
Star of the Sea Catholic School

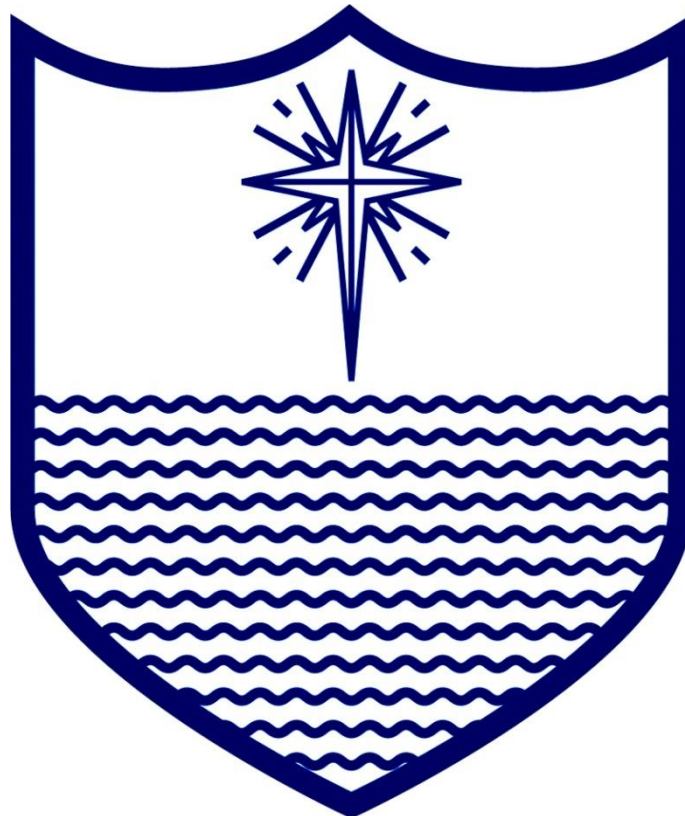
Parent Handbook

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Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Star of the Sea Parish School. The school is rooted in Christ centered education, focusing on all aspects of a person - intellectual, physical, emotional, moral and spiritual. The school, as part of a larger community, is dedicated to working with parish and home to provide the best learning environment for all children.

Star of the Sea provides opportunities for students to achieve their personal best in distinctive educational programs and extra-curricular activities.

With our philosophy of educating the whole person, the spiritual development of the children is integrated into all aspects of the curriculum.

Together with our staff, I look forward to working with you as together we strive for the best possible education for your child.

Sincerely in Christ,

Nicole Regush
Principal

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1.0 School History

It had been the cherished dream of past Pastors as well as the many parents of **Star of the Sea Parish** to create a parish school to ensure the Christian education for the children of our Parish.

In September of 1978 ten acres were purchased for a school site on 24th Avenue in preparation for the development of the school. **Star of the Sea School** had its beginnings in September of 1981 when twenty children were enrolled into kindergarten and grade one in **Star of the Sea Centre** on Pacific Avenue.

A further five acres were purchased in 1984 to allow the timely expansion that would occur in the future. That same year architectural plans were drawn up and work began in the fall of 1984 on the construction of the first phase of the present school.

In March, 2001, construction of the Parish Recreation Centre began. It included a gymnasium and multi-purpose meeting area.

In January 2008 construction of the blue wing and 'Administration Enhancement Project' began. This included eight additional classrooms, a library/media resource room, a fine arts music studio, new staff room and administrative offices.

It is because of the dedication of parishioners and parents that worked tirelessly on so many fundraising activities that turned a dream into a reality. The school is indebted to the work of those who have gone before.

The dedication and official opening of **Star of the Sea Catholic School** took place on September 8, 1985, on our Lady's Name Day by the Most Reverend Archbishop James F. Carney. The dedication and Official Blessing of the Parish Recreation Centre took place on October 19, 2001, by the Most Reverend Archbishop Adam Exner. The dedication and Official Blessing of the School Enhancement Project took place on March 9, 2010, by the Most Reverend Archbishop Michael Miller.

1.1 Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) Mission Statement

The Catholic School shares in the mission of the Church to proclaim and build the Kingdom of God. The Catholic School, as a faith community, is committed to excellence in Catholicity and in all areas that promote the development of the whole child to his or her full potential. The Catholic School strives to develop Christian leaders, responsible citizens and life-long learners.

2.0 School Philosophy

Star of the Sea School serves to promote the growth and development of the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social attributes of each individual. This growth and development is in turn closely linked with the thought that all students will eventually become responsible members of the Christian community, sharing the knowledge and love of God.

As outlined in the Policy and Reference Manual of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese, the formal task of a school is defined as one being not only an institution for education, but as well a place to outline the ethical dimensions for the precise purpose of arousing the individual's inner spiritual dynamism, and aiding in the achievement of moral freedom which alone can give meaning to the value of human life.

It is then our task to provide a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life. We recognize this integration as a lifelong process of conversion, and **Star of the Sea School** must remain an active force during the systematic formation of our students' developmental stages.

2.1 School Purpose Statement

Star of the Sea School provides an excellent academic program in a Christ centered environment. Parents, educators and the entire community collaboratively work together to foster spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth in each student.

2.2 Core Values

REVERENCE ★ RESPECT ★ RESPONSIBILITY

At Star of the Sea School Reverence, Respect and Responsibility are core values that are expected of all parties within the total community: children, parents and staff. Star of the Sea School is committed to fostering an environment that is safe, respectful and an accepting place for all students. (CISVA Policies 407, Student Code of Conduct and 408, Anti-Bullying)

2.3 School Structure

Star of the Sea School is a Roman Catholic School under the direction of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese:

(CISVA Policy - <http://www.cisva.bc.ca>)

The Star of the Sea School Parent Handbook is in compliance with and is subordinate to the Policy & Procedures of the CISVA. Please consult the CISVA website for designated policies that govern our CISVA schools. **Star of the Sea School** serves the educational needs of the children of **Star of the Sea Parish**.

Star of the Sea School is, by its origin, committed to the teaching of the Catholic faith according to the Doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church as outlined in the Archbishop's Letter, "The Catholic School, Its Character and Mission".

The Pastor of **Star of the Sea Parish** is the Spiritual and Executive Director of **Star of the Sea School**. He is supported in this mission by an elected Education Committee as provided under "The Guidelines for Structure of our School Administration under the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese".

These guidelines assign the responsibility of the day to day administration of the school to the Principal who is the organizer of the school community.

3.0 Admissions

(CISVA Policy Ref. #401 Admissions)

Since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it. (Declaration on Christian Education, Vatican Council 11, No. 3)

1. Families shall read and sign the Statement of Commitment prior to being accepted into **Star of the Sea School**.
2. For the purposes of admission to the school: “practicing Catholics” shall mean those individuals who are registered at **Star of the Sea Parish** and attend Sunday Mass regularly. “Active in the Parish” shall mean those who support the parish by using envelopes (no minimum amount specified) and participate in the work activities required of them.

Priorities for admission into Star of the Sea School are as follows:

1. Children presently enrolled in the school if they and their families meet the expectations of the school.
2. Siblings of children already in the school, whose families are practicing Catholics active in the Parish.
3. Children whose families are practicing Catholics active in the Parish.
4. Siblings of children already in the school whose families are practicing Catholics active in other parishes.
5. Children whose families are practicing Catholics coming into the parish, who have been attending Catholic school elsewhere.
6. Children whose families are practicing Catholics active in other parishes.
7. Children whose families are either not practicing Catholics or not active in their parishes.
8. Non-Catholics. Enrollment of more than 15% non-Catholics in Grades K-3, and/or Grades 4-7 must be reported to the Superintendent’s Office by October 1st. Reasons why the 15% has been exceeded will be outlined by the school administration to the Superintendent’s Office. Once accepted into the school, non-Catholics need meet only the criteria expected of other students to be re-admitted in subsequent years. Siblings of non-Catholics cannot be given priority over Catholics.

In the spring of each year the school shall review all the applications for registration and re-registration for the following school year. Our priority of registration, including the acceptance of siblings, will be given to a child or children of parents who meet the criteria of “practicing and active parishioners” in the **Parish of Star of the Sea**.

