



Student-Parent Handbook
2026 – 2027

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1 SCHOOL OVERVIEW

1.1 Mission Statement of Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

“In the light of her mission of salvation, the Church considers that the Catholic school provides a privileged environment for the complete formation of her members, and that it also provides a highly important service to mankind.” (The Catholic School, 1977).

The Catholic school operates by and with the expressed authority of the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The Catholic school has a formal and defined relationship with the Archbishop guided by a spirituality of ecclesial communion and will work to respect the Archbishop’s legitimate authority (Canon 803 §1 and §3).

Catholic schools promote the integral formation of the human person with a curriculum and learning environment that fosters wisdom, truth, formation in ethics and social justice. The Catholic school will avoid the error that its distinctiveness rests solely on its religious education program. The whole person, mental, physical, and spiritual, in every area is the recipient of the Catholic school’s mission to enrich the world with the Gospel.

The curriculum and policies of Catholic schools are centered in the person of Jesus Christ to contribute to the mission of the Church. All members of administration, faculty, office staff, auxiliary aids, full and part-time, participate in the mission and values of the Catholic school. The ministry in the Catholic school is designed to uphold and advance the mission of the Roman Catholic Church and the Catholic school.

1.2 Mission Statement of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School seeks to promote academic and spiritual growth in the foundations of faith, knowledge, compassion, and character, in accordance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1.3 Foundations of an Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School education:

The ECS Faith Mission is to:

- Promote and support a personal connection with God in all members of the community.
- Promote an awareness of God’s grace in our everyday life.
- Actively participate in personal and collective prayer, reflection, and action.
- Embody Catholic teaching and Gospel values.

The ECS Knowledge Mission is to:

- Maintain a rigorous curriculum based on educational research, reflection, and growth.
- Utilize a variety of teaching strategies and learning opportunities to meet all educational needs.
- Assure ethical and respectful use of technology to enhance understanding of learning objectives.
- Regularly provide meaningful professional enrichment for faculty and staff.

The ECS Compassion Mission is to:

- Instill in each student a lasting commitment to volunteerism and charity.
- Prepare students to become responsible stewards of the earth's resources and God's creation.
- Educate the entire community to question and reflect on the values of society and to act for justice.
- Identify and help those in need who are affected by local, national, and global injustices and suffering.

The ECS Character Mission is to:

- Teach, model and practice interpersonal skills and tools for navigating a wide variety of social interactions.
- Acknowledge and celebrate cultural and racial diversities within our community and world.
- Promote self-discipline, accountability, responsible decision-making, and leadership.
- Inspire each student to live Christian virtues of faithfulness, forgiveness, charity, and love for one another.

1.4 Catholic Education

When you enroll your child into Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS), you enter a partnership with the Church, your family, and your child. This partnership is vital to the development of your child and the awareness of your family's and child's role within this community. Furthermore, this partnership is considered an agreement between faculty & staff and parents & students to comply with school procedures, regulations, and policies, including but not limited to such procedures, regulations, and policies set forth in this Handbook.

As written by Fr. Tom Lam, founding pastor of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School:

"The mission of the Church is evangelization—to spread the faith. The Catholic school plays a vital role in proclaiming the good news of salvation by teaching students to live knowingly as children of God and to assume the responsibility placed on them by virtue of their Baptism. In the daily life of the school, children will be taught to discern their vocation in a climate that will allow their faith to gradually mature and enable them to cultivate human values that have their origin in the figure of Christ."

The faculty and staff of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School share the responsibility with you, the parent, of guiding your child's growth in all areas of his/her life, including: spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, and social.

All members of this partnership (parents, students, faculty, and staff) are expected to bring their support, time, and talents in this joint effort to fully develop each child. In addition, all members of the ECS community are expected to respect the integrity, prudence, and values of the Catholic Church and ECS. Therefore, language, actions, and attire which demonstrate a violation of moral values, or disrespect to members of the ECS community or larger community will not be tolerated, as deemed by school administration. Conduct that creates an atmosphere of fear or harm will not be tolerated.

1.4.1 Nondiscriminatory Policy

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School follows a policy of non-discrimination with regard to race, color, or ethnicity within its Christian foundation. The policy of non-discrimination refers to, but is not limited to, the employment of all school personnel, the acceptance and participation of all students, scholarship programs, and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts and donations.

1.5 Right to amend

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School administration and parish pastor retain the right to amend the Parent – Student Handbook. By no means is this Handbook considered all-inclusive. Administration and staff will exercise professional judgment and discretion to address situations fairly and retain the right to adjust policies and procedures as necessary. Parents will be given prompt notification of any changes made.

1.6 Administration

1.6.1 Role of Pastor

The Pastor, under the authority of the Cardinal Archbishop, is the primary leader of the parish of which the school is a part. He maintains certain responsibilities related to the school.

The Pastor is the ex-officio head of the school. As such, he is responsible, for approving the policies of the school according to the needs of the parish, but always in harmony with the policies and regulations of TCCB ED, the Catholic Schools Office and The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston. The role of the Pastor in the successful mission of the parish school is of vital importance. In union with the liturgical and sacramental life of the parish, the formation of faith and intellectual development illumined by the Gospel message to children, youth, and adults, is central to the life of the parish..

Based on guidelines of the Catholic Schools Office, the Pastor is responsible for hiring the Principal.

The Pastor delegates the direction of the school program and the ordinary administration of the school to the Principal. The Pastor, with the Principal, shall establish the terms of such delegation and the means of **regular and formal** communication on school matters.

The Pastor is an ex-officio member of the school advisory Council.

In order to remain accredited under the TCCB ED, a Pastor shall consult with the Superintendent of Catholic Schools with regard to hiring, supervising, and evaluating the Principal.

The Pastor supports the Principal in conflict resolution of school issues, according to the principle of subsidiarity, by referring individuals or groups back to the teacher or Principal.

1.6.2 Role of Principal

The Principal is the leader of the school and accountable to operate the school in accordance with the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED) and the guidelines of the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Office (CSO). The Principal is responsible for all aspects of the operation of the total school program. The Principal works under the direction of the Pastor.

The Principal builds a Catholic, Christian community of faith in which the Catholic message and experiences of community, worship, service, and social concern are integrated in all areas of the school and throughout the curriculum. Additionally, a paramount responsibility is to promote and facilitate student learning of the highest quality in accordance with Canon Law #806.2, which states "Directors of Catholic schools are to take care under the watchfulness of the local ordinary that the instruction which is given in them is at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area."

The Principal has the following major responsibilities:

1. Administers the total school program, including extracurricular activities and before and after school programs.
2. Supervises and evaluates the teachers, the students, and the instructional program and hires an appropriate number of faculty and staff which is commensurate with enrollment and the financial ability of the school.
3. Oversees the operation of the facility and should be present on campus when school is in session.
4. Supervises all support staff members.
5. Interacts with the parent, parish (es), and general public communities.
6. Works to maintain and grow enrollment.
7. Collaborates with and seeks counsel from the Catholic Schools Office.
8. Prepares, follows, adheres to and gets approval for the budget.
9. Executes school policy.
10. Fulfills accreditation criteria articulated by Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops' Education Department and other accrediting agencies.
11. Ensures that there is a person named as second-in-command when the Principal is off campus; this should be communicated to faculty, staff, parents, and students.
12. Ensures that both the instruction and the teachers are grounded on the principles of Catholic doctrine.
13. Ensures that employees follow the term of their employment contract or letter of employment.

1.6.3 Role of School Advisory Council (SAC)

The role of advisory school Council at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School is referred to as the School Advisory Council or SAC.

Catholic school Councils are advisory to the Principal and Pastor in parish schools or the Principal and Designated Pastor in Archdiocesan Regional schools. Councils assist the Principal and Pastor in Parish schools or the principal and Designated Pastor in Archdiocesan Regional schools to recommend policy,

identify and articulate the educational needs and aspirations of the school and school community and engage in long-range strategic planning. These goals become the basis for program objectives, policies, and action plans for the educational program.

All school councils function for the good of the persons they serve. To ensure their proper structure and function, guidelines have been established for council members, executive officers, and Pastors. The Principal of each school is the educational professional to guide and assist the council members in their role, as it relates to the school.

1.7 Organization

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School is an integral part of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community.

The chief executive officer of the School is the Pastor of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community with the Principal responsible for the administration and instructional program of the School. The School Advisory Council cooperates with the Pastor and the Principal in developing the philosophy and goals of the School and in formulating policies which will enable the attainment of these goals.

1.8 Accreditation

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School is an accredited school in the State of Texas by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC) through the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED). ECS is staffed by degreed and certified personnel, chosen from highly qualified candidates.

1.9 Hours of Operation

Office Hours:

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

School Hours:

PrK & Kinder: 8:00 am – 3:15 pm

1st – 8th: 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

Early Morning Care: 6:45 am – 7:30 am

After School Care: 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

More details can be found in Arrival/Dismissal Procedures – Section 2

1.10 Insurance

Students are typically included in their family's insurance program. Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School, including all staff, assume neither responsibility nor liability obligations that result from injuries related to partitioning in curricular, extra-curricular, or other school-related programs provided by the school.

1.10.1 Student Accident Insurance

All students are enrolled in the student accident insurance program with the insurance carrier chosen by The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston. This program reimburses limited medical costs due to accidental bodily injury to a student while engaging in the activities outlined in the policy. Information concerning claims, premiums and supplementary coverage can be obtained from the Office of Risk Management by calling (713) 652-8225.

1.10.2 Insurance Premiums

The premiums for this policy are paid by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Supplemental coverage, if obtained by the parents, is paid by the parents.

1.10.3 Student Accident Reports

Regardless of any medical claims filed, administrators shall forward Incident or Accident forms to the Cluster Liaison and the Director of Student Support Services concerning accidents of a serious nature occurring during the school day, on school premises, or under direct school supervision. Injuries involving hospitalization shall be reported immediately; other reports will be made within three days of the injury. Responsibility for reporting rests with the Principal/designee of the school where the student is enrolled or the school where the accident/incident occurred.

2 SCHOOL PROCEDURES & POLICIES

2.1 Admission

2.1.2 Nondiscrimination

The Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston admit all students to the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to the student body. They shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its admissions, loan, athletic, or scholarship programs. Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School adheres to the policies stipulated by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

2.1.3 Policy

Admission to Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School is based on the availability of space and resources, as well as the developmental, scholastic, and behavioral qualifications of the applicant. All applicants are required to participate in admissions screening/testing at the request of the Epiphany Catholic School. Priority will be given to presently enrolled students receiving an invitation to re-enroll as a result of meeting the behavioral and academic standards of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School. Parents and guardians also must conform their conduct to reasonable standards of cooperation and support consistent with the school's mission.

2.1.4 Required Documents

- a. Certified birth certificate
- b. Baptismal Certificate, First Communion Certificate (if applicable)
- c. Confidential Teacher Recommendation Form
- d. Current immunization records
- e. Current Report Card
- f. Health Records and Diagnostic testing report (if applicable)

All required forms must be returned, and all fee payments must be up-to-date at the time of registration before placement is assured. Students attending on a visa must present it at time of enrollment.

2.1.5 Age Requirements

- a. A student entering PreK 4 must be 4 years old on or before September 1st
- b. A student entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1st
- c. A student entering First Grade must be 6 years old on or before September 1st

2.1.6 Factors considered during admissions process

The factors considered in the admission of new students are (exceptions may be made at the discretion of school administration):

- a. Completion of prior grade's academic and behavioral expectations
- b. Siblings of students presently enrolled at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School
- c. Children of families who actively support the Parish and School through regular contributions of their time, talent, and/or treasure.
- d. Children of families who have been registered in Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community for at least six months prior to beginning application process.
- e. Children of Catholic families who are members of surrounding parishes.
- f. Children of non-Catholic families

2.1.7 Disclosure

Parents are expected to disclose with appropriate school personnel any significant or confidential information which may affect their child's educational progress during the admissions process. All psychological and/or diagnostic testing documents should be submitted with application. Failure to disclose all significant information/diagnosis may affect the child's continued enrollment status.

2.1.8 Custody Information

Divorced or separated parents are required to file with the School complete court-certified copies of the most recent court-orders in the documents entirety, including all amendments, modifications, and supplements.

2.1.8.1 Custody Court Orders

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School attempts to conform to appropriate court orders governing rights and duties of parents/guardians in regard to their child(ren). If there are Court orders regarding their children, parents/guardians must provide certified copies of such orders with the School.

Parents/guardians are to ensure that the school has a complete and unaltered set of certified copies of the applicable court orders. Failure to follow this policy may result in the involuntary withdrawal of the child(ren) from the school. When parents/guardians choose to litigate their disputes in Court, both the Catholic Schools Office and the Archdiocesan Legal Department will attempt to minimize the involvement of the school, its teachers and personnel.

The School will keep copies of the court-order on file and give a best effort to follow custody related issues but is not held responsible for failing to honor arrangements. Custody arrangements and courts orders are between parents and therefore, parents and guardians are responsible to inform the school of any changes and/or updates.

2.1.8.2 Subpoenas in Child Custody Matters

The school will endeavor not to take sides in disputes between parents/guardians, in recognition of the crucial role of both parents in the lives of their children. Continued strife between the parents/guardians is harmful to the children and does not set a good example for them. It is expected that parents and guardians will treat one another with Christian charity. Ongoing parental disputes can be counterproductive to the mission of the school and when appropriate, the Pastor will be contacted to discuss whether continued enrollment of the child(ren) is a viable option.

