

ST. GILES SCHOOL HANDBOOK

St. Giles School is recognized by
the Office of Catholic Schools and the State of Illinois.

ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS:

SCHOOL: Frawley Building (School Office and 3-8)
1034 Linden Ave.
Corrigan Building (K-2) 1030 Linden Ave.
Gleeson Building 1101 Columbian Ave.
(Preschool 708-763-0240)
(Kids Klub 708-383-0530)

School Office	1034 Linden Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302	708-383-6279
	Fax	708 -383-9952
	E-mail	office@stgilesschool.org
	Website	www.stgilesschool.org

<i>Principal</i>	Miss Meg Bigane	x 505
<i>Asst. Principal</i>	Ms. Kathleen Lofgren	x 504
<i>Executive Director</i>	Mrs. Michele Bibbey	x 513
<i>Office Manager</i>	Mrs. Heather Kroll	x 501
<i>Athletic Director</i>	Mr. Sean Clancy	x 514
<i>Enrichment Coordinator</i>	Mr. Steve Siwek	x 512

PARISH CENTER	1025 N. Columbian Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302	708-383-3430 Fax 708-383-8644
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<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Carl Morello
<i>Resident</i>	Rev. Edward P. Salmon
<i>Resident</i>	Rev. Thomas E. Unz

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Governance

St. Giles School operates under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Chicago. As such, the school administration, faculty and governance board are bound to implement and follow all policies and procedures promulgated by the Archdiocese and Office of Catholic Schools as outlined in the 2017 **Educational Policies Manual**. Local school policies and procedures found in the St. Giles School parent/family/student and faculty handbooks are additional directives developed to govern the local needs of the school and may not contradict Archdiocesan and/or Office of Catholic School directives.

Illinois State Recognition/Adoption of State Requirements

All Archdiocesan Schools must be registered with the State of Illinois and be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) School communities and their principals must comply with State requirements annually in order to maintain ISBE recognition. These requirements include meeting administrative deadlines as determined by ISBE to ensure compliance and recognition.

ST. GILES SCHOOL CREED

Lord, we believe in you. We believe in your good news, in what you have done for us, and in what you have revealed to us. We want to recognize your love and respond to it. We must meet you on our way. We must know you through our daily school experiences. The way we answer your love must make the difference in the building of the kingdom.

We believe that for each of us to become all that we can be, we must first believe in ourselves. We strive to be creative and critical thinkers who are capable of sound decision making and responsible action. While we lean on and learn from each other, mutual trust and respect can be ours. We believe in learning by doing. With constancy we assess the change we hope for in ourselves, our plans, and our actions.

*Thus, we believe this good news to be an inspiring force - a moving force to deepen our union with you as we become a community of faith, bound together with a shared vision.
Lord, it is good for us to be here.*

PHILOSOPHY

As an institution encompassing Scripture based Catholic tradition, St. Giles School exists to foster the intellectual and spiritual growth of our elementary school children.

We recognize parents as the primary educators of their children and appreciate their continual support and cooperation in fostering their children's faith and ensuring their continued academic growth.

We believe that students need to participate in an orderly, creative learning process amidst diversified teaching styles, nurturing the uniqueness of each child. St. Giles offers its students a school community in which the individual's gifts and limitations may be discovered. Working individually and in community with others the students develop a sense of personal responsibility toward school, parish and community at large.

We believe our curriculum is designed to challenge our students in their pursuit of academic excellence as well as to develop a growing sense of spirituality. This provides a comprehensive education for our students in a rapidly changing society.

ST. GILES SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Giles School exists to foster the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth of our elementary school children. As a Catholic institution sponsored by St. Giles Parish, we participate in the Church's mission of education and evangelization by proclaiming and living the Good News of Jesus Christ with our students and families. We are committed to a quality education that prepares our students to be people of faith, lifelong learners and to serve the broader community.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

St. Giles is operated under the auspices of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole, in the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is the policy of St. Giles School to provide equal opportunity in employment to all employees and all applicants for employment. No person is discriminated against in employment by reason of such individual's race, color, gender, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, mental or physical disabilities unrelated to the ability to perform the duties of the position, except when one of these characteristics is a necessary qualification of a position.

School Student Records/Missing Persons Records Act

St. Giles School has a written system/procedure in place that flags records for any current or former student who has been reported missing by the Illinois State Police.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Parent and Teacher Organization

The Parent and Teacher Organization (PTO) is run by a volunteer parent board whose purpose is to be an information link between the School and our families. The PTO also provides opportunities for teachers, parents and children to interact through activities designed to be fun, build school spirit, and raise funds to benefit the school.

For a list of the PTO Committees and events please refer to the PTO website at www.stgilesschool.org/st-giles-pt/

Parent Roles

Parents are recognized as the primary educators. They create a Christian atmosphere enlivened by love and respect for God. Such atmosphere includes worship of God and love and respect for others.

Parents should encourage their children to be serious in their attitude toward learning, to take pride in accomplishments, to recognize their shortcomings, and above all, to be happy with who they are. We see the following as important areas:

- To foster Christian living in the home;
- To create a learning atmosphere in the home;
- To encourage support of authority, the teachers' and the Principal's role in the School;
- To support School procedures and rules as well as consequences for non-compliance; and
- To financially support the Parish and the School and to participate in activities in the School.

Parent/Guardian Conduct

Parents/Guardians in the local school community are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior at all times with faculty, administration, support staff, students, and volunteers whether on or off school grounds or at school-related events. Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to: harassment, verbal abuse, assault of or threats to the faculty, administration, staff, students and volunteers of the school. Ordinarily, a student is not to be deprived of a Catholic school education on grounds relating to the actions/attitudes of parent/guardian. In some cases, one of the following actions may permit the continuation of the student in the school:

- Schedule meetings between school staff and the parent/guardian outside of regular school hours in a monitored setting.
- Conduct school business with the other parent/guardian of the student.

When, in the judgment of the principal and of the pastor, the behavior of a parent/guardian seriously interferes with teaching, learning, and a positive school environment, the administrator may:

- Inform parents that the right of the parent/guardian to be present on school grounds is temporarily or permanently suspended.
- Dismiss the child(ren) of the parent/guardian temporarily or permanently from the local Catholic school.

Family Events - Substance Abuse Procedure: In furtherance of the philosophy set forth herein, St. Giles School prohibits the possession, consumption, use and distribution of alcohol, illicit drugs and other controlled substances by anyone, including, without limitation, parents, guardians, staff and employees, on school grounds during a school session or at a school-sponsored activity at which students are present (other than the use of wine in connection with a liturgical celebration). Anyone violating this prohibition shall be subject to such sanctions as the Principal may deem reasonable including, without limitation in the case of a parent/guardian of a currently enrolled student or students, the expulsion from the School of the student(s) of the offender. This policy is in addition to, and is not intended to override the “Substance Abuse Policy” set forth in the “Health and Safety” section of this handbook.

Party Invitations - Private birthday and party invitations are not to be distributed at school unless every child in the classroom is invited.

Student Responsibilities

St. Giles School is here for the sake of the student. The student not only learns within the confines of the School, but also shares his/her talents with his/her fellow students. It is believed that the student has certain responsibilities, primarily:

To respect teachers, helpers in the School, and neighbors in the community;

To respect fellow students - their ideas and their heritage;

To respect other people's property;

To respect themselves by taking responsibility for their actions;

To work at their school subjects to the best of their ability, to present a neat appearance, and to follow the uniform code;

To follow rules made to insure each person's safety, including internet use guidelines;

To prayerfully participate in school liturgies by following Church expectations:

1. Walk to Church and enter in a prayerful manner.
2. When entering Church, bless yourself with Holy Water and the sign of the Cross.
3. Genuflect before entering the pew.
4. Upon entering the pew, kneel down for a moment to remind yourself of the presence of God (silent prayer).
5. Sit up straight and stand straight in the pew at appropriate time during the mass. When seated, feet should rest on the floor, not the kneeler.

