



# **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

## **2025-2026**

99 WENDOVER ROAD  
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01118

Revised 15 August 2025

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Pope Francis Preparatory School is a Catholic co-educational, college-preparatory school which instills Gospel values and fosters academic excellence in a diverse community of learners. Our mission is to challenge students to grow spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically, to become critical thinkers and faith based leaders who embody justice, peace, service and mercy in the global community.

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The policies and procedures in this Handbook constitute an agreement among parents/guardians, students, and Pope Francis Preparatory School. All students are required to participate in all religious, and educational experiences directed by the school and encouraged to engage in PFPS social activities. Students are required to respect the principles and values explicitly and implicitly conveyed by the Roman Catholic Church and the appointees of the school. Under no circumstances may a parent excuse a student from observance of the rules and policies of Pope Francis Preparatory School.

## **CHANGES IN POLICY**

The school rules, regulations and policies listed in this document may be amended at any time during the year by the administration of Pope Francis Preparatory School. Any changes implemented by the school are effective when made unless specified otherwise. Oral and written notice will be made to students and parents.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Pope Francis Preparatory School admits academically qualified students of any race, color, gender, national/ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate in the administration of educational policies, scholarship or financial aid programs, athletic or other school-administered programs on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin.

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND**  
**POPE FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

We, the parents/guardian and student, hereby agree and acknowledge that:

***By enrolling at Pope Francis Preparatory School we, the student and the student's parent or guardian agree to all of the terms and conditions listed in this handbook and its amendments as published via this and other notices.***

- We have read and agree to abide by all rules and regulations set forth in the Pope Francis Preparatory School Handbook, as well as with any amendments made to this Handbook, for as long as this student attends Pope Francis Preparatory School therein PFPS..
- The administration has the exclusive right to set and change policy, and make all school-based decisions. Any changes implemented by the school are effective when made unless specified otherwise. We agree to abide by the school's policies and those decisions made by the administration.
- Students who reach the legal age of eighteen agree that the parents/guardians remain as a party to this contract. In all matters where parental authorization and responsibility is required for the student who is a minor, the same shall remain in force as a matter of contract during the student's enrollment here even though such student has reached the age of majority.
- Students must live under a parent or legal guardian's supervision while enrolled as at PFPS.
- Parents/guardians and the students themselves who enter upon or remain on school grounds or in buildings in a non-supervised situation waive all rights of legal action for non-supervision on the part of Pope Francis Preparatory School or its agents.
- No student or student's parent or guardian, student organization, may utilize the school's name and logo, abbreviation thereof, school employee's names, pictures, or any identifying logo for any purpose, without the written authorization from the Head of School.
- We the parents/guardians grant Pope Francis Preparatory School and its agents our permission to seek emergency medical attention for our child, if in their judgment, such attention is warranted and we are not immediately available to grant such permission.
- We have read the Pope Francis Preparatory School Acceptable Internet and Computer Use Policy. We grant permission for my/our child to use the school computers and access the associated networks and network services, including the Internet. We understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable, but we accept responsibility for guidance of Internet use, setting and conveying standards for my/our son or daughter to follow when selecting, sharing, or exploring information and media.

- We read the community service requirements and understand that students are to complete that year's portion of community service hours (25 hours) by May 1, 2026.
- We understand that the school and its grounds are under video recording and monitoring and that the recordings or information from the monitoring may be used for any and all purposes the school deems appropriate.
- Periodically, students at Pope Francis Preparatory School may be in photographs, videos, and/or interviews that may be used in various venues and formats. If I do not wish to have my child photographed or interviewed, I will provide a statement in writing with a handwritten signature. This will be kept on file in the front office for the academic year.
- We, the parents/guardians, understand our email address may be shared internally with other parent leaders, volunteers or coaches when our student is participating in a school-sponsored activity, team, production, etc. for the sole purpose of communicating about that activity. These communications will be sent in a "bcc" format to protect email identities. We understand that our email addresses will not be shared externally by the school at any time. If I do not wish to have my email address shared internally for these communications, I will provide a statement in writing with a handwritten signature. This will be kept on file in the front office for the academic year.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **PERSONNEL DIRECTORY**

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| PRESIDENT                               | DR. PAUL HARRINGTON        |
| PRINCIPAL                               | MRS. CYNTHIA GEIGER        |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR COUNSELING | MRS. CHRISTINA BRACCI      |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT                | MRS. LORI FENTON           |
| ATHLETIC DIRECTOR                       | MR. JOHN GODA              |
| ATHLETIC TRAINER                        | MS. KAYLA BLAIR            |
| CHAPLAIN                                | FR. DAVID AUFIERO          |
| COLLEGE COUNSELOR                       | MRS. JANET KELLY           |
| DEAN OF COUNSELING & STUDENT SERVICES   | MS. DIANA MASTROCOLA       |
| DEAN OF STUDENTS                        | MR. SCOTT E. O'NEILL, J.D. |
| DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY             | MR. JOHN ANZIANO           |
| DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY                  | MR. DARRYL GEOFFREY        |
| SCHOOL COUNSELOR                        | MR. CHRISTOPHER BRESNAHAN  |
| SCHOOL COUNSELOR                        | MRS. JENNIFER SCIBELLI     |
| LEAD BUSINESS OFFICER                   | MRS. KATHLEEN NELSON       |
| SCHOOL NURSE                            | MRS. MARY ANN JACKSON, RN  |

**Faculty Directory link:** Faculty and staff contact emails can be located by following this link.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pope Francis Preparatory School  
99 Wendover Road  
Springfield, MA 01118

Front Office: 833-999-7673

Front Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Fri

Summer Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Thu

### **ACCREDITATION**

Pope Francis Preparatory School is a member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and has been fully accredited by that organization. The school is also a member of the National Catholic Education Association and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Pope Francis Preparatory School holds memberships in the following organizations:

- Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association
- National Catholic Educational Association
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- Massachusetts Secondary Schools Administrators Association
- The College Board



## ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

*If you have questions regarding topics below, please contact the office indicated.*

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Absent Notification             | Front Office                  |
| Athletics                       | Athletic Director             |
| Change of Address               | Front Office                  |
| Changing Schools                | Counseling Office             |
| College Information             | Counseling Office             |
| College Scholarships            | Counseling Office             |
| Discipline Issues               | Dean of Students              |
| Early Dismissal                 | Front Office                  |
| Extra-Curricular Activities     | Principal                     |
| Financial Assistance            | Business Office               |
| Homework for Prolonged Absences | Counseling Office             |
| Illness during School Hours     | Nurse                         |
| Locker Problems                 | Front Office                  |
| Lost & Found                    | Front Office                  |
| New ID Cards                    | Front Office                  |
| Parking Permits                 | Front Office/Dean of Students |
| Tardiness                       | Dean of Students              |
| Transcripts                     | Counseling Office             |
| Transportation                  | Front Office                  |
| Truancy                         | Dean of Students              |
| Tuition/Fees                    | Business Office               |
| Tutors                          | Counseling Office             |
| Uniforms                        | Dean of Students              |
| Visitor's Pass                  | Front Office                  |

## SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

Below is the [School Calendar as published](#)  
Please refer to the [student portal](#) for any updates



## POPE FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL Master Calendar 2025-2026

| Month     | Date    | Day                 | Event                                     |
|-----------|---------|---------------------|---|
| August    | 21      | Thursday            | Freshman and Transfer Student Orientation |
| August    | 21      | Thursday            | New Parent Meeting and Social             |
| August    | 22      | Friday              | Freshman and Transfer Student Orientation |
| August    | 25      | Monday              | First Day of School - All Grades          |
| September | 1       | Monday              | No School                                 |
| September | 18      | Thursday            | Back to School Night                      |
| September | 25 & 26 | Thursday & Friday   | Grandparents Celebration                  |
| October   | 3       | Friday              | Blessing of the Animals                   |
| October   | 6       | Monday              | Early Dismissal - Grades 9-11 PSAT Day    |
| October   | 13      | Monday              | No School                                 |
| October   | 17      | Friday              | Mid-Semester Grade Reports Issued         |
| October   | 24      | Friday              | Professional Development - No School      |
| November  | 2       | Sunday              | Admissions Open House                     |
| November  | 3       | Monday              | All School Service Day                    |
| November  | 26-28   | Wednesday-Friday    | Thanksgiving Break - No School            |
| December  | 16-19   | Tuesday-Friday      | Fall Semester Exams                       |
| December  | 22      | Monday              | Exam Make-up Day If Needed                |
| December  | 23-31   | Tuesday - Wednesday | Christmas Break - No School               |
| January   | 1       | Thursday            | No School                                 |
| January   | 2       | Friday              | Professional Development - No School      |
| January   | 5       | Monday              | 1st Semester Report Cards Issued          |
| January   | 5       | Monday              | School Resumes - 2nd Semester Begins      |
| January   | 19      | Monday              | No School                                 |
| February  | 16-20   | Monday-Friday       | Winter Break - No School                  |
| March     | 6       | Friday              | Faculty Retreat - No School               |
| March     | 9       | Monday              | No School                                 |
| March     | 16      | Monday              | Mid-Semester Grade Reports Issued         |
| April     | 3       | Friday              | No School                                 |
| April     | 6       | Monday              | No School                                 |
| April     | 20-24   | Monday - Friday     | Spring Break - No School                  |
| May       | 25      | Monday              | No School                                 |
| May       | 27      | Wednesday           | Baccalaureate Mass                        |
| May       | 28      | Thursday            | Commencement                              |
| May       | 28 & 29 | Thursday & Friday   | Spring Semester Exams, Grades 9-11        |
| June      | 1 & 2   | Monday & Tuesday    | Spring Semester Exams, Grades 9-11        |
| June      | 2       | Tuesday             | Last Day of School, Grades 9-11           |

updated 1.4.24

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 7:25 - 7:40   | Arrival & Breakfast (students remain in lobby and Dining Commons) |
| 7:40-7:50     | Move to class   |
| 7:50 - 9:15   | First Period  |
| 9:21 - 10:41  | Second Period   |
| 10:46 - 12:32 | Lunch & Third Period (see below)                                  |
| 12:38 - 2:05  | Fourth Period   |
| 2:05 - 2:30   | Dismissal   |

### **Lunch Schedule**

| 1st Lunch                | 2nd Lunch                | 3rd Lunch                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Class Period 10:47-12:07 | Class Period 10:47-12:07 | Class Period 10:47-12:07 |
| 1st Lunch 10:41-11:06    | 2nd Lunch 11:24 - 11:49  | 3rd Lunch 12:07-12:32    |

## **ADVISING**

Advisory is a small group of students guided by a member of the staff or faculty to engage with students across the community and discuss topics to help students have a rewarding time as members of the PFPS community. Advisory will typically be a 30 minute activity and normally meet once per month.