The parent/guardian initiating the subpoena must reimburse the school for reasonable costs of production. The school shall charge the parent initiating a subpoena a fee for the time and resources spent on obtaining and copying records. Photocopy costs will be billed at a rate of \$1.00 per page. An additional fee will be charged to the parent/guardians issuing a subpoena for a personal appearance by a school employee. The parent/guardian will be charged for the cost of hiring a substitute or the daily rate for the subpoenaed employee. Accordingly, each person who acknowledges his or her agreement to the contents of this Handbook, either by written or electronic signature or by enrolling a student in the school, agrees that he or she shall pay a fee to the school.

2.1.9 Home School and Non-Accredited School Transfers

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the admission and placement of students who transfer from non-accredited schools or homeschooling environments. The policy aims to ensure that each student's skills and abilities are adequately assessed for age-appropriate placement, fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS). Parents or guardians of transferring students must complete the standard admissions application, providing necessary documentation and records related to the student's previous educational experience. Upon receipt of the necessary documentation, ECS will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the transferring student's skills and abilities to determine age-appropriate grade placement. The assessment process may include standardized testing, interviews, and/or academic evaluations, as deemed appropriate by the school administration.

2.2 Special Services

Consistent with the contents of the Church Document, *To Teach as Jesus Did*, and the Pastoral Statement of the U.S. Bishops, *Person with Disabilities*, the Archdiocese seeks to include students with special needs in our schools to the extent that the needs of such students can be met within the scope of the programs and resources offered. The Catholic Schools Office is aware that it is unrealistic to serve all categories of special needs students. However, Catholic Schools are cognizant of the fact that admission of students with special needs must be considered and reviewed on an individual basis.

2.2.1 Legal Reference to Services

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that local school districts (where the Catholic school is located – Katy ISD for ECS) locate, identify, and evaluate all private school students suspected of having a disability. This “Child Find” process must be conducted in consultation with private school representatives to ensure equitable access for private school students. In IDEA, these children are often referred to as “parentally placed private school children with disabilities”, and the benefits available to them differ significantly from the benefits for children with disabilities enrolled in public schools.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 educational sections (often referred to as ‘Section 504’ or simply ‘504’) provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in any program receiving federal assistance. Catholic educators strive to recognize and address the needs of all those who seek a Catholic education. Within our resources, Epiphany Catholic School and other Catholic Schools will offer services to eligible students with special needs, when possible. However, private schools are not required to significantly alter their programs, lower or substantially modify their standards to accommodate a child with special needs. Private educational institutions are only required to make minor adjustments to accommodate eligible students.

2.2.2 Special Services Records

All psychological/diagnostic evaluations and/or reports regarding special needs testing of students received from local school districts and/or private agencies are forwarded to Epiphany Catholic School, upon request. These records must be kept on file at the school for a period of seven years after the exit of the students. These records are kept in a secure file and area accessible only to the principal and appropriate personnel working with the student. Each student’s secure file shall have a Viewing of Records Form. These records may not be forwarded to any other individual or agency, including other private or public schools. Parents may review the record at any time.

2.2.3 Criteria for Acceptance of Students in need of Special Services

In making a determination regarding the admittance of a particular applicant, the school will review the child’s ability to meet the school’s academic, behavioral, social and physical qualifications. Each school determines its ability to meet the needs of the student applicant. Consideration should be given to the following:

- The student’s demonstrated ability to meet grade level requirements;
- The record of student’s ability to follow school rules and regulations;
- The student’s ability to meet socially acceptable behaviors;
- The student’s ability to meet the physical requirements of attendance.

2.2.4 Epiphany Catholic School's Policy for Students in need of Special Services

As a result of a diagnostic evaluation, a student must meet certain criteria to qualify for accommodations or modifications to his/her schoolwork. Each child is viewed individually with his/her unique needs considered.

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School recognizes the difference between accommodations and modifications, and that these terms are not interchangeable.

Accommodations – changes in how a student learns.

Diagnosis and recommended accommodations must be documented through a diagnostic evaluation and remain on file in the School. Within the resources of Epiphany Catholic School, the School will offer services to eligible children. However, private schools are not required to significantly alter their programs, lower or substantially modify their standards to accommodate a child with special needs. To ensure accuracy of accommodations, the evaluations must not be more than three years old, and any accommodations made by the schools must be kept on file and updated annually. Parents will be notified if/when evaluations are expiring and if/when accommodations are updated. Expired evaluations may not be recognized for accommodations, at the discretion of the School administration and Student Support Team (SST).

Modifications – changes in what a student learns.

Diagnosis and recommended modifications must be documented through a diagnostic evaluation and remain on file in the School. Within the resources of Epiphany Catholic School, the School will offer services to eligible children. However, private schools are not required to significantly alter their programs, lower or substantially modify their standards to accommodate a child with special needs. To ensure accuracy of modifications, the evaluations must not be more than three years old, and any modifications made by the schools must be kept on file and updated annually. Modifications must be noted on both the report card and the permanent record card, if the curriculum is altered. Parents will be notified if/when evaluations are expiring and if/when modifications are updated. Expired evaluations may not be recognized for modifications, at the discretion of the School administration and SST.

NEW STUDENTS – Students with documented special learning needs must have supporting documentation and/or diagnostic assessment results submitted with their application. The SST, the Admissions Committee, along with other appropriate faculty and staff will determine if the applicant is qualified to enroll, with or without his/her disability. If the applicant is qualified for enrollment, the SST will determine if and what reasonable adjustments can be made to educational program for each individual student.

CURRENT STUDENTS – If a teacher or parent is concerned about a child's academic, behavioral, or emotional progress the topic must be discussed with the family, teacher, and school administration. If testing is agreed upon to ensure continued growth of the student, families must submit the diagnostic assessment results as soon as possible. If accommodations or modifications are needed for the student to continue to progress, the information will be submitted to the SST for review. The SST will inform the parents of educational options moving forward, either within ECS or outside.

All testing that results in accommodations or modifications must be updated every three years in order to insure appropriate and effective intervention methods. Testing that is older than three years will be

considered expired and may no longer be accepted by the School for accommodations or modifications. All referrals and evaluation results will be kept on file.

2.2.5 Student Success Expectations for Student with Special Needs

All available school resources shall be utilized to promote student success. Parents are expected to disclose any pertinent information that would be of specific educational value in programming adequately for their children. If it is determined that school's resources cannot meet the needs of the student, or if parents or guardians fail to act on the school's recommendations for remediation or diagnostic evaluation, the School Administration may request withdrawal of the student, or deny admission for the following year.

2.2.6 Standardized Assessment for Students with Special Needs

Standardized assessments are one of several means of evaluating student performance. All students participate in the Archdiocese standardized assessment program. Special accommodations may be given to students who have been diagnosed with a disability. Testing accommodations must be planned for in advance with the SST (Student Support Team). Additionally, any adjustments made on the Archdiocese wide standardized assessment must be requested from the Catholic Schools Office with the appropriate form.

2.2.7 Chronic Illness or Injury

Prior to the first day of class, or as soon as new information is gained, parents will inform the principal, nurse, and teacher of any chronic illness or injury their child has sustained. Parents and the appropriate staff will develop a Student Healthcare Plan, which will include instructions for identifying/observing the illness or injury, care and treatment, medication orders, and any special instructions.

All medication or equipment must be provided by the parents and housed in the nurse's office with appropriate ECS medication forms completed by parent. Self-administered asthma medication may be carried with the student. However, physician orders and ECS medication forms must be filed in the nurse's office.

Injuries that require limited movement or participation in school related activities for any amount of time require a physician's note being filed with the nurse's office.

2.3 Counseling Department

The counseling department of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) provides comprehensive services all students.

Every student at ECS will work with our school counselor throughout the school year. The enrollment of your child at ECS is your consent to allow your child to receive services through our School Counseling Program.

Our ECS Counselor aims to meet the needs of students at several levels which include academic counseling, advocating for the learning needs of each of our students, connecting the student and their family with the school, assisting with the emotional needs of our students, and facilitating discussions regarding issues, topics, or concerns relevant to the student, their relationship with their peers, or their family. The counselor meets with students individually and in group sessions to provide necessary information at various times of the year.

Our ECS Counselor is available to help students and parents with personal or social concerns that may arise, and which affect the student's academic performance or social conduct. In certain circumstances, the counselor may recommend additional outside support if the scope of the student's need is beyond what the Counseling Department can provide.

Students and parents should be aware that:

- conversations with the counselor may be privileged and confidential unless the nature of the communication reveals the immediate risk of harm to the student or others, or a violation of the child abuse laws
- the counselor will be required to report communications from students to law enforcement or child abuse authorities when the nature of the communication reveals the immediate or imminent risk of harm to the student or others, or a violation of the child abuse laws.

In addition, if a student observes or receives information that another student may be struggling with personal issues or has concerns that a student may harm themselves or others, please report such information to our ECS Counselor. ECS may require evaluation and/or therapy along with a reciprocal release so that the Counselor and/or School Administration can openly communicate with the therapist as a condition of continued enrollment if the School deems an evaluation or therapy to be necessary.

2.4 Withdrawals

To officially withdraw from Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School, notice in writing must be given to the school office prior to the date of withdrawal. Any student who is withdrawn must wait one full calendar year before reapplying. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the School Administration.

2.5 Arrival, Dismissal, & Attendance Information

In order to provide safety for the students and to improve traffic flow, ECS limits pedestrian crossing during the time of arrival and dismissal. It is imperative that each family and visitor cooperate with the arrival and dismissal procedures for the safety of everyone involved.

2.5.1 General Carpool Guidelines

- Parents must cooperate with the school and act as a model to the students of the need to follow safety rules.
- Every school family must have a car tag issued by the school. This includes students who walk to and from school, families who only have one student in their

carpool, etc. All families are given 2 car tags at time of enrollment, afterwards they can be purchased online at school store

- Every driver must display their carpool tag so that it may be read by electronic reader.
- For everyone's safety, traffic parking patterns must be observed; please observe the 5 miles per hour speed limit and do not pass other vehicles.
- Students are required to wait in the designated dismissal area.
- Parents should not devise shortcuts – all students are expected to be picked up in the carpool line.
- Students may not cross in between the cars in the carpool line or walk through the parking lot unless accompanied by a faculty member.
- During morning drop-off, parents should stay in their vehicle and students should exit the vehicle in a prompt and organized manner, and on the side closest to the school.
- Students are not allowed to run, play ball, etc. in the carpool loading area.
- The use of cell phones when operating a vehicle on the church/school grounds is prohibited. (See "Cell Phones/Electronic Devices/Telephone Use", this Section)
- Parents must handle exceptions or emergencies before or after the regular pick-up, i.e. (before 2:30 p.m. or after 3:30 p.m.) If assistance is needed, the parent should call the school office.
- Group transportation (athletic games, scouts, etc.) will be coordinated so as to limit interference with the regular pick-up procedure.
- Parent offenders of any statement in this policy are subject to a conference with the Principal and to further consequences at the Principal's discretion.
- No Uber use for pick up during school hours or after care; unless previously authorized in writing from parents to Principal.

2.5.2 Arrival Procedures

Early arrival (6:45 - 7:30 a.m.) – All students arriving before 7:30 a.m. may enter through the front door and report to the early morning care room. At 7:30 a.m. all students will report to their homeroom.

Arrivals from (7:30 - 7:55 a.m.) – All students will enter through the front doors or back doors of the school, depending on which carpool line and go directly to their homeroom.

During morning drop-off, front carpool lane cars (PrK-4th grade students) must enter the campus through the East entrance off Norwalk Drive. Drive straight towards the school and turn right towards the carpool lane. Once car has entered carpool lane the students should unload on the right-hand side of the car onto the sidewalk.

Back carpool lane cars (5th-8th grade students) must enter from the South entrance off Highland Knolls Drive. Drive straight past the field and PAC building and turn right at stop sign. Students will be dropped off adjacent to the car lane and walk to the back doors of the school. Students should unload on the right-hand side of the car.

Please do not park and walk your children to the doors. It is dangerous to have pedestrian traffic moving between the carpool line.

2.5.3 Dismissal Procedures

Everyone must use the carpool system to pick up students from 3:00 - 3:45 pm. Any student who has not been picked up by 3:45 will be checked in with Aftercare.

Parents must not walk up to retrieve their child(ren) from afternoon carpool.

Afternoon Carpool: There are two dismissal times.

For families with multiple students attending ECS who are dismissed at different times, all students will be dismissed with the oldest sibling.

First Dismissal: 3:15 p.m.

First dismissal carpool consists of students in grades PrK & Kinder - without an older sibling. First dismissal carpool is at 3:15 p.m. Cars may begin lining up for first dismissal no earlier than 2:30 p.m.

All cars are required to hang carpool tag on rear-view mirror or visor.

Enter from the Norwalk side, turn right and then left – follow the 3:15 pm carpool signs. The first in line must stop at the carpool stop sign and wait until faculty member waves the line into the carpool lane at 3:15 pm.

Cars that are in the wrong line or waiting in the carpool lane may be asked to circle back onto Highland Knolls, then to Norwalk, and join the correct dismissal line.

