

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL

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PARENT HANDBOOK  
2019-2020

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## WELCOME

Welcome to Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary School where faculty and staff prepare students to be faith-centered, lifelong learners who contribute positively to society. We are blessed and honored that your family has chosen to join our school community. Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary School offers a dedicated and loving faculty and staff that will keep your child safe and hold them accountable to high expectations and respect for all people.

At the heart of Immaculate Heart of Mary is the faculty and staff who nurture an effective school climate as well as positive caring relationships that make our school community extraordinary. The cross that hangs on our walls is the sign that we can make a difference with Jesus Christ as our guide.

We believe that parents are the child's first and most important teacher. In concert with IHM School faculty, parents play a critical role in ensuring an exciting, successful and rewarding student experience.

Mother Teresa spoke wisely when she proclaimed, "Give the world the best you have..." The faculty and staff here at IHM will strive each day to give you our best.

This handbook is intended to provide a brief, concise and understandable overview of important information and expectations that anchor our program. Please review this handbook with your child and then have all parties sign your intent to follow the expectations.

Yours in Catholic education,  
*Mrs. Kathleen Friess*  
Principal

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish School prepares students to be faith-centered, lifelong learners who contribute positively to society.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

In considering the role of the Catholic School in Christian education, we come to realize that our work is to offer the fullest and best opportunity for the students to attain the threefold purpose of Christianity: doctrine, community, and service.

The first begins with helping the students to develop a true self-concept, appreciating their own self-worth and being proud of their Catholic heritage, and live the example of Jesus.

Since Catholic doctrine is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus, we strive to promote a spirit of peace, love, patience and respect for self and others in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Community.

The aim of our school, in partnership with our parents, who are the primary educators, is to develop a right conscience to guide the students so that they can become instruments of God's word and extend themselves into the immediate communities of home, school, parish, and neighborhood. This is accomplished by exploring many ways to carry out the Gospel message. Ultimately, this will enable the students to be aware that they are worthwhile and contributing members of society and responsible thinking citizens in this world.

## **BELIEFS**

**The faculty and staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary School believe that....**

- Respect for the individual is evident among all members of the school community.
- Our school creates an environment where all students demonstrate continuous achievement.
- Our Catholic faith permeates all aspects of our school community.
- Members of the school community are accountable for their role(s) within the community.
- Our students contribute positively to our school, parish, and community.
- The faculty and staff are committed to continuous professional development for the purpose of spiritual growth and academic excellence.
- Teachers utilize differentiated instruction to implement the state and diocesan curriculum.
- Service projects reflect our Catholic identity.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary students will:**

1. Make good use of his/her time.
2. Be open to all opportunities to learn.
3. Respect the rights of others to learn.
4. Complete all assigned work on time.
5. Be prepared for class and bring all necessary material every day.
6. Participate in every class in a positive manner and to the best of his/her ability.
7. Be receptive to correction and use it as an opportunity to grow.
8. Follow school and classroom rules.
9. Comply with the school dress code every day.
10. Treat teachers, substitutes, staff and fellow students with respect at all times.
11. Act in accord with the philosophy and Mission of Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The primary responsibility for the education of the children belongs to parents. To ensure an atmosphere for educational success and Catholic Christian growth the following responsibilities are essential:

- Model and support your child(ren)'s practice of the Catholic faith.
- Support school policy and the authority of the administration, teachers, staff, and volunteers by teaching your child(ren), by word and example, respect for the law, for school rules and regulations, and for the rights and property of others.
- Set realistic goals according to your child(ren)'s individual potential.
- Expect your child(ren) to complete all assignments.
- Expect your child(ren) to obey the regulations and principles of good behavior at all times (Note your child(ren)'s conduct and effort marks).
- Follow the policies and procedures stated in the handbook by knowing and understanding the rules your child(ren) is/are expected to observe at school and be aware of the consequences for violations of these rules.
- Expect in your child(ren) a desire to learn and a respect for self and others.
- Be sure your child(ren) attend(s) school daily, unless ill, and is/are on time.
- Make certain that your child(ren) is/are clean and dressed appropriately according to school policy.
- Guide your child(ren) from the earliest years to develop socially acceptable standards of behavior, to exercise self-control, and to be accountable for his/her personal actions.
- Pay all fees on time.
- Attend all parent meetings.
- Monitor your child(ren)'s progress throughout the school year and conference with the teacher as needed.
- Actively support fund-raising events for the benefit of your child(ren) and the support of Catholic education.
- Be responsible in completing volunteer time and talent commitments.
- Consistently check online gradebook and IHM website.

## SCHEDULE

Upon arrival at Immaculate Heart of Mary, students report to the All-Purpose Room.

7:15 A.M. Doors to the school are opened.  
7:40 **First Bell**, students proceed to class  
7:50 **Tardy Bell**, students are tardy if they arrive after this time

11:00 Recess/Lunch Kdg., Grades 1 & 2  
11:30 Recess/Lunch Grades 3, 4 & 5  
12:00 P.M. Recess/Lunch Grades 6, 7 & 8

2:30 **Dismissal** – Students will be dismissed in the following order:

**1. Bus Riders**

**2. Car Riders/Walkers/LINX Program** - please follow the parking lot rules and traffic pattern.

Children who are car riders should be picked up at 2:40 p.m. If your child(ren) has not been picked up by 2:50 p.m., you will need to go directly to the office, when you arrive, to pick your child(ren) up. Children are not permitted to loiter on School/Church grounds after dismissal to wait for rides. For any child going home with someone other than the parent or guardian, handwritten permission must be on file in the office. All school rules will remain in effect until students leave the school grounds.

\*\*\*Teachers and Staff supervise students during entrance and dismissal\*\*\*

**The school building is not accessible after 3:15 p.m. for any forgotten school materials.**

## OFFICE HOURS

The secretaries will be available in the office from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for any school needs or questions you may have.

Phone messages for faculty and staff will be accepted in the office. All messages will be returned within twenty-four hours.

## ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE/TARDINESS

### ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

Children between the ages of six and eighteen are required by law to attend school punctually and regularly. Regular attendance in school is compulsory according to State Law (Ohio Codes 3321.01 and 3321.03). Irregular attendance/tardiness is investigated and reported to the proper authorities. Parents and students must accept full responsibility for regular and punctual attendance. Excessive absence and tardiness interferes with the learning process and the student's academic achievement.

If a student is absent, parents are to notify the school office by phone to report the absence (330-923-1220, ext. 50), please call by 8:15 a.m. If a parent has not called the school by 8:15 a.m., the school will call the parent. If the parent cannot be reached, proper authorities will be called. **In addition to the call, the student is required to bring a note on the day of return. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with their teacher(s) to make-up any assignments they have missed.**

Acceptable reasons for absence include personal illness, medical and dental appointments, death in the family, quarantine, or other family emergencies. These times away from school will be marked as absences. Students who arrive at school after 10:00 A.M. or leave school before 1:00 P.M. will be marked absent for a ½ day.

In the case of an excessive number of absences (seven per quarter), communication will be made notifying parents. This notification serves as a reminder that the child may be considered for non-promotion due to the extreme number of absences. Students who are absent from school should not attend after school activities.

If your child is absent and you would like to request missed assignments, please make this request at the time you call your child in absent. Notify the school if you will be picking the assignments up in the office (after 2:30 P.M. and before 3:15 P.M.), if your child's teacher should send the assignments home with a sibling, neighbor, friend, or if you will pick it up from the LINX (no later than 6:00 P.M.).

**Students are responsible for making up assignments missed while being absent. The teacher will be happy to assist and help, but the student needs to seek their teachers out and make arrangements for making-up the missed assignments. A reasonable amount of time for make-up assignments is equal to the number of days absent.**

### **TARDINESS**

Since tardiness interferes with the child's progress in school and disrupts the classroom teaching, parents are requested to see that their children cultivate the habit of punctuality. Students should arrive to school at least by 7:40 A.M. The tardy bell rings at 7:50 A.M. Students are expected to be in their classrooms when the 7:50 A.M. bell rings.

Students are **not** considered tardy if their school bus arrives late at school.

**Students who come to school after the 7:50 A.M. bell are considered tardy. They need to be accompanied by their parent and report to the office for a "tardy slip" to take to class, and the parent must sign-in the student.** Leaving school after 1:00 P.M. and before dismissal will be considered an afternoon tardy. **The parent needs to come to the office to sign the student out.** When a student has been tardy 3 times in one quarter they will be issued a detention. Detentions are served on Thursdays from 2:40 P.M. – 3:40 P.M. **EXCESSIVE TARDINESS (6 times per quarter) AND ABSENCES WILL BE REASON FOR CONSIDERATION OF NON-PROMOTION.**

### **STUDENT DISMISSAL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURE**

If possible, appointments with doctors, dentists, and orthodontists should be made outside of school hours. When necessary, students may be excused from classes at the written request of the parent.