## **REMOTE LEARNING**

*PFPS does not cancel or delay school for inclement weather.* Therefore, all students are required to log in for remote learning and follow that day's A or E schedule. Should this be the case, these days are announced in the following ways:

- Local news channels
- School-wide email

First period - 8:30 - 9:40 (70 min)

Passing Time - 10 min

Second period - 9:50 - 11:00 (70 min)

Passing Time - 10 min

Third period -11:10 - 12:20 (70 min)

Lunch 12:20 - 12:50 (30 min)

Fourth period - 12:50 - 2:00 (70 min)

Students need to use the Zoom or Google Meet link provided by their teacher via Google Classroom to sign into their classes. Please follow the guidelines below while participating in remote learning:

- All students are expected to attend their entire class meeting, alone and seated in an appropriate work area, and wearing Cardinal Spirit Wear tops.
- Students will follow their regularly scheduled classes, utilizing the class meeting links posted by the teacher and in accordance with their academic schedule and the day's rotation. It is not necessary to check-in for Study Hall periods.
- Students must have their laptop camera on throughout their class and be physically on camera. Students who do not appear on screen will be considered absent.
- No class material will be recorded without the explicit permission of the teacher.
- Students should not have anything distracting or inappropriate in the background.
- Classroom decorum observed, for example: no food during class.
- Academic honesty is expected of students at all times.
- Students should mute themselves unless otherwise directed by their teacher in order to minimize background noise.

### **HONOR CODE**

The PFPS community believes in our mission to grow spiritually and intellectually and believes that honor and integrity are essential to achieving those key aspects of our mission while embodying justice. To encourage and guide students, we have an Honor Code that serves to guide our student and community engagement. Students and staff are asked to embrace this in each and every endeavor here at PFPS and within our community at large.

#### **PFPS Honor Code:**

*As a Pope Francis Preparatory Student, I pledge to be a respectful witness to the faith based mission of our school.*

*I pledge to maintain a high level of integrity regarding my work and understand that it reflects my character. Dishonesty damages our community. I promise not to lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate those behaviors.*

*I agree to adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy. I have the responsibility to uphold this honor code at all times in all circumstances.*

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The policies and procedures in this Handbook constitute an agreement among parents/guardians, students, and Pope Francis Preparatory School. All students are expected to participate in all religious, social, and educational experiences directed by the school. Students are required to respect the principles and values explicitly and implicitly conveyed by the Roman Catholic Church and the appointees of the school. Under no circumstances may a parent excuse a student from observance of the rules and policies of Pope Francis Preparatory School.

### **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

*Students attending PFPS commit themselves to a rigorous program of studies that cultivates academic excellence.* They must recognize that academic study is their primary responsibility as a student, and they must not act in any manner that undermines the academic environment for themselves, their classmates or our community. All assigned work for PFPS classes must be developed, completed and submitted using the issued school device and on the PFPS assigned Google account. This allows educators and students the opportunity to collaborate on work progress and better assess student learning throughout the work's development.

### **CLASS TIME**

Time in class is the most important part of a student's academic growth. Therefore, students are expected to treat class time with due respect; arriving on time and prepared, remaining attentive and engaged throughout, and participating in accordance with the classroom teacher's instruction. Students may earn both academic and disciplinary consequences for inadequate preparation or inappropriate behavior in the classroom. Teachers may require students to stay after school when class time is not used properly or the student(s), in the teachers' view, requires curriculum assistance, or where the student(s) would otherwise not seek out the assistance.

### **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an important part of a student's education process and is essential for academic success. Homework is not limited to written work. Reading, review of class notes, research, preparation for quizzes and tests, *etc.* are all homework. Students who expect to progress in their studies should be prepared to devote a substantial amount of time outside the school day to homework. The point value for assignments will vary according to each teacher's criteria. This is noted in the syllabus for each course, distributed at the beginning of the semester.

### **GRADES**

Teachers post grades for assignments/assessments to the Blackbaud portal at least twice per month. Students and parents/guardians can see their grades at any time by checking the Blackbaud portal. They are encouraged to check frequently and to be aware of their grades and averages.

### **MISSED WORK**

When students miss academic work due to illness, they are responsible to find out what they missed and complete the work in no more than seven school days. Teachers; where appropriate, due to lab and exam requirements, may require work to be made up more quickly than this.

Planned absences - Teachers are not able to give assignments prior to planned absences. When the absence is planned for three or more days it is the responsibility of the student to obtain a

planned absence form from the Counseling Office, complete it with all appropriate signatures and submit it to the Principal. Students need to complete and submit all assignments that are and come due during the planned absence on that assignment's due date; **without extension**. The student is required; if authorized to do so, to schedule and complete any missed in class assessments (quizzes, tests) on the day of the student's return, or in accordance with the course syllabus. Students are responsible to review these expectations when it is provided by the teacher or where they are clearly explained in the class syllabus, distributed at the beginning of the semester. **Students whose missed work is past due must still complete it, although they may not receive credit.** After approval from the Principal, teachers may make exceptions for extended absences.

Suspension - Students who miss any in class assignment due to disciplinary absences; suspension or dismissal for the remainder of the day; are not missing due to illness, and as such may not complete missed in class assignments or assessments, assigned or due in class that day.

### **EXTRA HELP & TUTORING**

Students who are experiencing academic difficulties should first seek extra help directly from their teacher. Teachers are in the building regularly until 2:40 p.m. and available for extra help by appointment. There is also the option of peer tutors. Students can seek them out via their counselor or the National Honor Society advisor.

### **EDUCATION PLANS**

Education plans may be created for students with diagnosed disabilities that need minor adjustments to support their learning environment. Documentation of the diagnosed disability that impacts learning must be current and have been administered through district evaluations, independent evaluations or attending physician's evaluation. The school developed plan will include input from counselors, administrators, teachers, students, and parents. Plans are reviewed yearly to ensure any services are appropriate for the student's current needs. These plans may include minor adjustments; however, plans will not modify curriculum or curriculum requirements. If the student's learning needs are outside of the scope of services that can be delivered in our academic setting, by our instructors, students and parents will be advised to seek an alternate setting in a timely manner.

### **LEARNING LAB**

The Learning Lab provides a teacher-facilitated learning experience for students to promote learner resiliency, self-advocacy, and organization skills as well as offer content-based support in collaboration with students' classroom teachers.

### **EXAMS**

Every semester ends with a final exam (or equivalent culminating experience) worth 10% of the semester grade. All students must be present during their scheduled exam periods for this exam/experience. Students need not be present during their Study Hall periods during exams. Any missed exam will be assigned a zero (0). **Unacceptable** reasons for missing an exam period include sporting events, travel or vacation. The only acceptable reasons for missing an exam period for illness. Students should work with their school counselor to arrange make-up exams. Teachers are **not authorized** to make alternative arrangements with the students for makeup or alternative exams. (See [School Calendar](#) for dates.)

Students missing exams, with administrative approval, must make up the exam during the scheduled make-up period. Where the nature of the absence makes this impossible, the student needs to make an alternative arrangement with the Principal. Students missing exams will automatically receive 0% for the exam, in addition to any disciplinary consequences for skipping class.

### **SENIOR EXAM EXEMPTIONS**

Teachers have the option, at their discretion, to exempt seniors with an average of 90% or higher from their exams. Only seniors are eligible for this exemption.

### **EVALUATIONS AND REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are emailed to parents/guardians twice a year, at the end of each semester. These grades are the only permanently recorded on the student's transcript. Parents/guardians are responsible for checking for report card emails.

Mid-semester grade reports are emailed to all students and parents/guardians. These two reports form the basis for academic eligibility/ineligibility for sports and activities (*see [Academic Eligibility](#)*).

### **REPORT CARDS AND TRANSCRIPTS**

Final report cards and official transcripts will be sent to parents/guardians of students when they and the student have fulfilled **all** outstanding obligations to the school. This includes financial obligations, required service hours, completion of disciplinary sanctions and return of all issued school equipment and textbooks.

### **GRADE APPEAL**

Students who wish to appeal a final grade should notify the teacher in writing within three days of the issuance of report cards. If the teacher and student cannot resolve the discrepancy, it should be brought to the Principal for review and further investigation.

### **INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK**

Incompletes are given on rare occasions when a student is unable to make up missed work beyond the grade closing date. In order for a teacher to issue an incomplete on a report card, there must be extenuating circumstances that are discussed with and approved by the Dean of Counseling and Student Services prior to the end of the semester. The Dean of Counseling and Student Services, in consultation with the classroom teacher and counselor, will determine a specific time frame to complete the work. The Dean of Counseling and Student Services is responsible for ensuring that the work is completed in accordance with the agreed upon conditions.

### **CREDIT RECOVERY**

Students who fail a course are required to remediate the credit. A counselor will inform students and parents/guardians of the need for credit recovery after final grades are posted. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and the student to sign up and pay for credit recovery options. Programs must be approved by the counselor or Principal prior to enrolment, and the school must receive final grades from the program prior to the August start date of the new school year. Students who are not successful with credit recovery will be reviewed for dismissal from the school. Final grades for successful credit recovery will replace the previously failing grade with a 60% (regardless of the score received in the credit recovery program), and the student's GPA will

be recalculated based on the grade of 60%. Recovery of credit for a failed course does not change a student's eligibility for sports and other school-based activities.

Due to the unavailability of suitable credit recovery programs for Theology classes, any student who fails a Theology course will have to make up the course the following academic year. This will be in addition to the student's normally required Theology class.

### **REPEATED FAILURES**

Credit recovery is not an appropriate substitute for academic success. Students failing multiple courses, either in the same semester or subsequent semesters, will be reviewed for dismissal from the school.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

All students must successfully earn 28 credits to meet graduation requirements (see [Course Catalog](#)). In addition to the 28 credits, the student needs to meet the following additional requirements to graduate:

- Minimum of 100 community service hours (see [Community Service](#))
- Participation in annual class retreats

Students will not be allowed to participate in graduation activities unless they have fulfilled **all** outstanding obligations to the school, including service, academic, financial, and disciplinary responsibilities.

### **Graduation Dress Code/Academic Honors**

Students who meet the graduation requirements and are in good standing are invited to attend commencement exercises. The dress code for commencement is located in the [dress code section](#) of this handbook.

Students may only wear graduation honors and regalia, inclusive of sashes, cords, robes and headwear issued by and authorized by the school. Wearing of personalized accessories or items such as pins, cords or sashes that are issued by outside societies are not permitted. Students may not alter the headwear or robes in any manner, to include but not limited to: shortening the robe, adding art or text to the academic headwear. Please direct questions to the Dean of Students.



## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS)

The St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter of the NHS celebrates student achievement in academics, leadership, service, and character. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12, are eligible to apply if they are in good standing, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.800. For students applying for membership in grades 11 and 12, they will be assessed on their cumulative GPA at the start of the school year, which includes 4-6 semesters worth of grades. For students applying for membership in grade 10, they will be assessed on their cumulative GPA after the first semester of sophomore year, which includes three semesters worth of grades. A student may not be considered for admission, if they did not complete and submit the application by the due date, the GPA threshold is not met, has lost good standing, has a disciplinary history, failed to complete the prior years service hours, or engaged in conduct that is incompatible with our schools Catholic mission. All applications will be reviewed by a Faculty Counsel for final approval. Active NHS students may be placed on probation, or removed from membership for various reasons, including decrease in GPA, failure to complete service hours (school or NHS), loss of good standing, disciplinary issues, or conduct that is incompatible with our schools Catholic mission.

## COURSE SCHEDULING

Students work together with their counselor to determine which academic courses they will take in the following school year. In the second semester, the Course Catalog is published, and students are encouraged to seek input from teachers, counselors, and parents/guardians. Course placement is determined by a student's achievement, aptitude, and motivation. Most courses have prerequisites which can include a specific grade standard; some courses require instructor recommendation and/or Principal approval. After students have submitted their course selection forms they meet with their counselors to review their selections. Potential problems that surface are resolved by students, teachers, parents/guardians, and counselors together. Final selections must be approved by both the counselor and the parent/guardian. **All students are required to carry a minimum of seven credits per year.** Students must understand that they may not be able to take all of the courses they initially choose. Schedule conflicts, limited availability, and insufficient enrollment (which may cause a class to be canceled) may all require a change to the student's selections.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

While every effort is made to give each student their best schedule, changes are not normally allowed. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances may be made only after meeting and authorization from the Principal. Such changes are not made without serious cause, and they may not cause a student to drop below the seven credit minimum. Changing courses may result in a book fee. The final decision of the Principal on all schedule changes is final.

## WEIGHTING/QUALITY POINT SCALE

In order to determine GPA, the following weight/quality point scale will be used: College Preparatory class will not receive any additional quality points; Honors Level classes will receive an additional weight of 0.5; Advanced Placement classes will receive an additional weight of 1.

## VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

PFPS partners with VHS Learning, which offers opportunities for online learning. Students will have access to approximately 200 courses with classmates around the world. Participation in VHS requires students to work independently, fully utilize technology, and be extremely disciplined and self-motivated. All VHS courses receive PFPS credit and are factored into the GPA. An

application process must be completed in order to take advantage of this opportunity. Students may only take the equivalent of one credit hour of VHS coursework per year, unless otherwise approved by the Principal. If a student decides to drop a VHS course or fails a VHS course, they will be required to reimburse the school for the cost of the class. Students may only enroll in an authorized VHS course where that course is not offered within the PFPS curriculum. VHS is open to junior and senior students only. The school reserves the right to refuse to allow any student to take a VHS class at its sole discretion. There are a limited number of VHS enrollments every year, therefore the school will prioritize which students may participate. The enrollments are prioritized as follows:

- Seniors requiring a core class for graduation which may not fit into their schedule
- Seniors requiring a class for needed credit
- Seniors requesting an AP class which the school does not offer
- Seniors requesting a class which the school does not offer
- Juniors requesting a class the school does not offer

### **PSAT**

All freshmen are required to take the 8/9 PSAT and all sophomores and juniors are required to take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall. These tests are predictors of achievement on the SAT. The results also help us to determine if students are making benchmarks in English and mathematics. The results can be used to determine students who may benefit from remediation and extra help as well as help to inform placement in English and math classes.

### **SAT**

The SAT is offered at PFPS in the spring for juniors and fall for seniors who are interested in taking the test. Students are given guidance about whether it is in their interest to take the test by the college counselor. Students who register for the test will be required to pay the standard fee.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

PFPS believes attendance is an essential part of a students' academic success and an integral part of the school community. This includes not only being present in academic classes but also at liturgies, assemblies, and other school events. It is the expectation that students and their parents/guardians schedule all appointments, travel, *etc.* outside of school hours. Arrival and dismissal for seniors may be altered where the senior student has a study at the end or beginning of the day in accordance with the [senior privileges](#) and where the student is in good standing. (See [Good Standing](#)) Students and parents/guardians need to be aware of the attendance policy listed in this section.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be tracked and recorded daily. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every period. All students are expected to arrive on time prior to the start of the first class and remain in school until properly dismissed at the scheduled end of the school day. Students need to be in the classroom and in their assigned seats at the bell that begins each class. A student may not be absent for more than half a class period to be marked present for that period.

## ABSENCES

PFPS does not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. In order to earn course credit, a student may not exceed **eight (8) absences** per semester, regardless of reason. Students and parents will receive a warning notice from the Dean of Students when they exceed five (5) absences. Students exceeding eight absences in any one class per semester will have missed an excessive amount of classroom time therefore they may not receive academic credit for those classes. *Please note tardy to school and early dismissals do affect a student’s absence total for a specific class.* Students who lose credit for absences need to recover credit (see [Credit Recovery](#)) in order to advance/graduate.

## TARDINESS

Students who are tardy to school more than three (3) times per semester will receive disciplinary sanctions (*starting with Deans conference, detention and escalating according to the [Disciplinary Actions](#) section*). Tardiness to school may cause a student to be marked absent from class (see [Absences](#)), loss of parking privileges or loss of senior privileges.

## PROCEDURE FOR ABSENCE

If a student is absent from school, the parent/guardian needs to call the front office before 9:00 a.m. to report the student’s absence. After 9:00 a.m. the school will call the parent’s/guardian’s provided preferred contact number to verify the student’s absence.

## DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

A student may not be dismissed from school during the school day without a written note provided and signed by the parent/guardian explaining the reasons for the student’s dismissal. *Dismissal for driving school is not an appropriate reason for leaving school and missing academic time.* The only exception is a dismissal due to illness, which must be approved by the school nurse. Dismissal from school will cause a student to be marked absent from class (see [Absences](#)). *Students will only be released to persons specifically authorized and identified in writing by the parent/guardian.* A student may not be dismissed early due to a study period if the student’s senior privileges are suspended due to discipline or lack of good standing. (See [good standing](#))

## DEPARTURE FROM CAMPUS

Students may remain on campus until 5:00 p.m. provided they are under direct faculty/staff supervision. When not participating in a club or extracurricular activity, students need to remain in the supervised Event Lobby or where otherwise directed and supervised; until they leave campus. Once a student leaves the school campus the student is no longer under the supervision of the faculty and staff of PFPS and therefore any duty, expressed or implied, for the care and custody of that student rests solely with the parent or guardian of the student. This may include but is not limited to; using authorized recreation facilities, exercising senior privileges and returning for academic time, leaving after school and returning for a later supervised practice or event, dropping off a sibling or classmate and then leaving the campus and returning prior to the school day. **Students who are not being monitored by a coach or staff member for a sporting event or practice may not enter the locker rooms.** Students remaining on campus after school and not in compliance with after school supervision will have their parent or guardian contacted to pick them up and be subject to disciplinary action.

## **PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC AND OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Students must be present for three **full** periods (*no partial periods, even if marked present*) of a school day in order to participate in any school-related club or activity that day. Students must be present for three **full** periods of the Friday (or last day of the school week) prior to the weekend or holiday event in order to participate in any activities. Please note tardiness and early dismissals, regardless of reasoning, will affect a student's eligibility for athletic and other school activities for that day or weekend. Where appropriate, exceptions in rare cases (e.g. funeral or wake) may be granted by the Dean of Students .

## **WAIVER FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**

In extraordinary circumstances (such as documented hospitalizations, long term illness requiring returning continuing medical treatment, *etc.*), an attendance waiver from the attendance policy may be requested. The waiver request should be made to the Dean of Students in a timely fashion, no later than five days after returning to school. Wherever possible this notice should be made **before** the student exceeds the limit. In case of long term or chronic illness that is preventing the student from attending school, the following documentation and information by the treating professional must be submitted to the Dean of Students:

- Letter on office letterhead from treating physician/counselor/psychiatrist
- Diagnosis of the medical condition which prevents attendance to school
- Prognosis and suggested timeline the students may be affected
- Treatment plan and any recommendations for accommodations

After all documentation is received, a meeting will be called with the parent/guardian, the Principal, School Nurse, School Counselor and the Dean of Students. This committee will determine whether or not the waiver will be granted. *If the waiver is granted, to have absences medically excused for chronic illness a parent/guardian must call and inform the Nurse's Office on the morning of the absence.*

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR & CONDUCT POLICY**

“Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it.”

James, CHAPTER 1, 2-5 | USCCB.” *Bible.usccb.org*, 2025, [bible.usccb.org/bible/james/1](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/james/1).

The purpose of the policy is to help develop an environment that is supportive of our educational mission for all members of our community, and to help students cultivate virtue and preparedness for being leaders in our world community by encouraging good behavior and discouraging bad behavior. Behaviors that are not in keeping with our mission or our Catholic identity and community standards may be reviewed under this policy.

This policy serves as a guideline, rather than an exhaustive list of appropriate and inappropriate behavior. It governs student behavior from arrival on campus through departure, **and** at all school events (including off-campus school activities). In all cases, the instructions of the faculty, staff and administrators are to be followed.

Administrative decisions regarding this policy and student behavior are authoritative and final. The policies listed here are subject to change; when changed a notice will be provided by email distribution to students and families.

### **NOTIFICATIONS OF VIOLATIONS**

When a staff member is issuing a notice of violation, they will advise the student. Students and parents will be advised of the violation in writing. It is the responsibility of the student to meet with the Dean of Students immediately following school dismissal at 2:05 p.m. before leaving school on the day of receipt of the violation. After meeting with the Dean of Students, the date for service of the detention and its length of time, normally Thursday afternoons for a one (1) hour period from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., or administrative sanction will be assigned; the service of detention is at the discretion of the Dean of Students regardless of extracurricular conflict. The student is responsible for advising their coach, director or club advisor that they will be late or miss an event due to their violation of the Student Behavior and Conduct Policy.

### **GOOD STANDING**

Students are in good standing unless they were sanctioned for an Intermediate or Major violation. Students are not in good standing if they fail to complete the required service hours by May 1st, violate the Honor Code or the Academic Integrity Policy. Students not in good standing remain in this status for four months of school (summers not counted).

Being a Catholic student leader has, as its core principles, personal and ethical responsibility. Student leaders serve as role models and must be productive and respectful members of our community. If you are not in good standing, then you are not engaged in behavior that is representative of the Catholic and educational mission of our community. Therefore, not being in good standing may result in loss of all student leadership role(s) and removal from student government.

The following privileges are allowed to students in good standing. Students who lose their good standing are ineligible to serve in these roles. Should any student be serving in any student leadership role and no longer meet the good standing requirements they will be removed from that leadership role and forfeit any and all rights and privileges of that role.