4.0 School Fees

As members of the community of **Star of the Sea**, we have the privilege of participating in both a vibrant parish and an excellent school. It is through the commitment of the time, talent and treasure of parents, staff, priests, and parishioners that our Roman Catholic School can maintain its excellent standards.

It is in the spirit of community building that all parents are expected to be participating members of the parish. Participation not only includes weekly use of offertory envelopes, but also participation in the various ministries of the parish.

School fees are paid on a parishioner, non-parishioner or other basis. Families who are not using offertory envelopes on a regular basis and have not spoken to the pastor will be assessed non-parishioner or other fees. All information concerning contributions is held in confidence by the pastor.

Definitions:

Category 1 (Parishioner)

- Member of the Parish
- Authorized by the pastor to attend the school

Category 2 (Non-Parishioner)

- Not a member of the parish. Member of another Catholic parish.
- Authorized by your own pastor to attend this school

Category 3 (Other)

- Not a member of any Catholic parish

It is hoped that all parishioners will gladly share their time, talents and resources as we continue to build our Catholic community.

**** Parish schools within the Archdiocese service the parish to which the school is affiliated. Each year, the parish subsidizes the school financially to balance the school's budget.**

Payment terms: [\(updated July 13, 2007\)](#)

A family chooses one of the following tuition payment plans:

- a. Pre-authorized debit dated September 1st to June 1st;
- b. One advance payment by cheque, dated September 1st with a 2.5% discount of total tuition;
- c. One advance payment by Visa/Mastercard, on September 1st for the total of one year of tuition.

Insufficient Funds:

If an NSF cheque is returned to the school by the bank, an additional charge of \$25.00 will be levied to the family.

All payments for tuition must be made by cheque, money order, or Credit Card only. All payments must include proper names of students on each cheque or money order. Parents are responsible for paying the government grant if the school does not receive the grant due to the child being enrolled in another government recognized school (e.g. Montessori Kindergarten).

Tax Receipts will be issued for a portion of the tuition fee paid.

Other fees that will be paid over the course of the year:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Uniforms | May |
| School Supplies (Edu-pac) | June |
| Parent Participation Fee | July |
| Activity Fees, Workbooks & Equipment, Bibles, Recorders, & Earthquake Kits | August |

4.1 Early Withdrawals

Written notification is required one month prior to date of termination of student attendance. If written notification is not received one month prior to date of termination of student attendance, tuition for that month will not be refunded. Please note that registration fees are non-refundable.

4.2 Financial Assistance

If your family is experiencing financial hardship, you should contact the pastor to discuss financial assistance in helping you meet your tuition payments. The pastor, on an individual case basis, will determine the assistance to a needy family.

4.3 Re-registration

Re-registration of current students (and their siblings even if new to the school) occurs within the following guidelines:

1. Registration forms are sent out in February.
2. All required forms **must be returned** to the school office **within two weeks of the forms being sent.**
3. All delinquent fees must be paid with the return of registration forms.
4. The non-refundable registration fee for the new school year must be paid at the time of submission of the Re-registration forms.
5. Post-dated tuition cheques for the forthcoming school year must be received at the time of the presentation of the completed registration forms.

If siblings of enrolled students do not submit their applications at the time, they lose their priority status. * Siblings of Non-Catholics cannot be given priority over Catholics.

Application/Re-registration Fees:

An application fee per "Application for Admission" is charged. This processing fee is non-refundable. The current Application Fee is **\$50.00**.

A non-refundable Registration/Re-registration fee per family for every Registration/Re-registration submitted is charged. *Note- Upon acceptance into the school, application fees are applied to Registration fees. The current Registration/Re-registration Fee is **\$75.00. NO CASH PLEASE.**

4.4 Outstanding Fees or Materials

Any and all outstanding fees owed to **Star of the Sea School** must be paid in full. We also reserve the right to withhold acceptance of registration for the coming school year until these matters are settled, i.e. outstanding fees, equipment, Parent Participation fees and loss or replacement of damaged goods.

4.5 Registration

Following the re-registration of current students in March each year, applications from new students in grades Kindergarten through 7 will be received. When an Application for Admission is received an interview with the Principal, Pastor and a P.E.C. member will be arranged. At the conclusion of the interview process, the Principal, Pastor and P.E.C. member will make decisions regarding acceptance and non-acceptance.

Successful applicants will have one week from the date of notification of acceptance to complete the registration.

Completion of registration requires that:

1. All registration forms be returned.
2. Registration fees be paid.
3. Post-dated tuition cheques for the upcoming school year be received by the school secretary.

Completion of all documentation for new registrants will be acknowledged by mail or phone. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail as soon as possible.

5.0 School Procedures

5.1 Absence and Lateness

Parents should make a sincere effort to have their children attend classes regularly to avoid interruption of teaching programs and to ensure that their children are on time for school in the morning. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that children arrive at school on time. Perpetually late students are in breach of the student Code of Conduct and parents are in breach of their Family Statement of Commitment. If there are issues that arise which create chronic tardiness, parents must contact the Principal to discuss the matter further.

Perpetual lateness is seen as a breach of student conduct and will be administratively addressed by the Principal. Notes are required on the day of appointment or earlier to advise the teacher of a child's absence due to any medical or dental appointments. Parents must come to the school office to have their child excused from class.

5.2 What to do if your child is absent or late

The school office must be notified before 9:00 a.m. by phone, written note or email if your child(ren) will be absent or arriving late for any reason. Children are considered late if they are not in their line-up by the 8:55 am bell. You have three options for notifying school authorities of the reason for the absence:

1. Phone call (which must be followed up by written note or email)
2. Email or absentee link on the school website
3. Note written in the student's planner on a day prior to the absence

If a notification is not received, the secretary will begin calling the homes of all students not at school. This **Early Alert System** will ensure the safety of the children and cooperation of the parents is requested.

5.3 Visitors

During school hours, parents and visitors must report to the school office. If you are volunteering in the school you will need to sign in at the office and pick up a tag to wear. When you leave you will need to sign out and return the Parent Volunteer tag. Lunches, uniforms, forgotten work or supplies must be left at the office.

The main children's washrooms are out of bounds for parents and visitors during school hours and events. After reporting to the office, parents and visitors are welcome to obtain a key and use the staff washrooms during these times.

5.4 Holidays during School Time

Absences for reasons other than illness must be kept to a minimum. (Please try to schedule holidays during school breaks.) Loss of school time may jeopardize the child's year and usually results in missing new concepts taught during his/her absence. **Permission to take a child out of school should be sought from the Principal before arrangements are made.**

It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that any class assignments missed during your absence are attended to upon your return. Further, it should not be expected that the teacher provide you with materials prior to your holiday.

In order to receive the government grant a child must be in attendance for a specified number of days during the year. If a child were to miss too many days due to holidays this could jeopardize reception of the grant, in which case the parents would be held responsible to pay the balance.

5.5 Snow Days

In the event of school closure due to severe weather, please listen to **NEWS 1130 AM, CKNW (980 AM), CBC 690 AM** or visit our school website (www.staroftheseaschool.ca) for details. If the school will be closed, an announcement will be made between 6:00 am and 6:45 am and repeated often you will also get a call from our Fan-Out parents. Please do not call the school.

5.6 Unexpected School Closures

If the school needs to be closed, before or during school hours, due to any unforeseen circumstances (e.g., lack of power/heat/flooding, etc.), parents will be contacted by the **Fan-Out phoning parents**. Posting will also be made on our school website and Twitter.

6.0 Schedules

6.1 School Bell Schedule

The organization of the school day is marked by the ringing of school bells with the schedule as follows:

8:55 - School Bell - Students are expected to prepare to enter the school and classrooms by discontinuing play on the playgrounds and assembling in an orderly lineup.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 8:55 | School day begins |
| 10:30-10:45 | Morning recess |
| 12:00-12:35 | Noon recess |
| 12:35-12:47 | Nutrition break |
| 2:55 | Prepare to dismiss |
| 3:00 | Dismiss |

Exception—Wednesdays

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2:25 | Prepare to dismiss |
| 2:30 | Dismiss |

Classroom timetables are basically developed by, and remain the responsibility of, the individual teachers. Subject requirements of each grade and the amount of time required for study are dictated by **B.C. Ministry of Education** policies.