6. When kneeling in church, keep your body straight.
7. Actively participate by singing, praying and responding throughout the mass. Use the missal and hymnal when necessary.
8. Listen respectfully and silently during the mass. Responses such as clapping or answering questions should only occur if invited by the priest, and must be carried out in an appropriate manner for Church.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Attendance

School attendance is compulsory in the State of Illinois. Therefore, students are required to attend school daily. The responsibility for compliance with the law belongs to the parents/guardians for children 6 through 16 years of age. The school is responsible for keeping accurate record of each students' daily attendance. Illinois law requires accumulated absences beyond nine days to be excused by medical personnel.

Student Attendance Policy

School attendance is fundamental to the academic success and spiritual growth of our students. For this reason, students are expected to attend school on a daily basis for the school term, unless an absence is excused.

A student is absent from school when he/she is not physically present on a required student attendance day. A student is tardy when he/she is not physically present at the posted opening of a regular required student attendance day.

Reporting Process

Absences

Any day that a student is absent from or tardy to school, the student's parent/guardian must call the school office at 708-383-6279 or email office@stgilesschool.org within 30 minutes of the opening of a regular student attendance day to report the student's absence or tardy. If a parent/guardian fails to report a student's absence, it will be recorded as unexcused. The school will contact the parent/guardian if a student is absent and a notice of absence is not received within 60 minutes of the opening of the student attendance day.

A student absence will be excused if it is due to: (1) student illness (including mental/behavioral health); (2) observance of a religious holiday; (3) death in the immediate family; (4) a family emergency; (5) other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the principal; (6) other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional or physical health or safety; and (7) other reasons approved by the principal.

Absences due to medical reasons may be required to provide medical documentation. If medical documentation is required and is not provided, the

absences will be marked as excused. Students whose absences are excused will be allowed to make up missed assignments.

An unexcused absence is as an absence from school for a reason other than those listed above as an excused absence. Students will lose credit for assignments on school days or for classes from which the absence was unexcused.

Tardies

Students are expected to be in class on time so they maximize their learning opportunities. Students that arrive at school after the first bell has rung are considered tardy and must report to the school office upon their arrival. After reporting to the office, the student will be permitted to join his/her class. Tardies are recorded in the school office and are reported on the student's report card. Excused tardies are not counted. Students may accrue up to 3 each trimester – Excessive absences or tardiness will be addressed on an individual basis and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Early Dismissal

If it is necessary for a student to leave school during the school day, the student's parent/guardian must call the school office at 708-383-6279. Students to be dismissed early from school must be signed out in the main office. Parents may then pick up students in the Gleeson or Corrigan buildings.

Excessive Absenteeism

Excessive absenteeism means absences that total 10% or more of school attendance days in the current school year including both excused and unexcused absences. We will periodically review our student absence data to determine if any students are excessively absent and, if so, we may call the parent/guardian to discuss the reasons for the excessive absences. Additionally, if appropriate, the school may provide the parent/guardian with a list of resources where they may obtain counseling or social services that will encourage daily attendance and promote success.

If there is no improvement in attendance or cooperation by the student or parent guardian with its efforts for their child, the student may be withdrawn from the school.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

For the safety of the students, please be punctual with the times that students arrive and depart from school. No supervision is provided before 8:00 a.m. and after 3:10 p.m. The school provides before and after school care through the Kids Klub program for children who need to be at school before 8:00 a.m. or after 3:10 p.m.. Unsupervised use of School grounds before/after school hours is prohibited.

Arrival Times

The School's doors open at 8:00 a.m. Students are marked tardy after 8:15 a.m. Students arriving thereafter must report to the School Office. Consistent late arrival will require

a meeting between parents and school administration and may result in additional consequences.

Entrance and Doors

Students enter through the following doors:

PK3 – Door L – Gleeson Bldg. – South door
Columbian Ave.

PK4 – Door M – Gleeson Bldg. – North door on
Columbian Ave.

Kindergarten – Door C – Corrigan Bldg. – South door on Linden
Ave.

Grades 1-2 – Door B – Corrigan Bldg. – North door on Linden Ave.

Grades 3-4 – Door H – Frawley Bldg. – Linden Ave.

Grades 5- 6 – Door K– Frawley Bldg. – Columbian Ave.

Grades 7 & 8 – Door K – Frawley Bldg. – Columbian Ave.

Kids Klub K-8 – Door D – Corrigan Playground; enter through
gate on Linden Ave.

Afternoon Kids Klub PreK -- Door L -- Gleeson Bldg. Columbian Ave.

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up Points

Students that are driven to school must be dropped off at one of five designated drop-off points. These drop-off points have been designated “Loading Zones” to increase safety.

1. Corrigan Building near South door C
2. Corrigan Building near North door B
3. Frawley Building near Columbian door K
4. Gleeson Building near South door L
5. Gleeson Building near North door M

Dismissal Times

Grades K Full Day -8th - Students are dismissed at 3:10 p.m.

Morning Preschool dismissed at 11:15 a.m.

On scheduled half days, the School day ends at 11:45 a.m.

If severe thunderstorms or tornado warnings are in effect at dismissal time, students will be kept in school until it is safe to leave.

Dismissal: Preschool & Kindergarten

1. If there is a change in the usual pick-up on any day, please inform teachers before dismissal who the pick-up person will be. No student shall be dismissed to any adult other than their parent or guardian, unless the parent or guardian has made previous arrangements in writing.
2. Teachers will stay with students at pick-up points until all are dismissed. If a parent is unusually late, the student will be brought to the office and the parent or appropriate person will be called.
3. Driving through or parking in alley is not allowed.

Requests for Early Dismissal

No student may leave school before the regular dismissal hour without a written request from the parent/guardian. **At the time of early dismissal the child must be signed out in the School Office by an adult.** All efforts should be made to arrange for doctor or dental appointments outside of school hours, on free days or on Saturdays. No student shall be dismissed to any adult other than their parent or guardian, unless the parent or guardian has made previous arrangements in writing.

Funerals During School Hours

When families wish a student(s) to attend a funeral at St. Giles Church, during school hours, the school must be notified. Families may come to pick up the child at school and take him/her to the Mass. The family is responsible for the student(s) until returning to school. Families may request that their child attend with another adult.

Tuancy

If a student is absent without an excuse, or if the school has reason to suspect the validity of the excuse, the principal shall investigate the situation and apply appropriate remedies. If all efforts to persuade the child to come to school are unsuccessful, the case shall be referred to the appropriate official of the public district.

Kids Klub

The Kids Klub Program provides before and after school day care for registered students. A \$50 fee per child, \$90 per family, is charged for registration plus \$7.50 per hour per child. The program meets only on days that school is in session.

Kids Klub Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. &
3:10 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Lunch/Recess Program

The St. Giles lunch/recess program is for all full day students. Children may bring a nut free bagged lunch, or parents have the opportunity to pre-order lunches through Marlamlunch.boonli.com. **The office is unable to accommodate regular lunch deliveries from outside vendors for students.** Forgotten lunches must be brought to the office for distribution. Sharing food is prohibited due to food allergies. Sending in or arranging a special lunch/treat for a small group of students is not allowed unless sponsored by the school for a specific activity group.

All children go outside at lunchtime, weather permitting. If it becomes necessary for your child to stay inside, a written note for each day must be presented to the School Office.

Disobeying lunchroom or playground rules repeatedly within a trimester will result in temporary or permanent exclusion from lunch/recess.