- Membership in or application for Student Government
- Membership in NHS (in accordance with chapter and national policies)
- Leadership positions in clubs, activities, and or sports teams
- Enrollment in Christian Leadership
- Participation in field trips, Field Day, Semi-Formal, and Prom
- Other leadership roles, including reading the announcements, representing the school, etc
- Senior privileges
- Service as a member of SOAR

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICIES

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity is compliance with ethical, academic and moral principles, standards, practices and a consistent system of values, that serves as guidance for making decisions and taking actions in education, research and scholarship. PFPS demands the strictest honesty from our students. Assignments, papers, computer programs, tests and coursework are the core of the educational process. Students must be able to demonstrate that the work submitted is their own, and are required to complete their own work. No student shall allow his or her paper, assignment, project, program, or any artifact assigned by the teacher; in outline or finished form, to be copied and submitted as the work of another; nor shall a student prepare a written assignment or program for another student to submit as that student's work. A student may not submit his or her own paper, assignment, project or computer program for credit if it has been in the past, or is being used now, to fulfill the requirements of another course. All work that a student submits for any assignment or assessment must be that student's *own original work* and not compiled, drafted or created by anyone or anything, in any manner. This prohibition extends to generative Artificial Intelligence and AI-powered editing tools; Grammarly, WordTune and other similar applications or programs. The use of artificial intelligence editors, known as "humanizers" or "bypasser" tools, is a violation of this policy. Using AI to suggest revisions to your writing is the use of generative AI. This means that generative and editorial AI on an assignment or in a class, is prohibited except where *AI use is specifically directed by the teacher in that particular assignment's instructions*. All work must include proper credit and citations to the original source in accordance with academic convention and the teacher's instructions. Students should be prepared to submit all notes, drafts, and source information which might be requested by an instructor, chairperson, or Dean investigating the authenticity of that work. A violation of the Academic Integrity policies will result in loss of good standing.

If the student is a member of NHS, a review for probation or removal will take place.

**Artificial Intelligence** - Is a computer system or machines designed to mimic human intelligence and perform tasks that typically require human-like thinking. This can include recognizing patterns, learning from data, making decisions, understanding language, and perceiving or responding to the environment. AI can quickly process large amounts of data, detect patterns, and make recommendations or decisions based on its analysis. Use of generative AI, such as, but not limited to, ChaptGPT and other large language models, violates this policy, or using it to complete coursework in a way not ***expressly permitted*** by the faculty member is a violation of the Honor Code and the Behavior and Student Conduct Policy.

**Plagiarism** - Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's work as his or her own. It includes wholly or partially copying, translating, or paraphrasing information or data without acknowledgement of the source. This can include using the wording of a student's paper or computer program from another's as his or her own work. Paragraphs, sentences, or even key phrases clearly copied from a book, article, essay, lecture, newspaper, program, another student's paper, notebook or program, or any other source, may be included only if presented as quotations and the source properly acknowledged. Similarly, since the ideas expressed in a paper, report, or computer program are accepted as originating with the student; a paper or program that paraphrases ideas taken from a book, article, essay, lecture, newspaper, program, another student's paper, notebook, or program, or any other source may not be submitted unless each paraphrased

source is properly cited. Students should be prepared up to one month beyond the due date of a paper or program to submit all notes, draft materials.

**Cheating** - When a student uses, possesses or creates unauthorized or illicit materials during any assessment, or possess any items or materials that have as their purpose to provide an academic advantage. This can include, but is not limited to, copying from another student's examination paper or allowing another to copy from one's own paper on assignments or during an examination. Using and possessing *unpermitted* material, "cheat sheets" notes, texts, calculators, smart phones, or any other unauthorized items during an examination is a violation of this policy. If study materials are allowed for completion of the assignment, quiz, test or exam the instructor will make an *explicit statement of authorization* for their use at the time of the in class assessment, in the class syllabus or in the rubric and instructions for that assessment and delineate the specific standards for the study guide. Revising, without the instructor's knowledge, and resubmitting any assessment or assignment for regrading is also considered cheating. Paying another person, purchasing completed assignments or having another person, program, Artificial Intelligence, or utilizing a service to draft, compile or complete work for you which you intend to or do then submit as your own, is cheating. Giving or receiving *unpermitted* aid on take home academic assignments, looking at another student's work, or illegitimately acquiring copies of the assessment are all considered cheating.

Plagiarism and cheating frequently involve two or more students: one who shares their work inappropriately, and others who uses it inappropriately. **All students known to be involved**, in any manner, are subject to review for violations of the Academic Integrity policy and will be subject to sanctions in accordance with the Honor Code and Behavior and Student Conduct Policy.

## **SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS**

Violations of the Academic Integrity standards will subject the student to:

- A grade no greater than a 55 for the assignment and may, for subsequent violations result a failing grade for the course
- Disciplinary sanctions for major violations
- Loss of good standing for a minimum of four months from violation

## **DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES DEFINITION**

A student may be subject to the consequences in this policy where the student's behavior warrants it. Whenever appropriate a progressive implementation of the disciplinary policy will be used and any consequences will be proportional to the classification of the violation(s) and the nature and impact on our community. The policy is objective in nature and looks at the student, the violation, the impact and harm of the violation. Students subject to any disciplinary action will be required to meet with the Dean of Students to review their conduct and the impact on the PFPS community. Student's parents or guardians will be connected and will pick up their child for the balance of the day, where, in the estimation of the Dean of Students, the student's conduct is disrespectful or not in keeping with the mission and community standards of PFPS.

**Detention** - A detention is a consequence issued by a staff member, for a violation of this policy. A detention is a period of required attendance after school, from one (1) to four (4) hours (a four hour detention will be served in two, two-hour blocks on consecutive days), for violation or violations of a policy as defined or referenced in this handbook. After school activities are not considered valid excuses for not serving a detention. The length of the detention, the number of

detentions and the day of service will be determined by the Dean of Students based on the nature of the violations and or history of repeated and escalatory and diminishing violations. Missing a detention will escalate the sanction for the violation to the next higher level of violation. Students who receive more than two detentions in a semester will automatically receive a Dean's Conference and administrative consequences.

Dean's Conference - For major violations, intermediate violations, and repeated minor violations the student may be dismissed for the balance of the school day, assigned detention(s) as appropriate **and** the student and the student's parents/guardians will participate in a required meeting with the Dean of Students to address underlying causes of the serious misbehavior and to develop strategies for the student to engage in appropriate and productive behaviors. On the day or discovery of the infraction, the student's parents or guardians will be connected to pick up their child for the balance of the day, where, in the estimation of the Dean of Students, the student's conduct is disrespectful or contradictory to the mission and community standards of PFPS. Consequences for the violations discussed at the Dean's Conference may include detentions, or suspension. These disciplinary actions are in addition to any administrative remedies required as a result of the Dean's Conference, which can be, letters of apology, loss of privileges, loss of good standing and other remedies in line with the nature of the violation. Repeated violations that would regularly require a Dean's Conference and detention may and will normally escalate to Suspension.

Suspension - Violations or repeated violations that, in the view of the school's administration, tend to or may harm or endanger other members of our school community, negatively impact our mission, or are of such a repetitive nature that previous sanctions are not ameliorating the negative behavior, or behaviors that are contradictory to our mission or Catholic identity and community standards will result in suspension for a day or number of days proportional to the violation(s). The period of suspension is assigned by the Dean of Students and where appropriate, and the Principal and the President are advised of the circumstances. While suspended, students may not attend any PFPS activities, events or their classes (neither remotely or in-person) but they are required to complete all missed material on their own and meet all due dates of assignments without extension. Students who miss an in class assessment due to disciplinary absences, suspension; may only complete a missed in class assessment, at the discretion of the instructor, but must do so on the first day back at school following the period of suspension. Students who are on a period of suspension must submit all work on the date originally due without gaining any additional time consideration for the absence. PFPS will report suspensions to colleges and universities where the college or university asks for that information. A student who is suspended more than once in a semester or more than twice in an academic year will be referred to the leadership team for review for removal from the PFPS community.

Removal - Removal may result where a student has behavior or violations that are, in the view of the PFPS community, harmful, dangerous, criminal and/or contrary to our mission, academic and religious values. Additionally, a single violation or offense may result in an expulsion or repeated violations that would normally result in an additional suspension should result in expulsion from the school.



Administrative Action - Addressment of violations of this policy by implementation of a consequence, or any combination of consequences, does not preclude the administrators of PFPS from taking any administrative action or referral to law enforcement as they, in their sole discretion, deem necessary in order to provide for the safe and orderly accomplishment of our mission.

### **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

When a student's behavior constitutes criminal activity, under the Massachusetts General Law or Federal code, the school, in its sole discretion, may involve the police, this is in addition to any disciplinary or administrative consequences.

### **PARTICIPATION IN MISBEHAVIOR**

Students may not encourage or participate in behaviors that are dangerous, destructive, or otherwise inappropriate. Students who participate in or otherwise encourage misbehavior, video record it, may receive disciplinary action appropriate to that misbehavior. (For example, a student who cheers on or records a fight instead of reporting it may receive the same punishment as the fighting students.)

### **CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Use of any electronic device, unless directed by the supervising staff member, **is not permitted during class.**

During holy liturgy and all other student assemblies, all phones, ear buds or other listening devices must be stored in the students' backpack or locker. The use of a phone or ear buds during Mass is disrespectful of the prayerful nature of the time and its use is prohibited.

During all class time phones, earbuds/headphones and other non issued electronic devices are not to be used. Phones can not be used when leaving the classroom for restroom use or other reasons, such as fire drills. Cell phones are to be turned into a collection area in the classroom during the class time. During in-class assessments or at the direction of the supervising staff member, students are required to store all smart watches or other "smart" devices, with the cell phone in the classroom phone collection area. Teachers are allowed to confiscate the device, and then submit it to the Dean of Students when a student is in violation of this policy.

Violations of this policy or a teacher's instruction regarding the use of electronic devices will result in a referral to the Dean's office and may result in detention, and/or the students' phone or device being retained during the school day or days by the Dean. In certain instances the student's authorization to possess a phone while at PFPS will be suspended. Confiscated phones will be given to the Dean of Students and must be picked up by the student in the Dean's Office at the end of the school day. On the second or aggravated offense resulting in confiscation of the phone it will only be returned to the parent or guardian.

During students' non-class time, such as passing periods, study halls or lunch, cell phones may be used as long as, in the estimation of the administration or supervising faculty member, they are neither distracting nor used in an inappropriate manner.

## **SEARCHES**

The school retains control of its real and physical properties, including lockers, locks, the parking lot, and school-issued computers. Therefore, the school has the right to search any of these at any time.

In addition, the school retains the right to search a student's person and personal belongings that the student brings onto school property, including cell phone, motor vehicle or the school's issued P.C. if it believes that inappropriate or dangerous materials are likely to be found. In such cases, the student and belongings will be searched in the presence of two PFPS staff members.

