

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School



Pacers

Student Handbook

2012-2013



Dear Students,

I am excited for the new school year. This year promises to be a most exciting year for all of us here at SSPP. It takes a total team effort for us to be successful. That is why we need each of you to work to the best of your ability to be the person God has created you to become. We know that each of you can achieve new heights never before reached. This handbook states our expectations of each student in our school. By cooperating with teachers/staff, and by taking responsibility and a sense of pride in our school, will lead to a great year!

Our expectations of students at SSPP:

- We expect that you will represent our school in an outstanding manner
- We expect that you will work to the best of your ability
- We expect that you will treat others with dignity, worth, and respect
- We expect that you will keep our school clean and beautiful
- We expect that you will obey rules and policies set forth by the teachers and staff
- We expect you to challenge yourself and reach beyond your grasp to learn
- We expect that you will make us proud!

DISCIPLINE:

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are committed to teaching the Gospel values, which help our students live their lives as a reflection of Christ. The philosophy of our schools calls us to recognize and respect the dignity of each individual and to offer a Christ-centered, safe learning environment based on the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.

Discipline is a necessary element of the learning process. The purpose is to foster the growth of self-discipline enabling students to eventually assume responsibility for their own actions.

All members of the faculty and staff share the responsibility to model appropriate behaviors and to enforce the structure necessary for learning self-discipline, the ultimate goal.

To create an environment that is conducive to learning, faculty and staff of Saints Peter and Paul believe that young people must learn to deal with each other and respect each other in a manner consistent with Christian teaching. EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO RESPECT and the behavior in school, church, playground, and extra-curricular activities should reflect our love of God, neighbor, and self.

The “KEY” word for our school is “RESPECT.”

Respect: Treating oneself and others with kindness.

Excellence: Aiming to do one’s best.

Sportsmanship: Choosing to play fairly and responsibly.

Positive Attitude: Selecting to look for the best in each situation.

Encouragement: Allowing oneself and others to begin anew each day.

Courtesy: Practicing manners and politeness.

Tolerance: Being patient and compassionate with others.

WE EXPECT EACH STUDENT TO:

IN GENERAL:

- Students will walk quietly through the halls
- Students will use proper language at all times
- Students will not chew gum during school
- Students will not wear hats in school

- Students will follow the dress code for school days and dress up/down days
- Students will respect school property and the property of other students
- Students will not loiter in unsupervised areas, i.e., bathrooms, hallways

IN THE CLASSROOM:

- Students will follow the classroom rules of each teacher
- Students will be responsible for handing in homework on time and making up any work missed within a reasonable amount of time
- Students will have a respectful attitude toward teachers and each other
- Students will be responsible for appropriate supplies

IN THE CAFETERIA/ON THE PLAYGROUND:

- Students will show respect to cafeteria/playground personnel
- Students will not throw food/objects
- Students will practice good table manners
- Students will clean up their area when finished with eating
- Students will not take food outside of the cafeteria
- Obey supervisors on the playground
- Students will stop play and walk to designated areas to line up when the bell rings
- Students must have permission to leave the playground area

AT ATHLETIC EVENTS AND ASSEMBLIES:

- Students will practice good sportsmanship as spectators and participants
- Students will show respect towards coaches, referees, and visiting teams
- Students will maintain an appropriate silence during special performances

STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS:

The students at SSPP deserve to learn and play in the best environment we can provide. Accordingly, all teachers, staff, and students will make every effort to observe the following:

Students @ SSPP have the right to:

- Learn in a disruptive-free environment
- Learn in a bully-free environment
- Know what is expected of them at all times and in every area of the school
- Be protected from physical harm
- Be protected from verbal abuse
- Have their positive behavior recognized
- Have their personal property protected
- Have their concerns heard
- Be treated with respect, kindness and care at all times

BULLYING:

Bullying occurs when a child is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions such as nonverbal harassment in the form of stares, glares, cruel teasing, malicious gossip, sexual harassment, ethnic slurs, unreasonable territorial bans, destruction of property, extortion, and serious physical assault. A single instance of more serious harassment can be regarded as bullying under certain circumstances (OLWEUSO, 1993).

There are 4 signs of bullying that we will investigate:

Intentional: Bullying is always intentional and meant to cause some sort of harm to another person

Repetitive: Bullying is usually done to someone continuously and to someone they think will not do anything in return to stop the behavior

Hurtful: Bullying is always meant to cause some type of harm: physical, verbal, emotional, and/or mental

Imbalance of power: Bullying always creates an imbalance of power such as age, size, strength and/or social status

Cyber bullying: Cyber bullying is defined as an aggressive and intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly or over time against a victim that cannot defend himself/herself. Cyber bullying can involve the following:

- Sending mean, vulgar, and threatening messages or images
- Posting sensitive or private information or images/lies about someone
- Pretending to be someone else and communicating that image to someone else
- Intentionally excluding someone from an online group

Cyber bullying can occur through:

- Text messaging/image messaging
- E-mails
- Social networking sites
- Web pages
- Blogs
- Chat rooms
- Other types of cyber technology

Bullying of other students will not be tolerated. Students who are bullying others students will be dealt with immediately and will face severe consequences.