DISCIPLINE

Classroom rules will be posted in each classroom. The Principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations.

Early Childhood Discipline

It is the goal of our early childhood programs to help the children develop self-control, assume responsibilities for their actions, and promote appropriate social skills. Through the use of positive reinforcement, children will build self-esteem, self-control, and conflict resolution skills. Limits to behavior will be made clear to each child and enforced calmly and kindly. No child will be allowed to hurt other children or equipment. Teachers work with each child to promote cooperation and respect through discussion, modeling, and redirecting with positive statements. A “time-out” may be issued in order for the child to regain a sense of self-control. Parents will be contacted by the teacher or an administrator/.

Based on developmental needs, the implementation of consequences will vary for the younger grades.

Consequences Definitions:

Processing:

Behavior that continues after redirection will warrant processing. The student completes a developmentally appropriate reflection regarding his/her behavior. Students may be processed within the classroom or sent to another location/classroom.

Lunch Detention:

Students are removed from regular lunch and/or recess. Lunch detention is supervised by the Assistant Principal or Principal in a designated area outside the lunchroom.

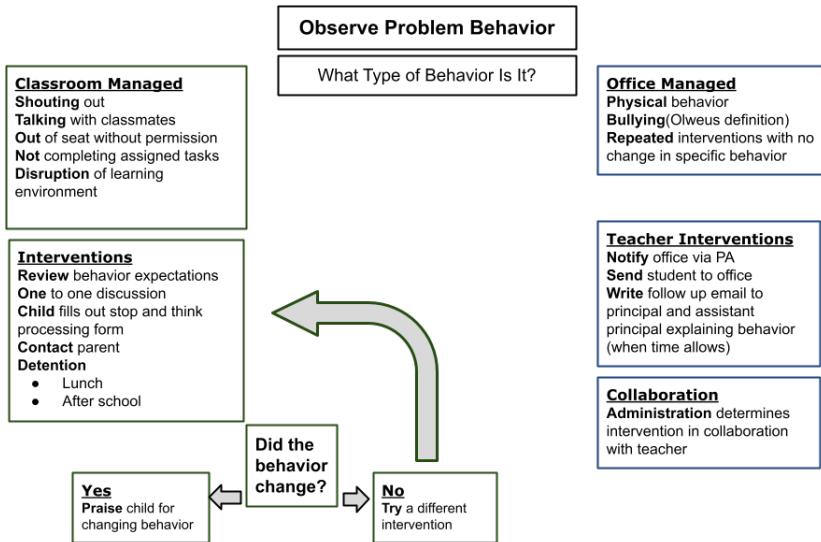
P.M. Detention:

Serious rule violations warrant an after-school detention from 3:10 - 4:00 in grades 4-8. Parents are informed by the teacher and detention is supervised by the Assistant Principal or principal.

Behavior Flowchart

Each day is a fresh start.

Is it classroom managed behavior or office managed behavior?



*Consequences may be applied to behaviors not represented on this chart as deemed appropriate.

Consequence for more serious behavior: Suspensions

Suspension (Half-Day or Full-Day):

Behaviors warranting in-school suspensions may include but are not limited to the following behaviors: (Depending on severity, the principal/assistant principal reserves the right to determine whether to assess an in-school or out-of-school suspension.)

Continued harassment and bullying; threat of harm; truancy; continued misuse of computers and electronics; gross insubordination/defiance of authority, school rules or willful disregard of directions from school personnel; dangerous behavior which could accidentally cause harm; stealing; vandalism; using racial/ethnic slurs; fighting; and bringing fire-producing or other dangerous materials to school.

Automatic Out of School Suspension:

Possession of weapon or any object brought with intent to use as a weapon or for purpose of disrupting school; intentionally physically injuring or attempting to injure another student or staff member including physical fighting; using fire-producing or other dangerous materials; buying, selling, possessing or using alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco or vaping products or other controlled substances; major bullying, threatening, harassing, or intimidating another student or staff; sexual harassment; and seriously damaging school property or another person's property.

The principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations.

St. Giles students are required to adhere to the code of expected behavior at ALL school functions, i.e. Kids Klub or athletic events at St. Giles and other schools, music concerts, Open House, Curriculum Fair, Field Trips, etc.

Snow Regulations

The students have the responsibility to respect school property as well as other peoples' homes and property. No snow is thrown at any time on the school grounds or on the way to and from school. The school notifies parents if students disregard the safety of others by violating the regulation regarding snow throwing on the way to or from school.

Gangs

All students and employees are entitled to work and study in safe school-related environments that are Christ-centered and free of threat and danger.

Students may not advertise membership in any group that is not sanctioned by St. Giles School. This includes what is commonly known as a gang. Students will not engage in what may be perceived as a method of representing an affiliation with a gang. These methods may include: wearing certain clothing, colors, initials, logos, symbols, insignias, giving hand gestures or other signals that are identified by the police as gang related. The school will treat complaints or gang activity seriously and will respond to such complaints in a prompt and thorough manner. Gang activity of any type will not be tolerated and appropriate action will be taken. This includes contacting parents/guardians and local police authorities.

Substance Abuse Policy

Any student found with, using, or selling illegal substances and/or paraphernalia in the area of the school's jurisdiction shall be subject to the following:

1. Suspension pending school investigation
2. Conference with Principal, parents, child, Pastor, and other appropriate persons as determined by the Principal
3. Notify the police as directed by the law
4. If a violation is found, professional evaluation and, if necessary, treatment shall be provided by parent/guardian.

Consequences may result in continued suspension and/or expulsion when pastoral and rehabilitative measures have been exhausted. In extreme circumstances expulsion may be considered at an earlier time in the process.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, many of the emotional acts or conduct (in person or through electronic communication or social media) as well as exhibitionism, voyeurism, sexual propositioning, gestures, sexting and abuse involving physical contact or sexual assault.

Retaliation in any form against an employee or student who exercises his or her right to make a complaint under this policy is strictly prohibited and will itself be cause for appropriate disciplinary action.

Any student who knowingly makes false charges against an employee or a student in an attempt to demean, harass, abuse or embarrass that individual shall be subject to the sanctions for misconduct set forth above.

Weapons

Any instrument brought by a student on school grounds with intent to do bodily harm is considered grounds for expulsion.

Students in any grade level who discuss weapons or include weapons in written communications will be removed from class and a parent meeting will be requested. Any mention of weapons, specifically guns, is taken seriously and will be addressed immediately with parents regardless of the age of the student. Disciplinary action may follow after a parent meeting.

Attacks on School Personnel

Upon receipt of a written complaint from any school personnel, the appropriate school administrator for a private school shall report all incidents of battery committed against teachers, teacher personnel, administrative personnel or educational support personnel to the local law enforcement authorities immediately after the occurrence of the attack. The school administrator also must notify the Illinois State Police (ISP) within 3 days of each incident through the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS).

ST. GILES SCHOOL BULLYING BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Everyone at St. Giles School is committed to making our school a safe and caring place for all students. As members of a Faith Community, we will work to make our school a place where all are welcome and can work and play in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We will not tolerate bullying in our school nor in activities sponsored by our school and/or parish community.

According to our discipline code, a person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.

Offenses may include but are not limited to:

- Cyber-bullying

- Name-calling or mean teasing: verbally or written

- Name-calling or mean comments about race, color, or gender

- Name-calling, mean comments, or gestures with a sexual meaning

- Physical bullying

- Rumor-spreading: verbally or written

- Social isolation/exclusion

Taking, relocating, or damaging another's property
Threats/intimidation

Consequences:

First Level: The situation is discussed with the student. Student will sign a form reminding them of consequences for behavior. Student is required to meet with the counselor. Parent conference will be held.