The items found in any such search may be turned over to the police for inspection and possible prosecution, in addition to any school disciplinary action.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Consuming, possessing, controlling or using alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, drug paraphernalia, intoxicants, vaping paraphernalia or unauthorized prescription medication, alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (including vaping) at school or school events, or attending school or school events while under their influence, is indicative of a serious health issue and are serious transgressions of the values held by our school community. Students found consuming any intoxicant, being under the influence, possessing, controlling or using alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, drug paraphernalia, intoxicants, vaping paraphernalia or unauthorized prescription medication will be subject to disciplinary action (as described above) and the following administrative or criminal actions.

- Parents/guardians will be notified immediately.
- Law enforcement notification and involvement where the violation is subject to criminal statutory control.
- Counseling services will be required to the satisfaction of the school counselor.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

The violations listed here are those that our community believes, when engaged upon by students, are in violation of our school's mission. The violations are classified into minor, intermediate and major violations. This organization is reflective of the impact of these prohibited behaviors and possible consequences that the student may be responsible for should the student engage in such conduct. This list and classifications are not all inclusive nor are they exclusive to any specific consequence, where the conduct has an impact on our mission or our community the Dean of Students will dismiss the student for the balance of the day and may assign any other consequences as appropriate to promote our mission. An unclassified act or behavior that is in conflict with our mission or our Catholic identity or community standards may also be subject to disciplinary consequences after review by the Dean of Students, Principal or the President. Where a student's action, or failure to act, or the student's behaviors are not reflected as a classified violation under this code, the Dean of Students will address the conduct as needed. The Dean of Students will meet with the student and assign consequences that are most appropriate to address the impact to the community.

Minor Violations - The following behaviors are minor violations and will be referred to the Dean of Students. The initial consequence is normally a detention. Consequences may escalate for repeated violations (see [\*Disciplinary Actions\*](#)).

- **Behavior inconsistent with the academic and religious mission of a Catholic school**
- Failure to report to requested meeting
- Food/beverages/gum outside the Dining Commons
- Inappropriate display of affection
- Malingering where inappropriate
- Misuse of electronic devices (including personal electronic devices, *e.g.* cell phones)
- Pass abuse
- Presence in unauthorized areas without permission or a staff member
- Profanity
- Tardy to class
- Violation of classroom policy
- Violation of uniform & appearance policy (See [\*Uniform Policy\*](#))

Students are accountable for any behavior that fails to respect members of the school community, even if the behavior is not specifically mentioned here.

Intermediate Violations - Intermediate violations have as the assigned consequence of being dismissed from school for the balance of the day. Extended and multiple detention will result in administrative consequences related to the nature of the offense, and where appropriate, will result in a Dean's Conference.

- Behavior inconsistent with the academic and religious mission of a Catholic school
- Disrespect and/or dishonesty
- Disrespect during prayer or liturgy (including using electronic device or talking)
- Disturbance/inappropriate behavior
- Failure to report to assigned detention
- Gambling
- Leaving or returning after departure, from school grounds without authorization from the school
- Misuse of electronic devices after any action or warning for prior violation (including personal electronic devices, *e.g.* cell phones)
- Noncooperation with staff/faculty instructions
- Skipping class
- Skipping School

Major Violations - The following violations are seriously harmful to our school community and opposed to the mission of PFPS. These behaviors will result in a Deans' Conference, a period of Suspension, and may cause review for expulsion. Consequences and administrative action will be linked to the severity of the violation and harm, the nature of the circumstances and the impact on our community, our goals and our mission. Students who witness any of the following behaviors are required within the Pope Francis Preparatory School Honor Code, to report the behaviors and the offender to school staff.

## **PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR DEFINITIONS**

**Bullying & Hazing** - Bullying and hazing are various behaviors that target specific students in an ongoing, hurtful, disrespectful, or dangerous way. The legal definitions and contexts can be read below (see [Appendix](#)). These will be handled in accordance with Diocesan policy.

**Improper Behavior** - Academic and/or other social behavior should be consistent with the expectations of the Catholic Church. Any conduct inconsistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, or behavior that is detrimental to the reputation of the school or inconsistent with the academic and religious mission of a Catholic school is considered improper behavior, and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Insubordination** - Insubordination is the willful and direct disregard for the authority appropriate to faculty and staff members. This includes direct insults, refusal to comply with instructions, and lying.

**Gang Membership** - Gang membership is engaging in behaviors, conduct or involvement in an organization that is recognized by law enforcement or our community as having behaviors that are contrary to law and order and have as their goals or values behaviors and conduct that is harmful to our community. Students at PFPS are forbidden to be members of street gangs or any other organization that makes them, in the view of the administration, threatening to their classmates.

**Physical Violence** - Physical violence is any action that may cause fear or intimidation, hurts, endangers, and/or inflicts bodily injury on another person (examples: fighting, pushing, hitting, or punching).

**Possession of Drugs** - The possession of drugs includes alcohol, tobacco, nicotine/vaping products, marijuana, stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogens, illegal drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, mood-altering substances, non-prescription drugs, and prescription drugs taken in any other way than prescribed. A student found in possession, consuming or under the influence of any intoxicant, possessing, controlling or using alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, drug paraphernalia, intoxicants, vaping paraphernalia or unauthorized prescription medication. Those materials will be permanently confiscated (without restitution) and the student may be referred to appropriate law enforcement.

**Racial Bias or Harassment** - Racial bias or harassment is strictly prohibited and is not in line with our Catholic mission. Racial harassment or bias is any behavior, in the opinion of the administration, that is racially motivated or motivated by bias. Racial bias or harassment is defined as any action, words or behaviors that are motivated, linked to, or perceived to be, based on or due to race or racial animus which impacts another person in any manner.

**Selling/Distributing Drugs** - See the description as above. Selling and/or distributing drugs is strictly prohibited. Those materials will be permanently confiscated (without restitution) and the student may be referred to appropriate law enforcement.

**Sending or Possessing Explicit Materials** - Sending or possessing explicit materials, including pornography, sexting, offensive or hateful content, is inappropriate. This includes materials accessible on one's cell phone or other electronic devices, which are subject to searches at any time (see [Searches](#)). Students who possess or share explicit materials will be subject to suspension or any other administrative remedy as deemed appropriate by the school. The materials and means of conveyance may be permanently confiscated (without restitution).

*Exceptions may be granted for students who receive explicit materials and immediately report them without further sharing them and also for students who are victimized by the sharing of such materials.*

**Sexual Harassment** - Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, either physical or verbal, insulting comments, posting, or sharing of suggestive materials and attributing them to another community member.

Theft - Theft is the taking or converting of any property that is not yours.

Vandalism - Vandalism is any destruction or damage willfully inflicted on the property of the school or another person. A student who is found to have vandalized, stolen or converted school or another's property will be held financially responsible and required to pay for replacement of the property. This restitution is in addition to any other consequences assigned under this policy.

Threats of Violence - Threats of violence include written or spoken words or actions meant to scare or intimidate another person. Bringing a weapon (or anything that can reasonably be construed as a weapon) to campus constitutes a threat of violence.

Violation of the Academic Integrity policy - Violations include cheating, plagiarism, or the use of AI. Cheating is any attempt to gain an unfair academic advantage. Plagiarism is the illegitimate use of another person's words, work, or ideas as one's own. Generative AI is the use of artificial intelligence tools, not expressly permitted by a faculty member, to complete coursework. (*For details, see [Academic Integrity](#).*) In addition to receiving a Deans' Conference and a suspension, a student caught participating in cheating, plagiarism or AI use, will be required to make up the relevant assignment/assessment and the grade for the assessment will be no greater than a 55.

## **UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY**

The purpose of the school uniform policy is to encourage an appropriate, respectful environment for the entire school community, and to acclimate students to dressing and presenting appropriately for the professional world. The uniform and appearance policy is designed to instill a sense of self worth in yourself and pride in your community. Students should always present a neat, clean, respectful presentation and wear the uniform items appropriately as designed without alterations or modifications. Students need to follow the entire uniform policy from arrival on campus until departure, including liturgy days, lunch and afterschool activities.

The uniform requirements for regular attire, liturgy attire and spirit days are delineated in this policy. All wear outer garments, including jackets and coats, even those bearing a PFPS logo of any kind must be stored in the student's assigned locker. The uniform blazer, sweater, quarter-zip and full-zip fleece or authorized sport tech style are permitted as the uniform outerwear. Any student in violation of the uniform policy *is required to immediately correct the deficiency* and will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **PURCHASING UNIFORMS**

Some items must be purchased online through either Donnelly's School Apparel, Blake's School Uniform Company, or Tommy Hilfiger Global Schoolwear. These items are identified in the uniform expectations given below. Sporting uniforms, club attire or spirit wear are issued or available for purchase and may be worn at sporting and club events or outside of school and after the academic day; the mere presence of a PFPS logo does not make it permissible to wear as part of the school uniform.

## REGULAR ATTIRE

### Female Students

**Tops** - Long or short-sleeve PFPS polo either cotton or performance fabrics in white, black, or wine, v-neck pullover sweater or sweater-vest in black, quarter-zip pullover or full zip black performance fleece jacket. Seniors have the option of wearing their class color polo.

*Non-permitted items: Outerwear worn indoors.*

**Bottoms** - Full length loose fitting dress pants/dockers/chino style in light khaki or black, or skort in the proper size. Skorts should fit in a way that, when standing, the skort extends *beyond* the longest finger tip of the wearer. Students may choose to wear full length leggings/stockings/tights (solid and of a single solid color), knee high socks (solid and of a single solid color) as an additional layer under the skort.

*Non-permitted items: Skirts, pants with exposed seams, pockets, rivets, or tears, sweat pants, pajama style pants, shorts, form-fitting bottoms, pants with elastic cuffs or waist.*

**Footwear** - Students may only wear sneakers or dress shoes.

*Non-permitted items: Sandals, moccasins, moccasin style shoes such as, but not exclusive to, Ugg moccasins, slipper style shoes, shoes with heels greater than two inches, open toed footwear, open back shoes.*

**Makeup and accessories** - Makeup, jewelry or other items should be conservative in nature, in line with our mission and not be distracting or designed to take away from a clean, neat and appropriate uniform appearance. All attire and accessories must be free from any messages and properly modest to be reflective of our school community and mission.

*Non-permitted items: Dyed or highlighted hair in an unnatural hair color; extensions or braids in an unnatural hair color; excessive jewelry, facial or visible body piercings, gauges, pocket chains, hats, hoods, any type of headwear, visible tattoos (permanent or temporary).*

### Male Students

**Tops** - Long or short-sleeve PFPS polo either cotton or performance fabrics in white, black, or wine, v-neck pullover sweater or sweater-vest in black, quarter-zip pullover or full zip black performance fleece jacket. Seniors have the option of wearing their class color polo.

