



June, 2023

Local School Wellness Policy

Guardian Catholic School recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of all students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, supporting the development of good eating habits and promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Guardian Catholic School is committed to creating a school environment that promotes and protects the overall well-being of all students and staff. The guidelines listed below encourage a comprehensive wellness approach that is sensitive to both individual and community needs.

1. Local School Wellness Policy

Leadership School level

Guardian Catholic School will establish an ongoing Healthy School Team that will meet **once per year** to ensure compliance and to facilitate the implementation of **Guardian Catholic School's** wellness policy.

- The school principal and local school staff shall have the responsibility to comply with federal and state regulations as they relate to **Guardian Catholic School's** wellness policy.
- The **Principal** will be responsible for establishing the Healthy School Team that will ensure compliance with the policy.
- The Healthy School Team should include, but not be limited to, the following stakeholders: parents, students, school food service program

representatives, school administrators, school health professionals, physical education teachers and the general public.

- The Healthy School Team is responsible for:
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations for competitive food and beverage items sold on the school campus (7 CFR 210.11 and FAC 5P- 1.003);
- Maintaining a school calendar identifying the dates when exempted competitive food fundraisers will occur in accordance with the frequency specified in paragraph (c) of FAC 5P-1.003;
- And reporting its school's compliance of the aforementioned regulations to the Principal, the person responsible for ensuring overall compliance with **Guardian Catholic School's Wellness Policy**.

Guardian Catholic School will review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in establishing goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity and other school based activities that promote student wellness to include, at a minimum, a review of Smarter Lunchroom tools and techniques.

Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion can positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by creating food environments that encourage healthy choices and encourage participation in the school meal programs.

The school environment, including the cafeteria and classroom, shall provide clear and consistent messages that promote and reinforce healthy eating.

Students will have access to useful nutrition information. The school website will have a link to the menu and nutritional information will be available in classrooms and throughout each school's campus.

Schools will provide parents with opportunities for physical activity before and after school.

Nutrition Education

Academic performance and quality of life issues are affected by the choice and availability of nutritious foods in our schools. Healthy foods support student physical growth, brain development, resistance to disease, emotional stability and ability to learn.

- The nutrition benchmarks under the Florida Standards for Physical Education shall be integrated within the comprehensive health education curriculum in each grade level, or integrated into other core subjects, such as math, science, language arts and social sciences.
- Students will understand how food reaches the table and the implications that has for their health and future. Staff shall integrate hands-on experiences such as working in a garden, cooking activities and

enrichment activities such as farmer's market tours and visits to community gardens with the core curriculum.

Physical Activity

Guardian Catholic School shall ensure that physical activity is an essential element of each school's instructional program. The program shall provide the opportunity for all students to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to participate in a lifetime of physical activity.

- All students in grades K-5 shall receive 100 minutes per week of instructionally relevant physical education. For middle school physical education in grades 6-8, all students shall receive a minimum of 90 minutes of physical education per week.
- Students will have the opportunity to be involved in physical activity through physical education programs, before and after school activities or other activity programs. Students will be encouraged to participate in community-offered fitness and athletic programs.
- Staff will be encouraged to participate in 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (e.g., brisk walking, jogging, swimming) every week. Staff will be informed of the opportunity to participate in physical activity in afterschool programs and community events.
- Regular classroom teachers will be encouraged to provide short physical activity brain breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Other School-Based Activities

Guardian Catholic School will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting. These initiatives will include nutrition, physical activity and other wellness components so that all efforts work towards the same set of goals and objectives used to promote student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

General Guidelines

- **Guardian Catholic School** shall consider the components of the Centers for Disease Control's Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model in establishing other school-based activities that promote wellness.
- After school programs will encourage healthy snacking and physical activity.
- **Guardian Catholic School** shall actively develop and support the engagement of students, families and staff in community health-enhancing activities and events at the school or throughout the community.
- **Guardian Catholic School** shall be in compliance with drug, alcohol and

tobacco-free policies.

Eating Environment

- Students will be provided an adequate amount of time to consume their meal with a minimum of 20 minutes after receiving their food from the line.
- Each school will provide nutritious, fresh, locally grown food that reflects Florida's bountiful harvest.
- Convenient access to facilities for hand washing and oral hygiene will be available during meal periods.

HealthierUS School Challenge

- All schools will be encouraged to join the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Team Nutrition program and submit an application to be recognized as a HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSC: SL) school.

Recycling

- Each school shall maximize the reduction of waste by recycling, reusing, composting and purchasing recycled products.