Second Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

Second dismissal carpool consists of students in grades 1st – 8th and younger siblings. Second carpool starts at 3:30 pm. Cars may begin lining up for second dismissal no earlier than 2:30 pm.

All cars are required to hang carpool tag on rear-view mirror or visor.

Front carpool, cars enter from the Norwalk side, turn left – follow the 3:30 pm carpool signs. The first person in line must stop at the carpool stop sign and wait until a faculty member waves the line into the carpool lane at 3:30 pm.

Back carpool cars enter from Highland Knolls entrance, proceed straight past the field and PAC building. Turn right and follow the cones through the parking lot.

Cars that are in the wrong line or waiting in the carpool lane may be asked to circle back onto Highland Knolls, then to Norwalk, and join the correct dismissal line.

2.5.4 Walkers & Bikers Procedures

Approval will be granted only to students who actually walk or ride their bike to their home in the neighborhood. Directions will be given to these students upon approval.

2.5.5 After School Activities Pick-up Procedures

All students must be picked up in the carpool or from Extended Day unless they are participating in after school sports or a school sponsored activity immediately after school. Instructions for pick-up procedures from afterschool activity will be communicated to parents by afterschool teacher, activity supervisor, or coach.

2.5.6 Forgotten Items in the Classroom or School

If a student has forgotten an item at school after he/she has been picked up in carpool, the driver should park, and the student should cross at the crosswalk with supervised assistance then report to the front office. However, after 4pm the school office is closed, and the item may not be able to be retrieved until the following day. Not all items will be allowed to be picked up depending on facility and faculty schedule.

2.5.7 Attendance

In compliance with Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCBED) and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, schools have a minimum of 75,600 instructional minutes for students in grades K-12. Compulsory attendance also applies to students below the age of 6 during any period that the student is voluntarily enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten.

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School establishes and publishes a school calendar prior to the beginning of each school year. Parents/guardians will honor the calendar established by the school. Daily school attendance is an effective way to assure continued academic progress.

In Texas, a student missing more than 90% of the class minutes, may not receive credit for class completion. Promotion or credit may be jeopardized if a student misses more than 7560 minutes, or 16 days of school. At Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School, any student who accumulates ten (10) or more absences and/or tardies during a quarter will be contacted by school administration. Excessive absences may affect the student's academic success, continued enrollment, or re-enrollment for the following year.

School absences are defined as:

- Family emergencies, including death and or serious prolonged illness and
- Absence due to illness, including dental and doctor appointments

A student not physically present at school or participating in a school-sponsored field trip or activity is marked absent, regardless of doctors' notes submitted.

- Illness – If a student is unable to come to school due to illness, the parent/guardian is expected to notify the office and send a written note upon the student's return to school. If the absence is prolonged (3 days or more) the student must bring a note from a doctor or physician.
- Family Emergency – Deaths, serious or prolonged illnesses are handled on an individual basis. The family and/or student must communicate with school administration as soon as possible regarding these situations and plans will be developed accordingly.

Parents are encouraged to schedule trips and vacations during planned vacation periods and extended weekends to avoid unnecessary interruption to student learning.

**** Some attendance issues require special care and consideration. These issues will be considered and handled on an individual basis by School administration ****

2.5.7.3 Make-up Work Due to Absences.

Students who are absent are allowed one day for each day absent to complete missed work, assignments, and tests. If the absence is prolonged (3 days or more), the student will create a Make-Up plan with his/her teacher upon their return with a doctor's note.

Assignments will not be given in advance of absence.

2.5.7.4 Half-Day & Full-Day Absences

A general guideline for Half-Day and Full-Day absences:

- Arrive after 11:30 am = Half-day absence
- Arrive after 1:30 pm = Full-day absence
- Depart before 11:30 am = Full-day absence
- Depart after 11:30 am = Half-day absence

These designations are general guidelines and will be determined on an individual basis by school administration.

2.5.7.5 Tardiness

Tardiness is not conducive to success at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School. Homeroom begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. when the tardy bell rings. Students are recommended to be in their classrooms by 7:50 a.m. so they have ample time to prepare for their day. After 8:00 a.m., parents must park and come into the School Office to sign in tardy students before students will be allowed into the classrooms.

Tardies may be excused for medical appointments when the students or parents present a written note from a medical provider. Consideration is given for inclement weather days and emergencies.

The accumulation of 6 tardies in the same 9-week period will result in the student/s earning a consequence of silent lunch, after school detention, etc. per the discretion of school administration.

Parents will be emailed/notified when this situation arises. Excessive tardiness will be reviewed on an individual basis.

At Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School, any student who misses 90% of the class minutes may not receive credit for class completion. Promotion or credit may be jeopardized if a student misses more than 7560 minutes, or 16 days of school, excused or unexcused. These cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.

2.6 Birthdays, Party Invitations, Gifts, Snacks, Etc.

Parents and guardians are warmly invited to join their child for lunch at school on their birthday. If a student's birthday falls on a weekend, holiday, or during the summer break, families may coordinate an alternative celebration day with the homeroom teacher.

Parents are welcome to enjoy a special meal with their child during lunch. Please note that classmates will not be permitted to join the family at the lunch table to ensure a focused and manageable celebration.

To maintain a respectful and distraction-free environment, birthday treats, snacks, hats, balloons, and other celebratory items are not allowed on campus and will not be delivered or distributed to students. Such items should be reserved for celebrations at home.

2.7 Deliveries During School Hours

Classes will not be interrupted to deliver books, homework, lunch, etc. Students will not be allowed to use the school phone to call home for forgotten items.

An important aspect of building responsibility in children is allowing them to experience logical and natural consequences.

2.8 Emergency Policy & Procedures

A crisis management plan has been developed and is reviewed yearly to provide immediate assistance in the case of an emergency. The crisis management plan addresses concerns regarding safety, receiving accurate information, and a long-term plan to minimize the effects of the crisis. Every Archdiocesan school has a crisis management plan. Teachers know procedures to shut down classrooms and contact administrative officials in the school in the case of an outside threat and are also trained in case of an inside threat which would result in the evacuation of the school. Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School follows the guidelines of the Catholic School Office (CSO) for bomb threats, fire drills, inclement weather drills, and lock-down procedures.

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School follows the guidelines of the CSO, as well Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) regarding weather related school closings. During periods of severe inclement weather, the local radio/TV stations carry frequent bulletins of the Catholic Schools and/or Katy ISD closings. If the Archdiocese or Katy ISD close, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) will be closed as well.

Additionally, ECS utilizes the IRIS Alert System to contact all community members of school closings or other emergency information. Please ensure all contact information is up-to-date within the School's systems.

With regard to the wide area our students travel from to attend ECS, weather conditions near each home may vary and require special consideration. Parents/guardians are expected to exercise their own judgment regarding their child's safety and security.

2.9 Health & Nurse Procedures

The clinic at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) is staffed by registered nurses. Prior to the first day of school (or as soon as possible for newly identified conditions), parents will complete a Student Healthcare Plan, which will include instructions for identifying/observing the illness or injury, care and treatment, medication orders, and any special instructions.

All medication or equipment must be provided by the parents and housed in the nurse's office with appropriate ECS medication forms completed by parent. Self-administered asthma medication may be carried with the student. However, physician orders and ECS medication forms must be filed in nurse's office.

Injuries that require limited movement or participation in school related activities for any amount of time require a physician's note being filed with the nurse's office.

2.9.1 Emergency Contract Information

The clinic is a place for an ill or injured student to wait as comfortably as possible until a parent/guardian can come for him/her. Accurate telephone numbers are vital for student safety and prompt communication. The parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring the numbers listed are accurate and up-to-date. Names and numbers of parents/guardians and other emergency contacts who have parental permission to pick up the student are a required piece of enrollment. Parents may update contact information through online Student Information System (FACTS/ParentsWeb).

2.9.2 Student Illness or Injury Procedures

For protection of all students, the following guidelines will be enforced at all times. A student will be sent home with:

- Fever of 100° F or higher
- Suspected contagious or communicable disease (e.g. impetigo, strep throat, chicken pox, pink eye, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.)

- General malaise – too ill to remain at school

If a student has any of the above symptoms in the morning before coming to school, he/she should remain at home. If a child remains at home because of a communicable or contagious disease, a parent should call the school to determine when the child may return to school.

FEVER - a student must be fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

DIARRHEA or VOMITING - a student must not return to school before 24 hours following the last occurrence.

2.9.3 Immunizations

All students in Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Schools must be in compliance with the immunization requirements of the Texas Department of Health, Immunization Division. All immunization records must be received in the school office before the first day of school.

A complete Immunization Record, showing a history of immunizations received must be on file for each child enrolled. All immunizations must be completed and validated by the doctor or health care clinic prior to the first day of school. No child will be enrolled in class without the completion of these requirements. During the school year, upon notification of a deficiency by the school, students must provide acceptable evidence of vaccination within 10 school days to remain enrolled.

The only exception to the forgoing requirement is a medical exemption signed by a licensed physician (M. D. or D. O.) authorized to practice in the State of Texas. Catholic schools in Texas do not accept exemptions from immunizations for Reasons of Conscience.

2.9.4 Medication

The daily routine of school clinic includes managing student medications. Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School will adhere to the Texas Education Code regarding the administering of medications to students by school employees.

- Medication (prescription and non-prescription) may be administered to student only upon written request by the parent/guardian and physician. This includes, but is not limited to: topical antibiotics, Hydrocortisone ointment and mosquito sprays. The request must state the following:
 - i. Student's name
 - ii. Name of medication
 - iii. Prescribed dosage of medication
 - iv. Times of administration of medication
 - v. Route
 - vi. Exact date medication is to be given
 - vii. Liability release
 - viii. Signature of parent/guardian and physician

- All medication (prescription and non-prescription), must be in its original container and be properly labeled in English. A properly labeled prescription medications is one with pharmacy label stating the student's name, the name of medication, and prescription date. Non-prescription medication must be in the original container indicating directions for use and labeled with student's name.
- School personnel has a responsibility to question a medication order, discrepancies in an order, or incompleteness of an order. The parent/guardian will be notified of the issue. The parent must take appropriate steps to correct the problem. The school may refuse to give medications if a discrepancy is determined.
- It is the student's responsibility to report to the designated area to take his/her medications. Appropriate measures may be taken to ensure the medication is given.
- The parent/guardian or designated adult must bring the medication to the clinic. All medications (prescription or non-prescription) must remain in the school clinic. EXCEPTION: It may be possible to develop a Student Healthcare Plan allowing students with asthma to possess and self-administer prescription asthma medicine while on campus or at a school related event or activity. Parents/guardians should contact the school nurse to implement this plan and complete necessary forms.
- Parents/guardians must pick up unused medicine by the last day of the school year. The nurse will dispose of any medication left in the clinic.

2.9.5 Allergies

The parents/guardians are responsible to inform the School if their child has an allergy. Children who have been issued a prescription for an EpiPen shall deliver at least two to the school nurse for use in case of an emergency. An individual treatment protocol should be developed by the child's allergist and on file with the school nurse. The school cannot assume responsibility for treatment in the absence of such protocol. The forms and medicine must be delivered to the school nurse by the parent/guardian, in addition to a discussion between nurse and parent/guardian to review plan.

Parents must inform the School if ongoing monitoring is required for the child. Failure to disclose pertinent medical information in a timely fashion can be cause for dismissal.

2.9.5 Homework Request Due to Illness

If a student is unable to come to school due to an illness, the parent/guardian is expected to notify the school office by 9:00 am. It is the student's responsibility to obtain notes from class or approach the teacher for make-up work. Parents/guardians are to send a written note upon the students return to school. Teachers are not required to provide homework in advance for student absences.

Please see 4.6 Homework Policy

2.10 Extended Care – Morning & After School

2.10.1 Morning Care

The school day begins at 8:00 am, with morning carpool opening at 7:30 am. Morning care is provided to families who need to drop off their child(ren) between 6:45 am – 7:30 am, supervised by a faculty member for an additional fee.

2.10.2 After School Care

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) is pleased to provide After School Care, extended care program. All ECS families are required to enroll their child(ren) in After School Care (at no cost) in case of after school emergency care. This is an extension of the school day and as such, will follow the official school calendar and policies. After School Care hours are 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm. This program is not scheduled on school holidays nor early dismissal days. Information and registration forms are available on the school website.

2.11 Financial Information

2.11.1 Financial Account Responsibilities

Parents are expected to keep current all financial accounts at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS). Report cards, transcripts, and school records are not released if any outstanding debt exists. All past financial obligations to the school must be fulfilled, including any assessed late fees and charges, for the school to consider re-registration or admission to a new school year.

Checks written to ECS are not held for deposit and are generally immediately processed. Postdated checks are not accepted. Any returned check is subject to a \$30.00 charge.

2.11.2 Tuition

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) is an integral part of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community and exists primarily to serve children of active and supportive parishioners. The annual tuition rate is established upon the recommendation of the School Advisory Council (SAC) following a review of the annual operating budget. The operating budget for the school includes revenue from major fundraisers, as well as parish investment.

The parish investment enables all students to benefit from Financial Assistance. However, the school continues to reserve some funds to provide additional assistance for families with multiple students and need-based financial aid for qualified students.

Tuition is collected on an annual basis at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School on a designated date in June. Parents who wish to make periodic payment for tuition may do so through ECS' FACTS online

tuition management system. Failure to pay tuition in full on a designated date in June may result in loss of enrollment, at the discretion of the school administration.