If a student must leave, it is necessary for the office to have a signed note from the parents stating the time and who is picking up the student. **ALL STUDENTS WHO NEED TO LEAVE MUST BE PICKED UP AND SIGNED OUT IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY A PARENT.** No parent should go to the classroom. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the day without written permission

from their parent. If a student returns back to school after an appointment the parent **must** come with the child back into school to sign the student back in.

### **DISMISSAL DUE TO ILLNESS/INJURY**

When a child becomes ill or injured during the school day and needs to go home, the child is sent by the teacher to the Clinic to wait until a parent or another responsible party can be reached. Students cannot dismiss themselves by calling home, and an ill/injured child may not go home alone.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

Medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours if possible. A written note must be presented to the office if the student is to be excused for an appointment during the school day. Students need to be picked up and signed out in the office by the person specified in the note. A student may be considered tardy depending on the time of the appointment.

### **FAMILY VACATIONS**

If possible, parents are asked to schedule vacations during school breaks. If a vacation has been scheduled during school time the office and respective teacher(s) need to be given written notification of your child(ren)'s absence from school.

Please do not schedule any vacation time during the time of the MAP/CogAT tests. Contact your child's teacher in order to avoid these testing times.

Missed schoolwork will be provided when the student returns to school. Students will need to have all missed assignments completed within a reasonable amount of time following return to school after a vacation not specified on the school calendar. A reasonable amount of time for make-up assignments is equal to the number of school days missed for vacation. **It is the complete responsibility of the student and parent/guardians to contact the teacher upon returning to school, regarding school work missed and to see that assignments and work are made up.** Any assignments not completed in the time specified, will be deducted from the grade. If family vacations are scheduled over the end of the quarter, report cards may be delayed or marked as incomplete until work is completed.

## **CALAMITY DAYS**

Due to the weather in Northeast Ohio, there are days when it is not safe to transport students to school. Some days, the city may need time to clear the streets, allowing for safe transportation later in the morning. For these reasons we may need to close school. **Please note that, regardless of the fact that Cuyahoga Falls and/or Woodridge have delayed start(s), there will be NO delayed start at IHM. When Cuyahoga Falls and/or Woodridge are on delayed start(s), Immaculate Heart of Mary School is closed.** As always, listen to your local T.V. or radio stations for the status of our school. Be aware that phone call and email notification also take place.

The following scenarios are possible:

- If Cuyahoga Falls or Woodridge is closed; then Immaculate Heart of Mary School is closed.
- If **one** of the area school districts (Cuyahoga Falls or Woodridge) has a delayed start and the other school district (Cuyahoga Falls or Woodridge) is open; then Immaculate Heart of Mary School is closed.



- If both school districts (Cuyahoga Falls and Woodridge) have a delayed start; then Immaculate Heart of Mary is closed.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary School reserves the right to adjust the above Calamity Day decision.**

BLIZZARD BAG ASSIGNMENTS: Parents and students will be notified when to access assignments from email.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School reserves the right to cancel or be in session as necessary.

## FACULTY AND STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Principal	Mrs.	Friess	<a href="mailto:kfriess@ihmgradeschool.org">kfriess@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Secretary	Mrs.	Gibb	<a href="mailto:mjibb@ihmgradeschool.org">mjibb@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
K-104	Mrs.	Gearhart	<a href="mailto:agearthart@ihmgradeschool.org">agearthart@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
1-102	Mrs.	Gardella	<a href="mailto:ngardella@ihmgradeschool.org">ngardella@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
2-313	Mrs.	Jacobs	<a href="mailto:sjacobs@ihmgradeschool.org">sjacobs@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
3-301	Mrs.	Breznak	<a href="mailto:dbreznak@ihmgradeschool.org">dbreznak@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
3-302	Mrs.	Suber	<a href="mailto:lsuber@ihmgradeschool.org">lsuber@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
4-306	Mrs.	Lambes	<a href="mailto:slambes@ihmgradeschool.org">slambes@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
4-309	Mrs.	Musser	<a href="mailto:lmusser@ihmgradeschool.org">lmusser@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
5-308	Mrs.	Armour	<a href="mailto:karmour@ihmgradeschool.org">karmour@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
5-311	Ms.	Breznak	<a href="mailto:cbreznak@ihmgradeschool.org">cbreznak@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
6-202	Mrs.	Cavileer	<a href="mailto:gcavileer@ihmgradeschool.org">gcavileer@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
6-201	Ms.	Demich	<a href="mailto:ademich@ihmgradeschool.org">ademich@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
7-204	Mrs.	Hohman	<a href="mailto:rhohman@ihmgradeschool.org">rhohman@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
7-206	Ms.	Klenotic	<a href="mailto:jklenotic@ihmgradeschool.org">jklenotic@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
8-216	Mrs.	Leyden	<a href="mailto:sleyden@ihmgradeschool.org">sleyden@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
8-217	Mr.	Seislove	<a href="mailto:bseislove@ihmgradeschool.org">bseislove@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Art	Mrs.	Comeriato	<a href="mailto:ccomeriato@ihmgradeschool.org">ccomeriato@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Computer	Mr.	Hall	<a href="mailto:dhall@ihmgradeschool.org">dhall@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Music	Ms.	Hamm	<a href="mailto:chamm@ihmgradeschool.org">chamm@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
P.E.	Mrs.	Zito-Roney	<a href="mailto:szitoroney@ihmgradeschool.org">szitoroney@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Spanish	Mrs.	DiGirolamo	<a href="mailto:rdigirolamo@ihmgradeschool.org">rdigirolamo@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Latin	Mr.	McCaffrey	<a href="mailto:tmccaffrey@ihmgradeschool.org">tmccaffrey@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Literacy Enrichment	Ms.	Fleming	<a href="mailto:lfleming@ihmgradeschool.org">lfleming@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Technology Specialist	Mrs.	Conti	<a href="mailto:jconti@ihmgradeschool.org">jconti@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Pre-Kindergarten	Mrs.	Foss	<a href="mailto:sfoss@ihmgradeschool.org">sfoss@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Reading Intervention	Mrs.	Clemente	<a href="mailto:tclemente@ihmgradeschool.org">tclemente@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Math Intervention	Mrs.	Savage	<a href="mailto:lsavage@ihmgradeschool.org">lsavage@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Speech & Language	Mrs.	Bedell	<a href="mailto:bbedell@ihmgradeschool.org">bbedell@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Counselor	Mrs.	Kaczor	<a href="mailto:skaczor@ihmgradeschool.org">skaczor@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Math Enrichment	Ms.	Munsen	<a href="mailto:amunsen@ihmgradeschool.org">amunsen@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Remedial Tutor	Mrs.	Barrett	<a href="mailto:jbarrett@ihmgradeschool.org">jbarrett@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Auxiliary Clerk	Mrs.	Gregorevich	<a href="mailto:kgregorevich@ihmgradeschool.org">kgregorevich@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Pre-K Aide	Mrs.	Dugan	<a href="mailto:ldugan@ihmgradeschool.org">ldugan@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Kindergarten	Mrs.	McCready	<a href="mailto:smccready@ihmgradeschool.org">smccready@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Aide 1st Grade	Mrs.	Dirker	<a href="mailto:mdirker@ihmgradeschool.org">mdirker@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Office Assistant	Mrs.	Frego	<a href="mailto:jfrego@ihmgradeschool.org">jfrego@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Cafeteria	Mr.	Hamad	<a href="mailto:jhamad@ihmgradeschool.org">jhamad@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
LINX	Mrs.	Hartong	<a href="mailto:linx@ihmgradeschool.org">linx@ihmgradeschool.org</a>
Clinic	Nurse's	Aide	<a href="mailto:clinic@ihmgradeschool.org">clinic@ihmgradeschool.org</a>

## ADMISSION

Admission is on an annual school year basis. The admission policies of Immaculate Heart of Mary School are in keeping with pupil acceptance regulations of the Diocese of Cleveland. Preference in registration/admission is given to families who are registered parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish or those families having a sibling(s) currently enrolled in the school. A parishioner is a person who is registered. Admission will be open to families from parishes that do not have a Catholic school after the parishioner/sibling registration. Non-resident and non-parishioner children will be considered for admission only if there is room.

In all cases, admissions of students to Immaculate Heart of Mary School will be made only in those cases where the child's needs can be met. Enrollment for all students is for one school year and may be reconsidered for the following year for academic, attendance, and/or behavioral reasons. The principal and the pastor will make this determination. Completion of all financial responsibilities must be met or special arrangements with the pastor must be made prior to readmission.

At any time, a student may be placed on academic and/or behavior probation. If for any reason the student does not comply with the probation contract, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be asked to withdraw him/her from Immaculate Heart of Mary School. All new students are accepted on a probationary basis for the first semester period or longer if necessary to assess whether or not the school program will best support the student's learning and development.