Second Level: A parent and student meeting is scheduled. During this time the Principal/Assistant principal will work with the student(s) to reflect on past behavior/learn proper behavior. An action plan will be developed. The parents will be present. All parties sign an action plan.

Third Level: The situation is discussed with the student and parent(s). A one day in school suspension may be issued.

The Principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations.

SECURITY

All visitors **MUST SIGN-IN THE OFFICE**. This includes all parents on school grounds for any reason during the hours of 7:30 am-3:30 pm. Visitors will receive a badge to be worn in the school buildings.

In the event of extreme emergency where students must be evacuated from the school buildings, parents may pick up their child/ren at United Lutheran Church, 409 W. Greenfield (Ridgeland & Greenfield).

COMMUNICATION

Faculty/Parent Communication - Parents wishing to communicate with teachers or the Principal should call the School Office for an appointment or contact the individuals via e-mail. Customary response time is 24-48 hours, not including weekends.

News and information about the school are posted regularly on the school's website, www.stgilesschool.org. Email addresses for administration, office staff and teachers are listed on the Faculty/Staff page on the website. Teacher pages are available on the website and are a good resource to visit for classroom and curriculum news and homework.

Grievance Procedures

When parents have a concern about their child, they are expected to confer with the classroom teachers directly. If not resolved, parents may request a meeting with the Principal or Assistant Principal and teacher to help resolve the issues. If resolution is not achieved to satisfaction, parents may request a meeting with the pastor.

School/Parent Communication

The Sunday Weekly View and special eNews blasts through Constant Contact are the main forms of communication with parents. On occasion, some notices may be distributed through the students. It is the parents' responsibility to make sure that communications sent home from school are received and that the Sunday Weekly View and emails are opened and read.

All letters and notices to be sent home through the school via the Sunday Weekly View or the Take Home Folders require authorization of the Principal. The letters or notices must be submitted no later than the Wednesday of the week before the information is being sent home.

When emergency notification is needed, Constant Contact Special eNews will be used to notify to parents.

Faculty Student Electronic Communications

St. Giles faculty, staff and volunteers must comply with St. Giles School policy concerning electronic communications with students. Faculty, staff, volunteers and coaches shall not communicate electronically with students in pre-K through 5th grade; all electronic communications should be with parents. Faculty, staff and volunteers may only communicate electronically with students in grades 6 through 8 via school email and only if a parent is copied on the communication. Faculty, staff and volunteers and coaches shall not communicate with students via text or mobile phone calls. This does not prohibit student teacher interaction via a school approved class management website or app.

Email Guidelines for Parents/Faculty/Staff

1. Your child's progress, learning expectations, or behavioral issues are best addressed through a telephone or video conversation or by scheduling a conference with the teacher. Using email to schedule a conference or meeting is appropriate.
2. Please remember that email is not confidential. Confidential information (such as medical or health concerns) should be conveyed by phone or personal contact.
3. Jokes, amusing or special stories, chain letters, or commercial solicitations and in general non-school related emails are inappropriate.
4. Faculty and staff agree to return parental email messages within two (2) working days. Faculty members may opt to return messages via email, phone, or in writing.
5. Faculty and staff are not required to check email during weekends, holidays or vacation.

Parish Bulletin

St. Giles School is an integral part of St. Giles Parish. Special events of the school are published in the church bulletin.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mandatory parent teacher conferences for all students in Preschool through 8th grade are held in October. A second optional conference will be held during the second trimester.

In the absence of a court order, the school will provide the non-custodial parent the opportunity (upon request) for a parent teacher conference. The conference should be scheduled at a time other than that of the custodial parent unless both parents do not object to a mutual conference.

Student Records

A permanent file of attendance, achievement scores, health records, report cards and special services is kept in the School Office. A temporary file of disciplinary actions, awards, anecdotal notes, etc. is also maintained. St. Giles School abides by the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act with respect to the rights of noncustodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the School will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that no information is to be given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the School with an official copy of the court order. Likewise, if St. Giles School has on record a court order indicating limited visitation rights or non-visitation rights, and a parent makes an application to volunteer in the school, this application will not be accepted.

Resource Services

St. Giles offers the services of a Resource teacher who is trained to provide services to children with specific learning disabilities. These services are provided within the regular classroom or the resource rooms. Identified students receive remediation instruction within the classroom or in a small group in the Resource Center. If concerns exist, a referral to the local public district for specific evaluations may be recommended.

District Services

Oak Park School District 97 offers services for parents of non-public students who attend school in its district. Consultation with St. Giles School staff prior to contacting the public school district is necessary.

Telephones

The Office telephone is for School business. Students may not call home for forgotten articles, *e.g.*, gym shoes, assignments, and lunches.

Emergency Closing

In severe weather refer to special eNews broadcasts or local TV and radio news for any emergency closing of school. You may also check www.emergencyclosing.com. Before a decision to close is made, the following factors are considered: 1) the decision of our local public schools, 2) any decision by the

Archdiocese, 3) safety of walking or driving, and 4) the ability of teachers to get to school.

Change of Emergency Information

Please inform the School Office of name, address or phone changes as soon as possible, including day care providers and emergency contacts.

STUDENT LIFE

Homework

School Guidelines:

1. The goals for assigning and completing homework are for students to have self-discipline, to perfect their intellectual skills, and to feel confident as learners.
2. Homework supports learning in one of four ways: pre-learning, checking for understanding, practice, or processing. This is accomplished more effectively with quality homework tasks.
3. Homework can be differentiated by difficulty or amount of work based on age, individual learning needs, and other factors.
4. Homework should not make up a significant percentage of a final grade.
5. Homework will vary at each grade level and with each teacher. Please check with your child's teachers for the classroom homework policy.
6. Teachers and parents are a team supporting the student's learning.
7. All students are provided a Student Planner and are expected to daily keep track of their assignments. Homework assignments are also posted on teacher web pages at www.stgilesschool.org.

Parent Guidelines:

1. Parents' role in homework is one of encouragement, guidance, and observation.
2. Parents support learning by asking about what the child is studying and asking to see any homework assignments.
3. Parents assist their child in getting organized, having an appropriate place to do homework, and formulate a plan for completing homework.
4. Completion of the homework should be the child's work, not the parents'.
5. Parents may also assist in the learning process by reading aloud with their child, proofread work, give practice review, help brainstorm ideas for papers or projects, engage in discussion on what they are learning.

Work Missed Due to Absence

1. It is the student's, parent's or guardian's responsibility to obtain assignments in case of absence.
2. Arrangements will be made for long-term absences.

Posting Students Grades

Teachers in grades 1-8 will post student assignments and test grades on-line through PowerSchool in a timely manner. Parents will have access to their own children's grades. Homework assignments will also be posted on teacher web pages.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home each trimester.

Midterm

Parents are encouraged to check PowerSchool regularly to monitor their child's progress. Teachers will notify parents via email if their child is experiencing difficulty.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Range	Honor Points
A+	99 - 100	4.3
A	95 - 98	4.0
A-	93 - 94	3.7
B+	91 - 92	3.4
B	87 - 90	3.0
B-	85 - 86	2.7
C+	83 - 84	2.4
C	79 - 82	2.0
C-	77 - 78	1.7
D+	75 - 76	1.4
D	71 - 74	1.0
D-	69 - 70	0.7
F	68 or lower	0

Incompletes

When an incomplete is earned in any subject due to unfinished work, the student has two weeks or an agreed upon specified time frame to complete work to assess a grade; otherwise, the incomplete will become an "F" for that trimester.

Testing

iReady Diagnostic tests are administered to students in grades K-3 in September, January, and May.