Withdrawal and Tuition Obligation Prior to the Start of the School Year

Families electing the **monthly tuition payment plan** who withdraw a student for the next school year after May 1 remain responsible for tuition payments as follows:

- Students withdrawn between **May 1 and May 31** are responsible for the **first month's tuition payment**, which will be drafted on June 5.
- Students withdrawn between **June 1 and June 30** are responsible for the **first two months of tuition payments**, with the first payment drafted on June 5.
- Students withdrawn between **July 1 and July 31** are responsible for the **first three months of tuition payments**, with payments drafted according to the established tuition schedule.

Families electing the **one-payment or two-payment tuition plan** who withdraw a student between **May 1 and May 31** will have their scheduled tuition payment drafted on June 5.

After the start of the school year, any refund request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by school administration. The school reserves sole discretion in determining whether a refund will be granted and, if so, the amount of any refund.

Please Note: All tuition and fees – including tuition deposit, any tuition paid, enrollment fees, new student fees, facility fees, technology fees are all non-refundable and non-transferable.

2.11.3 Financial Aid

Applications for tuition assistance are available online through the School's website during the re-enrollment and enrollment periods, respectively. Applications must be completed and submitted prior to application deadline to FACTS for any consideration. Families are notified by the school administration of available assistance. Qualifying students must maintain satisfactory academic progress and a record of good conduct. Participants are expected to keep the school apprised of changing needs following acceptance of assistance. Furthermore, the awarded financial assistance is for the following academic year only. Families who wish to receive financial assistance must apply every year.

2.12 Visitors and Guests

2.12.1 Visiting Procedures

For the protection of every student in attendance at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School, no one is allowed on the school premises without first receiving clearance from the school office. State law prohibits the interruption of a teacher during class time or while performing any official duties.

All parent volunteers, visitors, and guests are required to check in at the school office and provide valid photo identification (driver license or ID card). A visitor's badge will be issued and must be worn at all times while the visitor is on campus.

Student visitors, such as family members and/or graduates, must make arrangements in advance with school administration. These visits are normally limited to lunch periods.

Visitors must check in and out at the front office.

2.12.2 Volunteers

Volunteers are a vital piece of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School. All volunteers are required to follow specific guidelines. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston requires that volunteers in the Catholic schools complete a Criminal Background Check and complete Safe Haven training prior to volunteering.

Safe Haven is a child sexual abuse awareness program adopted by the National Council of Catholic Bishops. It is offered online through the Archdiocese and the training is about 1 hour long. Everyone who completes the course is registered within the Archdiocese. Those volunteers whom have completed the course will be added to ECS's Approved Volunteer List.

Volunteers are required to sign in at the front office and receive badge before reporting to their work area. If you cannot be at school during scheduled times, please arrange for a substitute. Upon completion of work/shift, volunteers must sign out in the front office. Please refrain from visiting classrooms or traveling to areas outside of designated work space.

Please make arrangements for younger siblings as they may not be brought to campus during volunteer hours. Volunteers represent the school and parish, and therefore should show support for the school and governing policies at all times. School administration may terminate service of any volunteer who fails to uphold the policies and procedures of the school.

2.12.3 Visitor Dress Code

Volunteers should dress appropriately for a Catholic school campus. Overly casual attire, exercise clothing, sports attire, or shorts/skirts of an inappropriate length or style should not be worn.

2.12.4 Field Trips & Chaperones

Class visits to places of cultural and/or academic significance enrich classroom instruction. Teachers shall coordinate field trips plans with school administration. Permission slips must be signed and returned so that students can participate. Permission cannot be given over the telephone. All field

trips are part of the regular school curriculum and are considered regular school days. If a student does not participate in a field trip, he/she will be counted absent and are not permitted to come to school during the field trip.

When a parent/guardian is asked to chaperone a field trip, he/she is responsible for students and represents Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) and Community. Siblings are not permitted to attend field trips or volunteer opportunities. Chaperones are expected to dress appropriately to represent ECS. Chaperones do not ride the bus with the students, but rather provide their own transportation to the field trip location – exceptions may be made by school administration in special circumstances.

Students must leave from school and return to school with their class on field trips. Students are not permitted to be dropped off or picked up at the field trip site without prior approval from school administration.

2.13 Uniforms & Dress Code

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School students wear uniforms in grades PreK – 8th. To teach our children that it is not the clothing nor the possessions that make each person special, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School requires all students to wear the designated uniform for their grade level. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that students conform to the uniform regulations.

Students out of uniform or inappropriately dressed will call their parents/guardians to bring the appropriate items. If parents/guardians cannot be reached or refuse to cooperate, an attempt to provide the student with appropriate garments will be made through lost and found and/or used uniform supply. Final judgements about what is deemed acceptable or unacceptable dress is at the discretion of school administration.

Students are expected to be well-groomed and always dressed in complete presentable uniforms. All clothing must be in good condition and clearly marked on the inside with the student's name. All clothing must have school logo and purchased through school approved vendor(s). Tears and/or holes in clothing is not permitted at any time.

2.13.1 Regular Uniform

The following Regular Uniform is the standard, daily uniform worn by students at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School. Unless a day is designated as "Dress Uniform" (see below), all other days are "Regular Uniform" days.

Girls:

Required Uniform for Regular Uniform days (PreK – 1st)

Tops: Light blue or navy polo with school monogram

Bottoms: Plaid pleated skirt or khaki pant/shorts

Shoes: Athletic type shoes – see more details below in section 2.12.11

Socks: White socks – see more details below in section 2.12.12

Optional Regular Uniform items for Girls PreK – 1st:

Light Blue or Navy Short-sleeve Polo dress with required navy modesty shorts and school monogram

Navy Fleece Jacket with school monogram

Required Uniform for Regular Uniform days (2nd – 8th)

Tops: Light blue or navy blue polo with school monogram

Bottoms: Plaid pleated skirt or khaki pant

Shoes: Athletic type shoes – see more details below in section 2.12.11

Socks: White socks – see more details below in section 2.12.12

Optional Regular Uniform items for Girls 1st – 8th:

Navy Fleece Jacket with school monogram

Optional Regular Uniform items for Girls 6th – 8th Grade:

Bottoms: Khaki skirt

Boys:

Required Uniform for Regular Uniform days (PreK – 8th)

Tops: Navy or Light Blue Polo shirt with school monogram

Bottoms: Khaki pants or shorts

Belts: Dark colored belt – see more details below in section 2.12.10

Shoes: Athletic type shoes – see more details below in section 2.12.11

Socks: White socks – see more details below in section 2.12.12

Optional Regular Uniform items for Boys PreK & Kinder:

Pull on khaki shorts or pants – no belt required

Navy Fleece Jacket with school monogram

Optional Regular Uniform items for Boys 1st – 8th:

Navy Fleece Jacket with school monogram

Optional Regular Uniform items for Boys 6th – 8th Grade:

Tops: White Polo shirt with school monogram

2.13.2 Dress Uniform

The following Dress Uniform will be required whenever students attend all-school liturgies, special events, and at various other times determined by school administration. If a student is not dressed appropriately, he/she is at risk of non-participation in the activity.

Girls:

Required Uniform for Dress Uniform days (PreK – 4th)

Plaid Jumper with navy modesty shorts – jumper hem should reach the top of the knee

Blouse: Peter Pan collar style long- or short-sleeved, with ECS monogram on collar

Shoes: Flat navy/black dress shoes or navy/black/tan topsiders – (no athletic/sport shoes)

Socks: White knee socks

Students in grades PrK – 1st may wear dark colored athletic shoes on dress uniform days

Optional: Cardigan Sweater with school monogram

Required Uniform for Dress Uniform days (5th – 8th)

Plaid Skirt with navy modesty shorts – skirt should reach the top of the knee

Blouse: Oxford blouse, with ECS monogram on collar, plus navy cardigan sweater

Optional Dress Uniform items for all Girls:

Navy Leggings

Epiphany Navy Fleece jackets may be worn for added warmth on Dress Uniform days.

Boys:

Required Uniform for Dress Uniform days (PreK – 8th)

Tops: Blue Oxford shirt with school monogram, plus navy sweater vest with school monogram

Bottoms: Khaki pants

Belts: Dark colored belt

Shoes: Black, brown, navy loafers, topsiders, or dress shoes – (no athletic/sport shoes)

Socks: White

Students in grades PrK – 1st may wear dark colored athletic shoes on dress uniform days.

Epiphany Navy Fleece jackets may be worn for added warmth on Dress Uniform days.

2.13.3 Proper Wear

- i. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.

- ii. Shoes must be properly secured – tied, buckled, etc.
- iii. Waistbands and shirtsleeves may not be rolled.
- iv. Pants/shorts and skirts must be worn at natural waistline.
- v. All girls must wear modesty shorts under skirts.
- vi. Skirts and shorts must reach within 2 inches of top of the child's knee.

2.13.4 Sweatshirts & Jackets

Only approved school sweatshirts, navy cardigans, or school jackets may be worn during school hours. For added warmth in cold months, any jacket or coat may be worn to and from school, and when going outside. However, only approved jackets, coats, and sweaters may be worn inside or during class.

2.13.5 Free Dress days

Throughout the year, certain days will be designated as “Free Dress Days”. Free Dress passes may also be awarded to students. Free dress passes may not be used on Dress Uniform Days.

Free Dress Days:

- All clothing must be modest and appropriate for a Catholic school setting.
- Proper attire policies are still in place (length of skirts & shorts, type of shoes, and style of clothes, etc.)
- Holes and/or tears in clothing is not permitted. Pajamas of any kind are not allowed.
- Leggings and tennis skirts are not permitted.
- Costumes or other outfits that disrupt the learning environment will not be permitted.
- Final judgments about what constitutes acceptable or unacceptable dress lies with school administration.

Scouts may wear scout uniforms on meeting days, unless meeting day falls on a Dress Uniform Day.

2.13.6 Spirit Wear

Specific days throughout the school year will be designated as Spirit Days. Students may wear designated school approved spirit shirts with Regular Uniform bottoms. Most Friday's are Spirit Days unless otherwise noted.

2.13.7 Jewelry

Jewelry and other accessory items are not part of the school uniform. Girls only, may have small stud earrings. Boys and girls are permitted to wear a wristwatch (see section about technology for more information about types of watches permitted) and one religious necklace and/or bracelet. The school is not responsible for the loss, breakage, or theft of jewelry and/or personal items.

Body piercing is not permitted other than girl's ear piercings (see above).

2.13.8 Makeup & Polish

Boys are not permitted to wear fingernail polish or make-up at any time.

Girls are not permitted to wear make-up at any time.

Girls in PreK – 5th: no fingernail polish is permitted.

Girls in 6th – 8th: one solid color (light/pale) nail polish is allowed concurrently.

Artificial nails are not permitted. Students with artificial nails will be given 1 weekend to have the artificial nails removed. Frequent violations of this policy will result in school consequences.

Makeup includes lip gloss, base, mascara, eyeshadow, blush, and any other skin/body altering substance.

Pimple patches are allowed but only in flesh tones and in circular or square shapes

2.13.9 Hair

All students are expected to wear their natural hair color during the school year. Styles which are deemed distracting to the educational environment are not acceptable for any student. Boys hair must be trimmed so that it does not touch the top of the collar, hang over the top of the ears, or touch his eyebrows. A parent will be contacted, and any distracting appearance must be remedied for continued enrollment. Hair color must remain one natural color. No hair dye or bleaching.

Facial hair is not permitted.

2.13.10 Belt

A belt must be worn with shorts/pants that have belt loops. An exception may be made for PreK and Kindergarten students. Belts may be brown, black, or navy only, without symbols, patterns, or branding visible.

2.13.11 Shoes

Shoes

- Athletic type shoes are preferred for comfort and safety
- Athletic type shoes must be navy, black, gray, or white – or any combination of those colors
- Athletic shoes may not have any other colors
- Laces must be solid navy, black, gray, or white
- Shoes must have rubber sole
- No boots, sandals, open-back, heeled, or open-toed shoes may be worn
- Dress Uniform days, navy or black dress shoes are required, or brown loafers for student's 2nd grade and up.
 - Students in grades PrK – 1st may wear dark colored athletic shoes during dress uniform days

2.13.12 Socks

- White socks are to be worn daily and visible above the shoe.
- Dress Uniform days, all girls will wear white knee-high socks and all boys will wear white socks.

2.13.13 Tights & Leggings

Girls may wear navy, black, or grey tights or leggings under their skirt. Ankle length leggings may be worn with socks. Otherwise, leggings must have feet.

2.13.14 Bows & Headbands

Girls may wear small hair bows or headbands.

2.13.15 Backpacks

Rolling Backpacks are not permitted.

2.13.16 PE Uniform

All 5th – 8th grade students are expected to change into the approved PE uniform during PE classes. PE uniforms are purchased through the school spirit store and consist of navy shorts and grey ECS PE shirt. Students are expected to change back into the appropriate school uniform at the end of the period. Only approved PE uniform is acceptable – other athletic clothes will not be permitted, and students will change back into their school uniform for PE class.

2.14 Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Students are not permitted to use electronic devices (cell phones, IPODS/IPADS, smart watches, fitness trackers, wireless headphones) on campus while school is in session.

Student Chromebooks may be used with Faculty supervision and at appropriate & authorized times. With permission from the teacher, students may use wired headphones with their Chromebook. Wireless and Bluetooth headphones are not permitted.

