known exposure to strep)
- Headache
- Stomach ache

Definitely keep your child at home for treatment and observation if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever (greater than 100.4 degrees and your child may return to school only after his or her temperature has been consistently below 100 degrees, by mouth, for a minimum of 24 hours, **without medication**)
- Vomiting (even once)
- Diarrhea
- Eye discharge or crusting
- Open sores on the mouth, hands or feet
- Chills
- General malaise or feelings of fatigue, discomfort, weakness or muscle aches
- Frequent congested (wet) or croupy cough

To help prevent the flu and other colds, reinforce good hygiene habits with your children:

- Wash hands frequently
- Do not touch eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, use a paper tissue, throw it away and then wash hands; or tightly cough or sneeze into the crook of the elbow
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Colds are the most contagious during the first 48 hours. A child who has a fever should remain at home until "fever free" for a minimum of 24 hours, without medication. Your child should be physically able to participate in all school activities on return to school. Keeping a sick child at home will minimize the spread of infections and viruses in the classroom and to our staff as well as allowing their bodies to recover fully.

Academic Policies

Homework

Coming to school prepared each day with assigned homework completed, helps students to develop a responsible work ethic. Each grade level has expectations which are reviewed throughout the school year.

Homework During Absences

Parents / guardians of children who are absent from school are to call the main office and make arrangements for homework to be collected. Homework may be collected after 2:15 p.m. in the main office. Specific details about due expectations must be communicated with each assigning teacher.

Report Cards

Report Cards are distributed four times each academic year in November, January, April and June. Kindergarten Report Cards begin being distributed in January. Pre-K Students receive Progress Reports in both January and June.

Personal / Smart Device Policies

Bell-to-Bell Prohibition: Personal internet-enabled devices must be turned off and stored away from the student's person from the start to the end of the school day, including instructional time, lunch, and recess. Prohibited items generally include cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, handheld gaming consoles, and Bluetooth accessories like wireless earbuds.

Exceptions: Exemptions are made for documented medical needs (such as continuous glucose monitors) or specific educational and assistive technology accommodations outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan.

Parent Communication: Schools require families to contact the main office directly rather than texting or calling a student's personal device during school hours.

Catholic School's Office Policies

Educational Technology Statement of Policy

The Church views emerging technologies as gifts of the Spirit to this age and challenges "God's faithful people to make creative use of the new discoveries and technologies," (Aetatis Novae,#2). Developments in communications technology present new possibilities and challenges for the mission of the Church and Catholic Education. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse recognize that changes in telecommunications and other new technologies that alter the ways information is accessed, processed, communicated and transferred by and among members of society, may also alter instruction and student learning. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse support access by students to rich information resources and the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In addition, educational technologies must be used, both by Catholic educators and students, in a manner that is educationally appropriate, in accord with the religious goals of the schools, and consistent with standards of electronic ethics and copyright laws.

Code of Ethics Regarding Copyright

It is the policy of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse that all employees, volunteers, and students will abide by the Federal copyright laws. Employees, volunteers, and students may copy print or non-print materials as authorized by a specific license or other contractual agreement or as permitted by the Fair Use guidelines of the Copyright Law. Employees, volunteers, and students who willfully disregard copyright laws are in violation of the policy of the Diocese of Syracuse, do so at their own risk, and assume all liability for such acts.

Internet Acceptable Use

It is the policy of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse to require the ethical use of the Internet and related technologies by all employees, volunteers, and students. The Internet and related technologies must be used in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives and religious goals of the Catholic Schools. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules that apply to such networks, including the following:

- Transmission of any material in violation of any federal, state, or local regulations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to violating the Copyright law, sending or receiving material that is threatening, violent or obscene, or material that is protected by trade secret.
- Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement, political activities, game playing, unauthorized "chat" or chain letter communication is also prohibited. Examples of unacceptable information include, but are not limited to, pornography, information on bombs, inappropriate language and communications, flame letters, etc.
- Acts of vandalism are prohibited. Vandalism is defined as any intentional effort to harm or destroy data of another user or to damage hardware or software. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading and/or creation of computer viruses.
- Unauthorized use of another's computer, access accounts, and/or files is prohibited.

Catholic School's Office Policies

Nature of Privilege

Access to the Internet and the use of related technologies via the Catholic Schools' computers and equipment are a privilege and not a right, and inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges. Users of the Catholic Schools' computer network are responsible for their own behavior and shall comply with all appropriate standards of conduct. Access privileges may be revoked, and disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken for any violations that are unethical and/or appropriate legal action may be taken for any violations that are unethical and/or may constitute a criminal offense. Before anyone is provided access to Internet and related technologies, they will participate in a discussion with assigned staff person(s) concerning the proper use of the network. The faculty, staff, or parent/guardian may request the administrator or designee to deny, revoke, or suspend a specific user's access to the Internet and related technologies due to unacceptable use.