Employee Wellness

- **Guardian Catholic School's** wellness committee will also focus on staff wellness issues, identifies and distributes wellness resources and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff.
- All staff will be provided with opportunities to participate in physical activities and healthy eating programs that are accessible and free or low-cost. The school is developing plans for an outdoor learning center which will include an exercise track for students, staff, and families.

Health Services

- A coordinated program of accessible health services shall be provided to students and staff and shall include, but not be limited to, violence prevention, school safety, communicable disease prevention, health screening, including body mass index, community health referrals, immunizations, parenting skills and first aid/CPR training.

Use of School Facilities Outside of School Hours

- Guardian Catholic School will promote the use of school facilities outside of school hours for physical activity programs offered by the community-based organizations and for the school community's use.

Behavior Management

- **Guardian Catholic School** is committed to prohibiting the use of food as a reward, unless incorporated into an activity that promotes positive nutrition messages (such as a guest chef or field trip to a farm).
- Teachers and other school personnel will not deny or require physical activity as a means of punishment.

Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Available During the School Day

Guardian Catholic School shall operate and provide food service in accordance with USDA's National School Lunch Program (NSLP) standards and applicable laws and regulation of the state of Florida. The guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by USDA.

General Guidelines

- All reimbursable meals will meet nutrition standards mandated by USDA, as well as any additional state nutrition standards that go beyond USDA requirements.
- School meals will include a variety of nutrient-dense foods, including whole grains and fiber-rich fruits and vegetables, while accommodating special dietary needs and ethnic and cultural food preferences.
- To the maximum extent possible, all schools in **Guardian Catholic School** will participate in available federal school meal programs, including the SBP, NSLP, ASSP, AMP, and SFSP.
- Free potable water will be made available to all children during meals.

Competitive Foods

- All foods and beverages sold on the school campus to students outside of reimbursable school meals are considered "competitive foods," and must comply with the nutrition standards for competitive food as defined and required in 7 CFR 210.11.
 - School campus means, for the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.
 - School day means, for the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, the period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
- Competitive foods include items sold a la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores, snack bars and for **in-school** fundraisers.
- Unless being sold by **Guardian Catholic School** food service program, it is impermissible for any competitive food item sold to students during the school day to consist of ready-to-eat combination foods of meat or meat

alternate and grain products, as defined in 7 CFR 210.10 and 210.11. (FAC 5P-1.003)

- To be allowable, all competitive food items sold to students must meet general nutrition requirements and nutrient standards including Smart Snack standards.

General nutrition requirements for competitive foods:

- Be a grain product that contains 50 percent or more whole grains by weight or have a whole grain as the first ingredient; or
- Have as the first ingredient one of the non-grain major food groups: fruits, vegetables, dairy or protein foods (meat, beans, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts, seeds, etc.); or
- Be a combination food that contains 1/4 cup of fruit and/or vegetable.
- If water is the first ingredient, the second ingredient must be one of the above.

Nutrient standards for competitive foods:

Nutrient Standards	Snack Items and Side Dishes <i>(including any added accompaniments)</i>	Entrée Items <i>(including any added accompaniments)</i>
Calories	200 calories or less	350 calories or less
Sodium Limits	200 mg or less	480 mg or less
Total Fat Limits	35% or less of total calories	35% or less of total calories
Saturated fat	Less than 10% of total calories	Less than 10% of total calories
Trans fat	0 g of trans fat as served (less than or equal to 0.5 g per portion)	0 g of trans fat as served (less than or equal to 0.5 g per portion)
Sugar	35% of weight from total sugar as served or less	35% of weight from total sugar as served or less

Exemptions:

- Any entrée item offered as part of the breakfast or lunch program is exempt if it is served as a competitive food on the day of service or the day after service in the breakfast or lunch program.
- Fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables with no added ingredients, except water.
- Canned fruits with no added ingredients except water, which are packed in 100 percent juice, extra light syrup or light syrup.
- Low sodium/No salt added canned vegetables with no added fats.
- Reduced fat cheese, nuts, seeds and nut/seed butters, as well as seafood and whole eggs with no added fat are exempt from the total fat and saturated fat standards.

**Refer to 7 CFR 210.11 competitive food service standards for additional exemptions.*

For elementary and middle school students: foods and beverages must be caffeine-free with the exception of trace amounts of naturally occurring caffeine substances. Food and beverages for high school students may contain caffeine.

**Standards for food and beverages available during the school day
that are not sold to students:**

- The school will provide parents and teachers a list of ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards and fundraising activities.
- Schools will limit celebrations that involve food during the school day. A request for permission may be submitted at least three days in advance for special occasion celebrations that include food that is not sold.