### Applications for new students PreK-8:

1. Registration for Kindergarten students occurs during the second semester. Acceptance for enrollment of students transferring from another school to Immaculate Heart of Mary School is not final until a copy of the child's last report card is reviewed and approved, all registration forms and fees are completed and transfer records are received.
2. Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Registration Procedures:** registration form, copies of baptismal and other sacramental certificates and birth certificate, health records that include immunization records, FACTS (Tuition Management Program) online enrollment, and a registration fee. Students entering grades 1-8 will need an interview with the principal along with their parent/guardian and a copy of their latest report card before being accepted. Some situations may require an interview with the pastor. All students will be given an educational assessment during the registration process.
4. Parents requesting transcripts to be sent to another school must request, in writing, a Request for Transcripts form. All transcripts will be sent or received, directly to the school that is marked on the form.

## TUITION POLICY OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL

The foundation of our policy is based on the total cost to operate the school. The success of the school relies upon the commitment of families to:

- Make Catholic education a financial priority
- Be involved in their student's education

- Make their tuition payment(s) on a timely basis

By signing the tuition agreement, *you are accepting financial responsibility for complying with the payment terms set forth in the option you have selected.*

### **TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS 2019-2020 FOR ALL FAMILIES**

Tuition will be paid only according to one of the 3 payment schedules:

- One single payment due on or before July 15
- Semi-annual payments for which a non-refundable enrollment fee is required
- FACTS Electronic Payment System - Twelve (12) monthly payments, beginning July 15, through June using the FACTS electronic payment system. A non-refundable enrollment fee is required.

### **INCIDENTAL BILLING**

IHM will use FACTS for all Incidental Billing. Incidental fees are considered charges not covered in a FACTS tuition payment. IHM will use this billing process for various fees incurred throughout the year including, but not limited to, field trips, classroom fees and Scholastic fees.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Financial assistance is available to families who qualify and complete the PSAS form. Regardless of assistance, we do expect each family to contribute towards some portion of their tuition bill.

### **DELINQUENT TUITION POLICY**

When tuition payments become delinquent, it is a serious matter because the school relies upon the tuition and fees to operate an excellent spiritual and educational program. If financial circumstances change that it warrants re-evaluation of your tuition commitment, it is the responsibility of the family to first contact the tuition assistant immediately who then informs the Pastor. Typically, this occurs when there is a family emergency such as illness or unemployment.

When payments are delinquent, written notification of the past due account accompanied by a copy of this policy will be sent to the family. Also, the following steps will be taken:

#### **30 Days Past Due**

1. The family must contact the tuition assistant within 15 days of receipt of the past due notice to correct the situation or make an acceptable alternate payment plan. The Pastor is informed of this.
2. Students will not be permitted to register or return the following academic year until the balance is paid in full or an alternate payment plan has been accepted.

#### **60 Days Past Due**

1. Pastor will set up meeting with the family within 7 days.
2. Report cards will be withheld.
3. Students will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular school activities.

#### **90 Days Past Due**

1. Finance Council will be informed.
2. Report cards will be withheld until full payment is received.
3. Students will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular school activities
4. Student may be withdrawn from the school.

### **Families with 8th Grade Students**

1. 8<sup>th</sup> grade transcripts will not be sent on to Catholic high schools unless tuition payments are current.
2. All account billing and fees for 8th grade students must be paid by May 15th (if you are on FACTS, you must be current in payments), or the family must have an alternate payment plan approved by the Pastor. 8th grade students will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremony or receive grade transcripts until the balance is paid in full or acceptable payment arrangements are made.

### **Families with students in other grades**

1. Families must be current in their tuition payments in order to re-register for the following school year through the FACTS program.

## **MARITAL STATUS AND ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Immaculate Heart of Mary has the right to know immediately when there is a current separation, a pending divorce, a shared parenting agreement, a modification of custody status, and/or any other information regarding the child's family situation. Parents are required to provide this information immediately in the form of a valid and current court order or other written notarized documentation that is signed by both parents.

Please note further information under *Diocesan Legal Policies* at the end of this section of the handbook. The information is located under, "Family Custodial Situation Relationships With The School."

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

The goals and objectives of each subject are taken from the Diocesan Graded Course of Study and integrating the Common Core. These courses of study are approved by the State Department of Education of Ohio and are in compliance with the Minimum Standards for Elementary Schools as set by the Ohio Board of Education. Textbooks and educational materials are selected so as to support the Graded Course of Study and Common Core prepared by the Cleveland Diocesan Education Office. These courses of study are reviewed and updated every five years by the Office of Catholic Education and the State Department of Education of Ohio.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

"Be it known to all who enter that *Christ is* the reason for this school, the unseen, but *ever-present* teacher in its classes, the model of its staff, the inspiration of its students." Immaculate Heart of Mary students will experience:

- Daily religious instruction by certified religion teachers on staff.
- Daily morning prayer
- School Masses
- Prayer Services
- Stations of the Cross

- Classroom and school-wide retreats
- Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrations especially during Advent and Lent
- Participation in Advent and Holy Week services
- Sacramental preparation programs for Second & Eighth Grades
- Diocesan sexuality program
- Opportunities for service in our community
- Missions
- Remembrances for the sick and elderly
- Service Projects
- Altar Serving

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an outgrowth of class work and requires sacrifice and self-discipline on the part of the student. It will supplement and further student learning by reviewing what was covered in class. It provides practice or an opportunity to use research skills and is an integral part of the learning process.

Time allotment for homework depends on the type of assignment and the age and grade of the student. Individual differences should be considered as well as study habits and atmosphere for study; therefore, students need a quiet place at home to study. Homework, on occasion, may be given on the weekends. This includes, but is not limited to, long-range assignments or projects.

Each grade level has a homework policy. Parents will be notified of these policies during Open House at the start of the school year.

A parent's role is to be supportive by providing: a proper setting, necessary materials, and guidance on completing assigned tasks.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Keeping parents informed of the progress of their child is a vital responsibility of each teacher. Teachers will enter grades in GradeLock. Report cards are issued four times each school year. Report cards will come approximately every nine weeks at the end of each quarter. Parents sign the report cards and return the report cards to homeroom teachers.

Parents are expected to review their child's grades throughout the quarter on GradeLock especially at the halfway point into each quarter (Interim Time). Parents are expected to review the grades with their child to determine what their child needs to do to maintain or improve their academic performance before report card time.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher for a conference whenever there is a need. Teachers may be contacted by calling the school office at 330-923-1220 and leave a message, or sending an e-mail directly to the teacher. The teacher will contact you within 24 hours to set an appointment. Upper grade (6, 7, 8) students are encouraged to initiate contact with a teacher regarding their grade.

## GRADING SCALE

Immaculate Heart of Mary School adheres to the grading scale of the Diocese of Cleveland for grades 1-8:

O	100-93	A+	100-98	A+	4.33
S+	92-87	A	97-95	A	4.00
S	86-79	A-	94-93	A-	3.67
S-	78-77	B+	92-90	B+	3.33
N	76-70	B	89-87	B	3.00
U	69 and below	B-	86-85	B-	2.67
		C+	84-82	C+	2.33
		C	81-79	C	2.00
		C-	78-77	C-	1.67
		D+	76-75	D+	1.33
		D	74-72	D	1.00
		D-	71-70	D-	0.7
		F	69 and below	F	0.0

### **HONOR ROLL (Grades 6-8)**

**High Honors:** 3.6 – 4.0+

**Honors:** 3.0 – 3.59

## RETENTION

Retention could be considered for the following reasons: (1) failure, for the year, in three or more major subjects (ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies), or (2) failure to master fundamental skills of Reading in the Primary Grades. A child will be retained at a given grade level only if it is presumed that he or she will profit from the experience. Retention must have the prior approval of the principal and be accepted in writing by the parents. If parents refuse to have a child retained, a refusal to retain contract, signed by parent(s), will become a part of the child's permanent record. The principal will then decide if the school can continue to meet the educational needs of the child, or if another educational setting is necessary. Each case of retention is treated individually and thoroughly discussed by the teacher, principal, and parents. Parents will be notified by spring break.

## STANDARIZED TESTING

Standard tests are given in accordance with the Diocesan recommendations. Three times per year, MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing will occur in Grades 2-8. Two times per year, MAP testing will occur in Grades K-1. Grades 3 and 5 will be administered the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in February.

The individual and classroom results in defined categories are considered confidential information. As applicable, parents will receive a printed report of their individual child's standardized test results in their final report card. Please refer to your child's homeroom teacher for any additional explanation or assistance in reviewing the individual results.

## **CONFERENCES – PARENT-TEACHER/STUDENT**

Parent-Teacher Conferences are mandatory at the end of the first grading period. The teacher and/or parent/guardian may schedule a second semester conference in January through February. Any other conferences necessary to discuss academic or behavior concerns can be arranged as needed. All conferences can be scheduled with the teacher by making an appointment via phone or written request. Parents are always encouraged to consult a teacher before contacting the principal in all matters pertaining to the student's academic or behavior concerns. If a matter is not then rectified, the teacher and/or parent should consult with the principal for guidance. These conferences help the teacher and parents reach a mutual understanding regarding the students and their progress, strengths, and weaknesses. Conferences cannot be held during regular school time when the teacher has the responsibility of the students in the classroom. All parental conferences with the teacher, principal, or pastor will be conducted with respect for all parties present.