Students may not use cell phones (including texting) on campus during school hours (7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Use of cellular phones by students during school hours is prohibited per Archdiocesan Policy.

The school office phone may be used for emergencies only. Calling parents for forgotten homework, projects, or making social plans, etc. does not constitute an emergency.

Students are not permitted to email parents during the day from their chrome books without teacher permission and approval from school administration.

- For the first offense, the confiscated electronic device will be held by the Principal/Assistant Principal until picked up by the PARENT at the end of the following school day.
- For a second offense, the confiscated electronic device will be held by the Principal/Assistant Principal and returned to the parent after a \$25 fine has been paid.

Should any further offense occur, the student will be forbidden to bring a cell phone on campus. The school is not responsible for any confiscated items being lost or damaged.

Parents/Legal Guardians

Calling, texting, or emailing students during school hours (7:00 a.m.–3:45 p.m.) is strictly prohibited. Messages of an emergency nature will be relayed to students if you call the school office. We ask that you please respect this policy so as not to place your child in a disciplinary situation.

Parent cell phones must be turned off or put on vibrate while on the school campus or while attending school activities. All cell phone use must occur outside the building.

For the safety of our students, cell phone use by drivers during carpool is prohibited.

Specifically:

- During morning carpool, cell phone use is prohibited from when a vehicle enters the campus until the vehicle exits the campus.
- During afternoon carpool, cell phone use is prohibited from when the line begins to move until the vehicle exits the campus.

Offenders of this policy are subject to a conference with the Principal and to further consequences at the Principal's discretion.

2.15 Lunch

2.15.1 Lunch Options

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School provides an optional hot lunch program for students. However, students have the option of bringing their lunch from home each day or purchasing a lunch from the contracted catering company. No soft drinks, caffeinated drinks, or sugary drinks may be consumed by students during school hours, including those brought from home and store bought.

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School does not permit food delivery services such as Uber Eats, DoorDash, or similar providers. Parents and guardians must either pack lunches for their children or utilize the school's hot lunch program.

2.15.2 Lunch Visitation

Lunch is considered part of the regular school day. Parent lunch visits should not be excessive nor more often than once a month. Our teachers are spending lunch time with their classes and value that time

with their students in another environment. Additionally, students need this time together to build social skills and to learn to interact with each other outside of the classroom. Thank you for helping us with this important aspect of your child's education.

Parents visiting for lunch must sign in at the school office and receive a visitor tag. Parents must sit at the designated table(s) and may only sit with their child. Food items may not be shared with other students and parents may only bring lunch for their child. Fast food may be brought on special occasions such as birthdays.

All students, including those sitting with parents are expected to follow all school rules and cafeteria rules throughout the lunch periods. They are expected to clean up after themselves and refrain from any activity such as throwing food, running, shouting, or any other disruptive behavior while at lunch.

(5th – 8th Grades) Microwaves are generally available for student use, but they should not be relied upon. At times there may be no access available to microwaves. Students should not have raw food that could not be eaten cold. Microwaves are to be used for reheating ONLY not for cooking frozen meals. This ensures all students have time to heat food and eat.

2.15.3 Forgotten Lunches

In line with our policy prohibiting food delivery services, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School has established a procedure for forgotten lunches. If a student forgets their lunch, they will be provided with a lunch, and parents will be billed \$10.00 accordingly. Additionally, the school will accept forgotten lunches brought from home. However, outside of special occasions such as birthdays, fast food lunches should not be brought to school by parents or other adults, nor should food delivery services be used in place of a forgotten lunch. These measures help ensure that all students receive a meal while maintaining the safety and orderliness of our school environment.

2.16 SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Texas State Law requires anyone suspecting the abuse or neglect of a child to report the suspected abuse or neglect, preferably to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Child Abuse Hotline, 1.800.252.5400, or at their website: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact_us/report_abuse.asp. The hotline, located in Austin, is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Texas Law specifically requires that a person make a report to Child Protective Services or to a local law enforcement agency immediately, no later than 48 hours after first suspecting a child has been abused or neglected. All reports of suspected child abuse or neglect are confidential. The school Principal and the Catholic Schools Office should be advised after the report is made. If the report is made in good faith, reporters are immune from civil or criminal liability.

State Law requires that the person suspecting the abuse should be the reporter. Additionally, the law requires reports of *suspected* abuse, not an inquiry or investigation whether abuse occurred. In fact, the mental health professionals ultimately responsible for assessing a child and the prosecutors responsible for proving abuse ask that the reporter not attempt to validate the abuse.

2.16.1 The Investigation

Texas Law allows investigation of alleged child abuse by CPS to include an interview and examination of the child who is the subject of the report. That interview may be conducted at any reasonable time and place, including the child's school. Accordingly, when visited or otherwise contacted by authorities stating their intention to investigate child abuse, the Principal or an adult designated by the principal will examine the credentials and record the investigator's name, agency and contact information and, thereafter, facilitate the interview with the alleged victim of child abuse. If CPS wishes to speak to any other children, the school will usually require the consent of the other children's parents.

State Law provides that the interview of the alleged victim of child abuse shall include "the presence of persons the department or designated agency determines are necessary." Frequently, investigators will conclude that parents and other family members are not "necessary" to the interview and should not even be advised that the interview is occurring. The parents and school personnel do not have the right to be present at the interview of the alleged victim. The school will not notify the alleged victim's parents unless requested to do so by the CPS investigators.

The rights of CPS to investigate include the right to transport the child: therefore, the child may be taken from the school without the school's consent. State Law provides that a person commits an offense if a person attempts to interfere with the lawful transport of the alleged victim for purposes relating to the interview or investigation. Should investigators decide to transport the child from the school; the investigators ordinarily attempt to advise the victim's parents in advance. Irrespective of the investigators attempt to do so; the school will not contact the parents until after the child has been safely removed from the school premises.

3 STANDARD OF CONDUCT

The goal of any discipline program is to assist the student in achieving self-discipline which will manifest itself in clear and logical reasoning and in action which is consistent with good moral principles. The plan consists of well-defined regulations and logical consequences for student behavior.

3.1 Discipline Policy

The School's discipline policy is based on the assumption that children have the capacity to make choices in their behavior and actions, which will either hinder or help their own growth and development. Parents/guardians and educators are called to work together to provide an atmosphere that will enable children to accept their decision-making ability and understand both the positive and negative consequences of their behavior and decisions.

Students who misbehave or make poor choices which infringe on the academic process will be disciplined. Parents/guardians will be notified when a child has seriously misbehaved and/or when consequences assigned. Prior to the notification, parents can be assured the student had been spoken with regarding the misconduct and subsequent consequences. The notification to parents/guardians serves to alert parents/guardians to the situations and request their assistance with shaping the student's decision making.

Infractions in the classroom are under the authority of the teacher. However, all teachers have authority over all students, regardless of age or grade. School expectations are designed to establish clear guidelines for student behavior. The School approaches behavior as students are choosing their actions. When a student chooses to break rules, consequences must be accepted and a change in behavior or actions is expected.

When students are enrolled into ECS, parents accept the school's "in loco parentis" rights to speak with any enrolled student regarding situations or reported concerns. The School administration reserves the right to place a student on probation, suspension, or expulsion as deemed appropriate by the circumstances, in addition to assigning detention, timeouts, or various tasks throughout the campus. The Principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary matters and can waive or assign any disciplinary action for just cause.

3.2 Behavior Expectations

Teachers, parents, and students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the reputation of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School, both on campus and at school sponsored activities. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action being taken. The Administration reserves the right to amend, suspend, or add new rules or guidelines to school disciplinary policies as needed. Furthermore, the Administration reserves the right to enforce standards of conduct and behavior not mentioned in this document.

3.2.1 Acceptable Behavior

All students are expected to:

- Be on time
- Come prepared to learn
- Be respectful to any adult on campus
- Respect your rights and the rights of others
- Ask for help
- Be compassionate towards others
- Demonstrate strong character
- Obey school and classroom rules
- Be honest and trustworthy

These expectations are not intended to be a comprehensive list. It is merely a guide to help parents and students understand general expectations for conduct. Each behavior will be ultimately judged as to its gravity on an individual basis, taking into account the specific circumstances, age, and development of the student. Students who choose to settle differences in a physical way will receive appropriate consequences at the discretion of the School administration.

3.2.1.1 Additional Student Expectations

- Students are expected to contribute positively towards school culture and environment. Acts which injure, degrade, disgrace, or threaten the safety, privacy, and respect of others will not be tolerated.
- Students will not sell items on campus except specific instances approved by ECS.
- Students will not bring toys, dolls, games, electronic devices to school unless approved by teacher or School administration.
- Cell phones are not allowed, and restricted use is a privilege. The School strongly recommends that cell phones are left at home. Cell phone use during the school day is prohibited unless explicit permission is granted by the School. All phones should be turned off during the school day and left in student lockers. If a phone is on, rings, or seen by school personnel, the phone will be confiscated by School and held in Principal's office. On the second occurrence, parents must set up an appointment with Principal to retrieve the student's phone.
- Carbonated drinks, caffeinated drinks, drinks with high amounts of sugar, and energy drinks are prohibited and should not be brought to campus.
- No candy or gum is allowed unless approved by the teacher/administration
- Students 5-8 may carry a laptop bag and a pencil case ONLY. No other large bags or tote bags should be carried. Backpacks are to stay inside the lockers.

3.2.2 Unacceptable Behavior

3.2.2.1 Academic behavior that is unacceptable, but is not limited to:

- Copying or allowing one to copy another student's work
- Using any method to receive or provide quiz, test, or assignment information outside of parameters
- Copying information from a source without citation
- Misrepresenting one's own work

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All forms of test procedure violation, cheating, and plagiarism are prohibited. Violations of academic honesty policies will be disciplined on a case-by-case basis depending on the severity of the violation, prior violations, and other factors determined by School administration. Disciplinary measures for academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to:

- Receiving a zero on the assignment
- Re-doing the assignment
- Sport or extra-curricular ineligibility
- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion

3.2.2.2 Behavior that is unacceptable, but is not limited to:

Bullying and Harassment:

Harassment including bullying, is considered a severe infraction. The result of such behavior in or outside of school hours will consist of the individual being referred to School administration. Thereafter, consequences up to and including expulsion may be taken against any person who engages in any type of harassment including electronic harassment (cyber bullying – see below). Harassment, including bullying, consist of but is not limited to the following:

- Unwelcome and/or persistent behavior that makes a person feel threatened, humiliated, uncomfortable, or unsafe
- Verbal conduct such as racial slurs, the use of vulgar or obscene language, derogatory jokes or comments, social ostracizing, or personally damaging statements made about others
- Behavior that is sexually or lewd in nature, including sexual advances, physical contact, and other verbal, physical, or visual conduct of a sexual nature
- Behavior that is intimidating, including but not limited to, threatening gestures, assault, unwanted touching, and blocking of normal movement that interferes with another's work, study, or play.

Cyber-bullying

Cyber-Bullying is defined as the use of the Internet, cell phone or other electronic device to send or post messages, comments, texts, and/or visual images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. Cyber-bullying includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Cruel instant computer messaging or threatening emails
- Mean, repeated cell phone text or app messaging
- Creating a website or online posts for the purpose of mocking community members
- Posting “photo-shopped” or digitally modified images of community members
- Forwarding private photos, videos, or texts to other individuals
- Pretending to be someone else electronically

3.2.2.3 Artificial Intelligence

ChatGPT and other forms of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are powerful tools that can be used for a variety of purposes, including academic work. However, it is important to use these tools ethically and responsibly. One of the main concerns using AI for academic work is the potential for academic dishonesty. These tools could be used irresponsibly resulting in forms of plagiarism leading to serious academic consequences. It is important to remember that AI tools are not a substitute for learning. Using AI to do academic work will not help students learn the material or develop the skills they need to succeed in their learning environments or master learning objectives.

While using AI for academic work ethically, always take the following into consideration:

- Only use AI tools that are allowed by your teachers.
- Be clear about the extent to which you are using AI in your work.
- Do not claim work generated by AI as your own.
- Use AI tools to help you learn, not to do your work for you.

3.3 Behavioral Notification

ELECTRONIC DISCIPLINE FORMS are emailed through FACTS as formal communication to parents/guardians for infractions of school policy or classroom/school rules.

Examples may include minor infractions such as excessive talking, dress code violation, unkind words or actions, tardies, etc. These infractions may or may not be assigned a formal consequence at the discretion of school staff and administration. Examples of major infractions that constitute an immediate Electronic Discipline Form may include fights, bullying, stealing, cheating, vandalizing school property, smoking/vaping, weapon possession, etc.

For minor infractions, once a student receives four (4) Electronic Discipline Forms for minor infractions, he/she will be referred to school administration for all minor infractions moving forward. School administration will determine after discussions with student and teachers if further consequences are needed. For major infractions, students will be immediately referred to school administration.

3.4 Consequences

The School reserves the right to assign appropriate consequences at the discretion of the School administration. Consequences may be assigned for any infraction which will be documented through a Electronic Discipline Form at the discretion of the faculty, staff, and administration. Consequences may include:

- Silent lunch
- Recess Detention
- End of lunch duty
- After School Detention
- In-School Isolation
- In-School Suspension
- Ineligibility
- Suspension
- Expulsion

After School Detention - A student who has been assigned After School Detention may not participate in any school, extra-curricular, or athletic activities on the day of detention. Missing these activities is part of the consequence and Detentions may not be rescheduled due to extra-curricular activity schedule.