*Non-permitted items: Outerwear worn indoors.*

**Bottoms** - Full length loose fitting dress pants/dockers/chino style in light khaki or black.

*Non-permitted items: Pants with exposed seams, pockets, rivets, or tears, sweat pants, pajama style pants, shorts, form-fitting bottoms, pants with elastic cuffs or waist.*

**Footwear** - Students may only wear sneakers or dress shoes.

*Non-permitted items: Sandals, moccasins, moccasin style shoes such as, but not exclusive to, Ugg moccasins, slipper style shoes, open toed footwear, open back shoes.*

**Accessories** - All attire and accessories must be free from any messages and properly modest to be reflective of our school community and mission.

*Non-permitted items: Dyed or highlighted hair in an unnatural hair color; excessive jewelry, facial or visible body piercings, gauges, pocket chains, hats, hoods, any type of headwear, visible tattoos (permanent or temporary).*

## **LITURGY ATTIRE**

When the school community celebrates the sacred liturgy (*see [Liturgy](#)*), more formal attire is required of students, as detailed below. All liturgy days are published in advance on the school calendar and announced on the previous day as a reminder, the first day of school for the entire community, academic awards ceremonies, recognition of scholars and most holy days of obligation when a Mass is celebrated are required liturgy attire days. Liturgy attire must be worn from arrival through departure. Students may wear liturgy attire on regular school days if desired. *All other items remain the **same** as the regular uniform policy listed above.*

### **Female Students**

**Tops** - Short or long-sleeved Oxford style or peter pan style shirt without shirt tails, with school logo in white, blue or pink. Blazers with the PFPS logo are optional.

**Footwear** - Clean closed-toe dress shoes in a solid color. Sneakers or any kind of canvas shoes such as Vans or Vans-style slip on or lace up are not considered dress shoes.

### **Male Students**

**Tops** - Short or long-sleeved Oxford style or peter pan style shirt without shirt tails, with school logo in white or blue. Shirts must be tucked in, fully buttoned, and worn with a necktie. Blazers with the PFPS logo are optional.

**Footwear** - Clean closed-toe dress shoes in a solid color. Sneakers or any kind of canvas shoes such as Vans or Vans-style slip on or lace up are not considered dress shoes.

## **SPIRIT DAYS**

On Fridays, except where the Friday is a liturgy day, and on other days as designated by the President, students may express school spirit and recognize the many clubs and sports in which they participate by wearing appropriate spirit and athletic tops as detailed below. Periodically students will be encouraged to participate in special events and show support for their class, school and community by wearing a specific color or style of shirt. *All other items remain the **same** as the regular uniform policy listed above.*

### **Female Students**

**Tops** - Any shirt/sweatshirt/jersey issued by PFPS in good repair or purchased by the family that includes the school name and/or logo.

### **Male Students**

**Tops** - Any shirt/sweatshirt/jersey issued by PFPS in good repair or purchased by the family that includes the school name and/or logo.

## **GRADUATION ATTIRE**

Commencement is a school activity and the culmination of your time at Pope Francis Preparatory School. It is a joyous occasion that celebrates your advancement into adulthood and higher education. It is respectful to dress in semi formal appropriate attire that recognizes the importance of this event for yourselves, your families and our community. Students are asked to note and adhere to the following dress code and information.

Students may only wear graduation honors and regalia; inclusive of sashes, cords, robes and headwear issued by and authorized by the school. Wearing of personalized accessories or items such as pins, cords or sashes that are issued by outside societies are not permitted. Students may not alter the headwear or robes in any manner to include but not limited to: shortening the robe, adding art or text to the academic headwear. Please direct questions to the Dean of Students. All attire should be free from any messages, properly modest and reflective of our school.

### **Female Students**

Tops - Dress blouse or dress.

Bottoms - Modest skirt, dress or dress pants that are appropriate for wear at a formal function.

Footwear - Clean dress shoes. Heels are not recommended as the graduates walk on the turf field. Sneakers of any kind are not permitted.

### **Male Students**

Tops - Dress shirt tucked into belted trousers worn with all buttons fastened and a necktie. Blazers and suit jackets are optional.

Bottoms - Full length matching suit pants or dress trousers.

Footwear - Clean dress shoes with socks. Sneakers of any kind are not permitted.

## **ATHLETIC AND WELLNESS ATTIRE**

Students should wear appropriate clothing when participating in athletic activities, including sports and Wellness classes. School spiritwear is encouraged. Non-formfitting modest shorts, sweatpants, school spiritwear and t-shirts, etc. are all appropriate. All attire should be free from any message or symbol not in alignment with Catholic values and be properly modest for our school environment. No tank tops, exposed sports bras, muscle shirts or like attire is allowed. Clothing needs to (1) follow the guidelines for appropriateness (*see [Inappropriate Items](#) above*) and (2) be worn only during athletic activities and in athletic areas of the campus, not in the Chapel or the Learning Commons. Coaches may require students to wear liturgical attire on days that they have athletic contests. There are no special dress exceptions for game days.

## **MASKS/FACE COVERINGS**

Students may choose to wear masks/face coverings. The mask/covering must:

- Be a solid color (only exception is official PFPS logo)



- Neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind are not acceptable face coverings. Plexiglass face shields are acceptable in addition to, but not instead of, a mask as defined above.

## **CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The Campus Ministry program serves to cultivate the spiritual lives of the entire school community. It does so by drawing from the riches of our Catholic tradition, without prejudice to members of the school community who come from other faith traditions.

### **PRAYER**

The school day, and every class begins and ends with prayer. In addition, prayer services are occasionally conducted for the whole school, individual grades, or smaller groups (e.g. sports teams).

### **CHAPEL**

The school Chapel is located in the main lobby. It is always open and available as a place for prayer and/or meditation, either to individuals or to groups. Students are encouraged to visit the Chapel frequently.

### **LITURGY**

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of our life” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1324). Therefore, several times a year, the school sets aside time from its ordinary activity to celebrate the Eucharist as a community. All students are required to reverently attend these celebrations, and members of our wider school community – including family members of current students – are invited to attend as well.

### **RETREATS**

Campus Ministry hosts four retreats per year, one per grade. These retreats help the students of each grade to relate to one another spiritually and thereby strengthen the entire school community. Therefore, these retreats are required of all students. Students who are absent or otherwise miss their grade’s retreat day must seek out a suitable replacement (to be approved by the Campus Minister) and participate in it before the end of the school year.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Performing acts of service for the wider community is necessary not only for responsible participation in society, but also for living our Catholic faith. Therefore, the school requires every student to perform a minimum of 25 hours of community service each year. Students are required to complete a personal community service project, to be approved and graded by their Theology teacher. Further details about required community service are addressed in each student’s Theology class. Remember, this is only the bare minimum requirement – more community service is always encouraged!

Campus Ministry offers the student body many opportunities for performing their service throughout the wider Pioneer Valley community. These opportunities are grounded in the [Seven](#)

[Themes of Catholic Social Teaching](#) and provide a wide variety of ways to serve. All students are encouraged to participate in some of these opportunities.

### **CHAPLAIN**

The school is blessed to have the services of a diocesan priest as a member of our staff and to celebrate the Sacraments with our community.

### **MASS**

Three days per week, the Chaplain offers Mass before school (7:20 a.m.) Students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend whenever possible. Mass will be offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 7:20 a.m. Adoration and Reconciliation will be offered Tuesday and Wednesday during 1st and 2nd periods.

### **RECONCILIATION**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available with the Chaplain. Students must make an appointment ahead of time and may miss several minutes of any class in order to make their confession.

### **PASTORAL COUNSELING**

The Campus Minister or the Chaplain is available to any student, faculty or staff member who needs spiritual guidance or support. Please note that the campus minister can be of further assistance to any member of the PFPS community who might need the sacramental support of an ordained priest.

## **COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY**

Digital technology is a fully-integrated part of daily life at PFPS. Students take notes, communicate with teachers, study, complete assignments, participate in activities, and socialize via their school-issued device and internet access. Therefore, the school holds students to a high standard of digital citizenship just as it holds them to a high standard of other behaviors.

### **EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

The school provides internet access and computers in order to enhance students' academic experience. Students are expected to use these tools primarily for academic purposes, specifically those assigned by their teachers. Therefore, students must not use this technology in any way that undermines or impedes this academic purpose (for themselves or others).

Further, students must not use this technology in any way that is harmful to themselves or others, illegal, or immoral (according to the school's Catholic identity), regardless of whether they do so in school or otherwise. Students caught misusing the technology in this way will be subject to proportionate disciplinary and or administrative consequences.

### **APPROPRIATE & INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

Digital technology is fully integrated into daily life at the school, the same standards that govern polite and appropriate behavior also govern behavior involving digital technology. Students are required to make appropriate and responsible choices when engaging in use of technology. Students are tasked with learning which technological behaviors are inappropriate by comparing them with their non-technology equivalents. For example, if it is offensive or inappropriate to

bring a photograph with a particular image into school and display it, do not have or display the same or similar image on your screen. When a determination of what is appropriate is needed, the school, in its sole discretion, will make the determination in accordance with our Catholic mission and identity.

### **SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS**

All students are assigned a school email address. All communication from staff and faculty will only be sent to your school email. You students need to check their email daily. Students must respond to emails from teachers/staff in a timely manner. Ignoring digital communications from teachers is no different than ignoring in-person communications – it can be disruptive or even disrespectful, and disciplinary action may follow. Further, students may not use their school email for any inappropriate actions, logins or social media memberships, etc.

### **SCHOOL ISSUED COMPUTERS**

Each student is responsible for his/her specific laptop, charger, and keyboard. Students must keep their devices in good working order, follow the school's instructions regarding maintenance and care of their devices, and are expected to keep track of their own devices. Because the school retains ownership of these devices, it retains the right to search them at any time (*see [Searches](#)*).

### **DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**

Students are educated in responsible digital citizenship. This class will inform students about internet safety and personal responsibility regarding computer and internet use.

## **ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULARS**

PFPS offers a variety of athletic and extracurricular activities as an integral part of educating our students. These activities give students the opportunity to learn more deeply about topics of interest, challenge one another to grow through competition, serve the school or wider community, and to socialize with classmates and teachers in a less formal setting than academic classes.

In addition to the school's eligibility rules, each club and some activities have their own requirements and guidelines for participation. Any specific rules, guidelines, contracts or participation requirements will be available from the club advisor, coach or sponsor. To enhance the activity and ensure safety students are asked to adhere to these rules and regulations while participating.

Because school-sponsored activities are an important part of the life of the school, all school policies are in effect throughout these activities, regardless of when and where they take place.