## **AUXILIARY SERVICES**

Through funds provided by the State of Ohio for students attending non-public schools, the following materials and services may be available:

- Reading Intervention Specialist
- School Counselor
- Health Aide
- Speech/Language Therapist
- Remedial Tutor
- Math Intervention Specialist
- Math Enrichment Teacher
- Textbooks
- A variety of instructional materials for all curriculum

The above services and materials are contingent on state funds and may be limited. All auxiliary services except nursing are held in the Learning Center adjacent to the school property.



## **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

Immaculate Heart of Mary students are expected to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times and enrollment as a student of Immaculate Heart of Mary implies the willingness of both parents and students to comply with the policies and regulations of the school. Students are expected, by their actions and their speech to contribute to our goal of a safe learning environment by reinforcing the values of politeness, respect for themselves and others, courtesy, and self-discipline. Students must refrain from any action that may endanger their health or that of others, which may disrupt others from learning, which may show disrespect for other students or adults, or that may damage or destroy school or personal property.

A choice to disregard any school rules by a student on school/parish premises or off school premises at any school-sponsored activity, or when the school can be identified, shall constitute sufficient cause for disciplinary action. Disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, written or verbal warnings, parental phone calls, detentions, suspension and/or expulsion. Discipline may be administered by any faculty, staff, or substitute. Suspensions or expulsion will be handled by the school principal.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

Each classroom teacher will have a set system of implementing the school discipline policy. Parents and students are made aware of the specifics at the beginning of each school year during Open House held during the opening of the school year. Each teacher will establish classroom rules that coincide with the school philosophy and Code of Conduct.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones must be stored in book bag in lockers and turned off during school hours. Please note school hours are from 7:15 a.m. to the conclusion of all extracurricular activities/the LINX program. Electronic devices may be used at the discretion of individual teachers within their classrooms only.

Personal electronic devices may not be used to take video or pictures of others on school/parish property.

Violation of these rules will result in the cell phone or electronic device being confiscated and kept by the principal. The phone or device will only be returned to the student's parent/guardian.

### **DEMERITS**

Students who choose not to follow the school rules may be issued a demerit to be signed by a parent/guardian. A demerit is given as a warning that additional consequences will follow if the student continues to disregard school rules. The demerit is a notification to parents and must be signed to confirm a parent is aware of this student's behavior. Three demerits within a quarter will result in a detention being issued to this student.

Examples of behavior, which would result in a demerit being issued, are:

1. Failing to follow school, classroom, bus, cafeteria, playground rules, etc.
2. Disruptive behavior
3. Reporting late for a class (after other students are in attendance)
4. Violation of dress code
5. Chewing gum during the day and on school buses
6. Loitering in an unsupervised area such as unattended classrooms, restrooms, gym locker rooms, hallways, school grounds, etc.
7. Failing to follow directions of any faculty/staff member

8. Please note "[Elastic Clause](#)"

**Note:** If a demerit or detention is not signed and returned to school, a teacher will contact the parents.

**Multiple demerit procedure:**

1. Three demerits equal a detention.
2. Demerits are to be signed by a parent and returned the next day.
3. Demerits/Detentions earned within a quarter are removed at the end of that quarter.

**DETENTIONS**

When a student is issued a detention, the issuing teacher will notify the parents by phone. A detention is written for more serious offenses or after a student has accumulated three demerits. Detention notification will be sent home with the student. **This detention slip will provide information for the parent/guardian regarding the detention.** The Assistant Principal will supervise the detentions. Parents/guardians are responsible for the transportation of their child. Detentions will be scheduled on Thursdays after school from 2:40-3:40. Some examples of behaviors, which would result in a detention, are listed below.

1. Defiance of school authority
2. Disrespectful behavior shown to any person
3. Vandalism of any kind – restitution required along with the detention
4. Any inappropriate physical contact; purposefully tripping, pushing
5. Written, spoken or gestured language which violates Catholic standards of behavior
6. Throwing of any object, including food, in school, church grounds or from bus windows, etc.
7. Aggressive behavior including intimidation, threatening language, excessive teasing, bullying, harassment and verbal assault (in some cases, suspension may also be appropriate.)
8. Academic dishonesty/cheating – this includes the student that willingly provides the answers
9. Inappropriate use of electronic equipment in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy
10. Lying, stealing or forgery
11. Failure to serve a detention
12. Please note "[Elastic Clause](#)"

**MULTIPLE DETENTION PROCEDURE**

When a student accumulates two detentions, the student and parents will meet with the homeroom teacher and Principal and will lose the privilege of dress down days for the rest of the quarter. The homeroom teacher will arrange this conference.

After three detentions the student will lose the opportunity to participate in activities sponsored by the school such as: Student Council activities, assemblies, school dances, etc. A letter will be sent or a phone call placed to the parents informing them of this loss of privilege. This disciplinary action will last until the end of the quarter.

**SUSPENSION AND/OR EXPLUSION**

The principal has the right to suspend or expel a student from school for repeated violation of school policies or for any single major infraction taking place during the school day, school co-curricular activity, or school sponsored event.

If strong corrective measures are needed, the principal may employ suspension. The parents will be immediately notified regarding the reason and duration of the suspension. The pupil will be removed from the

classroom setting until a conference is held that day with parents/legal guardians. The pupil will be given opportunity to present the facts related to the case as he/she sees them. A suspension is the exclusion of a student from his/her class for a specified time, and can be in-school or out-of-school. The act of suspension will exclude the student from any field trip occurring during the suspension.

The expulsion of a student is a serious matter and will be used only when absolutely necessary. Contact will be made with the designated diocesan personnel (legal office) when contemplating expulsion. Notification of the event will be made to the parent/guardian and pastor by the principal. A conference shall be held with the parent(s)/guardian(s), teacher(s), principal, and pastor before expulsion.

After consultation, the principal and pastor will be the persons responsible for the decision to expel a student. This decision is the right and responsibility of the principal and/or pastor. In some cases the principal and/or pastor may deem an action by a student so severe that it would result in immediate expulsion from school. All matters involved in any disciplinary action are confidential.

### **ELASTIC CLAUSE**

It is impossible to foresee all issues, including the use of “fad” toys or collectibles, which can arise; this clause empowers faculty and administration to take disciplinary action for any behavior, which violates the spirit, mission, and philosophy of Immaculate Heart of Mary School even though not specified in this code of conduct and discipline. The guiding principle is to insure a safe, nurturing environment conducive to learning.

## **PLAYGROUND RULES**

Students are **not** allowed to leave the playground at recess or lunchtime. Snowballs, tackling games, and rough play are prohibited on the playground. Basketballs are permitted only on the basketball court. Students are allowed on the designated “black top” area and field area (weather permitting). Students are expected to respect “boundaries” of playground features, fences, etc., as defined by playground monitors. Students are expected to treat the lunch and playground monitors with the same respect that they would give to a teacher or the school administration.

## UNIFORM/DRESS CODE POLICY

The school dress code at Immaculate Heart of Mary is designed to promote an atmosphere on campus that is appropriate for a school setting. The type of clothing, hairstyle, and the way the students present themselves has a bearing on their conduct and attitude. These uniform regulations are intended to reduce distractions and to allow students to focus on their academic responsibilities in a manner demonstrating that we are all one community. To be just and fair to each individual, every student must follow the dress code exactly. For the good of the school and the uniform policy, students are expected to wear the school uniform and gym uniform correctly and parents are expected to support these regulations. The school administration will have the final say in the appropriateness of the uniform.