Suspension – It is the philosophy of this school that every child should be privileged to attend classes every day of the school year in order to receive thorough instructions in all subject areas. However, under certain circumstances, it may become necessary to suspend a student from school attendance. When a student is suspended, he/she will receive a zero in every class for each day of suspension. He/she will be allowed to make up tests and quizzes. A student who has been suspended may not participate in any school or extra-curricular activities during his/her suspension. Furthermore, a student who has received major disciplinary action may not be allowed to hold Student Council office.

- Out-of-school Suspension – the student does not report to school on the assigned days and is counted absent. See above for works and assignments during suspension.
- In-school Suspension – the student reports to school and sits with a substitute teacher for the entirety of the school day. An \$100 charge is added to the student's financial account to cover the costs of the substitute teacher. Teachers will provide the student with work to be completed throughout the day and submitted to the substitute by dismissal. That work is submitted to the appropriate teacher and graded as in-class assignments.

Expulsion – Expulsion is an extremely serious matter. Expulsion may take place for the following infractions, but not limited to:

- Possession of controlled substance
- Possession of any type of weapon
- Drinking or any possession of alcohol
- Parent behavior or actions that cause a disruption to the school and/or appropriate delivery of curriculum
- Parent or student violation of harassment policies
- Accumulated suspensions
- Behavior deemed unacceptable at the discretion of the School administration.

3.5 Lockers and Backpacks

The School reserves the right to view the contents of student lockers, cubbies, and backpacks without prior notification. Similarly, the school reserves the right to conduct unannounced checks of student Chromebooks and student use of the Internet and all that this implies.

Students may bring only necessary personal locker decor such as a shelf, magnetic dry erase board and marker, family photo, etc. No carpeting, lighting, wallpaper, mirrors, or decorations are allowed in/on the lockers.

3.6 Security Cameras

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the appropriate use and management of security camera footage within Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School (ECS) to maintain a safe environment while safeguarding individual privacy. By adhering to this policy, ECS aims to maintain a secure and respectful learning environment for all stakeholders.

3.6.1 Security Camera Usage:

Security cameras are used to enhance safety and security in public areas of the school premises.

3.6.2 Access to Security Camera Footage:

Access to security camera footage is restricted to authorized personnel for security and investigative purposes. Parents and community members will not have access to security camera footage.

3.6.3 Data Storage and Retention:

Security camera footage is stored securely for a limited period, as per school policy or legal requirements. After the retention period, footage is automatically deleted or overwritten.

3.6.4 Confidentiality and Privacy:

Privacy of individuals captured in the footage is strictly maintained.

Sharing footage with unauthorized individuals is prohibited.

3.7 Care of School Property

All buildings, equipment, supplies, materials, and books are considered to be the property of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School. Students who cause damage to such property will be assessed all costs to cover repair and/or replacement, at the discretion of School administration. Students may also be subject to disciplinary action in addition to fee charged.

3.8 Drugs and Controlled Substances

The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful.

A student on school property or attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity is subject to removal from class, suspension, expulsion, and/or referred for prosecution if he/she:

- Uses a chemical substance, possessing for consumption, sale or dispensing of illegal drugs and narcotics (hard or soft drugs; alcohol, inhalers, marijuana, or a controlled substance).
- Acts under the influences of an illegal drug, alcohol, narcotic, marijuana, or a controlled substance.
- Misuses or overdoses on prescription or over-the-counter medication

Upon the discovery of a drug-related situation, the Principal reports the incident to the superintendent, and notifies parent/guardian immediately, and requests a conference. After the conference with the parent/guardian and student, the student is subject to removal from class, suspension, expulsion, or referral for prosecution. A recommendation to the parents/guardians is made for evaluation and possible treatment for the student.

3.9 Weapons & Firearms

The unlawful possession, and/or use or concealment of a weapon/firearm is prohibited. A weapon is any instrument which may produce serious bodily harm or death. A student on school property or attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity may be subject to removal from class, suspension, expulsion, and/or referred for prosecution if he/she possesses, uses, or conceals a weapon/firearm.

Upon discovery of a weapon/firearm, the Principal will immediately confiscate the weapon, remove the student from class, and notify the parent/guardian and the proper authorities as warranted.

4 INSTRUCTION, GRADING, & COMMUNICATION

4.1 Instructional Program

The core curriculum of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School complies with the time allotment and subject requirements of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED), and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Various education and athletic opportunities are available to our students as electives and extracurricular activities.

4.2 Communication & Conferences

All available school resources shall be utilized to promote student success. Lines of communication will be kept open to inform parents of student's progress in all areas. Concerns about a student will be addressed initially by the classroom teacher and parent. In the event concerns continue, referrals for additional assistance and resources may be pursued through the school counselor or School administration.

Appointments with the administration and/or with teachers need to be scheduled in advance. A teacher attempts to return phone calls and emails within 24 hours during the school week. Please note that messages left for teachers may not be retrieved until the close of the school day.

WEDNESDAY FOLDERS – Students in Grade PreK-4 will bring home a school folder on Wednesday of each week. The folder will contain communications from the office, weekly reports on progress and behavior, and student's work. Please review this with your child.

4.2.1 Parent Conferences

Your child's progress is important to us. Teachers are available to discuss issues during the regular school day by appointment only. Contact the school office, send a note with your child or email the teacher to request a phone call or a conference. Teachers will attempt to return calls or email within 24 hours of receipt of the message during the school week. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held twice a year, once before school starts and the second in the fall. An optional conference is scheduled in the spring as needed or requested by either the teacher or parent.

4.2.2 Intervention Conferences

Parents of students who are experiencing academic, social, and/or behavioral problems may be asked to conference with the team of teachers and administrators who work with the students daily. The student may be asked to attend the conference when appropriate.

4.3 Reports

Formal progress reports and report cards for all grades will be made available electronically at the midpoint and quarter ends appropriately. Report dates are indicated on the school calendar.

PreK students will only receive quarter end reports

Kinder – 8th grade students will receive progress reports and quarter end reports

Students success can only be attained through cooperation between parents and educators. If it is determined that the school's resources cannot meet the needs of a student or if parents/guardians fail to act on the school's recommendations for remediation or diagnostic evaluation, the Principal may request withdrawal of the student or deny admission for the following year.

4.4 Grading & Report Card

The school year is divided into 4 nine-week quarters. As much as possible, every grade given, both academic and conduct will be the result of an honest and careful evaluation of all phases of the student's work and effort.

All students will receive report cards at the end of each quarter. These dates are noted on the school calendar.

Grading Scale (2nd – 8th Grade)

100 – 93	A
92 – 86	B
85 – 78	C
77 – 70	D
Below 70	F

Skill Set (PrK – 1st) & Character and Work Habits Scale

EE	Exceeds Expectations
ME	Meets Expectations
BE	Below Expectations
N/A	Not Applicable – Objective not taught yet

4.4.1 Number & Weight of Grades (2nd – 8th)

For Grades 2-8, subjects that are taught daily a minimum of two grades per week must be recorded in the gradebook. Subjects that are taught every other day must have at least 10 grades during the 9 weeks.

Teachers have 1 week to grade assignments and post them to the grade book. (Unless stated by each teacher for a longer project/paper)

Grades 2-4:

- 40% Major Grades: Tests, Projects, etc. (minimum of three per nine weeks)
- 40% Daily Grades: Classwork, quizzes (minimum of 10-12 per nine weeks)
- 10% Homework (minimum of 8-10 per nine weeks)
- 10% Participation Grades (minimum of 5-6 per nine weeks)

Grades 5-8:

- 50% Major Grades: Tests, Projects, etc. (minimum of three per nine weeks)
- 25 % Minor Grades: Quizzes, etc. (minimum of 5-6 per nine weeks)
- 15% Daily Grades (minimum of 5-6 per nine weeks)
- 10% Homework/Participation (minimum of 5-6 per nine weeks)

Grades 6 – 8 will take Mid-Term and Final exams. Because these exams are typically days before the Christmas or Summer breaks, exams may not be taken after the exam date. Exceptions and alternative plans may be made on a case-by-case basis between family and school administration.

For Elementary and Middle School, in the subjects of Art, Health, PE, Music, Spanish, and STEM the average grade is based on a minimum of one grade per week.

Teachers will not give extra credit without approval from school administration.

4.4.2 Incomplete or Missing Assignments

Students who are present at school but do not complete or turn-in homework/in-class assignments will be given an opportunity to complete the missing assignment(s) with a point reduction for late/missing work. A specified worktime will be assigned by the teacher, usually during an ancillary, lunch, or recess time. Failure or refusal to complete the assignment will result in a failing grade of a zero (0) entered into the gradebook and notification sent to the student's parents.

Grades 2 – 4: A student who is missing a homework/classwork assignment and is present at school will be given the opportunity to complete the missing assignment. This assignment will be completed during the time designated by the teacher – either during an ancillary class, lunch, or recess.

Grades 5 – 8: A student who is missing a homework/classwork assignment and is present at school will be given the opportunity to complete the missing assignment. This assignment will be completed during lunch time & community time. These 'Lunch Work Sessions' will be monitored by a middle school teacher and the student will eat their lunch while completing their missing assignments.

- All work must be turned in at the end of the Lunch Work Session. It is at the teacher's discretion which assignments are eligible for a Lunch Work Session. Classes that meet after lunch may use the Lunch Work Session the following day. A student may attend a Lunch Work Session for a before-lunch class on the same day the assignment is due, but the point deduction still applies.
- Twenty (20) points will be deducted from the final grade given on each missing assignment completed in a Lunch Work Session. Incomplete assignments turned in at the end of the Missing Work Lunch Session will be graded with missing answers being counted against the final grade.

Students assigned to a Missing Work Lunch Session who do not attend the assigned session will receive a zero (0) on the assignment(s) and possibly another consequence; i.e. after-school detention, silent lunch.

- Completed assignments that are forgotten at home are subject to the same Lunch Work Session guidelines.
- Any work that is turned in after the Missing Work Lunch Session through the end of the current quarter, a student can earn up to a fifty (50) on that assignment.

4.4.3 Correction of Failed Assignments

Students who receive a failing grade on assignments, quizzes, or tests (below 70%) will be allowed to correct their work to demonstrate improved understanding. Upon resubmission, the corrected work can earn a maximum grade of 70%. All corrections must be submitted within the same grading period (unless other arrangements made by teacher and/or school), accompanied by a brief explanation of the errors made, and the correct solutions. Students should discuss the details and logistics of correcting failed work with the appropriate teacher who assigned the failed assessment. It is the responsibility of the student to request and keep track of assignment corrections.

This policy is designed to promote learning through reflection and responsibility while maintaining academic integrity by capping the revised grade.

This policy specifically applies to failed assignments turned in. For assignments in which nothing was turned in, please refer to section 4.4.2 Incomplete or Missing Assignments

4.5 Promotion & Retention

A student is promoted if, considering his/her abilities, he/she satisfactorily completed the work of the current grade. Promotion from Early Childhood shall be based upon accomplishing the required essential curriculum elements as well as progress made in social, emotional, and physical growth.

4.5.1 Retention

A student may not be retained more than twice from grades K-8 and no more than once in the same grade. The School should make every effort, within the capabilities of the School program, to provide alternative programs or adjust the regular program for children with special needs.

If a student receives a cumulative grade below 70, the student fails the subject. If a core subject is failed, the student may be recommended for retention. Parents must be informed of the likelihood of a student's academic failure and possible retention before the end of the school year.

If all avenues have been explored, and the school is unable to meet the needs of the student, or the parent/guardian has not acted on the School's recommendations regarding diagnostic evaluation and/or treatment/intervention, the School has the right to request withdrawal of the student (if currently enrolled) or to refuse re-admittance.

4.6 Homework Policy

If a student is unable to come to school due to illness, the parent/guardian is expected to notify the school office and request homework assignments by 9 a.m. for grades 1 -4. It is the student's responsibility in grades 5-8 to obtain notes for missed class time. Homework assignments for middle school should be accessed on ParentsWeb or Google Classroom. Absences of more than three days should be communicated to school administration.

Epiphany Catholic School (ECS) policy does require homework which includes both written assignments and review/study of material presented in class. There is no absolute minimum or maximum length of time per evening, as each student's needs and ability will dictate the amount of time needed to complete home assignments or study projects and maintain or master basic skills. Assignments may be given which are due over a period of time. It is the student's responsibility to plan for adequate progress on a continual basis thus avoiding last minute completion.

Each student in grade 2 - 8 is given a planner/assignment book to record his/her daily assignments, tests, and projects. Many parents verify completion of homework by initialing the planner/assignment book.

All students are expected to have homework completed and turned in on time.

Frequent failure to complete homework assignments will seriously affect the student's grade and a parent-teacher-student conference may be requested.

4.7 Record Request

Parents/Guardians who wish to send records to another school or to a physician's office must sign a Record Release Form in the front office. All records requests must go through the front office.

4.8 Record Viewing

All parent/guardian wishing to view student records must make the request in writing 24 hours in advance. Parents or legal guardians may not scan, photograph, or otherwise digitally capture student records using a mobile device while viewing them on campus.

Epiphany Catholic School abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order and/or divorce decree.