At the beginning of each school year, individual teachers determine their timetables, submitting them to the Principal for approval. Changes may occur at the discretion of the teacher under the supervision of the Principal.

7.0 Student Supervision

7.1 Before School

Supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Students will not be permitted in the school before that time unless prior permission was given by school staff. Please do not jeopardize your child's safety by dropping them off sooner. Arrangements for before school care is the responsibility of parents.

On rainy days students are permitted to enter the school at 8:30 am for indoor supervision in the classrooms.

7.2 Recess

During outdoor recess students must go outside. Parents are to ensure that their child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather. Students must ask for a hall pass from the teacher supervisor in order to enter the school building before recess is over (e.g. washroom).

Recess will be held indoors when there is extreme weather or for other special circumstances.

7.3 Lunch Routines

Children are expected to bring a nutritious snacks and lunches. Parents delivering lunches must leave them at the office prior to the lunch bell.

If a child is to go home for lunch, parents must send a note to the teacher. Parents are to report to the office to meet their child and sign out the child.

7.4 Student Sign-In / Sign-Out Procedures

If a student arrives late or departs early from the school between 8:55am and 3:00pm the following procedure is to be followed:

Sign In:

Students must stop at the office to receive a "Late" slip to be given to the teacher upon arrival at class.

Sign Out:

1. Parents must arrive at the office to sign out his/her child.
2. The office will contact the classroom teacher to dismiss the student.
3. The student will proceed to the office to meet the parent.
 - 3.1. Students will not be dismissed unless the parent signs his/her child out at the office.
 - 3.2. Students will not be dismissed to any other person other than the parent, unless the parent gives permission. In this instance, the office must receive prior written/verbal consent.

7.5 After School

Parents are asked to wait for their children outside the front entrance of the school (Kindergarten pickup takes place in the courtyard outside of those classrooms until the 3rd term). As space and supervision is limited, students are not permitted to play in the front area of the school, on the field, or on the Big Toy and must stay in the front area of the school. Parents must meet their children in front of the school. Students will not be allowed to leave this area unaccompanied by an adult. There is also a supervised waiting area at the church at the end of the walkway by the parking lot.

Students are to follow the directions of the parent/teacher supervisors.

Student and traffic supervision will take place until 3:30 p.m. (3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays). After 3:30 p.m. students who have not been picked up are to sit quietly and remain in the main lobby of the school.

** The school office must be advised of students that are permitted to walk home on their own.

8.0 Health & Welfare

(CISVA Policy Ref. #406 Student Health)

The Ministry of Health provides a school nurse (*nurse does not remain on school property) whose role is essentially that of a community health nurse. The school nurse may serve as a resource person for teachers and other school authorities for questions that may arise pertaining to the individual health of a student or the health of the school as a community.

8.1 Illness or Injury While at School

The school maintains a small “Health Room” in the administrative office which. This in no way implies that the school maintains any expertise in care of the injured or sick. This room is provided predominantly as a quiet room where a student may rest until the notified parent arrives at the school to transport the child home.

In an emergency situation, school staff will act in the child's best interests and the parents will be notified as soon as possible. It is very important to have telephone numbers of two contact people, other than parents, in case of emergency.

All head injuries will be reported to the parents/or designated contact immediately.

All accidents resulting in significant injury must be properly documented on an **Accident Report Form**.

8.2 Other Notifications

Please make sure you inform the school immediately if your child has been treated for lice so that we can check the other children in the class and school if necessary.

8.3 Communicable Diseases

When children work and play together in groups, this environment provides an opportunity for the spread of a number of childhood diseases that can be passed on from one child to the next. It is important that these diseases be prevented or, if they do occur, that they are recognized quickly and steps taken to stop them from spreading (Fraser Health website, 2006).

School staff will consult accordingly with the local Public Health Unit in regards to appropriate measures to prevent disease and control disease outbreaks.

Students will only be permitted back to school with a doctor's note.

In the event that a student at Star of the Sea is identified with a potentially serious communicable disease, specific direction will be sought from Public Health, and the resultant information will be shared with parents in a timely manner.

8.4 Medications

If a child needs to receive medication at school it should be put in a plastic bag (with the child's spoon if required) and left with the secretary at the office where she supervises the child's self-administration at the appropriate time with the parent's written consent.

Students with EpiPens are expected to wear them on their person at all times throughout the school. Provisions will be made for gym activities and other activities that will be impeded if they are worn. Parents must supply their child's EpiPen and it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the EpiPen is current. Students with EpiPens will have their pictures posted in the Staff room for emergency identification purposes.

Students with inhalers will be permitted to keep their medication with them during the school day. All other medication must be reported to the teacher and secured in the office.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the school of any changes to the medication needs of their child. If necessary, parents must update information contained on emergency forms kept on file in the school. As well, parents are responsible for ensuring that when their child is on a field trip they have their medication needs discussed with and provided to the teacher.

8.5 Administration of Medications

Except in emergency situations, the office staff will supervise the self-administration of medications to students only if the following conditions are met:

1. The medication is required while the child is attending school.
2. The parent has requested the school's assistance and has signed a release concerning administration by the school.
3. Written authorization has been received from an attending physician.
4. The public health nurse has been informed so that she may complete a **Medic-Alert Card**.
5. The staff has received adequate instructions from the public health nurse and parent concerning the administration of the medication.

In the interests of the health and safety of the child as well as the legal responsibilities of the school, complicated medicine administration schedules should be avoided even if this may require the child to be absent from school for a short period of time.

In the case where it is anticipated that a child may require a medication schedule for a prolonged period, both teachers and parents should be aware of this policy to allow adequate time to ensure compliance with this policy and proper instruction to supervisory personnel.

8.6 Anaphylaxis Policy 2014

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening reaction to an allergen (a substance that causes allergy). Reactions are often rapid, occurring within seconds of exposure, and in some cases to only microscopic amounts of the allergen.

Peanut products are by far the most common allergens causing anaphylaxis. Peanut butter presents particular challenges in terms of cleanliness and cross-contamination. Examples of other life-threatening allergens are:

- foods, e.g. eggs, fish, milk nut products
- insect stings
- drugs e.g. penicillin
- latex

Ensuring the safety of anaphylactic children in a school setting depends on the cooperation of the entire school community. To minimize the risk of exposure, and to ensure rapid response to emergency, parents, students, and school personnel must all understand and fulfill their responsibilities.

Responsibilities of the Parents of an Anaphylactic Child

- Inform the school of their child's allergies.
- Provide a medic alert bracelet for their child.
- Provide the school with physician's instructions for administering medication.
- Provide the school with up-to-date injection kits, and keep them current.
- Provide the school with an auto-injector trainer.
- Provide support to school and teachers as requested.
- Where possible, to participate directly in training staff in emergency response and the use of the auto-injector, either as part of a formal in-service, or in a brief one-on-one session with individual staff.
- Provide permission to post photographs and medical information in key locations such as the classroom, staff room, nurse's room, etc.
- Participate in parent support groups.
- Assist in school communication plans.
- Review the school action plan with school personnel.
- Help supply information for school publications such as:
 - Recipes;
 - Foods to avoid;
 - alternate snack suggestions; and resources
- Be willing to provide safe foods for special occasions.

Teach their child:

- to recognize the first symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction;
- to know where the medication is kept, and who can get it;
- to communicate clearly when he/she feels a reaction starting;
- to carry his/her own auto-injector in a fanny-pack;
- not to share snacks, lunches or drinks

- to cope with teasing and being left out;
- to report bullying and threats to an adult in authority; and
- to take as much responsibility as possible his/her own safety.
- welcome other parents' calls with questions about safe foods.

Responsibilities of the School Administration Team

- Work as closely as possible with the parents of the anaphylactic child.
- Ensure that the parents have completed all necessary forms.
- Ensure the instructions from the child's physician are on file.
- Notify the school community at the beginning of the school year of the anaphylactic child, the allergens, and the treatment.
- Post allergy-alert forms in the staff room and office.
- Maintain up-to-date emergency contacts and telephone numbers.
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers have annually received instruction with the auto-injector.
- Ensure that all substitute teachers are informed of the presence of an anaphylactic child, and have been adequately trained to deal with an emergency.
- Inform all parents that a child with life-threatening allergies is attending the class/school, and ask their support.
- Arrange for an annual in-service.
- Develop a school policy for reducing risk in classrooms and common areas.
- Establish a disciplinary procedure for dealing with bullying and threats.