### Uniform Suppliers for Immaculate Heart of Mary School are exclusively:

- Lands' End School Uniforms - [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com)
- Kid Kloset - [www.Kidsklosetuniforms.net](http://www.Kidsklosetuniforms.net)
- Schoolbelles - [www.schoolbelles.com](http://www.schoolbelles.com)

### ALL UNIFORMS SHOULD BE LABELLED CLEARLY WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME.

#### Girls - Kindergarten through Grade 3

- Jumper: Round neck; wide pleats; uniform plaid
- Skort: Approved style must be purchased at an IHM uniform supplier.
- Pants: Waistband front; elastic back; school plaid, khaki, or fade resistant navy; **must** be dress pants; tailored look; “uniform style”; **No** top-stitching, outside “patch” pockets; **No** flares, low rise, or cargo pants; **No** length below the shoe/heel line; modest, loose fit
- Shorts: Appropriate length; pleated or flat front walking shorts; uniform plaid, khaki or navy **may be worn 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter**
- Sweater: Long sleeved, round neck, navy blue cardigan
- Blouses/Shirts: **MUST BE COLLARED**; white; oxford; peter pan collar, long or short sleeved. White turtlenecks are also permitted. Blouses/shirts **must** be tucked in. White or Dark Green (monogrammed Immaculate Heart of Mary in gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) drop waist banded polo shirt – long or short sleeved. These shirts **do not need** to be tucked in.
- Socks/Tights: Solid navy blue, black, or white in knee high or ankle – turn-cuff (no sports socks); a minimal sports logo is acceptable
- Shoes: All students must wear dress shoes. **No** athletic, platform, or ankle-high shoes; **No** sandals, flip-flops, clogs, cowboy boots, heavy tread, hiking boot, or any shoe with an inappropriate heel height. All shoes must have a back and an enclosed toe. Shoe laces **must** be tied at all times.
- Spirit Sweatshirt: Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered school name or candle logo on the top left side; collared shirt/blouse/polo or white turtleneck **must** be worn underneath; **No** oversized sweatshirts
- Nail Polish: **No** nail polish
- Hair:

- Must be clean, neatly styled and not restricting of vision (over eyes).
- Unusual, drastic, or fad hair cuts/styles or dyed/colored hair to any extent is **not** permitted.
- **No** part of the head may be shaved; no symbols, signs, etc. may be cut into hair.
- **No** oversize or bandana-style headbands; triangle scarves are **not** to be worn on the head; **no** fad headbands are permitted; headbands are to be functional and appropriately matching the uniform
- Braided hair with beads is **not** permitted.
- No more than 72 hours will be given to correct any inappropriate hairstyle. School policy will be followed regarding the appropriate consequence.

## Girls - Grades 4 through 6

- Skirt: Wrap around kilt, button closure or inverted kick pleat; uniform plaid. Skirt length **must** be modest.
- Skort: Approved style must be purchased at an IHM uniform supplier.
- Pants: School plaid, khaki, or fade resistant navy; **No low rise and no elastic at the ankle**; **must** be dress pants; tailored look; “uniform style”; **No** top-stitching, outside “patch” pockets; **No** flares or cargo pants; **No** length below the shoe/heel line; modest, loose fit; belts **must** be worn with pants
- Shorts: Appropriate length; pleated or flat front walking shorts; khaki or navy; belt **must** be worn with shorts  
*may be worn 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*
- Sweater: Long sleeved, round neck, navy blue cardigan
- Blouses: **MUST BE COLLARED**; white; oxford, long or short sleeved  
White turtlenecks are also permitted. Blouses/shirts **must** be tucked in. White or Dark Green (monogrammed Immaculate Heart of Mary in gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) drop waist banded polo shirt – long or short sleeved. These shirts **do not need** to be tucked in.
- Socks/Tights: Solid navy blue, black, or white in knee high or ankle – turn-cuff (no sports socks) To achieve a complete, tailored look, footies, crew socks, lace or ribbon-trimmed socks are **not** permitted; a minimal sports logo is acceptable.
- Shoes: All students must wear dress shoes. **No** athletic, platform, or ankle-high shoes; **No** sandals, flip-flops, clogs, cowboy boots, heavy tread, hiking boot, or any shoe with an inappropriate heel height All shoes must have a back and an enclosed toe. Shoe laces **must** be tied at all times.
- Spirit Sweatshirt: Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered school name or candle logo on the top left side; collared shirt/blouse/polo or white turtleneck **must** be worn underneath; **No** oversized sweatshirts.
- Belts: (Not required for pants without loops.) Required for students wearing shorts or pants; **must** be black, brown, or navy; **No** “fad” belts
- Cosmetics: **No** nail polish; **No** artificial nails; **No** make-up
- Hair:
  - Must be clean, neatly styled and not restricting of vision (over eyes).
  - Unusual, drastic, or fad hair cuts/styles or dyed/colored hair to any extent is **not** permitted.
  - **No** part of the head may be shaved; no symbols, signs, etc. may be cut into hair.
  - **No** oversize or bandana-style headbands; triangle scarves are **not** to be worn on the head; **no** fad headbands are permitted; headbands are to be functional and appropriately matching the uniform
  - Braided hair with beads is **not** permitted.
  - No more than 72 hours will be given to correct any inappropriate hairstyle. School policy will be followed regarding the appropriate consequence.

## Girls - Grades 7 and 8

- Skirt: Wrap around kilt with button closure or inverted kick pleat; uniform plaid. Skirt length **must** be modest.
- Skort: Approved style must be purchased at an IHM uniform supplier.
- Pants: Pleated or flat front, khaki or fade resistant navy; **low rise, elastic at ankle, and jeggings are not permitted; must** be dress pants; tailored look; “uniform style”; **No** top-stitching, outside “patch” pockets; **No** flares or cargo pants; **No** length below the shoe/heel line; modest and loose fit; belts **must** be worn with pants
- Shorts: Appropriate length; pleated or flat front, walking shorts; khaki or navy; belt **must** be worn with shorts  
*may be worn 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*
- Sweater: Long sleeved, round neck, navy blue cardigan
- Blouses: **MUST BE COLLARED**; white; oxford, long or short sleeved  
White turtlenecks are also permitted. Blouses/shirts **must** be tucked in. White or Dark Green (monogrammed Immaculate Heart of Mary in gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) drop waist banded polo shirt – long or short sleeved. These shirts **do not need** to be tucked in. **Proper undergarments must be worn.**
- **7th and 8th Graders are expected to wear their Junior High “theme” shirts on one predetermined day each week (unless otherwise instructed) and on certain other days that will be specified in advance.**
- Socks/Tights: Solid navy blue, black, or white in knee high or ankle – turn-cuff (no sports socks). To achieve a complete tailored look, footies, crew socks, lace or ribbon-trimmed socks are **not** permitted; a minimal sports logo is acceptable.
- Shoes: All students must wear dress shoes. **No** athletic, platform, or ankle-high shoes; **No** sandals, flip-flops, clogs, cowboy boots, heavy tread, hiking boot, or any shoe with an inappropriate heel height  
All shoes must have a back and an enclosed toe. Shoe laces **must** be tied at all times.
- Spirit Sweatshirt: Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered school name or candle logo on the top left side; collared shirt/blouse/polo or white turtleneck **must** be worn underneath; **No** oversized sweatshirts.
- Belts: (Not required for pants without loops.) Required for students wearing shorts or pants; **must** be black, brown, or navy; **No** “fad” belts
- Cosmetics: **No** nail polish; **No** artificial nails; **No** make-up **at any school sponsored activity**
- Hair:
  - Must be clean, neatly styled and not restricting of vision (over eyes).
  - Unusual, drastic, or fad haircuts/styles or dyed/colored hair (to any extent) is **not** permitted.
  - **No** part of the head may be shaved; no symbols, signs, etc. may be cut into hair.
  - **No** oversize or bandana-style headbands; triangle scarves are **not** to be worn on the head; **no** fad headbands are permitted; headbands are to be functional and appropriately matching the uniform
  - Braided hair with beads is **not** permitted
  - No more than 72 hours will be given to correct any inappropriate hairstyle. School policy will be followed regarding the appropriate consequence.

### **Boys - Kindergarten through Grade 3**

- **Pants:** Waistband front, elastic back in khaki or fade resistant navy; **must** be dress pants; tailored look; “uniform style”; **No** top-stitching, outside “patch” pockets; **No** flares, low rise, or cargo pants; **No** length below the shoe/heel line; baggy pants are **not** permitted; pants **must** be fade resistant
- **Shorts:** Pleated or flat front walking shorts in khaki or navy; cargo shorts, for example, are not permitted  
*may be worn 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*
- **Sweater:** Long sleeved, round neck, navy blue cardigan
- **Shirts:** **MUST BE COLLARED;** white; oxford, long or short sleeved; white turtlenecks are permitted White or Dark Green (monogrammed Immaculate Heart of Mary in gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) drop waist banded polo shirt – long or short sleeved. These shirts **do not need** to be tucked in.
- **Socks:** **CREW LENGTH**, solid white, black, or navy blue – **NO SPORT SOCKS;** a minimal sports logo is acceptable
- **Shoes:** All students must wear dress shoes. **No** athletic, platform, or ankle-high shoes; **No** sandals, flip-flops, clogs, cowboy boots, heavy tread, hiking boot, or any shoe with an inappropriate heel height All shoes must have a back and an enclosed toe. Shoe laces **must** be tied at all times.
- **Spirit Sweatshirt:** Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered school name or candle logo on the top left side; a collared shirt/polo or white turtleneck **must** be worn underneath; no oversized sweatshirts.
- **Hair:**
  - Must be clean, neat and worn in a conventional style
  - Length is to be above the shirt collar, eyebrows, top of the ear, and cannot be long enough to be pulled/pushed behind the ear
  - **No** tails, buzz designs, lines, steps, fad hair cut/styles, or dyed/colored hair
  - **No** part of the head may be shaved; no symbols, signs, etc. may be cut into hair
  - **No** headbands may be worn
  - No more than 72 hours will be given to correct any inappropriate hairstyle. School policy will be followed regarding the appropriate consequence.