4.9 Standardized Testing

All students, Kindergarten and up attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston participate in the MAP Growth Assessment by NWEA throughout the year. These scores are used to assess our academic programs plus drive and small group, extension, and re-teaching opportunities the following academic year.

4.10 8th Grade Final Exam Exemptions

Students may be eligible to **exempt up to two** final exams from the following core academic subjects:

- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Literature
- Language Arts

A student is eligible for exemption from a final exam in a subject only if they have earned an A in that subject for every quarter of the school year. Eligibility for exam exemptions is determined by the school administration and is contingent upon meeting all of the above criteria. Students who do not qualify for an exemption, or who choose not to use an earned exemption, are expected to take the scheduled final exam(s).

***Please note that all eighth-grade students are required to take the Religion exam.**

5 PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Expectations of Parent/Legal Guardian

The education of your child is a collaboration between parent/guardian, the child, and the School. ECS is committed to employing certified, professional, and dedicated teachers who have the training and skills to provide an education which is centered on Catholic values, healthy character, and academic development.

In order to demonstrate your commitment, full support and cooperation with the faculty and staff of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School in this partnership, we request that you meet the following expectations:

- Be a supportive partner with the School and provide assistance and support to your child(ren) as needed for academic and social success, and hold your child(ren) responsible for his/her own actions.
- Understand and support the spiritual mission and vision of the school.
- Read all communication from the school and request clarification when necessary.
- Participate in all parent-teacher conference dates and requests.

- Obey all classroom & school rules, guidelines, ECS harassment policy, and school procedures, plus encourage your child(ren) to do so as well.
- Discuss concerns or problems with the appropriate School personnel, rather than other community members or group texts.
- Follow Line-of-Authority procedures (Section 5.2) when a problem or question arises.
- Demonstrate thoughtful stewardship by being actively involved with the life of the school.
- Understand all students, families, and community members are responsible for the good name of the school. Inappropriate behavior outside of school is not acceptable and may have consequences within school.
- Honor financial obligations to the school and participate in School Development events.
- Arrive on time each day for morning and afternoon carpool.
 - Please drive slowly and carefully when you are on the property and be mindful of children and pedestrians.
 - Talking on your cell phone while driving is not permitted on the school property.
- Monitor your child(ren)'s use of TV, computers, video games, social networking sites and other media.
- Sign in at the front office and wear badge while visiting the school.
- Refrain from bringing any device on campus that would threaten school and student safety.
- Refrain from calling, texting, or messaging students in any form during the school day.
- Refrain from aggressive, abusive, or threatening language towards faculty & staff members, parents, students, or community members.
- No one may use school name, logo, or motto on any type of social media, clothing, or in any other form.
- All volunteers must be Safe Haven certified.
- Trust that the School is doing everything in their power to facilitate your child(ren) to reach their potential.

We acknowledge we are not the school for every child or every family. We will exercise the right to ask families to withdrawal prior to expulsion if any of the above expectations are gravely breached, at the discretion of School administration.

5.2 Line of Authority & Appeals Process

- If a serious discipline problem arises which calls for consequences for your child, you as parent/guardian will be notified.
- Day-to-day classroom situations must be handled with the teachers first. The parent should contact the teacher first when redressing any matter.
- If the matter cannot be satisfactorily settled with the teacher, the parent has recourse to the Assistant Principal, and finally to the Principal.

Appointments with the teacher can be made by emailing the teacher, or calling the office and leaving a message. All matters will first be discussed with the teacher. The Assistant Principal will only conference with the parent after a meeting with the teacher is held. The Principal is the final authority.

5.3 Parent Grievance Process

Purpose

The purpose of this process is to provide parents of students enrolled in a parish or regional school within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston with an orderly procedure for the equitable and prompt resolution of complaints. This process is intended to resolve disputes through subsidiarity, at the lowest possible level, in a cooperative, conciliatory Christian atmosphere.

Scope

The process is not intended to be adversarial in nature and neither party to the grievance shall be represented by Legal Counsel during any phase of the process. This process replaces all previous processes and statements regarding the institution and processing of complaints at both the local and Archdiocesan levels.

Exclusions

A parent who has withdrawn their student from the school may not avail themselves of this grievance process. A parent whose student(s) are not invited to re-enroll may not avail themselves of the grievance process.

During any investigation by local, state, or federal officials, a student is placed on Student Extended Leave. These absences will be excused, and the student will have an opportunity to complete assignments without reduced credit during the leave. A parent may not avail themselves of the grievance process when a student is placed on Student Extended Leave.

Procedural Issue

While the grievance process is designed to accommodate all parent disputes that may arise within the Archdiocese, it is understood that some situations require flexibility. Any issues regarding the use of Level One or Two of the grievance process as listed below, or the appropriate administrator at those levels, shall be resolved by the Archdiocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Level One- Informal Resolution/Conciliation (Campus)

It is the intent of this policy to resolve parent complaints at the lowest possible administrative level and in a cooperative Christian atmosphere through subsidiarity. This process is not intended to be adversarial in nature. Prior to using the steps set forth below, the parent or guardian shall meet with the person with whom he/she is having a dispute. If the concern is not resolved, he/she should move to the person's direct supervisor in an effort to find resolution.

If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved with the person's direct supervisor, the parent should request a meeting with the Principal within five working (5) days. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved with the Principal, the parent should request a meeting with the Pastor within five working (5) days. If the Pastor agrees with the Principal's decision, Pastor may decline to meet, and parent may then proceed directly to Level Two. If the Pastor agrees to meet, but the matter is not then settled satisfactorily, the parent may appeal the decision within seven (7) working days to the Level Two Grievance Committee.

Level Two – Grievance Committee (Catholic Schools Office)

The Catholic Schools Office for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has established a Grievance Committee for the purpose of hearing complaint appeals from Level One of the Parent Grievance Process. The committee reviewing the complaint will consist of an Assistant Superintendent from the Catholic Schools Office and two Archdiocesan Principals selected by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools or their designee. The following procedure shall then be utilized:

1) The parent shall contact the Catholic Schools Office at 713-741-8704 to request the Level Two Appeal/Grievance Form within seven (7) working days of the Level One decision.

2) The written appeal shall be submitted to the Level Two Grievance Committee within seven (7) working days following the parent's receipt of the Level Two Appeal/Grievance Form. The grievance is submitted in writing (using the form provided) to the Catholic Schools Office via email addressed to csogeneral@archgh.org along with any additional materials or documentation the parent would like reviewed by the committee. All submitted documents must be accessible and not password protected.

3) The Principal and Pastor will receive a copy of the Level Two Appeal/Grievance Form and other attachments filed with the Catholic Schools Office. The Principal and Pastor will forward their response to the Level Two Grievance Committee within seven (7) working days of their receipt of the Level Two Appeal/Grievance form submitted by the parent

4) The record for the Level Two Grievance Committee's consideration shall consist of all materials submitted by the parent and the written response provided by the Pastor and Principal. The committee has the discretion to accept or deny an appeal based on the evidence presented.

If the appeal is denied, the decision rendered at Level One of the Parent Grievance Process will be final and no further appeals may be made to the school, the Catholic Schools Office, or any other Archdiocesan ministry or entity.

5) If the appeal is accepted for review, the Level Two Grievance Committee shall then schedule a conference with the parent and/or school administration, if necessary, within fifteen (15) working days from the date the written appeal is received.

The committee will make a reasonable effort to schedule a conference at a time agreeable to all parties. At this conference, the committee shall hear the appeal and review the materials presented, as well as any other information the committee deems relevant.

6) In an Archdiocesan parish school, the Level Two Grievance Committee shall make a recommendation for decision to the Pastor within seven (7) working days after the scheduled conference has been held and a copy of the recommendation will be sent to the Archdiocesan Superintendent. The Pastor may accept, reject, or modify the Level Two Grievance Committee's recommendation. The Pastor's decision will be communicated to the Principal, parent, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools within seven (7) working days upon receiving the Level Two Grievance Committee's recommendation.

7) If the Pastor does not issue a written decision within the seven (7) working day limit, that will be deemed as an acceptance of the committee's recommendation who will then communicate the decision to the parent, Principal, Pastor, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

8) Decisions at Level Two reached by the Pastor (parish schools) and Superintendent of Catholic Schools (regional schools) are final and no further appeals may be made to the school, the Catholic Schools Office, or any other Archdiocesan ministry or entity.

5.4 School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) consist of at least six people who are appointed by the Pastor after a discernment process. The purpose of this group is to advise the Pastor and the Principal in areas dealing directly with general policy, budgeting, and finances of the school.

Scheduled meetings are found in the annual school calendar. Parental attendance is always welcomed and encouraged. Parents wishing to speak must contact the Chairperson at least one week prior to the meeting in order to be added to the agenda. Guests speaking to SAC will not receive a response during that meeting but will receive a written response within 10 business days of the meeting.

5.5 Parents Association

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School recognizes that volunteers are valued members of our school community. The Parents Association (P.A.) is the parent volunteer service organization of the school which assists the school in activities during the year. The P.A. offers ample volunteer sign-up opportunities at the beginning and throughout the year as event committees become active.

Any funds raised by the P.A. or any other group associated with the school belongs to the school and are managed by the Principal (in consultation with the Pastor) through the school account number. No separate account numbers are allowed. The Principal and/or Pastor must approve all fund requisitions and disbursements.

5.6 Annual Fund Drive

Parents are selected to chair the Annual Magi Fund. The chairs actively seek contributions from all parents of the school as well as parishioners and community members. It is the goal of Epiphany Catholic School to achieve 100% school family participation in Annual Fund Drive. In order to encourage support, classes which attain 100% participation are listed in the school newsletter and awarded a special party.

6 TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Technology Acceptable Use Policy Agreement (for Parents & Students)

Epiphany Catholic School (ECS) offers students access to technology resources for educational purposes, which may include computer hardware and software licensed to the school. To gain access to the technology resources, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the Permission for Internet Usage, Media Release, & Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgement located on the last page of this handbook. Should a parent prefer that a student not have internet access, use of the computer is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing. However, any parent requesting their child not have access to the internet must meet with school administration with a plan describing how to help facilitate their child's research and school work to be completed outside of school.

6.2 Internet Access

Internet access will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other internet users around the world. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purpose of the school technology and Internet access is for constructive purposes, students may find ways to access other materials. The school has a firewall and filter which prevent students from entering inappropriate sites and is continuously updated. The school believes that the benefits to students from access to the Internet outweigh the disadvantages. However, ultimately the parents/guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, the school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether to allow for access.

6.3 Middle School Chromebook Policy

Parents and guardians of Middle School students are required to purchase one Chromebook for their children through the school at the time of their enrollment. These Chromebooks will meet the school's technical and educational specifications and will be offered at a discounted rate negotiated by the school with the supplier. While the Chromebooks are the property of the students and their families, they will remain managed by the school to ensure proper functionality and compliance with educational and safety standards. The school will provide basic technical support, service, and minor fixes to ensure the devices remain in good working condition, including one complimentary screen repair.

If a Chromebook requires repair, at the discretion of School Administration, the school may issue a "loaner" Chromebook to the student while the device is being serviced. The family and student are responsible for the "loaner" Chromebook just as they are for their purchased one. This includes ensuring proper use, maintenance, and care. Any damage, loss, or theft of the "loaner" Chromebook will require the parents/guardians to cover the cost of repairs or replacement.

If a Chromebook is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair, parents/guardians are required to replace it at their own expense. The replacement Chromebook will be billed to the parents FACTS account through at full market price, not the discounted rate originally offered for the initial purchase. There is no option to forgo replacing the Chromebook; a replacement is mandatory to ensure that the student can continue to participate in all educational activities and access necessary resources.

6.4 Expectations

Whether occurring within or outside of school, when a student's or parent's use of technology jeopardizes the safe environment of the school, staff, or students, or is contrary to Gospel values, the student can be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences including the expulsion of the student.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or anywhere on campus. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. It is expected that users will comply with Archdiocesan standards and the specific rules set forth. The use of technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's technology resources. The students are expected to never access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

Electronic Communication – Students may not use electronic communication in a way that jeopardizes the safe environment of the school, staff, or students or is contrary to Gospel values.

This policy applies to all forms of electronic communications or depictions whether they occur through the school's equipment or connectivity resources or through private communication.

Personal Safety and Personal Privacy – Student will not post personal contact information about themselves or others unless otherwise indicated in the user agreement and parent permission form. Personal contact information includes their address, telephone, school address, etc. This information may not be provided to an individual, organization, or company, including websites that solicit personal information.

Social Networking – Accessing social networking websites and/or applications, except those used for educational purposes and as directed, are off-limits on school property. The use of circumventors to get around school network security is prohibited.

Illegal Copying – Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives, external devices or cloud-based storage. Nor should students copy other individual's work or intrude into other individual's files. The download/upload of any material in violation of any U.S., State, Council, Archdiocesan, or school policy is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted materials, threatening, violent, obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.

Inappropriate materials or language – For parents and students - no profane, abusive, slanderous, bullying, or impolite language or images should be used to communicate, nor should materials be

accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior or posted online. Use of technology resources for anything other than educational purposes is also prohibited. Should students encounter inappropriate materials by accident, they should report it to their teacher immediately. A good rule to follow is never view, send, distribute, or access materials or images, which you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Use of any electronic device to transmit unacceptable language, images, and/or photos that are harmful to self or others is prohibited.