Academic Promotion

A student must have a passing average in his/her subjects. If his/her average falls below passing, s/he must attend summer school or tutoring and pass an assessment before returning for the Fall semester. Grade placement will then be determined.

Graduation requirements: Students graduating from St. Giles School must have successfully completed the elementary program through maintaining a 1.4 or better cumulative average in his/her subjects: Religion, Math, Science, Social Studies, Literature, Language Arts, Spanish, Art, Music and Computers, and receive a passing grade on the U.S. and State of Illinois Constitution examinations. A student who does not meet the above criteria will receive a certificate of attendance at graduation

ceremonies. Upon successful completion of a summer school class, a diploma will be issued.

Graduation Recognition

Graduation Speakers - Two to four students with the highest GPA's are awarded the honor of giving one of the graduation speeches.

Subject area awards - These are based on GPA and the student's interest and participation in the subject. A student may not receive more than one of these awards.

Language Arts	Science
Literature	Social Studies
Math	Religion

U.S. President's Award for Academic Achievement - Awarded to 8th grade students having a 3.8 or better average for all three trimesters in all core subjects.

Scholarship Announced - Any special scholarships received from high schools.

Council of Catholic Women - Based on evaluation of application awarded to a girl who is attending a Catholic High School.

St. Giles Men's Club - Based on evaluation of application awarded to a boy who is attending a Catholic High School.

Cafasso Science Award - Awarded to the 8th Grade student who has a high achievement level and demonstrates high motivation in the science.

High School Recruitment

In the Fall, parents and students of 6th, 7th, & 8th graders are invited to attend a Catholic School recruitment night in McDonough Hall. Various Catholic schools are represented.

High School Application Requirements

Most high schools request the following for admission selection: 7th grade report card, 8th grade 1st trimester report card, standardized assessment results.

GENERAL POLICIES

Care of School Property

Restitution will be required from students and their parents for any willful destruction of School property, electronics, books or materials. Damage to the School/parish grounds by any student(s) may be grounds for suspension and/or expulsion. FACTS account will reflect the amount owed.

Library Regulations

Students are allotted time during the school week to use the Library. Proper use and care of all equipment and materials is required. Books that are lost or damaged must be accounted for by the students. FACTS account will reflect the amount owed.

Internet Access

St. Giles School offers students access to the school WiFi network for the Internet in the classrooms via school issued Chromebooks and in computer classes for academic purposes only. Internet use by students is supervised by teachers, and a filter is in place to block inappropriate material. All users must comply with the [Responsible Use Policy](#) and must sign at the beginning of each school year.. Each student must have a signed permission form on file in order to access the Internet. Inappropriate use of the Internet and/ other St. Giles School technology resources will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Technology Use Outside of School

Parents/guardians are primarily responsible for the student's appropriate and ethical use of technology outside of school. However, the inappropriate use of technology outside of school may subject the student to disciplinary action. Inappropriate use of technology may include, but is not limited to, deliberate threats, harassment or intimidation of an individual or group, placing an individual in reasonable fear of harm, actions that have the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; misuse of the school name, remarks directed to or about teachers and staff, offensive communications including videos/photographs and threats. Unauthorized costs incurred for online purchases charged to the school are the responsibility of the student and her/his family.

Photo Release Form

Student's pictures will be used in school related communications, including website and social media, unless parents opt out via our photo release form (available on the school website). Photo release records are kept by the School. **Student use of in-school photos also falls under this directive.**

Field Trips

Teachers may take students on educational field trips during the year. When the School offers a field trip, a charge may be made via FACTS to cover bus transportation and entry fees. Since the School accepts the responsibility for such trips, it has the prerogative of excluding students. Those who are excluded are expected to attend School on the day of the trip, and classroom provisions will be made for these students. Written permission on the School-issued permission slip is required for a child to participate. No verbal permission will be accepted.

Parents are often asked to act as chaperones on field trips. In order to ensure proper supervision of the students, it is necessary that parent-chaperones make other plans for their other children so they can give full attention to supervising students assigned to them. All chaperones must meet the Archdiocesan Protecting God's Children requirements (see Appendix).

Students Transported by Parent/Other Adult Drivers

On occasion, a parent/other adult might be recruited to help drive to a school event. In that case, the school must have proof that the parent's car insurance covers passengers, and each parent of a child riding in the car must have a written parent permission submitted allowing their child to be a passenger in the designated parent/other adult driver's car.

Permission Forms

Whenever written permission is required for a student to participate in a school activity, *e.g.*, field trips, dances, gym nights, school-issued permission slips are required. No verbal permission will be accepted.

Bicycles

Students may ride their bicycles to school but, in accordance with Oak Park Village ordinance, only if they are wearing a protective helmet. Each student must lock his/her bicycle and retain full responsibility for the bicycle. Bicycles are not to be locked to any other railing or post, only the provided bike racks. Children riding bicycles must walk their bikes on school grounds (sidewalks and alley). Skateboards, roller blades and scooters must be carried on school grounds.

Personal Property

Uniforms and personal property (lunch bags, gym shoes, coats, jackets, boots, etc.) should be marked with the student's name. The Lost and Found are located in the Frawley and Corrigan buildings. The School is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to personal items. Personal property which is unclaimed after 30 days will be donated to St. Vincent DePaul or disposed of. Uniform items will be donated to the PTO for their uniform exchange.

Use of Electronic Devices during School Hours

It is advisable for students not to bring personal electronic devices to school. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, portable media players, wireless handheld devices, computers, digital cameras and other communication devices. The school is not responsible for the loss of personal items. Below 3rd grade students may bring electronic devices to school, but must keep them in their backpacks and turned off during school hours. **4th through 8th grade student policy:** Upon arrival at school, cell phones, smart watches and other such devices will be collected by the teacher and kept in a safe place until they are returned at dismissal. Students may not use electronic devices during school hours, including lunch and recess. Electronic devices not turned in to the teacher will be confiscated and kept in the School Office. Violations of this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to confiscation of the electronic device. Parents must pick up items at the end of the day from the school office.

Student Owned e-readers

Administration approval must be given before a student may bring an e-reader to school for use during the school day. The student's parent(s) must contact the classroom teacher(s) and explain how the student plans to use the device and obtain permission to bring and use the e-reader. Upon approval parents/students must submit

a completed “Electronic e-reader Form” to the School Office. When used by the students at school, the student’s usage must conform to the same requirements as for use of school-owned equipment.

Social Media and Student Passwords:

(105 ILCS 75/15)

Sec. 15. Notification. An elementary or secondary school must provide notification to the student and his or her parent or guardian that the elementary or secondary school may not request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website. An elementary or secondary school must provide notification to the student and his or her parent or guardian that the elementary or secondary school may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to make a factual determination. Notification under this Section must be published in the elementary or secondary school's disciplinary rules, policies, or handbook or communicated by similar means.

Gum

Students are not allowed to chew gum on School premises.

Birthday Celebrations:

Sign up your child for participation in Birthday Book Club. Students will also receive an out of uniform day to be used on their birthday or half birthday for those with summer birthdays. Students must adhere to the appropriate dress policy. **FOOD TREATS SENT TO SCHOOL IN CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS ARE NOT ALLOWED**

HEALTH AND SAFETY

ST. GILES SCHOOL-WIDE NUT FREE POLICY

1. **Why does St. Giles have a Peanut/Tree Nut Policy?**

We have children with severe peanut and/or tree nut allergies in every grade. We understand that students can be exposed to food allergens without their knowledge, and that some students are still learning how to protect themselves from inadvertent exposure to food allergens. While we make efforts to clean and wipe down eating surfaces, playing surfaces, toys, desks, and chairs, there are now many children within our school who could have a life-threatening allergic reaction from contact with even a microscopic amount of the offending foods.