Fundraising

Fundraising efforts will be supportive of healthy eating by complying with all applicable regulations and nutrition standards for competitive foods while also emphasizing the sale of nonfood items.

No fundraisers that include the sale of food items will occur until thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the last designated meal service period.

The school board is permitted to grant a special exemption from the standards for competitive foods as specified above for the purpose of conducting infrequent school-sponsored fundraisers, not to exceed the following maximum number of school days per school campus each school year:

School Type	Maximum Number of School Days to Conduct Exempted Fundraisers
Elementary Schools	5 days
Middle School/Junior High Schools	10 days
Senior High Schools	15 days
Combination Schools	10 days

Each school's Healthy School Team will maintain a school calendar identifying the dates when exempted competitive food fundraisers will occur. (FAC 5P-1.003)

Policy for Food and Beverage Marketing

School-based marketing will be consistent with policies for nutrition education and health promotion. As such, the following guidelines apply:

- Schools will only be allowed to market and advertise those foods and beverages that meet or exceed USDA's Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- Marketing activities that promote healthful behaviors are encouraged. Examples may include: vending machine covers promoting water, pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines, sales of fruit for fundraisers and coupons for discounted gym memberships.
- **Guardian Catholic School's** nutrition department's replacement and purchasing decisions will reflect the marketing guidelines mentioned above.

Evaluation and Measurement of the Implementation of the Wellness Policy

Guardian Catholic School's wellness committee will update and make modifications to the wellness policy based on the results of the annual review and triennial assessments and/or as local priorities change, community needs change, wellness goals are met, new health information and technology emerges and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed as indicated at least every three years following the triennial assessment.

Triennial Progress Assessments

Guardian Catholic School will conduct an assessment of the local school wellness policy to measure wellness policy compliance **at least once every three years**. This assessment will measure the implementation of the local school wellness policy, and include:

- The extent to which **Guardian Catholic School** is in compliance with the local school wellness policy;
- The extent to which the local school wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the local school wellness policy.

Informing the Public

Guardian Catholic Schools, St. Pius V and Holy Rosary will ensure the wellness policy and triennial assessments are available to the public at all times. **Guardian Catholic Schools, St. Pius V and Holy Rosary** will also actively notify households on an annual basis about any updates made to the wellness policy and the availability of the triennial assessment results, as well as provide information to the community about the school nutrition environment.

- **Guardian Catholic School** will ensure the most updated version of the wellness policy and triennial assessments are always available on the school website for the public to view.
- **Guardian Catholic School** will present wellness policy updates, as applicable, during meetings with the Parent Teacher Association/Organization, school board, district superintendent, health and wellness committee and other interested groups or stakeholders.
- Each school will provide all parents with a complete copy of the local school wellness policy on the school website at the beginning of the school year.

Community Involvement

Guardian Catholic School is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. **Guardian Catholic School** will actively communicate ways in which parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators and the general public can participate in the development, implementation and annual review of the local school wellness policy through a variety of means, including:

- **Guardian Catholic School** will consider student needs in planning for a healthy nutrition environment. Students will be asked for input and

feedback through the use of surveys and attention will be given to their comments.

- **Guardian Catholic School** will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on **Guardian Catholic School** website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of any updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy.
- At the final public school board meeting of each year, the local school wellness policy will be discussed and all stakeholders will be asked to provide feedback on the policy. All comments and recommendations will be reviewed and considered.

Written Records of Wellness Policy important dates, meetings, etc.

Date of Wellness Policy revision: 6/30/23 by Nancy Geary , Guardian Catholic School

Up-dated Wellness policy discussed and reviewed: May 16, 2023

Members

2021-2022 Wellness Committee Members:

Nancy Geary, Operations Manager; Sr. Cynthia Shaffer, GCS Principal; Amanda Rainey, Assistant Principal; Janice Hice, School Office Manager; Jenna Chapman , SLA Food Management Service on site manager; Yolanda Richmond, Teacher Aide and Parent; Yuri Fleming, Student; Marygrace Ruiz, P.E. Coach; and Janice Mannino, School Nurse.

New wellness policy revisions approved: May 30, 2023

New wellness policy posted to school website: July 31, 2023

Wellness policy updates noted in school newsletter with link to page on school website: July 31, 2023

2021-2022 Wellness Policy Signature Page

Signed Digitally

Signature Nancy Geary

Nancy Geary

May 30, 2022

Signature Sr. Cynthia Shaffer

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May 30, 2022

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