No Expectations of Privacy

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse reserve the right to access all files and to monitor all uses of its computer technology equipment at its own discretion so as to establish and maintain an assurance that such equipment is not being used inappropriately. Subject to the restrictions of applicable law, the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse reserve the right to disclose content from a computer that utilizes the Catholic Schools' computer network. Thus, users of the Catholic Schools' computer equipment shall have no expectation of privacy with respect to such use.

No Warranties

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse make no warranties of any kind, whither expressed or implied, with respect to the Internet and related technology service it is providing and will not be responsible for any damages that a user may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions via the Internet and related technologies. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. Employees, volunteers, students or parents/guardians will be responsible for any financial obligation incurred through the use of Internet related technologies.

Terms and Conditions for Acceptable Use of the Internet by Students

Student use of the Internet on school computer hardware on school premises, or through School obtained accounts, both on-site and through remote connections, is governed by the policies of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse and the local school regulations.

Catholic School's Office Policies

Student use of the Internet is also governed by principles of electronic ethical use and current laws governing copyrighted materials etc. Each user is responsible for all material sent and received under their user account. The use of Internet accounts is a privilege and may be revoked by the principal, Internet coordinator, teacher or Internet provider at any time for violations of policies. All telecommunications access on school computers limited to

school-obtained accounts and is restricted to educational business and school related projects. Personal accounts on commercial services or other Internet providers may not be used in school.

The teacher, Internet coordinator or network administrator must supervise student use. The student and parent/guardian must sign an Agreement for Internet Access by Students before student use will be granted. This form must be kept on file and renewed annually.

Computers, including all information, programs, software and use privileges, belong solely to the school and are subject to review and inspection at any time without suspicion or cause. The school reserves the right to inspect, copy and/or delete all files and records on school computers or accessed through school accounts. Privacy is to be insured at all times. Students may not reveal their personal address or phone numbers or those of others. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be public property. Account holders/users are responsible to safeguard passwords and access protocols, and insure their account is protected from unauthorized access. Account holders will be held accountable for all activity logged on their account, regardless if they were personally the user. All users are required to adhere to the following password controls:

- Passwords shall be non-meaningful terms. Passwords should not be of a common nature such as last name, street name, etc.
- Passwords should not be displayed, divulged, accessible or shared. If there is reason to believe that a password has become known, it should be changed immediately.
- Passwords should never be written down, attached to the terminal, placed under the keyboard, or any other insecure place.
- Account holders should notify their teacher-sponsor or the teacher of the class if unauthorized access to their account is detected or suspected.

Catholic School's Office Policies

Student use of the Internet is governed by the student behavior code as included in the school's handbook and the policy of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse as included in the Diocesan Policy Handbook, and current state and federal laws. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility. Inappropriate computer behavior/use includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages, pictures or unlawful information on the Internet:
- Using impolite, abusive, or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private;
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws;
- Unauthorized access ("hacking") and trespassing in others' folders, work, or files;
- Intentionally wasting limited resources; or
- Employing the network for commercial purposes or in ways that violate federal, state, or local laws or statutes. Consequences of inappropriate computer use shall be:
- In accord with the minimum and maximum penalties as listed for the Violation of the Technology Policy in the school's handbook. In addition, a student may lose computer privileges for a period of time. A student reinstated under this provision must be supervised at all times.
- For major infractions, or at the discretion of the principal in discussion with the teacher, student computer privileges may be revoked for the remainder of the academic year.
- Notification to parents of a student's inappropriate computer use may be made at any time.
- When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Users of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse's computer network are responsible for their own behavior and shall comply with all appropriate standards of conduct. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse reserve the right to access all files and monitor all uses of its computer technology equipment at its own discretion so as to establish and maintain an assurance that such equipment is not being used inappropriately. Subject to the restrictions of applicable law, the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse also reserve the right to disclose content from a computer that utilizes the Catholic Schools' computer network. Thus, users of the Catholic Schools' computer equipment shall have no expectation of privacy with respect to such use.

The content of the web pages that are accessed via the servers of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse may be monitored, at any time, by Catholic Schools officials or their agents, and may be either deleted or modified as said officials or agents may, in their sole discretion, deem appropriate.