Participation in athletics and school extra curricular activities is a privilege, not a guarantee. Poor grades, failure to complete service hours each year, and lack of good standing, misbehavior, and absences can each result in ineligibility to compete or perform (*see [Academic Eligibility](#)*) or even in not being allowed to attend practices or meetings (*see [Disciplinary Actions](#) and [Participation in Athletic and Extracurricular Activities](#)*). Additionally, athletics are governed by MIAA rules, key items are delineated below and a link to the full policies from MIAA is provided.

## ATHLETICS

The school offers the following inter-scholastic sports:

| <i>Fall</i>   | <i>Winter</i> | <i>Spring</i> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cross Country | Basketball    | Baseball      |
| Golf          | Hockey        | Lacrosse      |
| Soccer        | Indoor Track  | Softball      |
| Volleyball    | Skiing        | Tennis        |
|               |               | Track         |

## CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

Various club activities and club sports are offered, please see the link here to view a current list of clubs. <https://popefrancisprep.org/students/clubs/> If you are interested in a club that is not offered, please contact Mrs. Cindy Geiger, Principal, [cgeiger@popefrancisprep.org](mailto:cgeiger@popefrancisprep.org) to investigate the possibility of the development of a new club.

## SPECIFIC PFPS ATHLETIC RULES

(For detailed rules/expectations, see the [Athletic Handbook](#))

- All athletes must travel to away games on the bus provided by the school.
- Students must be present for three full periods (*no partial periods, even if marked present*) of a school day in order to participate in any school-related club or activity that day. Students must be present for three **full** periods of the Friday (or last day of the school week) prior to the weekend or holiday event in order to participate in any activities. Please note tardiness and early dismissals, regardless of reasoning, will affect a student's eligibility for athletic and other school activities for that day or weekend. Where appropriate, exceptions may be granted by the Dean of Students in rare cases (e.g. funeral or wake).
- Students are subject to consequences from the team coach for non-excused absences from team practices.
- Occasionally, athletes must be dismissed early to travel to a contest. When this occurs, students will not be dismissed from classes until an announcement is made over the PA system.
- Parents are encouraged to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaches and Athletic Director.
- PFPS values the safety of our athletes at all times, and is opposed to the use of chemical inhalants not specifically prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner. Athletes at PFPS are prohibited from the use of smelling salts, and any item designed to simulate the effect of smelling salts. A student who, regardless of quantity, uses, sells or gives away smelling salts or their equivalent is ineligible for 25% of the season. A second or subsequent violation renders a student ineligible for an additional 60% of the season. Any remaining time will carry over to the next season.
- The school issues uniforms and other equipment to athletes; these materials remain the property of the school, but the athlete is responsible for their care. Failure to return these materials in good and clean condition makes the athlete financially responsible for them.

- Under certain circumstances, disciplinary actions will prevent a student-athlete from fulfilling their obligations to their coach and team (e.g., missing practice to serve detention). Membership on a team will not be grounds for skipping or rescheduling such conflicts. Coaches may issue further athletic consequences to student-athletes who let their team down due to such issues.

### **SPECIFIC MIAA & PVIAC RULES**

The rules and policies of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association (PVIAC) govern PFPS athletics as they are published, posted, or announced. The following summary of these rules and policies is a guideline for all parties and is not exhaustive.

- A student who transfers schools without a change of residence is ineligible for one year in those sports participated in as a varsity athlete or its equivalent, at the original school during the one-year period immediately preceding the transfer.
- A student must have a physical examination administered by a licensed medical physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant in order to be eligible to participate. The MIAA recommends the use of an American Academy of Pediatrics participating physician. A physical exam is valid for thirteen months (395 days). A student in violation shall be suspended for the number of contests in which he/she participated without a proper physical.
- On entering 9th grade of any school, a student has 12 consecutive sports seasons of eligibility. The student's non-participation in any such season does not extend that student's eligibility.
- A student must be under 19 years of age to compete; however, he or she may compete during the academic year he or she turns 19, provided the 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1<sup>st</sup> of that year.
- A student who, regardless of quantity, uses, consumes, possesses, buys, sells, or gives away any item containing alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, or any controlled substance, is ineligible for 25% of the season. A second or subsequent violation renders a student ineligible for an additional 60% of the season. Any remaining time will carry over to the next season.
- Massachusetts General Law (Chapter 269 Section 17) states that it is a criminal offense to commit an act of Hazing. The law defines hazing as "any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization... which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or any student or other person." Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor or beverage, drug or other activity that physically endangers someone or subjects them to extreme mental stress. Incidents of hazing must be reported to an administrator as soon as it is practicable.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS**

A student who fails a class, has an incomplete as a grade at the end of the grading period or has an overall GPA below 2.0 is academically ineligible for athletics. Ineligible students may be allowed to practice with their team, at the discretion of the coach, but they cannot compete or otherwise represent the school at contests (and therefore they may not be dismissed early for travel).

Eligibility or ineligibility takes effect automatically at 2:05 p.m. on the days when mid-semester grade reports and end-of-semester report cards are issued. Subsequent remediation of the failed grade or an increase in overall grade after the grade report does not change the student's eligibility status. *Eligibility is set at the time and date of the grade report and will not be reassessed prior to the next grade report, whether end of term or mid semester.* Any change in eligibility will only be effective after the next scheduled grade report. (See [School Calendar](#) for dates).

## **ELIGIBILITY WAIVER**

Students who become academically ineligible by failing only one (1) subject, and still have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, may apply to waive their ineligibility. This waiver is available only once in the student's entire time at PFPS. In order to be considered the waiver, students must:

- Apply to the Principal within three days of grades being officially issued.
- Explain the circumstances leading to the ineligibility before a committee including the Dean of Counseling & Student Services, the student's counselor, and the subject teacher. (Note: the committee has the right to deny applications for any reason, solely at their discretion.)
- Meet with their subject teacher and counselor weekly to improve their grade. Students who fail to attend these meetings or improve their failing grade will have their waiver revoked.

## **POPE FRANCIS PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY**

Pope Francis Players is more like an athletic team than a typical club: members try out for individual productions, make a serious commitment for a specific season, and their performance is a public event that represents the school to the wider community. Therefore, members of Pope Francis Players are subject to the same academic eligibility requirements as athletic eligibility.

## **OTHER POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies of the entire student body, or of specific classes, will be held at various times. Students are expected to treat these assemblies with the same attitude as academic classes. A respectful and attentive presence is required. Students or faculty may not skip or otherwise be excused from assemblies without the permission of an administrator.

### **BUSES**

Bus transportation is a privilege provided to our students by their school districts. Vulgarity, rowdiness, vandalism, smoking/vaping, and fighting are violations for which the student may lose their bus privileges; should this happen, the student's parents/guardians are responsible for their child's transportation.

Because student behavior while using bus transportation is a public reflection of our school community, PFPS expects exemplary behavior from all its students riding the bus, and all PFPS rules and policies are in place while on the bus and awaiting transport.

### **COLLEGE VISITS**

Juniors and seniors may miss up to three days of school per academic year to visit colleges to which they intend to apply. Prior to a college visit, the student must obtain and complete a College Visit Form from a counselor, have it signed by a parent and the appropriate teachers, and submit it to the Front Office one full day before the visit.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

The Counseling Office must be promptly informed of any change in mailing address, phone number, or email address to ensure that the school can still send communications as needed, especially in case of emergency.

### **DINING COMMONS**

Breakfast and lunch are both provided in the Dining Commons. Students may either eat the food provided by Sodexo or bring in their own. If a student chooses to take a provided lunch they need to sign for it, and they may only take one full meal and enter the serving line only one time. Microwaves are available for appropriate use, only in the dining commons. Students may not order food to be delivered to the school. Students must respect the staff by complying with their instructions and cleaning up after themselves completely. Leaving one's table messy is inappropriate and may result in disciplinary action, regardless of which individual student left the mess. The students must remain at their table and seated during the entire meal and may not move furniture or seats.

### **DANCES**

The school occasionally hosts dances, especially Semi-Formal and Prom. While these dances are primarily intended for PFPS students, outside guests are sometimes welcome, provided they register ahead of time with a copy of their school ID. Only high school age students are permitted to attend dances (Prom may have approved guests under 21). Dress code for the dance will be published with the dance information. All students and guests will be subject to an intoxicant detector and or a breathalyzer test upon entry and may be randomly tested during the event or prior to departure. Semi formal and prom have specific requirements for attendance set forth in the student contract for those events. Of particular note for guests, both PFPS and non-PFPS, is that freshmen students can not be a guest at the prom and all semi formal participants must be students at PFPS. Dress and appearance guidelines for the events are specific for each event and venue. Students need to follow the dress code for each event provided on the event contract. The faculty/staff in charge of the dance have the right to admit, refuse admission, or eject people from the dance at their discretion. All school policies, and consequences for violations of the policies are in full effect at school dances. Students need to be in attendance at school on the day of or the last school day prior to the event for a minimum of three (3) full class periods.

### **ELEVATOR**

Students who require use of the elevator due to illness or injury may obtain a pass from the main office reception desk after making a \$10 deposit (which will be fully refunded when the pass is returned). A student may, when necessary, bring only one other student in the elevator with them

if needed to help carry their materials. Unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate use of the elevator may result in disciplinary action.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Educational field trips may be taken by classes or extracurricular clubs. While on the field trip students and staff are ambassadors of the PFPS community and must engage with each other, the venue and the public with the highest degree of decorum. Students need to be in the uniform of the day and remain in uniform on the trip. Students must have signed and submitted parental permission forms (distributed by the teacher ahead of time) in order to participate. Students must be in the school uniform or PFPS spirit wear, as coordinated by the teacher and the Dean of Students. **Students may not self report to or drive themselves or other students to a school field trip. Students must go to and depart the venue in the school provided transportation; contracted or school owned.** Transportation of students by faculty may only occur in limited emergency circumstances. The requesting faculty or staff member must have written approval from the Principal and the student must have written approval from the parent to the Dean of Students. In these circumstances a received and replied email may constitute emergency approval. Students are required to make up any academic work missed due to field trips (*see [Missed Work](#)*). Because field trips are school-sponsored events, all school policies (including academic eligibility, good standing and the uniform policy) are in effect.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

The Dining Commons and lobby areas are designated for eating and drinking; consumption of food or drink in any other area of the building is not permitted and will result in disciplinary action. Students are reminded not to bring in drinks or snacks that can not be consumed prior to entering the academic areas. Students may keep food/drink to be consumed later, in the Dining Commons, in their backpack or locker. The only exception is a clear bottle containing water.

Students/parents **may not** order food to be delivered to the school building, either during or after school hours. Safety of our community is paramount. Therefore, anyone attempting to deliver food will be turned away, and disciplinary action may follow. The school does not bear any financial liability to the student violating this policy when a delivery person is turned away.

## **IDENTIFICATION**

All students are issued a school ID card at the beginning of each academic year. Students are required to carry their ID card whenever they are on campus and whenever they attend school events. Lost ID cards can be replaced at the Front Office for \$5.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Massachusetts State Law requires that students registered at the school must have written verification on file that they have received the following immunizations:

Massachusetts school immunization requirements are created under authority of [105 CMR 220.000 Immunization of Students Before Admission to School](#)

**Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program. Requirements apply to all students, even if over 18 years of age.**



|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Tdap        | <b>1 dose;</b> and history of DTaP primary series or age-appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at $\geq 7$ years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td or Tdap should be given if it has been $\geq 10$ years since last Tdap |
| Polio       | <b>4 doses;</b> fourth dose must be given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday and $\geq 6$ months after the previous dose, or a fifth dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the third dose is given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday and $\geq 6$ months after the previous dose                |
| Hepatitis B | <b>3 doses;</b> laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years of age are acceptable   |
| MMR         | <b>2 doses;</b> first dose must be given on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday and second dose must be given $\geq 28$ days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable  |
| Varicella   | <b>2 doses;</b> first dose must be given on or after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday and second dose must be given $\geq 28$ days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable   |

### Meningococcal Requirements

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Grade 7-10               | <b>1 dose;</b> 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement   |
| Grade 11-12 <sup>‡</sup> | <b>2 doses;</b> second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) must be given on or after the 16th birthday and $\geq 8$ weeks after the previous dose. 1 dose is acceptable if it was given on or after the 16th birthday. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement |

Failure to provide necessary documentation may result in the student being excluded from classes.

A current physical examination by a health care provider is required of each new freshman and transfer student. (The athletic physical satisfies this requirement.)

## **LAVATORIES**

The only behaviors appropriate in school lavatories are toileting and those necessary personal hygiene activities that cannot be done in other places. Students are not allowed to use staff designated restrooms. Computer use, eating, hanging out with classmates, having multiple students in one stall, etc. are not appropriate activities in the lavatory, and may subject the student to disciplinary consequences.

## **LEARNING COMMONS**

The Learning Commons is primarily an academic area, both during and after school. Therefore, all behavior in the Learning Commons must be conducive to studying at all times, and any behavior that is distracting, disrespectful, or otherwise inappropriate may be met with disciplinary consequences. Students may not rearrange the furniture in the Learning Commons nor are they permitted to sit on fixtures or non chair surfaces. Students may not congregate at the help desk.

## **LOCKERS**

Each student is assigned a school and athletic locker and issued a lock at the beginning of each academic year; students are entirely responsible for the state of their locker and its contents. All assigned lockers must be kept clean, must at all times be locked *with the school-issued lock*, and must stay in good working order. Students must know their locker number and combination and may be required to open their lockers at various times. Damaged or lost locks must be replaced, at the student's expense, for a charge of \$20. The school is not responsible for items missing from student lockers. The school retains the right to search student lockers at any time.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

The lost and found is located in the Front Office. Periodically, remaining items may be donated to a local charity.

## **MEDICATION**

Students may not bring any medication, prescribed or over the counter, into school. Prescribed medication is permitted only with a prescription and a note from the prescribing doctor, and retained solely in the possession of the school nurse and taken in the nurse's office. Exceptions will be granted only by the school nurse where medically required and will be in writing from the school nurse. Medication possessed by students without the proper documentation will be considered illegal drugs and may subject the student to disciplinary actions (*see [Major violations](#)*).

## **PARKING AND DRIVING REGULATIONS**

Parking in the school parking lot is a privilege that is available to licensed students (on a first-come, first-served basis). Students must provide a copy of their operator's license, vehicle registration from the issuing state and complete and submit a parking application form to the Front Office and pay the non-refundable fee of \$125.00 per year. This is not a prorated fee and issuance of a parking permit at any time during the academic year requires payment of the fee. Registered students are assigned a numbered parking spot that correlates with the parking tag number. The tag must be displayed from the rearview mirror when using the school parking lot. Students may only park in the students' assigned numbered spot. Swapping of parking permits or spots is not permitted. Purchase of a parking permit does not preclude the administration, in its sole capacity, from suspending or revoking parking privileges as appropriate to reinforce and

support the student conduct policy and provide a safe environment for our neighbors and members of our community.

Students who apply for a parking tag agree to and accept the following conditions:

- Driving oneself is no excuse for tardiness.
- Students may park in only designated parking spots and may not park in fire or bus lanes.
- Students must drive and park safely and courteously at all times.
- Students need permission from the Dean of Students or front office to go to the parking lot during school.
- Students who are being dismissed for illness will not be allowed to drive home without the permission of the school nurse, after notification of their parent/guardian.
- Students who change vehicles must update their registration papers with the school on the first day of parking the new vehicle.
- The speed limit in the parking lot is 10 mph at all times.
- The vehicle must be lawfully registered and comply with the safety standards of the registered state.

Violating any of these conditions may result in loss or suspension of parking privileges (and possible further disciplinary action). If a student loses parking privileges, the \$125.00 fee will not be refunded.

Students parking vehicles do so at their own risk. Students should lock vehicles as PFPS is not responsible for any injury or damage that may occur as a result of vehicles entering, leaving, or parking in the school parking lot, vandalism or other loss or damage to the vehicle. The parking lot is school property and all school policies are in effect.

Students need to respect our neighbors, follow traffic and parking regulations, and operate their vehicles and sound systems in a safe and respectful manner appropriate for the residential neighborhood we are located in.

## **PASSES**

Students must have a teacher-assigned pass to leave their assigned areas at any time during the school day. Passes are requested and assigned digitally using eHalPass Manager. Students outside of their assigned place without a pass may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

## **RECORDING**

The use of cell phones, computers, or other means to record another person, including audio and video recordings, without that person's *expressed* permission is prohibited and the student may be subject to disciplinary consequences, in addition to any private remedy available to the aggrieved party.

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Students are an integral component of safety for our school community. Students and staff should familiarize themselves with the fire and emergency plan for every classroom they attend. Students are expected to treat every drill as if it were a real emergency, which requires **silent** engagement and adherence with all instructions from faculty, staff, or emergency personnel. Students must never allow anyone, even parents or other students, into or access to the building. All students

looking to access our campus must do so during approved and supervised times. Students requiring access outside of those supervised times may only enter PFPS via the front office.

Fire drills and safety drills are conducted in order to prepare the school community for emergencies. Any student who undermines community safety, by misusing or tampering with fire equipment, by failing to treat drills with due respect, or any other inappropriate behaviors will be subject to disciplinary consequences for offenses classified as serious.

## **VISITORS**

All visitors to the building must be signed in at the Front Office. Visitors will be assigned a pass which they must wear throughout their visit. No student should invite or receive visitors or any other persons, their own parents included, into the school building. Visitors may access and remain in the building only after being checked, cleared and approved by facility staff through the Main Office doorway only. Visitors must be escorted unless prior approval is provided by the President, Principal or Dean of Students. Faculty, students, staff and visitors are prohibited from propping doors open. No doors shall be propped or held open by anyone. If someone asks for access, immediately close the door and contact the nearest staff member.

## **SENIOR PRIVILEGES**

Senior privilege allows seniors to arrive at school before the start of the second period when their study hall falls on the first period of the day and to leave when study hall falls during the last period of the day. Parent/guardian permission is required prior to the student making use of this privilege. We respect the parent/guardian's decision to deny permission or to rescind it at any time. **Students are always required to sign in/sign out when arriving/departing for this privilege. Failure to do so will result in the loss of senior privileges.**

The privilege is available to seniors who are in good standing in both academics and with the disciplinary and student conduct policy. Students will lose the privilege immediately if they exceed the tardy limit. Students are also not eligible for privileges if their name is on the detention list for any reason. This privilege may be rescinded by administration at any time if a student does not adhere to *all* school policies.

## **APPENDIX - MASSACHUSETTS LEGAL TERMINOLOGY**

### **BULLYING**

DEFINITION M.G.L Part I Title XII, Ch. 71 Sec. 370((a)excerpted) & (b)

"Bullying", the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyber-bullying.

"Cyber-bullying", bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

Bullying shall be prohibited: (i) on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a school district or school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school district or school and (ii) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Nothing contained herein shall require schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or programs.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited.

#### PFPS Policy.

PFPS attempts to provide a safe, secure Catholic environment that is educationally focused. Acts or incidents of bullying can take numerous forms and the determination of whether a specific act or acts constitute bullying is within the sole discretion of the administration. The means of bullying include, but are not limited to, physical actions such as bodily contact, touching, gestures, restraint, aggression and abuse; verbal comments and remarks; written and visual expression regardless of medium; electronic, telephonic and digital communications including e-mail, blogs, networking sites, instant messages; graphic displays and representations including internet, digital or web based images; photographic or video recordings, or any other form of technology. Prohibited activity as described here and in statute, that occurs during the school day on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity, or before or after the school day on a school bus or at a school sponsored activity, or that, in the estimation of the administration, impacts the community, will subject the participants to disciplinary consequences.

#### REPORTING, INVESTIGATING, AND NOTIFYING PARENTS OF BULLYING REPORTS

To address bullying, PFPS::

- Requires students who know of or witness bullying behaviors to report personally or anonymously to teachers and school designee/administrators acts of bullying.

- Requires students or their parents or guardians to file written reports of suspected bullying as soon as possible after the event occurs to aid in the investigation.
- Requires teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to fill out a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Incident Reporting Form and promptly notify school designee/administration.
- Requires the designated employee to accept and review all reports of bullying, including anonymous reports. If after initial inquiry, an anonymous or oral report appears to warrant further investigation, the school shall promptly continue with an investigation. School designee/administration shall investigate all written reports.
- Requires school staff, as with other disciplinary action, to notify the parents or guardian of a student who commits a verified act of bullying of the response of the school and consequences that may result from further acts of bullying.

#### **DISCIPLINE AND/OR CORRECTIVE ACTION**

It is further the purpose of this policy, when it is found that bullying has occurred, to ensure that prompt and appropriate action, reasonably calculated to stop bullying, is taken by the administration. Reasonable action includes the full range of disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension or expulsion for the student or students participating in bullying. Retaliation against a person for reporting bullying or for cooperating in an investigation of a bullying report will not be tolerated. It is a violation of this policy for any person to take any retaliatory action against any person involved in the complaint or investigation.

#### **HAZING**

The staff and faculty of PFPS will not tolerate any form of hazing of students or team members. Students engaging in any form of hazing on or off school grounds will be subject to disciplinary consequences for their behaviors. Hazing is against the law and may subject the participants to law enforcement scrutiny in addition to any disciplinary or administrative consequences that will be imposed.

#### **AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF HAZING ANTI-HAZING LAW, M.G.L. CHAPTER 269 SECTIONS 17-19**

Hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

## **CHANGES IN POLICY**

The school rules, regulations and policies listed in this document may be amended at any time during the year by the administration of Pope Francis Preparatory School. Oral and or written notice will be made to students and parents.