2. **What is the Policy? Does it affect what I send my child for lunch?**

The only food items that may be served to St. Giles students, including in the classroom or at school events (including, but not limited to PTO-sponsored events, classroom parties, field trips, and athletic events) are pre-packaged or single packaged (e.g. fresh fruit) food items with complete ingredient lists so that potential food allergens can be screened at the event. On occasion and with prior approval, school sanctioned groups may use the kitchen in McDonough Hall to prepare foods for students. This sole exception is explained in Section 3 below.

Parents or caregivers should carefully check all foods sent in for an individual student's snack or lunch to make sure they are peanut/tree nut-free. Families can help keep peanuts and tree nuts out of our school by reading packaging labels and only sending in foods that are peanut-free and tree-nut free. Also parents should remind children not to share food with other children at school as we have students who are allergic to a wide variety of foods, other than peanuts and tree nuts. We need to make sure that there is little opportunity for any child to be exposed to foods that could harm him/her.

3. **How do I know what foods are safe to send to school with my child?**

Food for Groups

Snacks sent to be served to a group of students must be pre-packaged with intact, visible, original manufacturing labels verifying that the food does not contain peanuts or tree nuts and was not made in a facility that processes peanuts or tree nuts. You can visit the website www.snacksafely.com to consult the Snack Safe Guide, which works with manufacturers to provide a guide of snacks that do not contain particular food allergens. However, you should always verify the labels on the food you purchase as manufacturers change their ingredients and processes from time to time.

On occasion school-sanctioned groups, including PTO and the Wellness Committee, provide food for school events. When committee volunteers bake or prepare foods, they do not use ingredients containing peanuts or tree-nuts and use the McDonough Hall kitchen, where they wipe down counters and wash their hands and cooking utensils prior to preparing the foods. Still, McDonough Hall is a parish space and we cannot enforce our school nut policy with non-school groups who use the space. If your child has a food allergy, and

you have concerns about food preparation in McDonough Hall, please advise your child's teacher and discuss your concerns. Options include, but are not limited to, your child declining the food, bringing his or her own food, or you participating in the food preparation so that you can decide if your child should consume the food.

Food for Individual Children

For your individual children, the food you send in their lunches or for their snacks must be peanut-free and tree nut-free. Foods that have been made in a facility that processes peanuts or tree nuts may be sent in your child's lunch provided the foods do not contain peanuts or tree nuts as an ingredient. If you send such items, please remind your child not to share any food with other children at school.

If you have any questions about peanut or tree nut allergies, or whether certain foods are considered tree nuts, please refer to the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

4. Lunch

The Fun Lunch Program is a PTO sponsored fundraiser, and participation is always voluntary. None of the food choices available through the Fun Lunch Program contain peanuts or tree nuts as ingredients, however St. Giles School has no control over the practices within the Fun Lunch vendors' kitchens and cannot guarantee that their kitchens are peanut and tree nut free. Children are served only the Fun Lunch items which their parent or caretaker has pre-ordered for them. Any child is welcome to bring his/her own lunch on days when Fun Lunch is served.

Marla's Lunch: Marla's Lunch is an outside vendor contracted by Saint Giles School for the convenience of our families. The vendor indicates their lunches are 100% nut free, however Saint Giles School has no control over their product.

Due to staffing constraints, we are not able to accept regular delivery of lunches each day. Lunch deliveries will only be accepted on an emergency basis.

5. Faculty & Staff Spaces

The following areas, where students are not permitted, are exempt from this policy: the private offices of school administrators and all faculty lunchrooms.

Illness/Injury During the School Day

When a student becomes ill or is injured at School, the Principal or School Office will immediately contact the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the School will call the emergency contact person named on the Emergency Card distributed at the beginning of each school year.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PARENTS/GUARDIANS KEEP THE CHILD'S EMERGENCY RECORDS UP TO DATE. If the emergency

contact person cannot be reached and the situation warrants, the Principal shall call 911. Written documentation of these incidents will be kept on file.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

If your child becomes ill or is injured while in attendance at School or at School events and emergency treatment is necessary, we will make every effort to contact you. However, you should be aware that the Illinois Law provides for an implied consent in the case of a minor who requires emergency treatment. The Illinois Law specifically allows a hospital or licensed physician or dentist to render emergency treatment for first aid to a minor without the consent of the minor's parents or legal guardian if in the sole opinion of the physician, dentist, or hospital the obtaining of consent is not reasonably feasible under the circumstances without adversely affecting the minor's health.

Communicable Diseases

All communicable diseases and any diagnosed skin rash require that a child have a written release from a physician before returning to School.

Administration of Medicine

No medication will be administered to a child by anyone other than a parent. If a child is to administer medication to him/herself, a [Medical Authorization form](#) must be filled out by the referring physician and a Parent/Permission and Authorization form must be submitted by the parent/guardian to the School Office. The teacher or office staff will keep the medication in a locked cabinet until the designated time. In cases of anaphylactic shock, staff are authorized to administer an epi-pen or in other situations, a specified medication as directed by the child's medical plan.

Medical Cannabis Policy

Administration of Medical Cannabis:

Students are not permitted to use or possess cannabis in our schools except in accordance with the law and school policy. School policy should provide that if a parent/guardian of an elementary/secondary student who demonstrates his/her son or daughter is a "registered qualifying patient" and has an individual who is a "registered designated caregiver," both of whom hold medical cannabis registry identification cards, then the parent/guardian or registered designated caregiver must be permitted to administer a medical cannabis product to the student (non-smoking/non-vaping form) at school.

A parent or guardian or other individual may not administer a medical cannabis product in a manner that, in the opinion of the school, would create a disruption to the school's educational environment or would cause exposure of the product to other students.

Appropriate Containers

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide the School with all medication in appropriate containers that are:

Prescription-labeled by a pharmacy or licensed prescriber (displaying the Rx number, student name, medication, dosage, direction for administration, date and refill schedule, pharmacy label, and name/initials of pharmacist) or

Manufacturer-labeled for non-prescription over-the-counter medication. At the end of the school year, or the end of the treatment regime, the student's parent/guardian will be responsible for removing any unused medication from the school. If the parent/guardian does not pick up the medication by the end of the school year, the School will appropriately discard the medication.

Sudden Illness or Accident

Parents will be notified of sickness or an accident at school. A second phone number must be on file for emergencies only. Names and phone numbers of family physicians should also be recorded on the emergency form.

The School is not responsible for any injury or any accident which has occurred due to a student's violation of School safety regulations. Common safety regulations apply in School buildings and on all School grounds.

Returning to School after an Illness

Any student who is absent due to a contagious illness that must be reported to the local health authority will not be allowed back in school without a physician's note.

Physical Education and Recess Excuses

All students must participate in physical education classes and outdoor recess unless they have a written excuse from their physician.

Volunteers and Protecting God's Children

Parents and other individuals who wish to volunteer in the school must complete the [St. Giles Volunteer Checklist](#). Contact the [Business Manager](#) who is the St. Giles School Safe Environment administrator. Directions and requirements are also outlined on the school website, stgilesschool.org in the [Family Portal](#).

St. Giles School strictly adheres to the State of Illinois requirement that school personnel promptly inform the Department of Children and Family Services when they have reasonable cause of any allegation or suspicion of child abuse or neglect when the alleged or suspected abuser is a parent, guardian, relative or other caretaker.

Reporting Child Abuse

St. Giles School strictly adheres to the State of Illinois requirement that school personnel promptly inform the Department of Children and Family Services when they have reasonable cause of any allegation or suspicion of child abuse or neglect when the alleged or suspected abuser is a parent, guardian, relative or other caretaker.