The discipline policy that we will use at SSPP will be a demerit policy. Each student will begin each semester with 100 merits. For each infraction (as listed below) a student will lose (said number of demerits). At the end of the first semester (January) you will need to be between 90 and 100 merits to participate in the spirit day rewards. The same expectation will be for the second semester (June).

At any time that you fall below the expected 90 required merits, you will be able to make them up. This will be accomplished during the after school hours and will be assisting to clean the school in some manner. Your parent s will be responsible to pick you up after detention. Again, you are responsible for keeping 90 to 100 merits at all times. Anytime you fall below this level you will risk being dismissed/suspended from athletic teams, after school activities, field trips, etc.

We, the staff of SSPP, cannot guarantee the safety of each child; however, we will make every effort to provide a safe and orderly environment to protect the health, welfare, and safety of all students. The following four-step problem solving process will be used;

1. Are we aware?
2. We will investigate
3. We will reach a conclusion with all assembled information
4. We will take appropriate action

DEMERIT CONSEQUENCES:

Denial of recognition rewards will be issued for the following:

1. Failure to maintain 90 – 100 merits

Detention will be issued for the following:

1. Level V violations
2. Loss of 11 demerits and each additional 6 demerits

In-school suspension or out of school suspension will be issued for the following:

1. Level V violations
2. After 2 detentions have been issued

Parent conference issued for the following:

1. Excessive violations
2. Level V violations

Any student accumulating 3 suspensions may be refused attendance for (any) the school field trip(s).

*Parent/guardian will be called

***Proper legal authorities will be contacted

***Diocesan policy will be followed

If other infractions that are not listed in the discipline code occur, consideration will be given to each one individually. The principal has the authority to address and evaluate each infraction in conjunction with the pastor(s) in making a final decision on the consequence(s).

It is, however, extremely important to realize that even if we follow this process 100% of the time, we could still make a mistake. The strength of this process is that we have no intent to harm the student in any way and that we will be truthful in each aspect of the process.

**Demerit forms are to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to school the next day.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are not to be seen or heard at any time during the school day. If a teacher or staff member sees a student using/carrying a cell phone it will be confiscated and only returned to the parent. They are to stay on the teacher's desk during school hours at all times. Teachers will keep phones locked during the school day.





In an effort to convey the image of a Catholic school and to enhance the individual self-respect of our students, the dress code will be enforced. School attire should always be within the limits of Christian good taste. The dress code is to be followed at all times:

- Slacks and shirts (polo) are to be purchased from Schoolbelles
- White button-down shirts of any brand may be worn
- Shirts are to be tucked in
- Brown or black belts are to be worn at all times

SKIRTS

- Skirts are not to be rolled at the waist
- Skirts are not to be worn more than 2.5 inches above the knee

GYM UNIFORMS/GYM SHOES

- Gym clothes are to be purchased from Schoolbelles
- If a student chooses to wear sweats or hoodies on gym day, they must be SSPP sweats or hoodies. Solid black or red sweats are permitted. If they are not solid black or red, they are not to be worn during the day
- Students must have “gym only” shoes for gym class. Street shoes are not permitted in the gym. On gym day, athletic shoes may be worn but then they must change into their “gym only” shoes

SHOES

- Shoes are to be low-cut, solid color black, navy, or brown
- Girls’ shoes heels should be less than 2 inches high
- Clogs and open-toed shoes and flip-flops are not permitted
- Tennis shoes are not to be worn daily as a school shoe
- Socks are to match the school uniforms (Navy, White, Red) Unusual colors are not permitted!

Please use good judgment on shoes and not allow your child to dictate the choice

JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES

- Students may wear wrist watches in school
- Girls may wear small ear studs or small hoop pierced earrings. Dangling earrings, necklaces and other decorative jewelry are not to be worn.
- Religious crosses/medals on light chains are acceptable

- Students in grades K-5 are not to wear makeup
- Students in grades 6-8 may wear light makeup
- No eye shadow, foundation or mascara
- No pierced body area is to be exposed
- No tattoos are to be exposed

FADS:

A fad is a practice or interest followed for a time with exaggerated zeal – a craze. Fads are not permitted at SSPP, especially the following:

- Exaggerated haircuts, styles and colors (shaved heads, Mohawks, design cuts into the hair, etc.)
- Exaggerated use of jewelry and accessories including the size of medals
- All necklaces/chains are to be worn under the shirt/blouse
- Exaggerated styles of clothing (oversized)

HAIRSTYLES

- Hair should be neat and clean and kept out of the face.
- Boys are not permitted to wear tails of any length, Mohawks, designed cuts into the hair or any other fad style.
- Boys' hair length should not hang below the top of the collared shirt.
- Hair color must be natural. No dyed, striped, streaked, tipped, spiked, gelled, or exotic styles are permitted.

The administration has the right to decide on the discretion of the dress code, especially on dress down days