9.0 Parking/Traffic Flow

Please study the parking lot procedures carefully and ensure that anyone who is responsible for dropping off and picking up your child(ren) is aware of the procedures. It is essential, indeed crucial, that the procedures are followed in order to ensure optimum safety for all people. City By-law has required a landscape border along 150th street, thereby narrowing the parking lot. Please use extreme caution while backing out of the horizontal parking area.

The parking lot in front of the school is for STAFF PARKING only. Students are NOT to be dropped off or picked up from this area.

9.1 Parking Lot Procedure

- Entrance to the parking lot is from 150th at the **ONE WAY** entrance.
- Parking is to the left and is horizontal ONLY. For safety reasons, we ask that all vehicles are backed into marked parking stalls.
- A morning **drop off zone** (drivers to remain in your seat) is to the right. There is no parking on this side of the lot until 9 am.
- In the afternoon horizontal parking on the right is permitted for pick up. There is **no drive through** pick up in the afternoon.
- All vehicles must **EXIT** the school parking lot at the marked EXIT.
- Parking is also permitted in the church parking lot.

** We understand that there are times when someone else comes to pick-up your child, someone who does not do it regularly. Please let them know these simple guidelines.

9.2 Bicycle Safety

All **Star of the Sea** students must wear a CSA approved bicycle helmet at all times while riding a bicycle to and from the school, while on school property, and during school-related activities. Students arriving on bicycles without helmets will not be permitted to ride a bicycle on or away from school property. The bicycle will be safely secured until it is retrieved by an adult or the student obtains an approved helmet.

10.0 School Uniform

Our uniform supplier is **Neat Uniforms**, situated at 1050 Boundary Road, Burnaby, B.C. Telephone: (604) 205-7560 Fax: (604) 205-7556. Website: www.neatuniforms.com All uniform articles **must** be purchased at this supplier's store to keep the uniform consistent.

The uniform requirements are as follows:

Boys

- Navy dress pant. No cords, cotton pants, or jeans.
- White dress/or golf shirt with school logo, tucked into waist band.
- All black or navy socks with no visible logos.
- All black or navy shoes with no visible logos.
- School sweater is mandatory (and must be at school every day): choices are pullover, cardigan or sweater vest.

Girls

- Navy box-pleated tunic, skirt or culotte-style navy skort, not more than 3" above or 1" below the knee.
- White blouse (no frills or ruffles) or golf shirt with school logo, tucked into waist band.
- Navy knee high socks or navy tights.
- Black or navy shoes (heels no higher than 1 ½ inches and no ankle boots).
- School sweater is mandatory: choices are pullover, cardigan or sweater vest.
- Hair accessories to be in school colours (blue, yellow or white) or hair colour.

Spring Uniform (optional – can begin wearing after Spring Break until Thanksgiving)

Boys: The boys can wear navy walking shorts (must be from uniform supplier).

Gym Strip

- Navy shorts or crested mesh shorts.
- Yellow crested t-shirt.
- Athletic runners (non-scuff). No slip-on runners or skate shoes.
- Navy sweat suit or crested track suit.
- Optional - White athletic socks (for PE only).

Outdoor Recess

- Non-gym runners may be worn at recess.
- There will be days when only boots will be acceptable outside wear. Students without boots to remain on black top areas during muddy season.
- On hot, sunny days and cold days the use of hats is encouraged.

Thank you for ensuring that your child has the correct uniform. The school uniform is worn to all school sponsored events.

10.1 Accessories

Only navy, yellow, white or discreet hair coloured hair bands, barrettes and accessories are acceptable. No jewelry except for simple watches and small earrings (girls only), and small simple chain necklaces are permitted. Nail polish and make-up are not permitted. If your child is out of uniform, you will be sent a note, which we ask you to return signed, so that we know you have received it. Hair colour must be natural. Girls' hair is to be neat and if necessary, tied back to keep it off the face. Boys' hair must be kept short and neat; above the ears on the side, above the eyes in the front and tapered down to the hairline in the back above the collar. Extreme styles are not acceptable.

10.2 Enforcement

There are clear consequences for chronic and significant non-compliance with present policy concerning proper uniform, cosmetics use and hair presentation. Specifically, a note will be sent home by the Principal to the parents of non-compliers, indicating the nature of the infraction(s) and the expected date for remediation. If this responsibility is not met, or there are repeated incidents of non-compliance, the student will be required to stay home from school until the appropriate corrective action is taken.

If your child is out of uniform you will be sent a note asking that you correct the problem. We ask you to return the note signed so that we know that you have received it.

10.3 Labelling Of Personal Belongings

Please ensure that every item your child wears or brings to school is carefully labeled. We suggest you stitch your child's name into the sweater label as ink wears off with use and washing. If you allow your child to bring toys to school they must be labeled.

* No trading of toys is permitted.

Unlabeled items that remain in the Lost and Found will be donated at the end of each term.

11.0 Curriculum

11.1 Academics

The academic programs of each grade are those determined by the British Columbia Ministry of Education in conjunction with the guidelines established by the Archdiocese of Vancouver. This involves instruction in the areas of Religion, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, French, Health and Career Education, Information Technology, Physical Education, and Fine Arts.

11.2 Religious Curriculum

Star of the Sea Parish School follows a structured catechism program recommended by the **Archdiocese of Vancouver**. This program titled "*Call to Faith*" is scheduled for 150 minutes per week. Additional programs endorsed by the **Archbishop of Vancouver** on Human Growth Sexuality Education is provided through parents programs for Grades 4,6 & 7 And Chastity Education is provided in Grades 6 and 7. The Archdiocesan developed child abuse prevention program, "I'm A Gift from God", is taught in Grades Kindergarten to Three both at home and in the classroom.

The catechism program is structured along the liturgical year and feast days are incorporated into the curriculum. Certain specific milestones such as First Communion and Reconciliation (Grade Two) and Confirmation (Grade Seven) are scheduled in concert with the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP).

Non-catholic students enrolled in the **Star of the Sea Parish School** are also required to participate in our religious curriculum. Students are encouraged to follow the precepts of their own faith according to their denominational standards and attend church services regularly.

11.3 Sacramental Programs

Students in Grade Two prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Our Grade Seven children prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation for these Sacraments is run in conjunction with our Parish Religious Education Program. This involves scheduled meetings, as well as celebrations for the children and their families. Parents are called to meetings so that they will be able to participate more fully in this process of faith development. Since parents are the primary educators of their children, parents have the option to decide whether their child is to be prepared for the sacraments. They may make a commitment to a program presented by the parish.

11.4 School Masses

The importance of the Mass is recognized as a way of increasing the faith of the children and helping in the building of a Christian community. Attendance at, and participation in the Parish Sunday Masses is taken to be an essential feature of our school families' lives. Masses are regularly offered for the whole school. Students are given an opportunity to share in the preparation of the Masses and parents are invited to attend. Non-Catholic students will receive a special blessing at communion.

11.5 Report Cards & Parent/Teacher Communication

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled in November/December and student-led conferences are scheduled in March after the report cards are issued. These meetings serve to allow the students the opportunity to share his/her learning with parents.

Informal communication between parents and teachers is encouraged throughout the school year. Teachers will respond to emails between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.

11.6 Homework Expectations

Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday. Homework time should be between thirty and sixty minutes each night in intermediate grades. Check student planner – homework should be recorded.

If, however, an assignment is given with lengthy notice of due date, a student may choose to do work during a weekend period.

The definition of homework will include:

1. Ongoing independent study.
2. Long term projects.

The definition of homework will not include work not completed during class **when reasonable class time has been provided.**

Primary students may be assigned practice work to be done at home. Reading is a cornerstone of learning and it is expected that students read a minimum of 15 minutes every evening. Parents of kindergarten students are encouraged to read **to** their children 15 minutes nightly.

Parents concerned about the time their child spends on home study should contact the classroom teacher for clarification of assignments.

12.0 Special Education (Policy #421)

12.1 Rationale

The Catholic school is a Christian community committed to students with special needs. We recall the words of Pope John Paul II at B.C. Place in 1984, “the value and dignity of the human person does not arise from the physical or mental qualities from efficiency, productivity, or speed in one’s actions. It comes rather from the fundamental fact that each individual is created by God and redeemed by the blood of his Son, Jesus Christ.” Our commitment is rooted in the fact that we are all God’s children.

12.2 Policy

The CISVA is committed to the education of the whole child in the spiritual, emotional/social, intellectual, artistic/aesthetic and physical realms. CISVA schools’ special education policies should reflect our commitment to inclusion and integration of student with special needs.

12.3 Procedure

Each Catholic school community is to implement a program and curriculum enabling it to accept and meet the special needs of all Catholic students in their community. Services may include:

- Early intervention programs
- Curricular support
- Adaptations and modifications
- Developmentally appropriate programs
- Professional resources such as occupational therapy, speech language services etc.
- Para-educator support
- Access to support from Provincial Resource Programs
- Parental collaboration through school based team

Consistent with this policy is an effort (within financial feasibility) to make our facilities accessible for students with special needs.

Definitions:

Inclusion: describes the principle that all students with special needs are entitled to equitable access to learning, achievement and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their education. The practice of inclusion is not

necessarily synonymous with integration and goes beyond placement to include meaningful participation and the promotion of interaction with others.

Integration: is one of the major strategies used to achieve inclusion, with integration students with special needs are included in educational settings with their peers who do not have special needs, and provided with the necessary accommodations determined on an individual basis, to enable them to be successful there. The principle of “placement in the most enabling environment” applies when decisions are made about the extent to which an individual student is placed in regular classrooms or assigned to an alternate placement.

13.0 Field Trips

CISVA Policy Ref. #409 Field Trips/Off-site Experiences

A field trip is described as a curricular or extracurricular program which may refer to a course of study, or activity that is provided or organized by, supervised by, or sponsored by an authority of the **Star of the Sea School**.

Field trips will:

- Generally tie into the school curriculum,
- Be adequately planned in advance,
- Have followed the normal procedures for notification of field trips to parents and receipt of completed forms from parents prior to scheduled field trip date, and
- Have adequate number of supervisors accompanying students on the field trip.

Where privately owned motor vehicles are used to transport students to and from the sponsored activities, it should be ensured that such vehicles have a minimum third party liability of one million dollars and that the private motor vehicles meet all the current requirements of the *Motor Vehicle Act and Regulations*.

With respect to transportation of students, all parents driving vehicles in which students are passengers have an automatic \$10 million individual driver's liability insurance provided by school insurance carriers.

All persons transporting students, other than their own children, must have completed a 'Driver Authorization Form' yearly, which is held on file at the school office.

Car seats are necessary by law. If your child does not come to school with their car seat, they will not be permitted to attend the field trip.

Be sure to return field trip consent forms or your child will be denied a trip.

The Society of the Catholic Independent Schools has provided in their yearly budget an Excess Third Party Liability policy to cover privately owned vehicles that are used in the course of a school activity. "This policy is with the Insurance Corporation of B.C. and gives protection to each teacher, parent, office or other volunteer (or their spouses) while driving their own vehicle in the course of a school activity and with the authority or approval of the school board. A coverage of \$2,000,000.00 is in excess of the limit specified on the Owner's Certificate of Insurance."

The compulsory Student Accident Insurance has been continued for another year. Please note that coverage is limited to 24 hours per day on school days and also covers days when the student is involved in extra-curricular activities sponsored by the school. THERE IS NO COVERAGE FOR WEEK-ENDS, HOLIDAYS, SUMMER BREAK, ETC.

14.0 Extracurricular Activities

Interested students may participate in the extracurricular activities.

14.1 Sports

- Volleyball (Grades 5-7) girls
- Slowpitch (Grade 7) boys & girls
- Track and field (Grades 3-7) boys & girls
- Soccer (Grades 5-7) boys & girls
- Basketball (Grades 5-7) boys & girls
- Cross country - boys & girls (Grades 1-7)

14.2 Arts & Cultural Activities

- Geography Challenge
- Spelling Bee
- Choirs – Primary, Intermediate & Show Choir
- Speech Arts

15.0 Disciplinary Procedures

CISVA Policy Ref. #426 Suspensions & Expulsion

Discipline may be considered within these main categories:

15.1 Minor Misconduct

Many common sense rules must be established to maintain an orderly environment for the children. Obviously, the children must be in class on time, move quietly about when classes are in session, put things away in an orderly fashion, etc. Occasional infractions in this area are not viewed with great alarm. Usually only a mild reminder about appropriate behaviour or a brief reprimand is all that is required. Where a child shows regular and consistent disregard for these common sense regulations, his or her conduct may be viewed with concern and considered in the category of "Major Misconduct", even though each incident may not be severe in nature.

15.2 Major Misconduct

Behaviour that endangers or is potentially harmful to self or other children cannot be tolerated. Parents have a right to expect that their children will be safe-guarded from malicious damage to their person and to private or public property.

Rude and abusive behaviour and defiant refusal to perform assigned learning tasks requires immediate and firm attention. Such conduct is considered very serious. The consequences for some major misconducts are listed below. Since every possible violation cannot be anticipated, the list is not to be considered exhaustive, but rather illustrative, of the general manner in which disciplinary action is undertaken. In serious cases, a copy of a disciplinary letter to the parent will be filed immediately. Following a third disciplinary notice the student will be suspended from school.

Re-admission to school will be requested by the student at a meeting with the Principal, parents and student.

After a second suspension, the student and parents must come before a sub-committee of the Parish Education Committee. At this time the parent and student will be notified that an additional suspension will result in probable expulsion from the school.

In case of vandalism resulting in property damage, reparation in full will be expected and required.

In incidents resulting in physical harm to another student, the students involved will be suspended from the play field for the remainder of the day on which the infraction occurred, as well as one day following the infraction.

All incidents resulting in formal disciplinary action must be documented in an appropriate **Disciplinary Notice** and placed in the student's **file** for the remainder of the school year.

15.3 Gross Misconduct

Where a child is responsible for serious misconduct, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, designed to impress upon the child the seriousness of the infraction.

Any student who steals, is flagrantly disrespectful to teachers, willfully injures another or acts in a way that would be considered a serious misconduct will appear before the Principal. The Principal will take the appropriate remedial or disciplinary action, and may, if this is deemed necessary, acting on behalf of the Parish Education Committee, impose a suspension or expulsion.

If the magnitude of the misconduct is such as to warrant suspension or expulsion, the Principal must communicate to the Chairperson or designate, the pertinent details leading to the administrative action. This formal communication is required in recognition that such an administrative action is an executive privilege carried out by the Principal on behalf of the Committee, but essentially remaining a responsibility and obligation of the Parish Education Committee. In all cases of serious misconduct, school authorities will communicate with the parents.

16.0 Communications

16.1 Notices Home

Weekly newsletters are sent via email. Parents are asked to subscribe via the school's website at www.starofthese.ca. Additional notices will be sent home with the oldest or with the grade specific child.

16.2 Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA) Policy

Star of the Sea School is committed to meeting or exceeding the privacy standard established by the BC Personal Information Act (PIPA). Safeguarding your confidentiality and protecting your personal information is of primary importance to Star of the Sea School.

Star of the Sea School will collect personal information that may include student identification information, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization record, legal guardianship, court orders if applicable, student behavioural and academic record, health insurance number and parents' occupation, religion, parish and envelope number, work numbers, e-mail address, home address, and any similar information needed for registration. This information is required in order to register your child at the school and will assist the school in making an informed decision for your child's appropriate placement in the school. Student information is also available to the Fraser Health Authority. The school may prepare a family phone list for each class, to be distributed to school administrative personnel, teachers, and one or more parents of your child's class, for the purpose of contacting you in emergency and non-emergency school or parish related issues.

Star of the Sea School acknowledges that there will be no disclosure of personal information to unauthorized personnel or third parties who are not directly involved in school management or the care, supervision and instruction of your child(ren) at this school, unless written authorization from a parent or legal guardian is provided to the school. The school will securely store electronic and hard copy parent and student personal information.

PIPA Complaint Procedure

If you have a concern or complaint about how your personal information is collected, stored or used, pass your concern on to the "Privacy Manager" (school Principal) verbally or in writing. Review a copy of the "Personal Information Privacy Policy" (a copy is located in the office). The principal will review the policy with you and will investigate your concern in a timely, fair and impartial manner. If you are not satisfied, you may forward your concern to the Privacy Commissioner at the CISVA Superintendent's Office at (604) 683-9331.

16.3 Changes to Contact/Personal Information

It is extremely important that the school be notified of changes of address, place of work or emergency contact numbers. If you change banks before the pre-authorized debits are to be cleared on the 1st of the month, please provide an updated pre-authorized debit form with a new void cheque to the school office.

16.4 School Telephone

There is a great demand on the use of our school telephone and we try to keep it open for emergencies and access by parents. The children are allowed to use the phone for emergencies and to return messages from parents. The children are not permitted to have mobile devices on their person. If you need to reach your child at school we will ensure that your child receives the message. Your child should arrange all after school plans ahead of time and will only be allowed to use the phone if a practice is canceled or something unforeseen happens at school. Learning to be responsible, to plan ahead is a step towards independence and we ask your support in controlling the use of the school phone by the children. We can also foster independence by encouraging your child to remind you of early dismissals or after school practices and games.

16.5 Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices

(CISVA Policy Ref. #430 Personal Electronic Devices)

The increasing prevalence of mobile communication and entertainment devices has created interesting challenges and dilemmas for the school environment. Many jurisdictions have dealt with this issue by declaring outright bans on their presence at school. Specific concerns include unsupervised phone, text-messaging and web access; potential violations of privacy (e.g. camera phones) and general disruptiveness to the learning environment.

On the other hand, mobile phone access for children traveling to and from school can provide a measure of safety.

At Star of the Sea, it is preferred that such devices not be brought to school if possible. However, if it is critical that a child be in possession of a mobile phone or other portable electronic device at school, it must be powered off at all times during school hours and while under school supervision. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the device for the day.

The school office is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and students needing use of a phone are able to inquire at the office.

16.6 Computer Use

School Computer use is to be supervised at all times. Students must ask permission from supervising teacher before accessing the Internet. Improper use of the Internet is prohibited (see Disciplinary Procedures). An Internet Use Policy will be signed by parents and students.

17.0 Emergency Procedures

17.1 Fire Safety and Drill

Star of the Sea School follows the fire drill protocol as dictated by the **Office of the Fire Commissioner, Ministry of Attorney General, Section 31 (h) of the Fire Services Act.**

The Principal instructs all employees in fire drill procedure and in turn each teacher instructs the students in their class of the approved **fire** drill procedure.

The Principal shall check all exit ways daily to ascertain that doors are free to open and that no obstructions exist.

The Principal must notify the fire department immediately should a fire occur in the school, regardless of how small the fire may appear to be.

17.2 Fire Drill Procedure

When the fire alarm is sounded all instruction and activity shall cease, machinery should be shut down and the students remain still and quiet to await further orders.

The teacher shall give the command "**Stand**". Students will then stand in the aisles facing the door, remaining silent. The teacher shall then take the class record of attendance, to keep in possession until the end of the drill.

The teacher will open the classroom door, determine the route to be taken and supervise the class out of the building in an orderly manner to a predetermined point of safety. Students will remain in formation until dismissed by the Principal or person in charge.

Students outside the classroom, but still in the building, shall go to the nearest corridor and join with any class, or, if close to an exit shall leave the building reporting to their particular class outside the building. The teacher shall check the number of students and the names against the register and if any missing, shall report same to the Principal or person in charge, or to a member of the fire department; giving the name of the child, the classroom number and the location.

The Principal or person in charge shall make every effort to see that no student remains in the school.

In the event of a fire, all teachers having knowledge of the presence in, or about, the building of hazardous commodities or chemicals, shall notify the Principal or person in charge and the fire department of the nature of the hazardous commodity or chemical and the location of its storage.

17.3 Earthquake Safety and Drill

Star of the Sea School follows the outline of earthquake drill as published by the **Ministry of Education, Province of British Columbia, September 2012.**

A comprehensive Handbook on Emergency Preparedness has been issued through the CISVA Administrators' Association and a copy of this guidebook is available in the Administration Office and should be consulted for further detailed information.

All teachers shall familiarize themselves with this handbook which outlines precautions and drill procedures before and after the occurrence of an earthquake.

Much of the evacuation procedure is similar to that of a fire drill except certain precautions which must be taken during the actual earthquake itself.

Most of these instructions refer to the "crash position" described as "on knees, head down and hands clasped on back of neck or head, covered with book or jacket, to avoid any debris that may be flying about the room."

After the earthquake itself, usually lasting less than sixty seconds, the drill procedure is followed with re-assembly outside the school structure.

Much of the discussion in the guideline manual refers to the evaluation of risk areas about the school premises and organization of communication with parents following the earthquake in what will obviously be a much disrupted community.

17.4 Parent Roles and Responsibilities

After an earthquake, fire, or any emergency requiring evacuation of the school, these procedures should be followed:

- DO NOT attempt to phone the school. If the phone lines are open, they may be needed for emergencies.
- When you (or an alternate care giver) arrive at the school to pick up children, you will find them assembled in the playground or in the school.
- If on the playground, you must report to the Release Station at the small gate in the corner of the playground in the Church Parking lot.
- If we have re-entered the school, report to the Release Station at the gathering area of the gym.

BE PATIENT AND CALM - RELEASING STUDENTS WILL TAKE TIME. WE WILL ALL BE ANXIOUS AND IF WE WORK TOGETHER EVERYONE WILL BE SAFE.

When we get to the Release Station, report (one at a time) to the designated and identified staff member. They will send a runner to bring your child(ren) to you.

PARENTS WILL NOT ENTER THE PLAYGROUND UNLESS THEIR CHILD IS INJURED.

In the case of an injured child, the parent will be taken to that child. Your other children will stay in their team assembly area until you are ready to leave.

When your child is brought to the Release Station, a designated and identified staff member will have you sign a Master Release Form and then you may be allowed to leave.

18.0 Student Responsibilities

18.1 Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to:

- Look for the presence of Jesus in everyone by treating others with kindness, understanding, dignity and respect.
- Be attentive and involved in all learning opportunities and respect the learning environment of others.
- Respect others and treat them fairly and equally .
- Respect and value the personal property of self and others, and the school.
- Practice empathy and self-control.

Students should come to school with a sense of purpose and an expectancy of achievement.

Students are expected to:

- Adhere to all school rules and regulations.
- Arrive at school punctually each day.
- Be prepared with all necessary books and materials (e.g. gym strip) and homework.
- Wear the required school uniform with pride.

Behaviour Expectations in the Hallways:

- Walk, respectfully and responsibly.
- Main entrance is reserved for adults and general public between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Behaviour Expectations In the Classroom:

- Active student participation in school activities is expected.
- Students must care for their personal belongings. Label personal items with your name.
- Students will assist with maintaining a tidy workspace and classroom.

Behaviour Expectations In the Washrooms:

- Students should use facilities during regular classroom breaks.
- Students should keep facilities tidy.

Behaviour Expectations on the Playground:

- Verbal/physical harassment of any kind is prohibited.
- Out of fence = out of bounds.
- No skateboards, roller blades or heeleys allowed on school grounds.
- No electronics (mobile phones, mp3 players, etc.)
- Approved helmet must be worn while riding bicycle to and from school.

Behaviour Expectations in the Gym:

- Students must not enter the gym without a supervisor.
- Gym shoes and gym strip are required.

Behaviour Expectations in the Fine Arts Room:

- Students must not enter the Fine Arts Room without a supervisor.

18.2 Peer Maltreatment

We endeavor to provide at all times a safe and positive learning environment, within which the dignity, respect, and self-esteem of all individuals is upheld. Each student has the right to a school environment free of harassment, bullying, abuse, and violence.

In order to deal with concerns of peer maltreatment in a timely and effective manner, students and/or parents are encouraged to notify school personnel (teachers/Principal/ support staff) about any issue of concern that is affecting them or others. The following principles and procedures will be applied:

1. The concern will be promptly investigated by the staff member who has been approached. Serious or recurrent incidents will be documented in written form and reported to the Principal in a timely manner.
2. It is the responsibility of the Principal to further investigate all complaints of maltreatment in a confidential, impartial, and timely manner.
3. Appropriate action will be initiated by the Principal. If required, the Principal will assign consequences and create an Action Plan for corrective, educational, and/or disciplinary purposes. All parties will be informed if action has been taken. The Action Plan will be time bound and subsequently reviewed. Upon review, the Principal's discretion will determine whether continued time or further action is needed, or if the offending student's continuing enrollment in the school is to be evaluated by the Parish Education Committee.
4. If the principal's resolution is not accepted by one or more of the parties involved, the matter may be appealed to the Parish Education Committee.
5. Decisions of non re-enrollment and expulsion ultimately made by the Parish Education Committee can be appealed to the Superintendent of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese.

18.3 Playground

Children are expected to play outdoors and enter the school only with the supervisor's permission. Exceptions will be made if a child brings a written note from the parents noting the reasons for excuse from outdoor play. In the event of inclement weather, children will play indoors in their respective classrooms. Games may be provided and play must be appropriate.

Children are not permitted to leave the playground area for any reason without permission.

The playgrounds are closed before and after school.

Students are not to walk through the BIG FIELD after school and are required to use the designated walk ways to reach the Church parking lot.

18.4 Playground Conduct

Consideration and respect for others is the key to generating a responsible society. Conduct in the playground is accordingly expected to reflect these qualities.

When the bell ending the period of play sounds, all play should cease. Children should proceed to their respective lines and enter the school, quietly and orderly. To avoid injuries, running in the hallways and classrooms is not permitted. All children are expected to respect staff, program supervisors, visitors and each other on the playground as well as in the school.

18.5 Playground Structure Rules

All play on "The Big Toy" must be in the presence of a supervising adult. The eating of food is not allowed on the Big Toy Structure.

18.6 After School Boundaries

The forested area that runs along the east side of our school from 24th avenue all the way up to the church is **OUT OF BOUNDS AT ALL TIMES!**

The 'BIG' field, and primary field are **CLOSED** after school. Students in grades 1 through 7 are **NOT** permitted to walk back to the primary field after school. Once dismissed, students must wait in the SUPERVISED courtyard or upper lot area for pick up.

18.7 Care of Books and Property

Proper care of all books, whether the property of the school or of the pupil, is an important part of every child's education. We ask your cooperation in seeing that all books are treated with respect while in the possession of your child. All texts should be returned to school each day. Compensation will be expected for any lost or destroyed text or library book. Please see that your child has a book bag in which to carry his/her books.

18.8 Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices and School-based Technologies

Rationale

Personal electronic devices (PEDs) and school-based technology have the potential for positive communication and enhanced student learning. Along with these benefits come associated risks and concerns. The use of PEDs and school-based technology should in no way interfere with the safety, security and privacy of students and/or staff. In addition, the use of PEDs and school-based technology should not interfere in any way with student learning and school operations. The unregulated use of PEDs or school-based technology may facilitate illegal and/or unethical activities in the school environment. Thus, the use of PEDs and school-based technology will be regulated by the school. Currently the use of PEDs are not permitted nor used as part of mainstream classroom programming. The use of school-based technology and PEDs in a school is a privilege, not a right. The use of PEDs at school is to be approved by the administration. This privilege may be revoked when it is shown to have been willfully abused.

Policy

This policy applies to all electronic devices whether owned or leased by the school or the user. This policy also applies to all users of PEDs and school-based technology including, but not limited to, students, staff, parents, and volunteers.

CISVA Policy 430: Personal Electronic Devices and School-based Technology (Revisions 7 June 2016)

19.0 Parent Responsibilities

Since parents are the primary educators of their children, it is important that a spirit of co-operation and trust exist between parents and teachers.

It is the responsibility of parents to:

- See that Christian attitudes and religious practices are continued in the home.
- See that the child attends school regularly and is on time.
- See that the child is prepared with the proper school supplies.
- Ensure that the school uniform and gym strip meet the uniform policy.
- Assist the child with homework or extra work needed to catch up.
- Check and sign their child's planner each night.
- Check and sign their child's report cards.
- Participate in school functions and attend scheduled meetings.

19.1 General Behaviour and Demeanor

The moral obligation of instructing children in a Christian lifestyle rests first with the parents. The responsibility of Star of the Sea School is to provide an extension and training ground to parental training in the practice of these life skills. The teachers and staff of the school will be dedicated to finding the best means of guiding and teaching the children and in this way reinforce the example set by the parents of our enrolled students.

In order to carry through this directive into the school and classroom, it is extremely important that the child be thoroughly convinced that the parents stand behind the school and that they will demand an accounting of behaviour in the school. Without such an understanding, the child can come to think that home and school are unrelated areas of authority. For this reason, parents and teachers are encouraged to communicate their common goals to the children and encourage the child's respect for his or her peers within the school and in the community as a whole.

19.2 Cold and Rainy Days

Please make sure that your child comes dressed appropriately when it is cold or rainy weather. (Boots, raincoat, mittens, etc.) The children need fresh air and play outside if it is drizzling or if there is snow on the ground.

19.3 Nutrition Breaks and Schedules

Children are expected to bring their own lunches from home. The nutritional supervision of students' lunches remains with the parents; however, candy, pop, and gum are not permitted. **Hot Lunch Days** are offered monthly and, at the discretion of parents, the students may purchase their hot lunches at school rather than bring their own lunches.

19.4 Conflict Resolution Procedure

CISVA Policy Ref.#302 Major Complaints

If a parent/guardian has a concern regarding any aspect of a child's life at **Star of the Sea School**, the following procedures should be implemented as soon as possible:

1. Make an appointment to meet the child's teacher. Many problems, concerns and misunderstandings can be resolved by effective communication at this level. Do not hesitate to contact the teachers; they are dedicated and willing to assist you and your child.
2. If the matter cannot be resolved with the teacher alone, make an appointment to meet with the teacher and the Principal together.
3. If the matter cannot be resolved at the Principal's level, document your concerns and efforts toward resolution to the **Parish Education Committee**.

It is important that we remember that, as parents, you are the primary educators of your children. The school staff is here to assist you in this awesome responsibility. We do not want to approach our interaction in opposition but, rather, in cooperation and Christian fellowship. While we will not always agree, we must be willing to face each other openly and respectfully. With Christ as our Centre and Mary as our Model, our challenge to lead our youth to become saints and scholars will be an easier one.

20.0 General Policies & Information

20.1 Abuse Disclosure

CISVA Policy Ref. #405 Responding to Student Abuse/Neglect

As dictated by the **Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Education**, the school and its educators have a legal duty and responsibility to report the reasonable grounds or circumstances of suspected child abuse.

This is not a responsibility that may be discharged by the educator reporting to any other person other than an appropriate delegate of the **Ministry for Children and Families**. These responsibilities cannot be assumed by school or Parish Education Committee personnel.

For purposes of this procedural manual, any such reporting should involve the **Principal and the Chairperson of the Parish Education Committee**. Due to the seriousness of such action, it is imperative that action be expedited immediately to ensure the safety and welfare of the child involved.

20.2 Tobacco & Smoking Ban

CISVA Policy Ref. #406 Student Health

On September 2, 2007, the renamed Tobacco Control Act (bill 10) came into force. The legislation prohibits all persons from smoking or using tobacco, or holding lighted tobacco in, or on school property. The non-smoking ban in and around school buildings is in effect 24 hours a day.

Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act [RSBC 1996] Chapter 451 2.2 (1) ***Local Parish Education Committee Policy – Revised January 2017***

Star of the Sea School strives to promote and safeguard, through all reasonable means, the physical, emotional and mental health of its students and employees. In compliance with the TOBACCO AND VAPOUR PRODUCTS CONTROL ACT (Provincial Legislation), the school building, all vehicles and grounds shall be smoke and vapour product free. A person must not smoke or use tobacco, or hold lighted tobacco, in or on school property. A person must not use an e-cigarette, or hold an activated e-cigarette, in or on school property.