Safety Emergency Drills

Evacuation (aka Fire) drills are conducted on a regular basis and a tornado drill and lock down drill are conducted once a year. Detailed evacuation plans are posted inside the door of each classroom. During tornado drills each classroom goes to a

designated area within the building. For evacuation drills each class has an escape route to an outside area a safe distance from the building. Children are moved to these designated areas in a safe quiet and orderly manner.

Law Enforcement Drills (aka Lockdown Drills)

Each school shall conduct at least one Law Enforcement Drill (or “Lockdown Drill”) per school year, in compliance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128). Drills cannot include simulations that mimic an actual school shooting incident or active shooter event. Drills must be announced in advance to all school personnel and students prior to the commencement of the drill. Teachers will discuss the steps of the lockdown drill with students using content that is age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. Drills must include and involve school personnel, including school-based mental health professionals and must include trauma-informed approaches to address the concerns and well-being of students and school personnel. During a drill, students can ask questions related to the drill. School administrators and school support personnel may, at their discretion, exempt a student or students from participating in a walk-through lockdown drill. The school will notify parents and guardians in advance of any walk-through lockdown drill that involves the participation of students and will allow parents and guardians the opportunity to exempt their child for any reason from participating in the walk-through lockdown drill. All students will participate in safety education and instruction related to an active threat or active shooter event, even those who do not participate in a walk-through lockdown drill, to provide them with essential information, training, and instruction through less sensorial safety training methods.

Law Enforcement Drills *must* include the participation of the local law enforcement agency (principals should contact the local agency prior to a Law Enforcement Drill). The Law Enforcement Agency shall certify the drill once it is complete. Schools may complete additional Law Enforcement Drills at the discretion of the principal. Law enforcement may choose to run an active shooter simulation, but only on school days when students are not present, and parental notification is not required if students are not required to be present.

Tornado Warnings

If a tornado warning is in effect in the locality of St. Giles School, students shall be taken to the designated safety area. Children shall not be released from the school building during a tornado warning. Parents/guardians waiting to pick up children during such a warning are encouraged to enter the school building and take cover with the students and staff.

Federal Asbestos Program

In accordance with the US EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and the Illinois Asbestos Abatement Act & Rules and Regulations, inspections and management plans have been made for St. Giles School concerning materials containing asbestos. A copy of these documents may be examined in the office during school hours.

Suggestions for Parent-Child Safety Checks

Unfortunately, School areas are places where strangers unfriendly to children frequent. We will take every precaution to protect our children at School. We encourage you to review the suggestions listed below with your child(ren) to insure safe travel to and from School.

1. Unfriendly strangers can be male or female.
2. Never assume that a person offering you a ride to school is "just being friendly."
3. If a car slows down to talk to you, don't stop to talk or answer a question. Walk fast and stay on a well traveled street. If possible, try to get the license number. (Singing the license number is an easy way to remember if you don't have a pencil and paper.)
4. Don't take shortcuts to school.
5. Don't stop to accept candy, gum or anything from a stranger, walking or driving.
6. If possible, try to walk to school with a friend.
7. When traveling to and from school, don't stop to play in alleys or other secluded areas.
8. If you are ever approached by a stranger, run and report it immediately to your parents or a school official (principal, teacher, etc.)

Animals on Campus

Bringing dogs, cats, or other animals on campus during school hours is prohibited. It is a safety hazard for the children. Allowing animals in the classroom is to be determined on a case by case basis and is ultimately up to the discretion of the Principal.

Search and Seizure

All property of the school, including student desks, lockers and coat rooms, as well as contents, may be opened, searched or inspected at any time without notice. School personnel have an unrestricted right to search this property as well as any containers, book bags, purses or articles of clothing on the school campus.

Authority to Conduct Searches

A search of a student's person or belongings is permitted by school personnel who have a reasonable suspicion that a search will turn up evidence that a student has violated school policy or carrying contraband. Contraband is defined as any weapon, dangerous object, illegal drug or unauthorized item prohibited by law.

Conducting the Search

If a personal search is warranted, actions will be taken to secure the safety of other students and staff. If a student refuses to voluntarily empty pockets, book bag or purse, the student will be detained until parents are contacted and present. Parents and students will be informed that the refusal to comply with staff directives could result in student suspension or expulsion.

If a weapon, illegal drug or controlled substance is seized, school authority **MUST** contact local police to report the incident and hold the contraband until police arrive at the school.

ST. GILES UNIFORM CODE

The school uniform is by Dennis Uniforms, located at 7055 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, IL 60656 (708) 669-7944, www.dennisuniform.com.

Parental supervision is required to insure their own children's compliance with the uniform code. All students are expected to arrive and leave school in complete uniform. All interpretations of the dress code rest with the Administration.

ST. GILES UNIFORM CODE

The following uniform code reflects the new uniform transition announced in 2022. Previous school uniform items (via our former vendor Schoolbelles), including the gray t-shirts formerly worn by boys, are permitted to be worn through the 2023-24 school year. Full transition to our new uniforms will be effective for the 2024-25 school year.

Preschool Dress Code:

Clothes worn to school should allow students to fully participate in the activities of the day.

Shoes worn should be safe for running and/or playing on recess equipment. Flip-flops, clogs, open-toed shoes and sandals and backless shoes are unacceptable for safety reasons.

Hair length should not interfere with the student's ability to engage in the learning process. Hair must be off one's face and out of one's eyes.

For the first time ever, we're delighted to offer preschool students the **OPTION** to purchase uniform pieces, including the St. Giles School polo shirt, gym uniform and a preschool-only St. Giles School polo cotton dress. Spiritwear items are also available in preschool sizing. These uniforms are entirely OPTIONAL.

Grades K – 8 Dress Code:

Girls

The girls' uniform for grades K-2 will consist of a blackwatch plaid jumper, not exceeding 2" above the knee, and a short or long-sleeved green polo shirt with the St. Giles School logo.

The girls' uniform for grades 3-8 will consist of a blackwatch plaid skirt, not exceeding 2" above the knee, short or long sleeved polo shirt with the St. Giles School logo. Undershirts worn under polo must be **WHITE** only. **Third grade girls may wear either K-2 or 3-8 uniforms.**

Girls may wear navy blue dress slacks in substitution of the jumper or skirt. Solid, neutral colored socks, tights or leggings must be worn.

Flannel or sweatpants worn to and from school for warmth, must not be worn during the school day.

Boys

The boys' uniform for grades K-8 will consist of navy slacks with standard side pockets (no cargo pants or multi-pocketed pants are allowed), and a short or long-sleeved green polo with St. Giles School logo. Shirts must be tucked in and students must wear pants at the waist. Only white undershirts may be worn under polo.

Socks must be worn and have to be solid and neutral colored.

All Students

Sweatshirts: Students may wear a navy monogrammed crew neck or quarter-zip sweatshirt or fleece supplied by the uniform company. No other sweatshirts may be worn. Solid color navy, black, or white cardigans may also be worn.

Shorts: All students may wear navy Bermuda shorts (no cargo shorts) during August through October and April through June.

Shoes: Students wear backed, solid, neutral colored dress shoes or gym shoes. Shoelace shoes must have tied shoelaces, and students are not permitted to walk on the back of their shoes.

Jewelry: Girls with pierced ears may wear one stud or button earrings in the lobe with no part dangling below the earlobe. A ring, watch or a chain necklace with a Christian-themed pendant are acceptable. Boys may not wear earrings.

Hair: The student's hair must be neat, clean and well groomed. Hair must be off one's face and out of one's eyes. Unnaturally colored, severe, bizarre and extreme styles are not acceptable. Boys' hair may only extend to the top of the collar and to the ear lobe on the sides.