### **Boys - Grades 4 through 6**

- **Pants:** Pleated or flat front, fade resistant khaki or navy; **must** be dress pants; tailored look; “uniform style”; **No** top-stitching, outside “patch” pockets; **No** flares, low rise, cargo pants, elastic at the ankle; **No** length below the shoe/heel line; baggy pants are **not** permitted; belts **must** be worn with pants
- **Shorts:** Pleated or flat front walking shorts, khaki or navy; cargo shorts, for example, are not permitted; belts **must** be worn with shorts  
*may be worn 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*
- **Sweater:** Long sleeved, round neck, navy blue cardigan
- **Shirts:** **MUST BE COLLARED;** white; oxford, long or short sleeved; shirts **must** be tucked in White turtlenecks are permitted. White or Dark Green (monogrammed Immaculate Heart of Mary in gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) drop waist banded polo shirt – long or short sleeved. These shirts **do not need** to be tucked in.
- **Socks:** **CREW LENGTH**, solid white, black, or navy blue - **NO SPORT SOCKS;** a minimal sports logo is acceptable

- **Shoes:** All students must wear dress shoes. **No** athletic, platform, or ankle-high shoes; **No** sandals, flip-flops, clogs, cowboy boots, heavy tread, hiking boot, or any shoe with an inappropriate heel height. All shoes must have a back and an enclosed toe. Shoelaces **must** be tied at all times.
- **Spirit Sweatshirt:** Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered school name or candle logo on the top left side; a collared shirt/polo or white turtleneck **must** be worn underneath; no oversized sweatshirts.
- **Belts:** (Not required for pants without belt loops.) Required for students wearing shorts or pants; **must** be black, brown, or navy; **No** “fad” belts
- **Hair:**
  - Must be clean, neat and worn in a conventional style
  - Length is to be above the shirt collar, eyebrows, top of the ear, and cannot be long enough to be pulled/pushed behind the ear
  - **No** tails, buzz designs, lines, steps, fad hair cut/styles, or dyed/colored hair
  - **No** part of the head may be shaved; no symbols, signs, etc. may be cut into hair
  - **No** headbands may be worn
  - No more than 72 hours will be given to correct any inappropriate hairstyle. School policy will be followed regarding the appropriate consequence.

### **Boys - Grades 7 and 8**

- **Pants:** Pleated or flat front, fade resistant khaki or navy; **must** be dress pants, tailored look “uniform style”; **No** top-stitching, outside “patch” pockets; **No** flares, low rise, cargo pants or elastic at the ankle; **No** length below the shoe/heel line; baggy pants are **not** permitted; belts **must** be worn with pants
- **Shorts:** Pleated or flat front walking shorts, khaki or navy; cargo shorts, for example, are not permitted; belts **must** be worn with shorts  
*may be worn 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*
- **Sweater:** Long sleeved, round neck, navy blue cardigan
- **Shirts:** **MUST BE COLLARED**; white; oxford, long or short sleeved; shirts **must** be tucked in. White turtlenecks are permitted. White or Dark Green (monogrammed Immaculate Heart of Mary in gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) drop waist banded polo shirt – long or short sleeved. These shirts **do not need** to be tucked in.

#### **OPTIONAL GRADE FOR GRADES 7 AND 8 BOYS ONLY:**

“*Tucked in*” white or hunter green dress shirts **without** a logo may be worn with any **appropriate** tie.

- **7th and 8th Graders are expected to wear their Junior High “theme” shirts on one predetermined day each week (unless otherwise instructed) and on certain other days that will be specified in advance.**
- **Socks:** **CREW LENGTH**, solid white, black, or navy blue - **NO SPORT SOCKS**; a minimal sports logo is acceptable
- **Shoes:** All students must wear dress shoes. **No** athletic, platform, or ankle-high shoes; **No** sandals, flip-flops, clogs, cowboy boots, heavy tread, hiking boot, or any shoes with an inappropriate heel height. All shoes must have a back and an enclosed toe. Shoe laces **must** be tied at all times.
- **Spirit Sweatshirt:** Navy blue sweatshirt with embroidered school name or candle logo on the top left side; a collared shirt/polo or white turtleneck **must** be worn underneath; no oversized sweatshirts.
- **Hair:**
  - Must be clean, neat and worn in a conventional style



- Length is to be above the shirt collar, eyebrows, top of the ear, and cannot be long enough to be pulled/pushed behind the ear
- **No** tails, buzz designs, lines, steps, fad haircut/styles, or dyed/colored hair
- **No** part of the head may be shaved; no symbols, signs, etc. may be cut into hair
- **No** headbands may be worn
- No more than 72 hours will be given to correct any inappropriate hairstyle. School policy will be followed regarding the appropriate consequence.
- Facial Hair:
  - must be clean-shaven
  - long side burns will **not** be permitted
  - earrings are **not** permitted

### Gym Uniform Grades K through 8 – Boys and Girls

- **Shirt:** Only the “spirit,” green, yellow, or mixed green and yellow, tie-dyed t-shirt is to be worn. (All other “spirit” shirts, such as 5K shirts, may be worn on “dress casual” or “spirit wear dress down” days. Additionally, 5K shirts may be worn as PE shirts during the annual 5K Registration period in the Spring.)  
Shirts **must** be worn under sweatshirts or jackets.
- **Shorts:** Hunter green micromesh shorts, including the “spirit wear” gym short, are to be worn. Shorts need to fit properly, **No** baggy or oversized shorts; **No** rolled waistbands  
**Gym shorts may be worn without athletic pants only in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.**
- **Athletic Pants:** Hunter green, including the “spirit wear” athletic pant; **parents are required to purchase these from an IHM uniform supplier.** Athletic pants are to fit properly over gym shorts; **No** baggy or oversized pants; modest, loose fit; **No** pants below shoe/heel line; **No** rolled waistbands  
**Athletic pants must be worn over gym shorts during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.**
- **OPTIONAL:** Dark Green fleece quarter zip jacket with monogram (Immaculate Heart of Mary – gold, script lettering – Chancery Cursive) manufacturer: Colorado Timberline.
- **Socks:** white or black sport or crew socks.
- For safety reasons, platform shoes are **not** permitted.
- Shoes should fit properly and **must** be tied.

### ACCESSORIES

- Limit of **two** bracelets in total may be worn
- Stud/post earrings, **no more than two earrings per ear**; earrings that are distracting are **not** permitted
- Multiple necklaces and/or necklaces that are distracting are **not** permitted
- Band-aids over earrings are **not** permitted
- Any type of tattoo or “body art” is **not** permitted
- Artificial nails are **not** permitted
- Equipping a backpack with solid (**not** aerosol) deoderant is encouraged

### **Picture Day Dress:**

We will schedule picture day with a professional photographer one day during the first quarter of the school year. Students will have their pictures taken for the school's yearbook. Parents will also be given the opportunity to purchase a picture package of their child(ren). Picture day is **not** a "dress down" day. Students are expected to wear nice clothes. Jeans, spaghetti straps, "cold shoulder" or tank tops, bare midriff, tee shirts with logos or advertising, jeggings and sport shirts (soccer, softball, basketball, etc.) will **not** be permitted. **Girls are not permitted to wear leggings or snug jeans.** Girls are permitted to wear Capri pants. Tennis shoes are **not** permitted unless it is a gym day. **Shorts are not permitted unless they are uniform shorts.**

### **Dress Down Days:**

Some "dress down" days have a required theme, such as sports/patriotic. Jeans are permitted, but they cannot be tattered or torn, nor should they be overly snug. Low rise or baggy pants are **not** permitted. Shorts may be worn at the time of year during which uniform shorts are permitted and **must** be of modest length and worn at the waist. Shirts must have sleeves (no spaghetti straps) and the torso length must be long enough to be tucked into the waistband. "Cold shoulder" tops are not permitted. Pictures on shirts must be appropriate, cannot promote sex, alcohol, drug use or violence, and should not conflict with our Catholic identity. **Girls are permitted to wear leggings or snug jeans only with a shirt that completely covers the bottom at all times.** Nail polish, hair color, or any extreme hairstyles are **not** permitted. Tennis shoes and Crocs with the back strap in place are also permitted.

### **ENFORCEMENT OF UNIFORM CODE**

**If a student comes to school in violation of the uniform code, as determined by the school administration, the student will be issued a demerit.**

**Any item not outlined here, and any concern with regard to what constitutes appropriate appearance, will be determined by the school administration.**

## TRANSPORTATION

Cuyahoga Falls, Stow, Woodridge, Akron, and Tallmadge will provide bus transportation for all Immaculate Heart of Mary students who reside in their districts. You can obtain pick-up and drop-off schedules and locations by contacting your school district bus transportation department.

Courtesy and good conduct is expected of all bus riders. The transportation authorities have the right to suspend misbehaving students from riding the bus.

Please contact your school district's bus transportation office to obtain rules and regulations should it be necessary for your child to go to someone else's home on a different bus line after school.