Succinct Advice

These are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of technology privileges and/or disciplinary measures at the school.

1. Do not use technology to harm self, other people, or their work.
2. Do not damage the network or any technology resources in any way.
3. Do not interfere with the network or computer operation by installing any form of software or permitting the spread of computer viruses.
4. Do not violate any copyright laws.
5. Do not view, send, distribute, or display offensive or bullying messages or images.
6. Do not share your passwords/personal information or obtain/share another persons' password/personal information.
7. Do not waste technology resources such as storage space or printing supplies.
8. Do not trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
9. Notify an adult immediately, if by accident, you encounter materials, which violate the Rules of Appropriate Use.
10. Do not attempt to circumvent network filters or security in any way.
11. Be prepared to be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.

6.5 Technology Integration and Student Device Use

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School recognizes that technology is a valuable educational tool when used appropriately and purposefully. Consistent with the mission of Catholic education and the educational philosophy of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, technology is incorporated as a **supplemental instructional resource** to enhance teaching and learning. Technology is intended to support—not replace—direct instruction, personal interaction, hands-on learning experiences, and the development of critical thinking skills.

The use of technology is determined by the classroom teacher based on instructional objectives and the developmental needs of students. Screen time is intentionally limited to ensure a balanced educational experience and to promote the healthy academic, social, emotional, and spiritual development of every child.

Technology use is governed by the following grade-level expectations:

- **Pre-Kindergarten:** Students do not use individual technology devices as part of the regular instructional program.

- **Kindergarten:** Students do not use individual technology devices during daily instruction. Individual devices are utilized only when required for the administration of NWEA assessments or other school-approved assessments.
- **First Grade:** Individual technology use is limited to **15 minutes per instructional day**. Unused technology time may not be accumulated or carried over to another day.
- **Second through Fourth Grade:** Individual technology use is limited to **15 minutes per instructional day in each “homerooms or switch” teachers classroom**. Unused technology time may not be accumulated or carried over to another day.
- **Fifth through Eighth Grade:** Each student is assigned a school-issued Chromebook to support academic instruction.
 - **Fifth and Sixth Grade:** Chromebooks remain on campus and are stored securely at school each afternoon unless otherwise authorized by the administration.
 - **Seventh and Eighth Grade:** Students may take their assigned Chromebook home each day to support academic work and are responsible for its proper care, maintenance, and appropriate use in accordance with the school's Chromebook Agreement.
- The exception for individualized technology is in STEM class. All students take this course at least once a week and individualized technology may be used.

School-issued technology is to be used exclusively for educational purposes. Students are expected to demonstrate responsible digital citizenship by using technology in a manner that reflects the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Students shall exercise honesty, integrity, respect for others, and good stewardship when utilizing school technology resources.

All students and parents/guardians are required to review and acknowledge the school's Acceptable Use Policy and, where applicable, the Chromebook Agreement prior to the use of school-issued technology.

Failure to comply with these policies may result in the suspension or revocation of technology privileges, disciplinary action, financial responsibility for damaged or lost equipment, and any other consequences deemed appropriate by the school administration.

The administration reserves the right to modify technology practices and procedures as necessary to support the school's educational mission and to address emerging instructional or technological needs.

7.1 SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School sponsors interscholastic athletic programs for our 5th - 8th grade students directed by employed coaches. ECS believes athletics are a privilege in which a student may participate.

It is our philosophy that athletics should teach fair play, sportsmanship, and an understanding and appreciation of teamwork.

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School participates within the Galveston-Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA) and administers the policies set forth by its governing body.

7.2 GALVESTON-HOUSTON CATHOLIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

All affiliated schools agree to the following goals:

- To build a community which strives to image Christ.
- To develop Christian spirit, school spirit, team spirit, and personal acceptance.
- To instill Christian sportsmanship in the lifestyles of the participants.
- To teach the participants the proper attitude towards winning, losing, and competing with dignity.
- To develop an acceptance and appreciation of others.
- To train and instruct in athletic rules.
- To develop the student's physical abilities and coordination.
- To help form well-rounded students by fostering good and healthy habits.
- To provide a Christian environment and outlet for youthful energy.
- To teach the positive value of athletic participation.
- To show the necessity of practice, work, and management of time.

These goals are founded upon the principle of the infinite worth of each person because he/she is created in the image and likeness of God.

7.3 ATHLETIC POLICY

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School Athletics are offered to student-athletes as an enhancement to the academic environment of the school. It is an extension of the curriculum. Decisions concerning the athletic program will be the responsibility of the administration and coaching staff. Parent involvement or participation will be at the discretion and with the approval of the administration and coaching staff.

The ECS Athletic Department may offer the following sports depending on participation numbers:

Fall Season: Soccer (6th-8th Co-ed); Cross Country (5th-8th Boys and Girls); 6-Man Football (6th-8th Boys); and Volleyball (6th-8th Girls)

Winter Season: Basketball (6th-8th Boys and Girls)

Spring Season: Track (5th-8th Boys and Girls); Baseball (6th-8th Boys) & Softball (6th-8th Girls)

Student-athletes may participate in Cross Country plus one other fall sport, or Track & Field plus one other spring sport. Outside sports, including Parish sports and club sports, are not school-sanctioned activities and are expected to be a secondary priority.

7.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

7.4.1 The Athletic Director is responsible to the Principal and:

- Manages all operations of the athletic program including but not limited to hiring coaches with Principal approval, scheduling practices, games, referees, and transportation for all sports teams.
- Works with the faculty and administration to ensure that the programs are consistent with the goals of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School.

7.4.2 Coaches are responsible to the Athletic Director and are expected:

- To set guidelines for the particular sport, of which the athlete will be made aware at the onset of the season.
- To provide accurate and timely information concerning practice and game dates and times to parents/guardians, the Athletic Director.
- To provide a learning environment for skill acquisition and progression of skill development.

7.4.3 Players are responsible to the Coach and are expected:

- To be representative of ECS while participating in an interscholastic event and to conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with the guidelines set forth by the coach and the Student-Parent Handbook. In the event a player cannot live up to these responsibilities he/she may be asked to withdraw from the sport.
- To be on time for practices and games, to behave in a sportsmanlike manner, to exhibit leadership qualities, and to exercise self-control.
- To be respectful of him/herself, his/her team, and the coach, and to be supportive of them.
- To be held accountable for his/her actions on the playing field while representing ECS.
- To check with the coach before leaving the practice/game site.

7.4.4 Parents/legal guardians are expected:

- To be supportive of each player, team, and coach.
- To limit “stand-talk” to positive comments.
- To dialogue with players after games, not during.
- To make an appointment to dialogue with a coach about problems rather than to speak to him/her at a game site.
- To attend a parent meeting at the beginning of each season.
- To ensure that their child has transportation to and from away games when necessary.

7.5 CODE OF CONDUCT

The conduct of a student-athlete at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School is closely observed in many areas of everyday life. It is important that the actions of the student-athlete are always above reproach.

In the area of athletic competition, the student-athlete must be gracious in defeat, modest in victory, always maintain complete control of him/herself, never use profanity, and never resort to fighting or illegal tactics.

The student-athlete should set forth an example for all students by following the policies set forth by the school, the administration, and individual teachers. The behavior pattern is also expected in the hallways, in the locker room, on the playground, in the parking lot, etc.

It is expected that the student-athlete and spectators will adhere to the rules and regulations as may be established by the school and that the student-athlete will respect the rights, privileges, and property of other members of the school community.

At athletic events, the student-athlete represents himself/herself and the Epiphany of the Lord Parish and School Community as a whole. It is expected that all concerned, coaches, athletes, parents/guardians, siblings, and all fans/visitors will behave in an acceptable manner.

Student-athletes are responsible for their own conduct, and violation of established rules and regulations may subject them to disciplinary measures or dismissal from the athletic team.

Discipline is the responsibility of the head coach and the athletic director; however, it is imperative that all policies of the school administration be strictly followed.

7.6 ATTENDANCE

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices, games, meets, tournaments, and team meetings. All team events are considered standard and mandatory. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis by the coach and the athletic director.

Other absences from team events are considered unexcused unless he/she is absent from school.

If the student-athlete misses the practice the day preceding competition without an excuse, he/she should not expect to participate in the competition the next day. Only doctor's appointments will constitute an excused absence.

Excessive absences can result in dismissal from the team. A student-athlete will receive a warning prior to dismissal.

The student-athlete's priority is being a student. Student-athletes should always be present and on time to school. The student-athlete must be present for at least four hours of school to be eligible for competition on that day (in attendance by 11:30 am).

7.7 ELIGIBILITY

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School Athletics are offered to student-athletes as a privilege and an enhancement to the academic environment of the school. It is an extension of the curriculum. Decisions concerning the athletic program will be the responsibility of the Administration, Athletic Director, and the Coaching Staff.

Parent athletic meetings will be held at the beginning of each sports season on an individual team basis. The attendance of at least one parent/guardian is mandatory. This requirement must be met prior to the student-athlete participating in competition. Parents/legal guardians unable to attend meetings may request an appointment with the coaching staff only under extenuating circumstances.

An athletic fee for each sport is required for a student-athlete to participate on an athletic team: the fees vary and are non-refundable. The fee must be paid after teams are formed but before the first competition.

All student-athletes will be required to receive a physical exam prior to the first day of school, valid within a year. He or she will not be allowed to participate or try out until all forms are returned to the athletic office.

Each student participating in an extracurricular activity is expected to meet the minimum academic and conduct standards of ECS. Students may be ruled ineligible for athletics if they fail to meet any of the following criteria:

- A student-athlete may not have any more than two D's (70%-77%) in any subjects.
- A student-athlete may not fail (69% or below) any subject.
- A student-athlete may not have a conduct grade of two N's or one U in any subject

Additionally, serious infractions in academics and conduct may lead to immediate removal from the team as determined by the administration.

Eligibility criteria will be checked on progress report and report card published dates. Student-athletes who fail to meet eligibility criteria will not be able to participate in practice or games for two (2) weeks from the progress report/report card published dates. If the student-athlete does not meet the eligibility criteria after two (2) weeks, the student-athlete will remain ineligible until deemed eligible by school administration. Student-athletes still ineligible after the initial two-week period will be reinstated based on meeting eligibility criteria, past eligibility concerns, behavior, effort by the student to correct issues, and previous athletic participation status (being in good standing with the athletic department and teams).

7.8 TEAM SELECTION/PRACTICE/GAME DAY POLICY

Team selection will be conducted by the coaches for each sport.

Practice schedules are prepared by the head coach. Student-athletes are expected to be on time to all team events. Student-athletes who continually miss practices may be dropped from the team. Playing time is determined by the coaches.

Coaches are instructed to be honest with parents/guardians and student-athletes regarding the following:

- Ability
- Positive response to coaching
- Learning opportunities
- Playing time

Student-athletes who are selected for a team should not expect to participate in competition simply based on making a team. Playing time will be based on practice, participation, and performance at the coaches' discretion.

Failure to Complete a Season

If a student-athlete leaves a sport of his/her own will, after being selected for a team, it will be noted on file and considered in future tryouts. Making a team means making a commitment to the overall athletic program.

The ECS Athletic Department understands unforeseen circumstances and will determine the following as acceptable reasons to leave a team:

- Failing grades
- Illness
- Extended absence

All other reasons will be reviewed by the coaching staff and administration.

7.9 EQUIPMENT

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School is responsible for providing the facilities and equipment needed for practices and games. Additional or special equipment for personal needs should be purchased on an individual basis.

School-issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for all ECS athletic events. The wearing of athletic uniforms in physical education classes is unacceptable. Equipment and uniforms should only be worn for the specific athletic event. They must be returned in good condition at the end of the season, or the student-athlete will be assessed a fee to replace the damaged (or lost) uniform or equipment. Student-athletes are responsible for furnishing their own shoes, knee pads, shin guards, and socks. Individual teams may request a separate fee to purchase team packages which may include some of the preceding items and including warm-ups, bags, or other team-identifying equipment.

7.10 GRIEVANCE

The ECS Athletic Department encourages open communication between parent/guardian, student-athletes, and coaches. The coaching staff welcomes comments and questions concerning athletic teams. If a parent/legal guardian would like to meet with the coaching staff of a particular sport, the athletic director and coaching staff will be present.

Parents should wait 24 hours after an incident occurs to approach the coaching staff. Coaches will not discuss an incident before, during, or after competitions. Parents with concerns should setup a meeting by contacting the athletic office and not approach coaches before, during, or after events with other parents and students present.

7.11 TRANSPORTATION

The school may provide bus transportation for athletes to and/or from games. On other occasions, parents/legal guardians are expected to transport student-athletes to and from athletic events. Parents/legal guardians who are expecting to be late should make arrangements, in advance, to have their child picked up on time. If a parent/legal guardian is late more than twice a season and has been warned by the head coach, his/her student-athlete may be suspended from the following competition date. Extenuating circumstances will be determined by the head coach and the athletic director.

7.12 PARISH SPORTS PROGRAM

Athletics at ECS begin in the early grades through a parish-wide sponsored program coached by volunteer parents. All volunteer coaches must be Safe Haven certified. This program, generally available from PrK through the 4th or 5th grade, attempts to maximize participation for our young people from our entire parish. Parish sports programs have 1 practice per week on campus with games scheduled for Saturdays.