20.3 Party Invitations

To remain sensitive to all children in the class, please distribute birthday or other party invitations only by phone or email.

In the event that all children in a given class are to be invited, a request can be made for the classroom teacher to send home the invitations with the student planner.

20.4 School Supplies

At the end of each school year, prepackaged kits for each of the school grades are ordered for the next school year. Parents pay for these kits in June. These prepackaged kits contain the necessary supplies to begin the new school year.

From time to time, supplies may need to be replenished by parents, depending on student's care and use.

20.5 Weapons

Possession of anything that is used or designed to hurt someone or to put someone in a state of fear, on school property is strictly forbidden and will be considered Gross Misconduct in each case.

When the Principal has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a student has a firearm, knife, explosive substance, or any similar device, on his/her person, or in his/her desk or locker and has displayed it in a threatening manner or assaulted another person with such weapon, he/she shall:

1. Call Surrey R.C.M.P. immediately
2. Notify the student's parent/guardian
3. Begin suspension procedures

In addition to potential criminal sanctions, substantiation of the above will lead to expulsion from the school.

21.0 Parent Participation Program (January 2012)

Our school would not exist without the active participation of parents. The involvement of parents in all aspects of the school's operation ensures that many of our labour costs are reduced. Most importantly, parent participation makes enrollment at **Star of the Sea School** a 'family affair'. At **Star of the Sea**, we believe that education is very much a family responsibility. When parents show an active interest in various Parent Participation projects, the children notice. We therefore encourage all parents to actively participate in our school and parish community. We understand that some families may not be able to participate with hours and therefore, have pay in lieu options to assist. It should be noted that your involvement in the Parent Participation Program should not be confused with **volunteer** activities, in which you will also be encouraged to contribute your time and talents. These include school and parish activities such as field trip chaperoning, some fund-raising activities, and other events (e.g. Fun Day). Such volunteerism is a fundamental value of Star of the Sea School, and contributes greatly to Catholic solidarity and community spirit. It can be an intrinsically rewarding experience for those involved.

21.1 Participating Families

As active school community members, parents/caregivers are required to participate in one or more areas as needed by the school (see below). Further details are provided with the annual (re)registration package. A minimum of 50 hours per year (as defined by a yearly cycle **beginning on July 1** preceding the school year in question) is required from each family for fulfillment of the Parent Participation Program responsibility. Completed hours are to be recorded on a regular basis via the school website.

Each participating family will be required to **submit 2 post dated cheques** at the time of registration/re-registration, \$300 each, dated March 1 and July 1 of the upcoming school year. These cheques will only be cashed if Parent Participation Program obligations are not met, according to the following protocol:

- **The March 1 cheque will be deposited if a minimum of 25 hours are not completed by March 1.** A full refund will be provided if the annual Parent Participation Program obligation (50 hours) is subsequently met by the end of the school year (June 30).
- **The July 1 cheque will be cashed if the full Parent Participation Program obligation is not met by the end of the school year (June 30).** A partial refund will then be provided for hours worked on a pro-rated basis (valued at \$12 per hour).
- **Payment in full of any outstanding Parent Participation Program penalty will be a necessary condition for re-enrollment in the upcoming school year.** Furthermore, your child(ren) will not receive classroom placement(s) in August until this obligation has been met.

21.2 Areas of Participation

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Coordinator Positions | Parish Education Committee |
| Evening Janitorial Assistance | Playground Supervision |
| Grips | P.R.E.P. (Teaching Religion) |
| Headchecks | Recycling |
| Hot Lunch | Special Assignments |
| Laminating | School Maintenance |
| Library | Children's Liturgy Of The Word |
| Gala | Classroom Helpers |
| Special Events Team | Maintenance |

Once you are assigned to an area you will be contacted by the Area Coordinator to work out a schedule and to answer any questions you may have. It is important to understand that once a schedule has been made up and work areas assigned, you are expected to remain committed to that area. You are responsible to find your own replacements. Should you find the need to change your area of participation during the year, you must contact your Area Coordinator immediately. We cannot guarantee that a position in another area will be available. Failure to meet your obligation will result in reassignment to the 'pay in lieu' category requiring an additional \$600 fee. A comprehensive Parent Participation Registration Form will be distributed at the time of registration/re-registration.

Fifty hours of participation per family is required, but this is used as a guideline only (additional hours are much appreciated). If you find you are short hours, it is your responsibility to make up those hours if you do not wish to pay the balance of hours in lieu at a rate of \$12 per hour. Contact the Area Coordinator for assistance.

21.3 Pay in Lieu Options

We understand that some families may not be able to participate through hours. As a result the following options are available.

- Pay in Lieu Option: A \$600 payment (either one cheque dated for September 1st or two cheques for \$300 dated September 1st and March 1st)
- Hybrid Option: Families work only 25 hours in a specified area and pay a \$300 payment (one cheque dated September 1st)
- Goods & Services in Lieu Option: Families can propose to offer the school and/or parish goods and/or a services in lieu. For this option, an application found on the school's website must be approved in advance by the PEC.

21.4 Criminal Record Check

Each person that will be working with children in/outside of our school for their Parent Participation hours or otherwise, is required to complete a Criminal Record Check through the Ministry of Justice at the beginning of each school year (good for 5 years). Applications are done online at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/> Access code is: YUQ9ZV8A2K.

22.0 Parish Education Committee

2015-2016

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Father Glenn Dion | Pastor |
| Nicole Regush | Principal |
| Brenda Moretto | Chairperson |
| Sinead Hibbert | Vice-Chair |
| Anyrt Granados | Treasurer |
| Heather Dagenais | Secretary |
| Bob Shumka | Member at Large |
| Vernon D'Souza | Member at Large |
| Michele Morandini | Member at Large |

22.1 Parish Education Committee

CISVA Reference Policy #110 Education Committee Responsibilities

The role of the Parish Education Committee is to cooperate with and assist the Pastor in the running of the school. The committee sees that Archdiocesan policies are implemented and sets policy for the local school. The committee manages the finances of the school and the hiring of staff in consultation with the Principal and they assist the Pastor and Principal in the general running of school programs.

23.0 Grade Seven Awards

Note: These awards will only be given when there are deserving candidates.

Religion Award

Given to the grade seven student who displays courtesy, consistent effort and apparent growth in faith.

Citizenship Award

Given to the grade seven student who has shown a high positive profile in the school. Academic achievement should reflect their best effort. Involvement in some extra-curricular activities is a must. This student has proven to be an example to all the school community.

Rita Smith Leadership Award

Given to the grade seven student who demonstrates qualities and has potential for effective leadership.

Academic Excellence

Given to the grade seven student who has maintained the overall highest marks throughout the school year in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Language Arts. Other subject areas must also be consistently above average.

French Award

Given to the student who demonstrates excellence in the French program.

Athletic Award

Given to the grade seven student who has maintained the highest level of athletic development as well as involvement in at least two extra-curricular sports. Good sportsmanship is also a requirement.

Fine Arts Award

Give to the grade seven student who has been involved in at least two of the following three components beyond regular classroom assignments over the intermediate years: music, art and drama. Through his/her involvement in these components has contributed to the school community as a whole.

Some examples of involvement might include:

- School or Mass choir
- School wide drama presentation
- Designing covers for programs/spiritual bouquets
- Finalist at the classroom level of annual Speech Arts Festival....

Phil Fraser Environmental Award

Given to the grade seven student who demonstrates exemplary practices and attitude of stewardship.

23.1 Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to the most deserving students in the grade seven class. The winner of the Citizenship Award automatically receives one scholarship. The winner of the Rita Smith Leadership Award automatically receives the other scholarship.

Holy Cross High School Bursary

The Crusader Youth Foundation of Holy Cross Regional High School is offering a \$500.00 bursary towards tuition for the upcoming school year. Each of the six feeder schools is to present the bursary to a deserving student whose qualities include: being a Christian example to his/her peers through witness and involvement in the school community; academic achievement; and Christian education achievement.