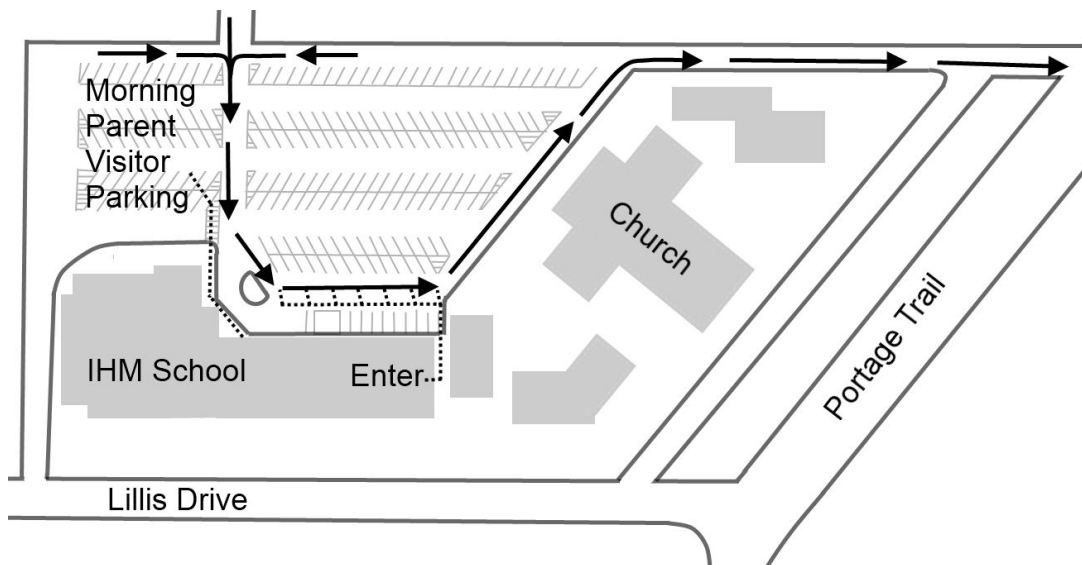
**Parents will complete a transportation form at the start of the school year indicating their child's mode of transportation after school. Any child going home in a way other than what is listed on the form must have a signed note from their parent each time indicating the name of the person who has permission to take the student home on that particular day.**

**Students not picked up by 2:45 P.M. will need to come to the office to pick up their child. Any students not picked up by 3:00 P.M. will be sent to the Linx program.**

### RIDERS (MORNING DROP OFF)

**For the safety of our students, the direction of morning drop off traffic is as follows:**

- In conjunction with Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, we are in agreement that all students must exit on the passenger sides of vehicles only; students should NEVER cross between vehicles.
- The morning student building entrance is the South entrance of the All-Purpose Room by the Learning Center as well as the regular All- Purpose Room entrance. Students will enter at the nearest door.
- Please have your child exit your vehicle wherever you stop along the entire length of the **CONED, STRAIGHTAWAY**, from the front entrance garden roundabout to the church sidewalk. Unloading many cars at a time ensures that traffic will not back up. However, we do appreciate your patience - all in the name of "SAFETY"
- Please exit the parking lot **ONLY** onto **Portage Trail**.
- Parents who need to visit the office, or who wish to walk their children to the door, need to park on the playground blacktop. Please use the crosswalk and walk on the building side of the roundabout to keep your children and yourself safe and away from traffic.



**RIDERS (AFTERNOON PICK UP)**

Parents must wait outside the coned area near the island. Students are not permitted to walk to cars unless accompanied by a parent. Teachers will accompany all afternoon car riders to the coned pick up area. Students will be dismissed to authorized adults only. Please insure all authorized adults have been added to the transportation form in the office.

**WALKERS**

Students should walk on the sidewalks, and be instructed not to take rides or talk with strangers. It is expected that all students go directly home after school. If students have alternate plans, parents must send in a signed note to notify the office of the change of transportation. For the students’ safety, we ask that **ALL** students leave the playground area after school.

**BICYCLES**

Students may ride bicycles to school provided that they follow common safety rules and supply parent permission in writing.

Bikes are to be walked at all times on school property and at intersections.

The school assumes no responsibility for damaged or stolen bikes. We recommend that all students who ride bikes to school lock their bikes.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

A Health Aide is available from 7:45 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. each day. Hearing tests, eye examinations, and scoliosis exams are given periodically. Parents will be notified if attention is needed.

Emergency cards and emergency medical authorization forms are kept on file in the office/clinic. Changes in address or telephone numbers throughout the course of the year must be reported to the office.

## **MEDICINE**

The Ohio Legislature has set up definite guidelines and policies concerning the dispensing of medicine to students. If it is necessary for your child to take medication during school hours, please request a medication authorization packet from the office. If a student's medication changes please notify the health aid immediately at 330-923-1220 ext. 14.

## **CONTAGIOUS DISEASES**

Parents are asked to contact the school when their child has been diagnosed as being contagious. This includes strep throat, pink eye, hand, foot and mouth disease, and head lice.

**When students are ill due to a fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), all students need to be "fever free" for twenty-four hours before returning to school.**

## **STREP THROAT CULTURES**

If a child has had a throat culture, he/she should be kept home until the results of the culture are known. If a positive result is diagnosed then the child **must** be on an antibiotic for a period of at least twenty-four hours before returning to school.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

The school is required to conduct fire, tornado, and lock down drills during the course of the year. All students and adults in the building must follow the posted regulations.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, in cooperation with the City of Cuyahoga Falls Police and Fire Departments, has implemented a Crisis Intervention Plan.

## **LINX**

The LINX Program is provided for Immaculate Heart of Mary Students in grades K through 8, from 2:45 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. each school day. Please call the school office for further information.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are recognized as an important part of an educational program and can provide a valuable addition to the classroom curriculum. Notification of a field trip, fees, and parental permission slips will be sent prior to the field trip date. Permission slips must be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the school along with the fees in order for the student to participate in the activity. If for any reason a parent is unable to pay the field trip fee, please contact the principal.

## **LUNCHES**

Hot lunch, snack, and/or milk may be purchased at the school on a monthly basis. A lunch menu and an order form will be sent home once a month. A copy of the current lunch menu can be viewed on the school's website directly. Soft drinks in cans or bottles are not permitted at lunchtime.

## VIRTUS TRAINING

In cooperation with the Diocese of Cleveland all school employees and volunteers (4hrs. or more per month) **must** receive VIRTUS Training and be fingerprinted. Please check with the rectory, school, or the parish bulletin for information on this training.

## “THURSDAY FOLDER” COMMUNICATION

Folders are sent home with **every student in grades K-8** on Thursdays. These folders contain important information on upcoming events, schedule changes, students’ graded work, interims, report cards, etc. **THESE FOLDERS MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED ON THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DAY.**

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are needed in various programs in the school. We welcome this assistance, as it helps create a closer bond between parents, parishioners, and the school. Volunteers are needed as chaperones on field trips and to assist with other school activities. **All volunteers must report to the school office upon arrival and sign in.** Volunteers are expected and need to follow and support the policies and regulations of the school while working as a volunteer in the school environment. Some volunteers may be expected to receive VIRTUS training as well.

# **DIOCESAN LEGAL POLICIES**

## **AIDS POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS**

Our school supports the AIDS policy as adopted by the Diocese of Cleveland. Children with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) enrolled or seeking enrollment in Grades K thru 8 shall be permitted to attend school or parish religious education programs in a regular classroom setting provided:

1. The health of a child, as documented by his/her physician, allows participation in regular academic activities.
2. The child behaves acceptably; in a manner that would not cause the spread of the disease or in any way put others at risk.
3. The child does not have open sores, skin eruptions, or any other condition, which prevents his/her control of bodily secretions.
4. There are periodic evaluations of the child's physical condition with written certification from his/her physician allowing continuing participation in regular academic school activities.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary School, the executive board and principal will confer with the appropriate persons and consult with the regional superintendent before the executive board and principal make the final decision on each case in the school. Parents have the obligation to report to the school administration when any child has been diagnosed as having AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC (AIDS related complex), or other illnesses caused by HIV (human deficiency virus, the virus that causes AIDS, also known as HTLVIII or LAV).

## **FAMILY CUSTODIAL SITUATION RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SCHOOL**

In two-parent families it is assumed that both parents are living at the same address unless we have been notified otherwise. School personnel will, therefore, send home notices and communication regarding the child and that information is shared by and between the parents. The information includes, but is not limited to, conference appointments, report cards, progress reports, discussion with school personnel, and tuition statements.

### **Separation**

In families experiencing separation of parents or pending divorce, the above information will be sent home with the child to whichever parent currently has care of the child. It is assumed that this information is shared by and between the parents.

Since this situation frequently impacts on a child's achievements and interactions at school, parents are asked to inform both the principal and teacher of this fact so that appropriate support can be given to the child. School personnel cannot proceed on hearsay, rumors, or demands of a parent. Requests will be acted on only with the appropriate documentation.