"Jeff Hawkins Law" Provides that public and private schools "may not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists."

Hats: Hats must be removed upon entering any building and may not be worn inside. Head bands and hair ribbons: Solid white, navy, brown or black. Make-up/nail polish: absolutely none permitted.

PE Uniform

PE uniforms consist of a green t-shirt with the St. Giles School logo, navy mesh loeod shorts, and navy loeod sweatpants with solid neutral-colored socks.

Sweat pants will be required November through March and can be worn by

themselves or over the uniform shorts.

Out of uniform dress code:

Minimum length of outfit is from shoulder to lower thigh (2" above knee). No skin can be showing between shoulder and lower thigh. Clothing on each shoulder must be at least 1 1/2" wide. Clothes should be without offensive image or language.

Unacceptable shoes include but may not be limited to sandals, flip flops, clogs, boots, slip on shoes with no backs, and casual style.

The final interpretation of what constitutes acceptable out-of-uniform clothing shall be left to the discretion of the Administration.

ST. GILES SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM

Under the direction of the Athletic Director, interscholastic sports are organized for co-ed 5th-8th grade cross country, co-ed 5th-8th grade Fall soccer, boys and girls 4th-8th basketball, boys and girls 5th-8th grade volleyball, co-ed 4th-8th grade Spring soccer. The St. Giles Athletic Handbook explains all the policies and procedures for the program and is distributed to parents, students and coaches at the beginning of the sports season. The Athletic Handbook is available on the St. Giles Athletics website, www.stgileslionsathletics.org.assn.la. The link to the Athletic website can be found on the school website www.stgilesschool.org under Student Life.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

St. Giles School requires each student-athlete in grades 5th-8th maintain no lower than a C- grade in each academic class each week to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

PROCESS

At the beginning of each season, team rosters will be made available to the School Administration. Beginning after the third full week of each trimester, student-athletes' grades will be reviewed on Tuesdays by teachers. Student-athletes with a grade below a C- will be placed on academic probation for one week. After the one-week probation period has ended teachers will review grades and determine if the student-athlete's grade has met eligibility requirements. If the requirements have not been met, the student-athlete will be declared ineligible for all athletic activities until the grades are reviewed the following Tuesday, at which time the eligibility will again be determined for the following week. Student-athletes with IEPs will be given special consideration. School Administration will provide the Athletic Director (AD) a list of student-athletes on academic probation and a list of student-athletes declared academically ineligible every Tuesday, which will be followed by notification, via email, to the student's family and coaches. All coaches are expected to follow all eligibility decisions.

INELIGIBILITY PERIOD

Ineligibility will begin with games/practices on Wednesday and will continue through

the following Tuesday. A student declared academically ineligible may not attend events (Pack the Park, Jam the Gym), practices, games, or meetings of his/her team during the ineligible period. If a student is declared ineligible before a vacation period, the student will remain ineligible until the first Tuesday after school is back in session. A student declared ineligible for 4 weeks in a trimester will be immediately withdrawn from participating in his/her athletic activity for the remainder of the season or the trimester, whichever is shorter.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

St. Giles School offers a wide range of enrichment programs and extra-curricular activities. Exclusion from optional activities is at the discretion of parents and the Principal.

Acolytes/Altar Service

Students in grades 5-8 are given the opportunity to assist at daily and Sunday liturgies.

Buddy Grade Partners

Each year, the students receive an older or younger partner with whom they develop a special relationship. Throughout the year the buddies share various activities.

St. Giles Ambassadors

7th-8th grade students at St. Giles are eligible to be Ambassadors and participate in leadership formation and service. Activities include directing leadership events, school spirit, escorting guests and giving tours at events, Open Houses and school activities. Sign-up and training are held early in the school year.

Enrichment Program

St. Giles sponsors after-school enrichment classes throughout the school year. Examples of classes include academic and co-curricular activities.

Instrumental Music Program

Students in grades 4-8 are given an opportunity to participate in a conservatory-like curriculum of full rehearsals, sectionals and private lessons taught by professional musicians. The band performs in several concerts, festivals and assemblies each year.

Outstanding students perform as soloists in concerts and contests. Students have an opportunity of competing for annual scholarships offered by the band.

Middle School Events

Social events for the middle school classes are offered two times during the school year. Permission slips are required.

Rainbows for All Children

Grade level discussion groups for children experiencing a divorce or death in the family. Groups are led by the School Counselor.

Student Yearbook

7th & 8th grade students are given the opportunity to create lasting memories of the school year in words and pictures.

AMENDMENTS

Statements in this Handbook are subject to change without notice. The School will attempt to keep you informed of all changes as soon as practical.

St. Giles Technology Responsible Use Policy

Technology Purpose

St. Giles students are given the privilege and responsibility to use and care for technology tools in the classroom. In our school, use of Chromebooks and other tech tools offers support to learning and creating new learning experiences. Following our responsible use policy means that students respect and recognize when it is time to use devices as well as the importance of keeping them in working condition. These expectations teach students about caring for technology tools but also about what it means to be a knowledgeable digital citizen. Signing and initialing my name on this document shows that I understand the policy and will follow these guidelines when using school devices.

Use and Care

- I understand technology is a tool to help me learn.
- I understand that all technology is the property of St. Giles School.
- I understand there is no expectation of privacy while using school-owned devices.
- I will not share my login information with others.
- I will not use devices issued to other students and teachers.
- I will carry my Chromebook only when it is closed and only use my device when it is on my cleared desk.

Student
Initial:

Communication

- I will use kind and respectful language when communicating online with teachers and students.
- I will communicate electronically with others when it is appropriate and not a distraction in class.
- I understand the Olweus rules apply when I am online.
- I will report any technical issues or damage to my Chromebook and/or charger to my teacher.

Student
Initial:

Digital Safety and Security

- I will not use my device outside of classwork or go to other sites that are not approved by my teacher.

- I will report any suspicious online activity or cyberbullying to my teacher.
- I will be an upstander and report to an adult at school if I know someone is using technology in a way that breaks our guidelines and digital laws.
- Trying to bypass firewalls or web filters is dangerous and against school policy. I will not attempt to get around these protections to access websites that are not approved at school.
- I will use my webcam and microphone to benefit a learning activity and not to invade the privacy of another person.
- I understand sending and receiving inappropriate photos is not acceptable and illegal. I will notify an adult immediately.
- I understand downloading copyrighted music or software is illegal and is not acceptable.
- Using online resources without citing sources is illegal. I will give credit to owners of pictures and other content found online.

Student

Initial:

Mobile Phones

- I understand phones are only allowed before and after school.
- I will turn off and turn in my cell phone to my homeroom teacher in the morning and retrieve it at the end of the school day.

Student

Initial:

During Class

- I will be prepared to use technology everyday by making sure my Chromebook is plugged in and charging when returned to the cart.
- I will have headphones to use with i-Ready.
- I will only use headphones for i-Ready or with express permission from my teacher.
- I understand that Chromebooks should not be used outside of class time without my teacher's permission and presence. Lunch and recess monitors will not allow students to access Chromebooks.
- Educational games, music, and videos are acceptable as directed by my teacher.

Student

Initial:

Consequences

I am expected to abide by these rules and the student code of conduct described in the St. Giles handbook. Failure to follow these rules may result in reduced or loss of access to technology. Any digital work I am not able to complete in class due to my choices must be completed at home. It is not my teacher's responsibility to create a new assignment for me.

Student

Initial:

Chromebook Repair Charges

I will report any technical issues or damage to my Chromebook and/or charger to my teacher. Repair charges will be determined by Leonardo and Company and communicated to parents once received.

Student

Initial: