



Guardian
Catholic School

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK **2025 -2026**

I Will Rise!

"Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in
darkness, the Lord will be my light."

Micah 7:8

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MISSION and BELIEFS

Our mission is to help each student attain their potential through high quality Catholic education in a Christ centered environment that inspires each of us to think, learn, achieve, pray and serve our communities.

We Believe...

- Each person possesses a God given dignity that is to be respected by all.
- Education is a collaborative effort and the shared responsibility of parents, students, school, and community.
- The Christian principles we teach will enable students to act justly, make responsible moral judgments, respect others, and fulfill their responsibilities as citizens in today's global community.
- The celebration and teaching of the Catholic faith and traditions are integral to Catholic education.
- Prayer, worship, and service to others are essential for spiritual growth.
- The teaching and values of Jesus are integrated into all aspects of education.
- A school-wide approach to teaching responsibility and promoting discipline is our way to achieve a safe and civil school environment.
- Research based practices are essential for developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Teachers are committed to ongoing professional development and spiritual formation in order to provide the best teaching practices for our students in a Christ-centered environment.
- It is the faculty and staff's role to create a learning environment responsive to the individual needs of students.
- On-going communication in a welcoming atmosphere leads to relationships that strengthen unity and community.

In keeping with Guardian Catholic School's mission to provide high quality Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment, all teachers are qualified to provide effective curriculum and instruction. All teachers meet diocesan and state requirements and have a bachelor's degree; in addition, many have a master's degree or higher. All teaching staff also participates in ongoing catechist formation to support them in their role in the faith formation of the students.

What should a graduate look like?

A Catholic school graduate is a knowledgeable, compassionate individual, dedicated to service and able to face the challenges of the future with faith, hope, and love.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Guardian Catholic School
4920 Brentwood Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32206

Telephone: (904) 765 - 6522
Website: www.guardiancatholic.com
School Information System: FACTS SIS

Principal – Melissa Ilski
Assistant Principal – Jenny Lord
Early Learning Director – Felicia Bosman

HOURS OF OPERATION

Activity	Hours
Early Morning Care PK-8 th - (supervised before care in the cafeteria, breakfast provided)	6:45 am – 8:00 am
School Office	7:30 am – 3:30 pm
School Day Hours	6:45 am – 3:25 pm
PK4	8:00 am – 11:30 am
K-8 th Grade	8:00 am – 3:05 pm
Wednesday Early Dismissal	8:00 am – 12:00 pm

ADMISSION POLICY

Guardian Catholic School is open to all students regardless of religion, race, color, sex, or country of national origin. We have a goal of helping all children reach their full potential intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. We accept students who are able to manage in a regular education setting. Limited resources prevent us from accepting students who would require more than simple accommodations.

PreK-4 students must be four on or before September 1; kindergarten students must be five years of age on or before September 1; first graders must be six years of age on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten.

Children registering for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten must present a birth certificate, social security number, school entry health form (DH3040) and immunization records (DH680). All other students entering Guardian Catholic School for the first time must present a birth certificate, social security card, physical report, up-to-date shot records and a report card including the most recent

grading period. These items are required prior to attending class. The admissions team must approve registration and acceptance into the school.

Probation Period

All new students will be on probation for the first semester of school. They must show by their conduct, effort and passing grades that they can maintain the academic and behavioral standards required of students attending Guardian Catholic School. Students who fail to meet the requirements of probation may have his/her probation period extended to assist with successful transition. If successful transition is not achieved, student enrollment at Guardian Catholic School will be discontinued.

TITLE IX

Guardian Catholic School adheres to the tenets of Title IX: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Guardian Catholic School follows specific procedures and guidelines to ensure student safety during arrival and dismissal.

CARLINE Procedures

- To ensure the safety of all pedestrians and an efficient flow of traffic, the school parking lot is open to carline pick-ups only.
- Parents who wish to walk up to pick up their child must walk to campus. Please be sure to use the crosswalk when crossing the street.
- All families should have yellow car tag displayed in windshield (carline) or in hand (walkers) for dismissal time
- Please follow the directions of all school personnel.

PIKMYKID CARLINE APP:

- All families must download the PikMyKid App and be registered in the system.
- There are several Resource Documents in the Family Portal available in both English and Spanish to help guide you.
- You can also email Mrs. Lord at jlord@guardiancatholic.com with any questions.
- If you haven't set up a PikMyKid account yet, [click here](#).

LATE PICK UP: Parents are responsible for picking children up on time at the end of the school day.

Dismissal begins at 3:05pm. Late fees will be assessed for any students picked up after carline ends:

- [Parents will be charged a \\$35 drop-in fee per child after the end of carline.](#)

- After-school care is not available on early release days, school holidays, teacher's workdays or days when school is closed due to weather or other emergencies.

EARLY PICK UP: Early Pick-ups must be done by 2:00. For the safety & supervision of all, students will not be released between 2:00-3:05

Eagle's Nest After-school Care

Welcome to Eagles Nest Afterschool Care! We are committed to providing a safe, supportive and engaging environment for GCS students care conveniently located on our campus. Please contact Felicia Bosman, Site Director, at fbosman@guardiancatholic.com if you have questions about the program or need help with registration. See Eagle's Nest Addendum.

We offer three enrollment options for families:

Registration Fee: \$55 per family (one-time, non-refundable)

Sibling Discount: 10% off for each additional child

1. Weekly Enrollment – \$60/week per child, billed weekly or monthly.
2. Drop-In Care – \$35/day as needed, subject to space availability.
3. Emergency Care – \$30/day, available up to two times per school year for unexpected needs.

Hours of Operation

Eagles Nest operates from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM on days when school is in regular session.

After-school care is not available on early release days, school holidays, teacher workdays, or days when school is closed due to weather or other emergencies.

ATHLETIC COMPETITION & ELIGIBILITY

Students in grades 3 through 8 may participate in cross country. Students in grades 4 through 8 may participate in basketball and cheerleading. Students in grades 5 through 8 may participate in soccer and softball with priority given to grades 6 through 8. All are members of the Catholic Grade School Conference of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Participation is determined by each student's grades, conduct and by the judgment of the principal and the coach. Eligibility is also subject to requirements set by the constitution of the Catholic Grade School League. Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from athletic events. Coaches are not permitted to transport students.

Academic Eligibility Rules shall apply to all athletic and allied activities of the Catholic Grade School Conference.

- a) *Passing grades:* A student is academically ineligible if he/she receives two (2) grades (or more) of 69% (D) or below in a major subject. Students who receive any one grade lower than 59% (F) or below will automatically be ineligible. Major subjects are Religion, Science, Social Studies, Math, English/Spelling, and Reading.

- b) *Times of Evaluation:* Student grades will be evaluated at mid-quarter (progress reports) and at the end of the quarter (report cards) for continued eligibility.
- c) *Length of Suspension:* If a student is academically ineligible, the length of the suspension is five (5) academic days for suspension at Progress Reports; ten (10) academic days for suspension at Report Cards. The suspension begins on the day following distribution of progress reports and/or report cards. Eligibility may be regained following the five (progress report) or ten-day suspension, if the grade(s) adhere to the rules of eligibility as stated in (a).
- d) *Conduct:* A student may be ineligible based on conduct and misbehavior in the classroom. Ineligibility based on conduct is determined by Behavior Events and teacher/admin input.
- e) *Tryouts:* All students are given equal opportunity to try out for all teams. Eligibility rules shall apply when a student is accepted on the team.
- f) *Transfer:* If a student is ineligible and then transfers to another school, the ineligibility will be carried over to the next report card.
- g) *Ineligibility* The pastor and/or principal may at any time declare a student ineligible on the basis of poor school attendance or improper conduct.
- h) *FHSAA Rules:* In accordance with FHSAA Rules, any student who repeats 7th or 8th grade and has played a school sanctioned sport, is ineligible to play that sport the year he/she is repeating.

Non-Academic Athletic Eligibility Rules shall apply to all athletic and allied activities of the Catholic Grade School Conference.

- a) *Physicals and Parental Consent:* The medical form (includes medical history, physician approved participation, and participation application) must be dated after June 1 of the previous school year and be kept on file at school. This medical form includes written parental consent signed by the parents and notarized. Physicals recorded on any form other than the one provided by the Catholic Grade School Conference will not be accepted.
- b) *Injuries:* Any student not allowed to play because of injury, must have a —clear to play|| report from the physician before returning to play.
- c) *Transfers:* Any student who transfers into a school after a sport season has begun is ineligible to play that sport.
- d) *Age Eligibility:* If an athlete turns fifteen (15) before August 31 of the school year, he/she may not play that sport or any sport for that entire school year. Any principal or coach wishing to check the age of a player can contact the Commissioner's office. The Commissioner will then contact the school involved requesting the birth certificate of the player in question.
- e) *Unsportsmanlike Conduct:* Any athlete who strikes, curses, is removed from a game, threatens an official, or is guilty of any other related misconduct during a game, shall serve a mandatory suspension for the next game and may be subject to further suspension for a specific time and, therefore, shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a

period of no more than ten (10) academic days. The effect of a suspension shall be to prohibit an individual player from taking part in interscholastic activity for a specified length of time for violation of the rules of this Conference. An appropriate committee of league coaches and official(s) involved shall determine a sanction that shall require the advice and consent of the principal(s) and the Superintendent of

Schools. Eligibility may be recovered only by written request to the Superintendent through the Commissioner of the Catholic Grade School Conference. The Pastor or the Principal of the ineligible person's school must endorse this written request.

- f) *Ineligible Players at Games Ineligible:* Players are not allowed to sit on the bench during any athletic contest. This includes academically ineligible players. The penalty for playing an ineligible player or for an ineligible player sitting on the bench shall be the loss of any game or games in which that player was involved while ineligible.
- g) *Absence from School:* A student may not attend a practice or game the day of a school absence. A student missing more than three (3) classes is considered absent for athletic competition.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student's education, and it is closely related to student learning and academic success. Excessive absences impair a student's educational progress and may, at the principal's discretion, impact whether the student passes or fails a grade. Students will be considered absent when they miss 50% of their school day. Therefore, students who are not on campus by 11:00 am will be marked absent for the day.

It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to contact the school if their child will be absent and to state the reason for the absence. Students returning to school from an absence are required to present a written explanatory excuse from their parent(s) or legal guardian stating the cause for the absence. Failure to provide a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence. A physician's note is needed when the student (1) has been absent for three or more consecutive days, (2) has had surgery, (3) is returning to school after hospitalization, (4) has been under a doctor's care for a significant illness, or (5) is returning to school after being excluded because of a communicable disease.

Students must be in school unless the absence has been deemed an "excused absence." Excused absences include the following: (1) illness or injury of the student; (2) serious illness or death in the student's family; (3) scheduled doctor or dentist appointment; (4) special events such as family weddings, important public functions, etc., which require permission from the principal at least five days in advance; (5) required court appearance or supervised visitation; and (6) having or being suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation, including, but not limited to head lice, ringworm, impetigo, and scabies.

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to the following: (1) pleasure trips; (2) suspension from school; (3) truancy; or (4) other avoidable absences that are not on the “excused absences” list.

When a student earns 4 absences within one quarter the parent/guardian will receive an attendance notification with a warning that the student is at risk to receiving a failing grade for that quarter. When a student earns 6 absences the parent/guardian will be required to attend an Attendance Meeting due to the student being at risk to receiving a failing grade for that quarter. When a student earns 8 absences within one quarter the student is at risk to receiving a failing grade for that quarter. If a student consistently is absent from a specific subject (tardy or picked up early), the same attendance policy applies and the student is at risk to receiving a failing grade in that specific subject due to chronic absenteeism.

Students with more than 8 unexcused absences in any given class within a quarter risk receiving a failing grade for that quarter.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES/EARLY PICK UP: All classes (PK4 – 8th) begin promptly at 8:00am. Be sure to arrive at school by 7:50 so your child is in the classroom ready to start at 8:00 am. Keep your child in school until 2:55 pm.

- All families are eligible for Morning Care 6:45-7:45 as this is included in school fee charges. Breakfast is provided.
- Early Pick-ups must be done by 2:00. For the safety & supervision of all, students will not be released between 2:00-3:05
- All doctors notes and early release requests should be emailed to Mrs. Muir at dmuir@guardiancatholic.com
- Parents MUST come into the office to **sign-in** any students who are tardy and **sign-out** any students who leave early.

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

Spirit Days for Students

- Students are eligible for weekly “spirit shirt and jeans” days each Monday if they have perfect attendance and no tardies or early pick-ups from the week before.
 - Tardiness and attendance are documented from Monday through Friday of the prior week.
 - Teachers will notify homeroom students who are eligible for Spirit Day on Friday each week.
 - Violations of Spirit Day requirements will earn the consequence of a uniform infraction from the homeroom teacher.

TARDINESS

Parents are encouraged to have children at school by 7:50am. Any student arriving after the designated starting time will be marked tardy. A student who arrives after 8:00 is tardy and must report to the office [where parents are required to sign student in](#). Students with more than 8 unexcused absences in any given class within a quarter risk receiving a failing grade for that quarter.

EARLY PICK UP

All early pick-ups must be completed by 2:00 PM to avoid disruptions during end-of-day procedures and ensure a smooth dismissal process. Parents or guardians who need to pick up a child before dismissal must do so before 2:00pm, by emailing in advance Mrs. Delicia Muir at dmuir@guardiancatholic.com and signing students out from the front office. **Students with more than 8 unexcused absences in any given class within a quarter risk receiving a failing grade for that quarter.**

Students will not be released between 2:00-3:05pm to ensure the safety of all students during the school dismissal process. Parents are encouraged to keep early dismissals to a minimum and to make appointments outside of school hours to prevent the loss of instructional time. Parents are encouraged to keep early dismissals to a minimum and to make appointments outside of school hours to prevent the loss of instructional time.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Parents will be notified with written notice upon the fourth absence of the student within a quarter. After the sixth day of absence, parent/guardian will be required to meet with the Student Success Team to create an attendance plan. Failure to improve attendance may result in the student's dismissal from the school and a failing grade in that quarter per subject missed.

If your child receives the Step Up for Students scholarship, the school is required to report quarterly whether or not your child's attendance meets Guardian Catholic School's attendance standard.

Parents of children in the VPK program are asked to see the section, —Voluntary PreK Attendance Policy included in this Handbook.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER ABSENCE(S)

Students must be fever free (temperature of 99.9 F or lower), vomiting/diarrhea free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. Students who are sent home during the school day with a fever and/or from vomiting/diarrhea will not be allowed to return to school the next day as this would not allow for the 24-hour protection of the entire school community. These are considered excused absences.

HOMEWORK POLICY DUE TO ILLNESS

Missed assignments are the student and/or parent's responsibility to request and complete immediately upon the student's return to school after an absence. Students who are absent have one day for each day of absence to make up the missed assignments, quizzes or tests. For example, a student who was absent three days would be given three school days to complete the missed work.

When a student will be out for continued illness (3 or more days), a parent may call the school office before 9:00 AM to arrange to pick missed assignments the following day.

HOMEWORK POLICY DUE TO VACATIONS/PLANNED ABSENCES

The school calendar provides for extended weekends and holiday breaks throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times to avoid missing instructional school days. Families may request work in advance for a planned absence, and teachers may try to accommodate those requests, but are not required. Requests for work made after a planned absence will not be accommodated.

ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Students needing medical appointments during school hours must be signed out by a parent in the front office. If the child returns to school during the same school day, he/she must be signed back into school in the office. It is helpful for the parent and school if parents call or email ahead of time to notify the school that the child will be leaving for an appointment. This allows the school to have the student ready for pick up. Students who are away from school for an appointment for 3 ½ hours or more will be counted absent. Doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible. Check the school calendar for days off and early dismissal dates as other possible times for making appointments.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER DISMISSAL OR STAYING ON CAMPUS

Students are not permitted to return to the school building/campus after dismissal unless accompanied by a teacher. Students who return to school after dismissal without a teacher or are found on campus after school unsupervised will be required to be picked up by the parent immediately. Students attending any school-sponsored event after school must be chaperoned by teacher, parent, or guardian and must remain in designated event areas. Students may not be dropped off and left unattended.

CATHOLIC RELIGION

All children attending Guardian Catholic School participate in Catholic religion classes, prayers and Mass. We foster openness and respect for all religions. Parents are encouraged to help foster their child's relationship with God by taking their child to a place of worship regularly. For Sacramental Prep, please see page 31.

CELL PHONES

Students are strongly encouraged **not** to bring cell phones to school. However, if a parent determines that their child needs a cell phone for use after leaving school grounds, the student may bring one **after completing the "Cell Phone Agreement."**

Cell phone agreements are distributed to students in grades **5–8** at the beginning of the school year. Parents who decide to send a cell phone with their child after the start of the year must request a

copy of the agreement. Likewise, parents of students in **lower grade levels** who wish to send a cell phone with their child must also request and sign the agreement before doing so.

- Cell phones must be turned off and placed into the cell phone locker during homeroom as soon as the student arrives to the classroom.
- Cell phones are not to be used for any reason while the student is on campus without being accompanied by his/her parent. This includes morning care, aftercare, after-school sports and during extracurricular activities.
- Cell phones found in use or in possession of will be collected and sent and held in the office for one the day, and then only released to a parent. Repeat offenders risk losing the privilege of being allowed to bring cell phone to school.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE

Up-to-date information is very important in case of emergencies and for school records.

Parents/Guardians are **required** to update this information in FACTS SIS and notify the School Office in writing of any change of address, home telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, business phone numbers, e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers of emergency contacts. **All contact information provided to the school must be accurate, current, and legally valid. Parents/guardians are required to list all contact, custody, and pickup information exactly as stated in official legal documents (such as birth certificates, court orders, or custody agreements).**

CHECKS

Checks are not accepted. Payments can be made via cash, cashier checks, or money orders.

CLOSING SCHOOL DUE TO BAD WEATHER

Guardian Catholic School will follow the decisions of the Office of Education of the Diocese of Saint Augustine in emergencies such as hurricanes. Announcements of canceled classes are communicated via text and email through the FACTs parent alert system.

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS & TEACHERS DURING SCHOOL DAY

Classroom instruction time will not be interrupted during the school day, teachers will respond to phone messages and emails during planning periods or before/after school and within 24 hours.

CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

Guardian Catholic School reserves the right to make the final determination regarding a family's future enrollment. All families must attend parent overview with the admissions team during

enrollment. By enrolling your child at Guardian Catholic School, families agree to adhere to all guidelines set forth in this handbook.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK & PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

According to the policy of the Diocese of St. Augustine, all adults volunteering or working with the students must be fingerprinted for a criminal background check prior to involvement with the students and complete a Safe-Environment Training called Protecting God's Children (PGC). The diocesan forms and codes needed for Live Scan for the background check are available [via email from Mrs. Lord, jlord@guardiancatholic.com](mailto:jlord@guardiancatholic.com). The Criminal Background check [and renewal of PGC](#) must be repeated every five (5) years. These requirements protect the safety of our children.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum guides of the Diocese of St. Augustine are the basis of the school program and guide the selection of textbooks and instructional programs. These guides are updated and revised in accordance with sound educational research. [The curriculum is available in the Student Success Center.](#)

DISCIPLINE CODE

The purpose of the Discipline Policy for Guardian Catholic School is to ensure that proper order is maintained in a manner that is in keeping with the philosophy established by the Diocese of St. Augustine. All disciplinary action is directed toward the child's growth in self-knowledge, in self-discipline and in understanding of his/her Christian responsibilities. Administrators, teachers, staff members and parents work together to teach appropriate and Christian behavior.

Students are always subject to the Discipline Code while on school grounds and when representing the school at functions such as sporting events and field trips. Guardian Catholic School reserves the right to discipline a student whose actions, whether on campus or off, reflect discredit to Guardian Catholic School.

Guardian Catholic School has implemented the Foundations Program from Safe and Civil Schools to promote a positive, structured, and supportive learning environment. The CHAMPS component specifically addresses effective classroom management by guiding student behavior through clear expectations. The Foundations program emphasizes the development of positive relationships within a caring and collaborative school culture. Students are supported in making responsible choices through direct instruction, consistent modeling, and ongoing monitoring. As a data-driven framework, Foundations focus on continuous growth and improvement. Its structured approach

fosters a climate conducive to academic success and Christian values, with procedures designed to encourage positive behavior from all students.

We establish and communicate clear schoolwide and classroom behavior expectations with equitable responses to misbehavior, thus fostering positive academic engagement, decision making and behavioral/academic performance. Although we create an environment to support students in making good behavioral choices, we realize that sometimes students need increased structure and support to make better decisions. Therefore, this policy encompasses a four tiered approach to addressing behavioral problems and their related consequences. It is our hope that this leveled system will help students in forming appropriate behavior responses to all situations.

Nothing in the Discipline Code precludes Guardian Catholic School's administrators, teachers, staff, and volunteers from alerting law enforcement authorities when violations of federal or state law are discovered.

Behavioral Expectations

The following charts explain Guardian Catholic School's Behavioral Expectations in common areas. At the beginning of the year students will be explicitly taught these expectations. Our expectations will be reinforced throughout the year. Our goal is through these easy-to-follow expectations a positive learning atmosphere will be established throughout the school. [Individual classrooms set and teach behavioral expectations for classrooms based on activities.](#)

Common Area CHAMPS

Lunchroom Goal: Use quiet voices, clean up after yourself, and stay in your seat until dismissed.

C	Voice Level 1 or 2
H	Raise your hand for help
A	Eat and talk politely
M	Walk to line, table, and trash
P	Use good manners, stay seated
S	Everyone enjoys a safe, clean, and satisfying lunch

Recess or Playground Goal: Play safe, take turns, and include others with kind words and actions.

C	Voice level 4
H	Go to an adult, if needed
A	Play safely and follow rules
M	Run and move safely in play areas only
P	Show good sportsmanship
S	Everyone has fun and stays safe

Mass/Church Goal: Sit still, listen with respect, and join in when appropriate.

C	Voice level 0 unless participating in Mass
H	Quietly raise your hand or ask an adult
A	Celebrate Mass; worship, listen, and reflect
M	Enter, sit and stand reverently, and exit quietly

P	Actively engaged in mass
S	We honor the space, each other, and grow closer to God

Auditorium or Assembly Goal: "Listen, sit still, and clap at the right time.

C	Voice level 0
H	Raise hand
A	Watch and listen to the program
M	Walk in and out calmly
P	Eyes on the speaker, hands and body still
S	Everyone hears, learns, and enjoys the presentation

Hallway Goal: Walk in a straight, quiet line, with hands and feet to yourself.

C	Voice level 0
H	Ask quietly or wait until you are in class
A	Move from one place to another
M	Walk, do not run
P	Stay in line and face forward. Keep hands to yourself
S	Quiet and safe movement

Main Office Goal: Use your best manners, speak respectfully, and wait your turn.

C	Use voice level 1 or 2
H	Ask the adult at the desk
A	Check in, deliver message, or wait patiently
M	Walk in, stand or sit calmly
P	Stay polite and patient
S	We represent Guardian Catholic School well

Clinic Goal: Be respectful, wait your turn, and explain what you need kindly.

C	Voice level 2
H	Ask the adult in the clinic
A	Rest, get help, or check in
M	Walk and wait calmly
P	Speak kindly, be patient
S	Everyone gets the care they need

Defining Unacceptable Behaviors

There are two levels of behaviors: minor and major. Minor behaviors will be addressed and handled by teachers. Major behaviors will be referred to the [Student Success Team](#).

Minor:

Level 1: Managed immediately and briefly by staff in the context in which they occur

- Minor school infractions

Classroom teachers and staff members assign consequences for misbehaviors at the first level.

Level 2: Managed immediately and briefly by staff in the context in which they occur

- Moderate misbehavior or chronic level 1 Minor

Classroom teachers and staff members communicate and document this misbehavior via a Behavior Event within FACTS SIS. All Behavior Events are emailed to the parent so that the parent is aware of the misbehavior that occurred and can reinforce the school's expectations with their child. A parent conference may be required.

Major:

Level 3: Referred to office and to be managed by school administration

- Serious school violations

Violations at this level always include a conference with the administration, parents, and involved staff members. Consequences are determined by the principal and administrative staff and may include suspension and/or expulsion. Other corrective actions may be assigned at the discretion of the principal. Repeated level 3 misbehaviors will be addressed, and administrative team will determine whether the student should remain enrolled at Guardian Catholic School.

Level 4: Managed by school administration in conjunction with local law enforcement agent

- Illegal misbehavior

Violations at this level will always include student's parents/guardians being called and informed of the violation and will be required to immediately pick up the student from school. Students and parents will be informed either orally or in writing of the school rules that have been violated and of the specific grounds for disciplinary action. A conference will be scheduled with the administrative team, parents, and the staff members involved. The student will then be suspended from school until a decision is reached on the violation's consequences. Upon the recommendation of the administrative team, these and similar major violations may result in extended suspension, required counseling prior to returning to school, or expulsion.

A student may be expelled from school at the discretion of the administrative team because of incorrigible or unacceptable behavior or conduct that affects the physical or moral welfare of the school or student.

To maintain a safe, respectful, and faith-filled learning environment, all students are expected to demonstrate self-control, courtesy, and Christian values in their words and actions. The following lists outline examples of behaviors that are not allowed at school or during any school-sponsored activity.

These lists are not all-inclusive; the administration reserves the right to address other behaviors not listed that are inconsistent with the mission and values of Guardian Catholic School.

Minor Misbehaviors

Minor misbehaviors are those that disrupt learning or demonstrate a lack of respect for school expectations. Examples include:

- Talking out of turn or excessive noise in class or hallways
- Failure to follow directions

- Disrespectful tone or attitude toward peers or staff
- Minor classroom disruptions
- Dress code violations
- Inappropriate language (not directed at others)
- Failure to complete assignments or bring required materials
- Unauthorized use of personal items (cell phones, toys, etc.)
- Running or unsafe behavior in hallways
- Minor physical contact (e.g., horseplay, rough play)

Major Misbehaviors

Major misbehaviors are serious violations that endanger the safety or dignity of others, show defiance toward authority, or violate school and diocesan policies. Examples include:

- Defiance, insubordination, or refusal to follow staff directives
- Threatening, bullying, or intimidating others (verbally, physically, or digitally)
- Fighting or aggressive physical behavior
- Profanity or obscene language directed at others
- Harassment (including verbal, physical, or sexual)
- Vandalism or damage to school or personal property
- Theft or possession of stolen property
- Dishonesty, cheating, or forgery
- Possession or use of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any harmful substances
- Leaving campus or assigned area without permission
- Repeated or chronic minor offenses

DRESS CODE & UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

GCS UNIFORM POLICY

RC Uniforms is the sole provider of uniforms for Guardian Catholic School; all uniform apparel including navy pants and shorts must be purchased at RC Uniforms. All uniform items purchased from RC are marked with a GCS school logo or have the RC Uniform trademark tag. If you purchase items from any other location, you will be required to replace them.

[Click here for a complete list of items to be purchased from RC Uniforms.](#)

All students must be in uniform every day. In addition to the specific items purchased from RC Uniforms, students must follow all guidelines outlined in the GCS Dress Code below. Students who are out of uniform and/or not following the GCS Dress Code will be sent home. The student may return to school only once he/she is in the proper uniform with adherence to the dress code.

Students in Grades 3-8 wear the Guardian Catholic School PE uniform for Physical Education classes. This includes: gray t-shirt, navy blue mesh shorts, and athletic shoes. PE Uniforms must be purchased at RC Uniforms and each item (t-shirt, sweatshirt, shorts) must have the GCS logo.

GCS DRESS CODE

The Dress Code is designed to foster neatness, discipline, safety and to promote students' focus on education. All students must adhere to the dress code while on school grounds, on field trips and at school-related events.

Accessories

No makeup, lipstick, colored lip gloss, nail polish, gel nail polish, or artificial nails may be worn. No visible body art (tattoos) of any kind.

Jewelry

Earrings are limited to two pair of post earrings worn in the ear lobe. Dangling earrings, hoop earrings of any size, and huggies are not allowed. No body piercing except pierced ears. No cartilage piercing. Boys may not wear earrings of any kind.

[Bracelets, rings, watches, and visible necklaces are not allowed.](#)

Appearance

The uniform should be clean and pressed with all buttons attached and hem intact. Shirttails must be tucked in while students are on campus.

Belts

Belts must be worn on Mass days for students in Grades 2-8. Belts must be a standard width and have a plain buckle. Belts must be solid navy blue, brown, or black and without decoration.

Hair

Hair must be kept neat, well-groomed, and reflect the professional appearance of the uniform.

Girls may wear hair accessories (ie. bows, headbands, scrunchies, beads) that are plain white, black, navy blue, gray, and yellow.

Boys' must have a low haircut and be clean-shaven. Hair must be kept above the shirt collar, above the eyebrows and around the ears.

The following are NOT permitted:

- Excessive beading or weaves
- Unnaturally colored hair
- Designs in the hair
- Extreme styles that distract from the educational process (ie. mohawks or other fad hairstyles)
- Hats, scarves and bandanas
- Facial hair

Shoes

Students in all grades are encouraged to wear athletic shoes. Athletic shoes, oxford style saddle shoes, loafers, topsiders (ie. Sperry's) are acceptable. The sole of the topsider must be beige/tan. Shoes must be worn correctly, cut below the ankle, and must be completely enclosed. Sandals, high tops, open-back shoes, boots, crocs, ballet slippers/flats, light up and/or noise producing shoes and shoes with a heel over one inch are NOT permitted. Shoes with laces must be tied at all times.

Skirts

Skirts must be no shorter than three inches above the knee.

Socks

Socks must be solid navy blue, black or white. Sock brand logos are acceptable (ie. Nike swoosh). Leggings, florescent socks, and socks with patterns are not permitted.

WINTER MONTHS (December through February)

Girls may wear plain black, navy blue, white, or gray tights. Leggings may not be worn. Girls may wear the navy pants found at RC Uniforms during winter months only. Pajama style pants and sweatpants may not be worn at any time. Non-uniform jackets must be removed once inside the buildings.

NON-UNIFORM DAYS GUIDELINES

Students may wear:

- jeans
- tennis shoes
- shorts may be worn and must be fingertip length
- PE shorts can be worn in grades 3-8
- skirts (no shorter than three inches above the knee)
- skorts (grades K- 2nd only)
- nail polish (no gel nail polish or artificial nails)
- jewelry
- dresses (no more than three inches above the knee)
- pants/ sweatpants/ joggers

Students may not wear:

- Flip-flop sandals, crocs or open back shoes
- Tank tops or low-cut blouses
- Shirts bearing midriff
- T-shirts with inappropriate writing or inappropriate logos
- Athletic shoes that convert to roller skates
- Pajamas or pajama-style pants
- Leggings
- Make-up
- Clothing that is extremely tight
- Hats
- Clothing with holes

SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS GUIDELINES

Students must adhere to the below guidelines when attending school-sponsored events (ie. sporting events, school musical performances, sports banquet, cotillion, etc.)

Students may not wear:

- tight clothing, including short leggings
- clothing that is revealing, immodest, or tops that expose bare midriff or undergarments (including halter tops, sports bras, tube tops, razer back tops, spaghetti straps and low cut tops)
- shorts, skirts and dresses shorter than fingertip length
- excessive make up

All uniform regulations and guidelines are subject to the discretion of the administration.

DRIVER INFORMATION

Volunteer drivers are needed for athletic or other school events. School personnel may not transport students. Any volunteer driver must be 18 years of age or older, hold a valid driver's license, and have the required insurance coverage in effect on any vehicle used to transport students. Each driver must have a Volunteer Driver Information Sheet on file in the school office.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic devices are to be brought to school; this includes personal iPads, notebooks, iPods, pagers, CD players, electronic games, and other similar items. If electronic devices are brought to

school, the principal will keep them until a parent picks up the items. The school is not responsible for the loss of personal property.

EXTENDED DAY

EAGLES NEST AFTERSCHOOL CARE

Eagles Nest Afterschool Care provides a safe, supportive, and engaging environment for Guardian Catholic School students on campus. The program operates from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each school day. For questions about the program or assistance with registration, please contact Felicia Bosman, Site Director, at fbosman@guardiancatholic.com.

ALTERNATIVE AFTERSCHOOL CARE OPTIONS

The following programs and day cares pick students up after school and bus them to an off- campus location for After School Care:

Boys and Girls Club / Bridge- 904-354-7799 main number; Elementary Grades - Tonya Gaillard ext 150; Grades 6-12 - Kenyetta Jackson ext 169

Boys and Girls Club / NFL Youth Education Town, 555 West 25th Street; contact Sa'Sha Barnhart, Unit Director, 904-632-8327 (office)

One K Nation- 904-383-4321 main number Contact LeVasiyea Haslem

JaxPal Afterschool Program 904-854-6555 main number

Eastside Center ext 323; Monument Center ext 325; Northside Center ext 317; Westside center ext 326

Guardian Catholic School is an approved provider of School Readiness child care assistance through the Early Learning Coalition of Duval. This financial assistance is available to families:

- Are at or below [150% of the Federal Poverty Level](#); AND
 - Are employed at least 20 hours per week OR a student taking at least 12 credit hours.
- Apply at www.elcofduval.org or call ELC at 208-2044 x1 to find out if you are eligible.

Parents with School Readiness funding should request two providers on their certificate: 1) Guardian Catholic School for school day wraparound services until 3pm; and 2) Champions for after school care.

FIRE DRILLS

1. At the signal for a fire drill, all activity and discussion will end. Only the teacher or supervising adult may speak.
2. At the direction of the teachers, students will walk single file out of and away from the building to assigned areas, closing all doors behind them.
3. If a student is in the restroom or between classes, he/she should go to the area assigned to the class to which he/she would go next. If the student does not know where that is, he/she should simply walk away from the building and report to the nearest teacher. The teacher will direct him/her.
4. In the event of a blocked exit, standard procedures should be followed and a teacher will redirect the students.
5. To insure everyone's safety, students must be silent, walk briskly and carefully, and be alert.
6. No one may remain in the building during a fire drill.

FACTS TUITION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Guardian Catholic School uses the F.A.C.T.S. Tuition Management Program for the payment of all school fees. Each family's payment plan is arranged with the principal. Payments are made on either a ten (10) or eleven (11)-month plan. Further information about the F.A.C.T.S. Tuition Management Program can be obtained by calling the school office (904-765-6522).

FIELD TRIPS

Class visits to places of cultural and educational significance give enrichment to the lessons of the classroom. The written permission of parents/guardians on the diocesan form must be obtained for each child participating in a field trip. No student may participate unless a signed permission slip for the specific event is on file in the office. Parents who help chaperone field trips must have a current and valid Criminal Background Check on file in the office and must complete the Safe-Environment Training, Protecting God's Children. [Chaperones may not bring siblings \(or other children\) on field trips.](#)

FUNDRAISING

Every family is expected to participate in school fund raising projects. Families who are unable to participate in the fundraiser are asked to make a donation to the school equal to the amount that would have been earned from the sale. The fee for this donation will be added to the family's bill.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The student must pass all major subjects and have all school fees paid in full in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Major subject areas are Social Studies, Math, Science, English, Religion and Reading.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

All parents are members of the Home & School Association by virtue of their child's enrollment at Guardian Catholic School. The Home & School Association promotes parental support to the school by assisting with activities, social functions and fund-raisers. The appointment of officers takes place at the end of each school year and is determined by school administration. [All volunteers are required to sign the volunteer agreement form and adhere to the volunteer policies.](#)

HOMEWORK

One of the most important objectives of education is to teach the child how to study independently. In order to acquire that habit, written homework and study assignments are given. These assignments serve as reinforcements of what has been taught in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to see that the children do homework each day and to provide support requested by teachers such as making it possible for the child to use the public library. Homework is a requirement; therefore, homework that is not done or not handed in on time will affect a student's grade point average.

ILLNESS/INJURY

If a child becomes too ill to remain in class or if he/she is injured, parents will be notified at once. If the parents cannot be reached, the person designated on the Emergency Medical Form will be notified.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Parents are required to show each child's proof of immunization prior to the child being enrolled in a diocesan Catholic School. Immunization records must be verified prior to the student may be in attendance at school. [Immunization records are required to be current to continue enrollment.](#)

INSURANCE

All students are insured under the Diocese of St. Augustine Student Accident Program.

- This program provides ACCIDENT insurance only for all enrolled students of the Diocese while participating in school sponsored and supervised activities.
- These activities include interscholastic sports, football, band, cheerleading, intramural sports, gym classes, and non-sport extracurricular activities.

Highlights of the Program:

- Benefits paid for medical expenses when not recoverable from any other insurance policy (excess basis).
- Benefits for services paid on a Usual and Customary (U&C) basis.

INTERNET POLICY

Guardian Catholic School follows the values and technology guidelines of the Diocese of St. Augustine. Internet access is provided to support learning, communication, and innovation by offering students and teachers a wide range of educational resources.

While the Internet is a valuable tool, it also contains material that may not be appropriate for a school setting. For this reason, all users are expected to act responsibly, using technology in ways that reflect our school's educational and faith-based values.

Access to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Users who misuse this privilege or violate guidelines may lose access. The school has the right to monitor Internet activity to ensure appropriate use. All devices (personal or school) on school property is subject to monitoring.

Students and their parents are responsible for their actions while using school technology and Internet resources.

LEAVING CAMPUS

Students are not allowed to leave campus [without being signed out](#) during school hours for any reason.

LIBRARY

Students in grades PK-8 are scheduled for weekly library time to check out books and/or magazines. Students in grades PK-2 are required to keep their library material at school at all times. Students in grades 3-8 are permitted to take their library materials home and are responsible for all materials checked out in their name. Students are also responsible for independent reading throughout the school year as part of a reading grade and for the Accelerated Reader program.

Loan Period for Books & Magazines: Library materials may be returned at any time. If a student finishes reading a book before the next scheduled check out day, the student may ask the classroom teacher permission to go to the library to exchange the book.

Grade Level	Maximum Limit	Loan Period	Renewal
PK-2	1*	7 days	1**
3	2*	7 days	1**
4-8	3*	7 days	1**

*Only (1) magazine may be checked out at a time.

**If there is a hold on a book, that book is not allowed to be renewed.

Holds: A hold is a request for an item to be pulled as soon as it is available and set aside for the student who is next on the hold list. Holds should be requested by the student to the media specialist and are on a first come first serve basis. Holds will not be placed on materials on the shelf.

Overdue Items: Each student will be notified when he/she has overdue library material(s). It is the responsibility of the student to return the overdue item(s) to the library immediately or see the media specialist with any concerns. Overdue notices will be distributed in the weekly newsletter.

Lost/Damaged Items: A student will be charged the replacement cost for any lost library item(s). Damaged items will be assessed by the media specialist who will determine the cost of repair. Library fine notices will be distributed in the Monday Message. The fine notice indicates the reason for the fine, the amount of the fine, and the due date for payment. If the fine is not paid in full by the due date indicated, the amount will be invoiced to the student's school bill.

LUNCH

Guardian Catholic School participates in the National School Lunch Program and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows all students to receive free school breakfast and lunch each day. Breakfast is served from 7:00–7:45 a.m., and lunch is provided during scheduled lunch periods.

Students may choose to bring a lunch from home; however, microwaves are not available for student use. All students are required to walk through the lunch line, even if they bring their own lunch, as the school must offer a meal to every student in accordance with federal guidelines. Students are not required to take a lunch if they choose to eat what they brought from home.

To support the healthy mission of our school lunch program, parents may not bring or drop off food from outside restaurants or fast-food services.

While in the cafeteria students are taught to show responsible and respectful behavior by:

- speaking in a tone of voice that would be used in a restaurant;
- sitting on the chair, facing the table, and engaging in polite conversation.
- staying at assigned tables;
- cleaning the table and floor area where they sat.

During lunch students are expected to use the same manners required in the classroom. Courtesy toward other students and cooperation with lunch supervisors are always in order.

Candy and Gum

Students are not permitted to bring or chew gum at school. Candy is only allowed when provided by a teacher for special occasions or classroom rewards.

MEDICATIONS

Florida Statute, Section 232.46 mandates that school staff must follow specific guidelines when administering medications to students at school. There are no exceptions to these guidelines. Our main concern is for the safety of your child.

1. All medication must be brought to the school office by the parent/guardian. Students are never to bring medication to school in their backpacks.
2. The parent/guardian must fill out the permission form located in the office and sign it.
3. All medicine is to be counted by the parent/guardian and office staff upon us receiving it.
4. All medication MUST BE STORED IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER, no exceptions.
5. If your child is on liquid medication, the parent must provide the proper medicine spoon/dropper to administer it.

PARENTS AS MODELS

Adults are expected to model appropriate behavior at all times, both on school grounds and during school-sponsored events. Their speech and actions should reflect respect, professionalism, and Christian values, thereby supporting the faith-based environment of the school. Behaviors such as raising voices, using profanity, making threats, bullying, disrupting classes, or engaging in any similar conduct are strictly prohibited.

CUSTODY ORDERS

Parents and guardians are solely responsible for managing their custody orders. This includes ensuring that all involved parties adhere to the terms of the custody arrangements without requiring or expecting the school to monitor or enforce these terms. Parents must communicate directly with each other regarding the details of custody arrangements and any changes that may affect the school. The school will not mediate or intervene in custody disputes.

Adults who fail to conduct themselves properly on school property, at school functions or while on the phone with school personnel risk the termination of their child's attendance at Guardian Catholic School.

PARENT STUDENT AGREEMENT TO UPHOLD SCHOOL REGULATIONS

Catholic Schools recognize parents/guardians as the primary educators of their children. The role of the school staff is to work with parents/guardians in a close partnership for the benefit of each child. Since parents/guardians are both teachers and models, it is expected that on school property and at school functions they follow and uphold school rules in order to teach the children by example.

It is important that the school and families work cooperatively to uphold school regulations. Therefore, each family needs to know and agree to support all school policies, rules and regulations as explained in the Parent/Student Handbook.

At the beginning of each school year, parents and students will be required to sign a statement verifying that they will read or have read the Parent/Student Handbook and are willing to support and observe the policies, rules, and regulations of the school.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Mandatory First Quarter Conferences

Formal parent-teacher conferences regarding each student's progress are mandatory in the first quarter of the school year. The first quarter report card will be discussed at this conference.

Parent-Teacher Conferences at Other Times

It is only through cooperation between parents/guardians and school staff that we can best meet the needs of each student. Inquiries, problems or questions dealing with individual students should be handled in the following manner:

1. Parents/guardians should first schedule a conference in advance with the teacher to discuss the matter.
2. If further clarification is needed, a conference with the principal and the teacher may be requested.

PARTIES & BIRTHDAYS

Teacher approval must be secured before treats are brought to campus for a birthday or other celebration. Birthday party invitations for off-campus parties will be distributed only if there is one for each child in the class. Birthday parties may not occur on-campus. Gifts may not be distributed on campus.

PLAYGROUND RULES

During outdoor play during the school day or after school:

- Students are to obey the directives of the person in charge of the play area.
- Students are to remain in the designated play area.

- Tackle football is not permitted.
- Dangerous activities such as skateboarding, piggy back riding or roller blading are not permitted.
- No food is to be eaten outdoors during supervised play.
- Misuse or destruction of playground equipment will not be tolerated; the student will be required to pay the school for the damage done.

PROBATION PERIOD FOR NEW STUDENTS

All new students in grades PreK 4 through 8 are on probation during the first semester of school. During that time the students must prove themselves ready to meet the standards of Guardian Catholic School's curriculum by maintaining passing grades and by exhibiting good conduct. If a student's academic performance or behavior is questionable, students will either be given an extension of probation time or be asked to leave.

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS

When it is necessary to withdraw a child from Guardian Catholic School, email notification should be sent to Mrs. Lord, jlord@guardiancatholic.com as soon as possible so that all reports and fees can be processed. Official school records will be sent directly to the new school once all fees have been paid in full; records are not released to families.

REPORT CARDS

Mid-quarter progress reports will be sent home for all students. Report cards are issued quarterly.

Parents are asked to examine the report card carefully and make arrangements to meet with the teacher if necessary. Report cards are emailed via FACTS SIS at the end of each quarter. The grading scale is as follows:

Grades K-1		Grade 2		Grades 3-8	
Grading		Grading		Grading	
Achievement Grades	Percent	Achievement Grades	Percent	Letter Grade	Percent
S= Satisfactory	74.5-100	S+	89.5-100	A	90-100
N= Needs Improvement	64.5-74	S= Satisfactory	79.5-89	B	80-89
U= Unsatisfactory	0-64	S-	69.5-79	C	70-79
Skills		N= Needs Improvement	59.5-69	D	60-69
Proficient	4	U= Unsatisfactory	0-59	F	0-59
Developing Proficiency	3	Skills			
Emerging Proficiency	2	Proficient	4		
Insufficient Proficiency	1	Developing Proficiency	3		
Not Assessed	NA	Emerging Proficiency	2		
		Insufficient Proficiency	1		
		Not Assessed	NA		

REPORT CARD AWARDS

First Honors (*A Honor Roll*) are given to students in grades 3-8 who have straight A's in the major subject areas and conduct.

Second Honors (*A-B Honor Roll*) are given to students in grades 3-8 who have A's and/or B's in the major subject areas and in conduct. Major subject areas are Religion, Science, Math, Social Studies, Reading, and English.

REPORTING ABUSE/NEGLECT & DCF

Florida law provides that any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare must report such knowledge to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The school will cooperate with all child protective investigations by DCF or the local law enforcement agency. Reports should be made to Florida's Department of Children and Families by calling the Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

Child protective investigations by DCF or local law enforcement agencies sometimes include interviews of students at school and may occur without advance notice. When it is reasonably possible, the school will request of the investigator that the school be allowed to notify the parents that their child has been asked to participate in a child protective investigation. The school may also request the presence of a school staff member during investigative interviews on school property. However, the school will follow the direction of the investigator with respect to these requests. The school is under no obligation to notify parents, as this could interfere with the Department of Children and Families' investigation process.

RETENTION

Student progression shall be based primarily on achievement of appropriate grade level skills. Other factors to be considered are mental and physical development, work and study habits, and maturation. If it seems necessary to retain a student an additional year in a particular grade, the following criteria will be used:

- ☐ Kindergarten – Lack of readiness in reading, math, and communication skills.
At the primary level, especially Kindergarten, special consideration in a decision to promote a student will be given to social, emotional and maturation levels and chronological age.
- ☐ Grades 1-2 – Failure in Reading, English or Math
In grades 1-2, the subject is failed if the student receives a U as a final grade for any two quarters. Only one subject may be taken in summer school. Summer school is defined as a minimum of 30 contact hours with a certified teacher. The summer school tutor must be a certified teacher approved by the school's administration and must provide documentation of completed work. At the end of summer school, the student will be required to pass a test administered by Guardian Catholic School in order to determine promotion.
- ☐ Grades 3-8 – For promotion in a Catholic school, a passing grade must be achieved in all major subjects: Religion, Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. In grades

3-8, the subject is failed if the student's final average is an "F". Any failed subject must be made up in a summer program with a certified teacher and approved by the principal. The summer school tutor must be a certified teacher approved by the school's administration and must provide documentation of completed work. Summer school is defined as a minimum of 30 contact hours with a certified teacher. At the end of summer school, the student will be required to pass a test administered by Guardian Catholic School.

Only one subject may be taken in summer school. If two subjects are failed, the student must repeat the grade level.

If one of the failed subjects is Religion, the student must make up work if he/she wishes to return to the school or to enroll in any other Catholic school in the diocese.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Catholic students who are preparing to receive the sacraments of First Penance, First Eucharist or Confirmation must meet the following requirements established by the Diocese of St. Augustine for the celebration of these sacraments:

- Ongoing remote preparation is essential prior to Sacramental Catechesis.
- Readiness of candidates is determined through consultation with parents, catechists, pastor and candidates.
- Remote preparation is provided through the parish Religious Education program and supported by the Catholic School religion program.
- Immediate preparation for the sacraments involves parish Religious Education programs for a minimum of six (6) hours and a maximum of twelve (12) hours for each sacrament.
- Parents and sponsors are encouraged to act as witnesses by their regular participation in church life within the parish.
- The proper context for the celebration of the sacraments is the parish community. A privileged time and place for the sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist is the Sunday assembly.

SAFETY PATROL

Students in grades 5 through 8 are eligible to serve on the safety patrol. Their main function is to assist in the safe arrival and departure of all students. Parents are asked to cooperate with the patrol. Fire regulations prohibit vehicles from blocking school entrances before, during or after school.

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Consensual sexual activity among students is not permitted. A substantiated charge of sexual activity between students will result in disciplinary action that may include but not be limited to suspension or expulsion.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Catholic teaching recognizes that we are each made in the image and likeness of God, and that we should treat each person with dignity and respect. This teaching should be modeled by faculty and staff and by all students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate oral, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Any student who alleges sexual harassment by another student should bring this matter to the attention of the principal, his/her teacher, or guidance counselor. The principal will investigate the incident. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context will be considered.

A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action that may include but not be limited to suspension or expulsion.

SOLICITATION

Solicitation will not be permitted on school grounds at any time.

TELEPHONE USAGE

Students are never permitted to use the classroom phone. [Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day, while on campus.](#) Students are permitted to use the office telephone only with the approval of school personnel.

TEXTBOOKS

Hardbound textbooks are rentals and are assigned at the beginning of the school year. Soft textbooks are consumable and assigned at the beginning of the school year. The students will be responsible for lost, damaged or defaced textbooks. If any of the above occurs, the family is responsible for the replacement cost of the book.

THREATS AND VIOLENCE BY STUDENTS OR PARENTS

The safety and dignity of everyone in our school community is a top priority. [Threats of violence or intimidating behavior — whether spoken, written, or acted out — and bullying are strictly forbidden.](#) [Verified threats will be taken seriously; students may be suspended, expelled, or required to undergo psychological assessment and counseling.](#) [Reinstatement may include a parent-student conference and written verification from a licensed mental health professional.](#)

Any references to shootings or guns — including toy guns — will result in immediate contact with JSO.

Threats of suicide or suicidal ideation require the student to be picked up immediately and evaluated by a psychologist before returning to school.

Adults must model respectful behavior at all school events and communications; yelling, swearing, threatening, bullying, or disrupting school activities may lead to consequences, including termination of the child's enrollment.

TUITION AND FEES

The timely payment of tuition and fees is important. Prompt payments allow the school to meet the regular financial obligations incurred on behalf of the children enrolled. Parents are asked to follow the Payment Plan agreed to for the current school year. The fee schedule is published annually and is available in the school office. The following guidelines have been adopted:

- ☐ Monthly payments are due no later than the 20th of each month or on the date selected in the family's FACTS payment plan. This includes tuition, book fees, Before and After School Care fees, sports and all other regularly recurring expenses.
- ☐ After the 20th of the month, a \$20 late fee will be applied to delinquent accounts.
- ☐ If payment or arrangements fail to be made by the end of any given month, children may be asked to stay home until payments have been made. We reserve the right to refer delinquent accounts to a Collection Agency.

When a family faces special financial circumstances, these needs should be presented directly to the principal for consideration. It is our practice to work closely with families during times of financial difficulty.

TUTORING AND HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

All students who are staying for after school care, will automatically be included in the tutoring and homework assistance program.

VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Safety is paramount. Employees, volunteers, and students shall have no expectation of privacy in the use of school property and equipment. The school retains the right to conduct searches of school premises, property, and equipment, including school communication and information systems in the interests of safety of persons and protection of property. The school retains the right to conduct reasonable searches of persons to guard against theft, violence, possession or distribution of inappropriate information or material, possession or use of drugs and alcohol, or an exigent circumstance. Searches shall be conducted reasonably to protect the personal dignity and privacy rights of individuals. Searches shall be conducted by two persons to protect the rights of the person searched. All valuables and other items should be left at home. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Each family is expected to volunteer at least 20 hours during the school year. Volunteer activities are essential to promote parental involvement in the school and to help defray some school costs. Among the many volunteer opportunities are chaperoning for field trips, assisting teachers, parent workdays, and Home & School fund-raisers.

All volunteers are required to sign the volunteer agreement form and adhere to the volunteer policies.

VOLUNTARY PRE-K ATTENDANCE POLICY

Parents of children enrolled in a VPK class must comply with the attendance policy. The attendance requirements are as follows:

1. Your child must arrive in the VPK classroom no later than 8:00 a.m. daily.
2. Your child must participate in the VPK activities until 11:30 a.m. daily.
3. You must call the Guardian Catholic School office (765-6522) if your child is going to be late or absent.
4. If your child is absent for three or more instructional days he/she could be dismissed from the VPK program.
5. Absences and tardiness may be excused under —extraordinary circumstances|| if appropriate documentation is provided. These include:
 - a. Hospitalization of the child, his/her parent or guardian (Doctor's Note required).
 - b. Illness of the student, his/her parent or guardian that requires the ill person to remain at home (Doctor's Note required).
 - c. Death of a member of the student's, parent's, or guardian's immediate family (Obituary Certificate required).
 - d. Court ordered visitation (Court Documents required).
 - e. Parent's or guardian's military deployment (Military Documents required).
6. A child may not miss more than 26 days per year for illness.
7. A child may not miss more than 35 days per year regardless of circumstances.
8. Parents must complete and sign an attendance verification form for EACH month. These forms will be distributed on the last instructional day of each month and must be signed and returned to the office the same day.

Children who do not meet the attendance requirements will lose VPK funding. The child may be allowed to remain in the VPK classroom, but the parent will be required to pay full tuition. At the beginning of the school year, parents of VPK children will be asked to sign a copy of this policy that will be kept on file in the school office.

AGREEMENT TO UPHOLD SCHOOL POLICIES AS STATED IN THE HANDBOOK

As a condition of enrollment, all parents and students are required to know and agree to support all school policies, rules and regulations as explained in the Parent/Student Handbook.

RIGHT TO AMEND

The Principal and Superintendent reserve the right to make final decisions or changes to all information stated in the handbook. Failure to sign and acknowledge receipt of this handbook does not absolve families from the obligation to comply with all rules set out in the handbook and codes of conduct.

Guardian Catholic School reserves the right to amend this Handbook at any time. Notice of amendments will be sent via the weekly newsletter, e-mail or other online or printed communication.



Guardian
Catholic School

EARLY LEARNING ADDENDUM 2025 – 2026

In addition to the GCS Parent/Student Handbook, the following Addendum applies to all parents who have children enrolled in PK3 and/or PK4.

Agreement to Uphold School Policies as Stated in Parent Handbook & Addendum

As a condition of enrollment, all parents and students are required to know and agree to support all school policies, rules and regulations as explained in the Parent/Student Handbook and in the Early Learning Addendum to the Handbook.

Right to Amend

Guardian Catholic School reserves the right to amend this Handbook and/or Addendum at any time. Notice of amendments will be sent via the weekly newsletter, e-mail or other online or printed communication.

Early Learning Program Philosophy

Guardian Catholic School's Early Learning Program is based on the philosophy of developmental child care. Our program integrates child-directed and hands-on activities with teacher-led learning, direct instruction and technology. Our program focuses on development of the whole child: spirit, mind and body.

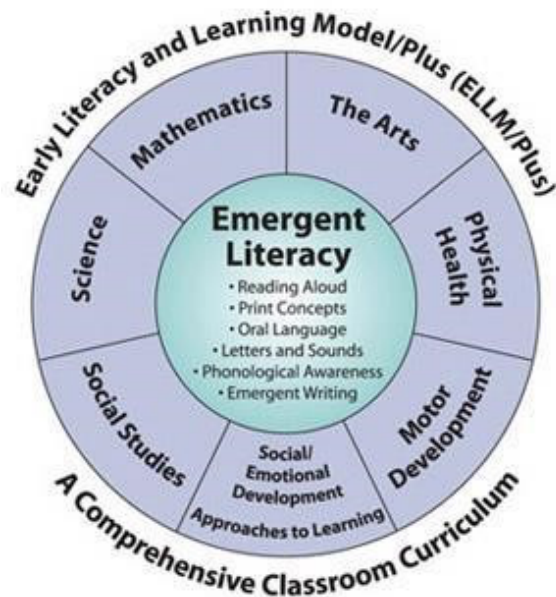
In this model, children develop physically, cognitively, socially, emotionally and spiritually through playbased learning, and teaching is primarily conducted interactively. The role of the teacher is to be a secure and supportive mentor and form an empathetic connection with the child, guiding them to their potential and setting healthy limits. Classrooms are homelike and comfortable environments where children are safe and free to explore.

Curriculum

The Early Literacy and Learning Model/Plus (ELLM/Plus) is a research-based, comprehensive curriculum for 3-, 4-, and 5-year old preschool children that has been proven to be effective improving children's early reading achievement. It was developed by the University of North Florida (UNF) College of Education and Human Services and the UNF-based Florida Institute of Education (FIE).

The literacy-focused curriculum builds children's cognitive development through literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, motor experiences, and physical health. Children's acquisition of important cognitive and social/emotional development is facilitated through interactions with supportive teachers and other adults who encourage children's curiosity, persistence, and creativity by planning and implementing engaging activities and providing support during learning experiences. ELLM/Plus is designed to expand children's vocabularies and refine their understanding and comprehension of words they know and use.

The Goal of ELLM/Plus is that every child enters school ready to learn, ready to read, and ready to succeed.



Assessments

Guardian Catholic's program participates in Guiding Stars of Duval which is a Quality Rating and Performance System (QRIS). Guiding Stars is designed to benefit:

- Providers so they can provide high-quality care and early learning experiences to children;
- Parents and Caregivers so they can find high-quality child care with an easy to understand rating system; and
- Children so they can have high quality early learning experiences to help develop skills they need to be successful in life.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) uses research-driven insights to observe and measure how teachers interact with children every day to cultivate supportive, structured, and engaging classroom experiences. The CLASS tool is a core component of Guiding Stars of Duval. CLASS not only defines teaching quality through the lens of interactions, it provides the ability to measure and improve the interactions that matter most for student outcomes.

[Cor Advantage](#) is an observation-based assessment which provides an accurate picture of children's development and learning. COR Advantage helps teachers capture and analyze each day's play-based learning and then translate it into positive child outcomes through targeted, individualized instruction. It is built on the [36 items most critical for school readiness](#).

Attendance

Guardian Catholic School operates Early Learning Program for 3-year-olds and 4-year olds from 8:00-11:30 am, 5 days a week for 540 instructional hours. The wrap-around program begins at 11:00.

All enrolled families have access to our school calendar on the school website showing the scheduled days.

Attendance during scheduled instructional days is of utmost importance. You will be required to sign and comply with the following policy on Attendance and Tardiness to remain in the Early Learning program.

Tardiness

Students may be dropped off at school from 6:45 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. and will be signed in digitally each day upon arrival. The instructional day starts at 8:00 a.m. and all children are expected to be in place and ready to start the day. Arrivals after 8:00 a.m. are disruptive to the group in progress and difficult for the arriving child as well. We understand that it is occasionally unavoidable to be —running late||; however, efforts should be made to be on time daily.

Attendance Policy for Voluntary PreK (VPK)

Parents of children enrolled in a VPK class must comply with the attendance policy as follows:

1. Your child must arrive in the VPK classroom no later than 8:00 a.m. daily.
2. Your child must participate in the VPK activities until 11:30 a.m. daily.
3. You must call the Guardian Catholic School office (765-6522) if your child is going to be late or absent.
4. If your child is absent for five consecutive instructional days, he/she could be dismissed from the VPK program.
5. Absences and tardiness may be excused under extraordinary circumstances if appropriate documentation is provided. These include:
 - Hospitalization of the child, his/her parent or guardian (Note from Doctor required).
 - Illness of the student, his/her parent or guardian that requires the ill person to remain at home (Note from Doctor required).
 - Death of a member of the student, parent, or guardian immediate family (Obituary Certificate required).
 - Court ordered visitation (Court Documents required).
 - Parent's or guardian's military deployment (Military Documents required).
6. A child may not miss more than 26 days per year for illness.
7. A child may not miss more than 35 days per year regardless of circumstances.
8. Parents must complete and sign an attendance verification form for EACH month. These forms will be distributed on the last instructional day of each month and must be signed and returned to the office the next day.

Children who do not meet the attendance requirements will lose VPK funding. The child may be allowed to remain in the VPK classroom, but the parent will be required to pay full tuition. At the beginning of the school year, parents of VPK children will be asked to sign a digital copy of this policy that will be kept on file in the child's electronic portfolio.

Cost

Guardian Catholic School is committed to making a quality Catholic education available to all who meet our admission criteria. Financial assistance is available from the following sources.

Success by 6

Success by 6, a program of the United Way of Northeast Florida operated by the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, provides 2-year early learning grants for 3-year-olds to high quality, accredited childcare centers. Success by 6 is a year-round program for families. If you have a child who turns 3 on or before Sept. 1 of the current year you may be eligible. When you apply for admission to Guardian Catholic, you will receive information regarding how to apply for Success by 6.

Voluntary Pre-K (VPK)

The state of Florida provides tuition, book and registration fees for children who are four years old by September 1. Parents must apply to the state for Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) and bring the Certificate of Eligibility to Guardian Catholic to initiate enrollment. The program is free to all Florida residents. Contact the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County by phone at 904-208- 2044; or visit their website at www.elcduval.org . You can also register your child online at home or wherever you have access to the internet and a document scanner. Log on to www.VPKDuval.org

School Readiness Program

Guardian Catholic is a provider for Extended Day Care through the School Readiness Program and accepts reimbursement from the Early Learning Coalition of Duval. Apply online by clicking on the School Readiness Program link at www.elcofduval.com. PK3 and PK4 students can apply these funds to charges for the PK Wraparound services provided by the school from 11:00-3:00 pm on school days.

Discipline and Expulsion Policy

The purpose of the Discipline Policy which includes the Expulsion, Suspension and Dismissal information for The Guardian Catholic School is to ensure that proper order is maintained in a manner that is in keeping with the philosophy established by the Diocese of St. Augustine. All disciplinary action is directed toward the child's growth in self-knowledge, in self-discipline and in understanding of his/her Christian responsibilities. Administrators, teachers, staff members and parents work together to teach appropriate and Christian behavior.

Guardian Catholic has adopted the Foundations Program for Safe and Civil Schools. The CHAMPS component is related to classroom management. Foundations fosters positive relationships within a caring and collaborative environment. Students are helped to make good choices through deliberate teaching, modeling and monitoring. Foundations is data driven and focuses on continual growth and improvement. This positive environment with its structures and procedures supports a climate of learning and Christian living.

Our structures and procedures are organized to promote successful behavior from all students. Procedures are categorized into three levels: Schoolwide, classroom and individual.

We establish and communicate clear schoolwide and classroom behavior expectations with equitable responses to misbehavior, thus fostering positive academic engagement, decision making and behavioral/academic performance. Although we create an environment to support students in making good behavioral choices, we realize that sometimes students need increased structure and support to make better decisions. Therefore this policy encompasses a four tiered approach to addressing behavioral problems and their related consequences. It is our hope that this level system will help students in forming appropriate behavior responses to all situations.

Level 1

Level 1 misbehaviors include but are not limited to, such things as minor disruptions. Generally these misbehaviors are handled at the classroom level.

Consequences: Classroom teachers and staff members assign consequences for misbehaviors at the first level.

Level 2

Level 2 misbehaviors include any level 1 infraction that becomes chronic or misbehaviors that are of a more serious nature than level 1.

Consequences: A behavior incident report is written, shared with the parent and recorded in the student's school behavior record.

School wide interventions are applied. Students may receive detentions or loss of privileges for Level 2 offenses. A parent conference may be required.

Level 3

Level 3 behavioral offenses include any serious behavior and may include but are not limited to: fighting/hitting, sexual harassment, stealing, bullying, defiance, etc.

Consequences: Student is sent to the office immediately. A Disciplinary Referral will be issued and a mandatory conference with the principal, parents, and involved staff members will be held. A student plan of action with support services may be initiated. Consequences are determined by the principal and administrative staff and may include suspension and/or expulsion. Other corrective actions may be assigned at the discretion of the principal.

Level 4

Level 4 behavioral offenses are considered to be the most serious and may include consistent nonconformity with school rules and/or potentially illegal behavior. Offenses on this level may be of such a serious nature that student may be expelled without having previous offenses documented.

Consequences: Student's parents/guardians will be called and informed of the violation and will be required to immediately pick up the student from school.

Students and parents will be informed either orally or in writing of the school rules that have been violated and of the specific grounds for disciplinary action.

A conference will be scheduled with the principal, parents, and involved staff members.

The principal and administrative staff will determine if the student should remain enrolled at Guardian Catholic School. A student may be expelled from school at the discretion of the principal because of incorrigible or unacceptable behavior or conduct that affects the physical or moral welfare of the school or students.