### **Custodial Parent**

In cases of an actual divorce decree involving clear custody by one parent, the principal is to be informed by the custodial parent of this fact. A copy of the first page of the decree bearing the case number, the

pages referring to custody and the relationship to the school, and the final page bearing the judge's signature are to be submitted to the principal.

Unless the decree indicates otherwise, school communications will be sent home to the custodial parent. Custodial parents should understand, however, that unless the divorce decree specifically limits the non-custodial parent's right to access the records, the non-custodial parent has a right to the same access as the custodial parent.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School will, unless instructed by a court order, release such records upon request to the non-custodial parent. However, we ask the custodial parent to cooperate with the school and share information, correspondence, and conference appointments directly with the non-custodial parent. This avoids time-consuming duplication of services.

Further, parents should realize that unless restricted by court order any non-custodial parent has the right to attend any school activity of the child including sports activities and class programs. Parents should keep each other informed as to these activities to avoid duplication of communication and to allow the school to better attend to the duty of teaching your children.

### **Joint Custody**

In cases of "joint custody" entitling both parents access to school personnel and activities, it is assumed that one copy of communication and information will be sent home with the child and this will be shared by and between the parents.

Regarding parent conferences in all custody situations, it is preferred and will be the general procedure that one conference appointment will be scheduled "jointly" if both parents wish to be present. It is assumed that parents are able to set aside differences and to come together on behalf of the child for this time. A joint conference further insures that both parents are given the same information at the same time, thereby avoiding misunderstanding and misinterpretations.

In cases where joint conferences are clearly neither possible nor desirable by all parties involved, alternate arrangements may be discussed with the principal. Every effort will be made to keep communications open with both parents while at the same time avoiding duplication of services and excessive demands on the teacher's time.

Visitation should generally begin at the home of one of the parents and not at school. It is hoped that visitation arrangements would reflect the sensitivity of both parents to the consistency and routines that foster security in a child and allow for school responsibilities and homework to be taken care of during the school week.

If there are questions concerning the restatement of procedure or circumstances that you feel necessitate other arrangements, please contact the principal personally.

### **Separately Mailed Information to Non-Custodial or Joint Custody Parents**

If a non-custodial parent or a joint custodial parent wants progress reports, report cards, or a school calendar mailed to them, it is necessary for them to provide self-addressed stamped business envelopes to the homeroom teacher of their child during the first full month of the school year. Otherwise, it will be assumed that information is being shared as stated in the above policy of Immaculate Heart of Mary School.



## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Student lockers, desks, cabinets, and similar property are the property of Immaculate Heart of Mary School and provided to students as a convenience for their use. Lockers and other such property carry no expectation of privacy for the students who occupy them.

School lockers, desks, cabinets, etc., and their contents are subject to search by school authorities at any time and without warning.

Additional school policies are available in the school office for your information and review.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The administration, and staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary School are firmly committed to providing a safe, positive learning and working environment for everyone in the school. For this reason, and in keeping with the goals and objectives of Catholic education, Immaculate Heart of Mary School expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual violence in the school environment. This policy reemphasizes the personal dignity of the individual and fosters positive sexual attitudes and respect for others.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment includes but is not limited to, the following specific instances: verbal sexual abuse; disseminating obscene or sexually explicit material, whether in the form of music, written lyrics, pornographic pictures, or other literature, or having such material in one's possession in the school, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored activities; obscene or sexually explicit graffiti anywhere in the school or on the school grounds, continuing and unwanted written or oral communication directed to another of a sexual nature; spreading sexual rumors/innuendoes; obscene T-shirts, hats, or buttons; touching oneself sexually in front of others; obscene and/or sexually explicit gestures; and any other inappropriate behavior of a sexually explicit or obscene nature that demeans or offends the recipient.

The above list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but is intended to provide guidance as to what may constitute sexual harassment.

Allegations of sexual harassment are to be reported to the teacher and the principal. Parents of both the offender and the victim will be informed of the allegations. All parties involved will keep the matter confidential, and every effort will be made to protect the alleged victim from retaliation. The parents of both the offender and the victim are obligated to cooperate in remedying the situation.

If the allegations are substantiated, disciplinary action will be taken. These will depend on the nature, frequency, and severity of the action, the ages of the offender and victim, the history of similar actions by this individual, and the circumstances in which the harassment occurred. Possible disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, any or all of the following:

- verbal warning/reprimand and apology to the victim,
- a parent/student/principal conference,
- written warning/reprimand and parent notification, entered in the student's file,
- detention or removal from selected school activities and/or extracurricular activities,
- behavior/probation contracts, possibly requiring professional intervention,
- suspension,
- expulsion

## **STUDENT THREATS POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

- A. Any and all student threats to inflict any harm to self or others must be taken seriously immediately.
- B. Whoever hears the threat should report it immediately to the principal, teacher, or staff person.
- C. Police should be notified immediately.
- D. The student should be kept in the principal's office under supervision until the police arrive.
- E. The parent/guardian of the student who has made the threat shall be notified immediately.
- F. Any adult or the parent/guardian of any students who have been verbally mentioned as potential victims or listed in writing as potential victims shall be notified immediately.
- G. The student should be suspended and not be considered for readmission to school until a comprehensive mental health evaluation/risk assessment has been conducted by a psychiatrist/psychologist. If a psychiatrist performs the primary evaluation, he/she shall determine the necessity to utilize a psychologist for psychological consultation and/or testing. If a psychologist performs the primary evaluation, he/she shall determine the need for psychiatric consultation. The evaluation shall comply with the provisions of O.R.C. 2305.51.

The principal shall provide the mental health care professional with all relevant facts, including but not limited to aggressive behavior, details of the threat as known to the principal, copies of any drawings or writings, disciplinary history of the student, behavioral concerns, and the names of any known victims or potential victims.

The mental health care professional shall provide a follow-up assessment of the student within 30 days if the student is re-admitted to school and shall provide the principal with a copy of the follow-up assessment and/or evaluation and shall inform the principal if therapy, counseling and/or treatment will be needed and/or provided.

- A. Counseling should be made available to children who are victims of the threatening behavior or who observed the threatening behavior if it is determined that such counseling is needed and parental permission is granted.
- B. Documentation from the mental health care professionals concerning any student are to be placed in a separate, confidential file and should not be a part of the student's academic/disciplinary file with access only by the principal. This documentation may be kept for a period of one year beyond the time when the child leaves the school as a result of expulsion, withdrawal by parent/guardian, graduation or non-re-admission before being destroyed.

## **WEAPONS POLICY**

In furtherance of the overall philosophy, goals, and objectives of the Catholic educational experience, Immaculate Heart of Mary School policy expressly prohibits the use, possession, sale, or discharge of any weapons or explosive devices in the school, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored activities. This policy

shall apply to all students, participants in parish programs, teachers, administrators, and other personnel in the school.

This policy includes, but is not limited to, any firearm, any dangerous object or object used as a weapon (look-alike weapon), knife, deadly weapon, or explosive or incendiary device. As defined by state law, a deadly weapon is “any instrument, device, or thing capable of inflicting death, and designed or specifically adapted for use as a weapon, or possessed, carried or used as a weapon” (O.R.C. 2923). Firearms shall include any loaded or unloaded gun of any caliber or type. This prohibition also includes any pistol, rifle, or other device that uses air or gas-propelled projectiles.

Violations of this policy may warrant notification of the police, immediate suspension, and possible expulsion. If possession of a weapon is suspected, the principal or other administrator should immediately contact the police department. If it is determined that the policy has been violated, the parents of the offender shall be immediately contacted and must cooperate with the disciplinary process.

A model disciplinary process should include immediate in- or out-of-school suspension, pending investigation and resolution. If the student’s infraction does not warrant immediate dismissal, then the parents may be required to sign a probation contract that includes all conditions of the student’s retention at the school. Possible terms of this probation agreement may include professional counseling, participation in a community program addressing youth violence, suspension from extracurricular activities, and any other conditions deemed appropriate by the administration of the school.

## **YOUTH GANGS**

Youth gangs and gang-related activities are prohibited. A gang is defined as any non-school-sponsored group, usually secret and/or exclusive in membership, whose purpose or practice include unlawful or anti-social behavior or any actions that threatens the welfare of others.

Gang activity includes: recruitment, initiation, a manner of grooming, hair style and/or wearing of clothing, jewelry, head coverings, or accessories which by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attributes denotes membership in a gang, displaying gang markings or slogans on school or personal property or clothing, having gang tattoos, possessing literature that indicates gang membership, fighting, assault, hazing, extortion, establishing turf, use of hand signals, gang vocabulary and nicknames, possession of beepers or cellular phones, possession of weapons or explosive materials, possession of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, attendance at functions sponsored by a gang or known gang members, exhibiting behavior fitting police profiles of gang-related drug dealing, being arrested or stopped by police with a known gang member, selling or distributing drugs for a known gang member, helping a known gang member commit a crime, or any other action resulting from membership or interest in a group.