



**SAINT PAUL'S**  
**CLASSICAL SCHOOL**  
*2024-2025 Family Handbook*

# RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS

## **Introduction:**

Saint Paul's Classical School is a ministry of Saint Paul's Anglican Church. We recognize the truth that God has revealed Himself to the world finally and completely in His Son Jesus Christ. At Saint Paul's Classical School, we see the Christian faith fully integrated into every aspect of our common life at school. A full and complete education necessitates cultivating love for one's Creator and Redeemer. Christ's story informs and directs our own stories, thereby creating "culture". Culture binds people together by giving us a shared vision for the future. Christian Culture is founded on Christ. His birth, death, and resurrection have restored creation and freed us to love and serve Him here until He returns. We serve Him by cultivating virtue in our own lives and the life of our families, as well as working for the common good of where we live.

All of our school days begin and end in the chapel with the ancient services of Mattins and Evensong. Here we read Holy Scripture, recite Psalms, sing hymns, and pray prayers that the Church has prayed for millennia. Our common worship and common prayer is foundational to our education here at Saint Paul's Classical School.

Our central mission is to develop spiritual and moral character within all of our students. As this moral character grows and matures, our students learn how to recognize and discern what is good and right. Developing virtue in our students is the bedrock of our program and arises out of an acknowledgment that Christ is the Truth.

Saint Paul's Christian beliefs can be summed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds found in the 1928 American Book of Common Prayer, as well as the historic Athanasian Creed. All of our clergy, faculty, and staff wholeheartedly and unreservedly affirm the timeless Doctrine and Morals of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church and we teach our students in accordance with it.

## **Moral Beliefs:**

Here follows a short summary of certain moral beliefs concerning issues that are prevalent in our culture today. Saint Paul's Church and Classical School always believes in teaches in accordance with Holy Scripture and the moral witness of the undivided Church.

1. **Marriage** — Saint Paul's Church and Classical School unswervingly affirm God's design for human sexuality and marriage. Holy Matrimony is a sacrament that constitutes a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman that can only be dissolved by death. Human sexuality is for the procreation and rearing of families which leads to human flourishing and well-ordered societies which honor God. Any sexual activity outside of Holy Matrimony is a grievous sin which requires repentance, confession, and absolution. Such sins include lasciviousness, lewdness, sodomy, fornication, adultery, use of pornography, etc.
2. **Male & Female** — God created all human beings in His image and after His likeness at the beginning. He only created male and female. We affirm that an individual person can only be male or female since his or her conception. We deny the existence of any other so-called "genders", that an individual may change his or her gender, and that an individual's body may not match his or her true gender.
3. **Life** — Saint Paul's Church and Classical School affirms the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. From the moment of conception, each person is created in the image of God and points us to God's sovereign rule in this world. All human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally handicapped, the unattractive, the physically challenged and every other condition in which our common humanity is expressed from conception to the grave (Genesis 1:26, 27, 5:1; Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 127:3).

# 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

## **Academic Calendar:**

The 2024-2025 Academic Year will commence on Monday, August 12, 2024 and finish Friday, May 23, 2025 for a total of 174 school days.

- First Day of School (8/12)
- Labor Day (9/2)
- Early Release (10/10)
- Fall Break (10/11, 10/14)
- Early Release (11/22)
- Thanksgiving Break (11/25-11/29)
- Early Release (12/20)
- Christmas Break (12/23-1/3)
- Early Release (2/13)
- Winter Break (2/14, 2/17)
- Ash Wednesday (3/5)
- Early Release (3/14)
- Spring Break (3/17-3/21)
- Standardized Testing (4/16)
- Holy Week Break (4/17, 4/18)
- Easter Break (4/21, 4/22)
- Last Day of School (5/23)

## **Weekly Schedule:**

School will meet Monday through Friday from 8:15 AM - 3:15 PM. Attendance is taken at 8:10 AM.

## **Early Release Days:**

School will dismiss at 1:45 PM on early release days.

## **Weather Days:**

Two days out of the 174 academic days are reserved as weather days for hurricane season. If we must miss more than two days due to weather, we will make up any lost days from Winter Break first.

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. **Non-Discrimination Policy** All SPCS faculty, staff, administration, and agents shall not harass or discriminate against any student and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination in accordance with SPCS's *Standards of Ethical Conduct*.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Suspected Abuse Policy** - All employees and agents of SPCS have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report online at: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>
3. **Documentation Policy** - SPCS only keeps the documentation required by the state of Florida for every student. Any other information needed by SPCS ensures the smooth operation of the school day.
  - Student Records - Per the State of Florida, all private schools must maintain certain pieces of personal information for every student. All information we request will be in exact accordance with this state regulation. We only share individual student records with the student's parents or legal guardian.
  - Student Pickup - SPCS requires a list of authorized persons from the student's parent or legal guardian in writing in order for anyone else other than the parent or legal guardian to pick up students from school.
  - Student Documents - All students must have a birth certificate, immunization records (or legal exemptions), health examination records, health insurance information, emergency contacts, and any previous test scores from other institutions for Grades 1-12 on file with the school.
4. **Communication Policy** - Communications from the school will come from our Registrar's office at the email [School@SaintPaulsMelbourne.org](mailto:School@SaintPaulsMelbourne.org). Please also expect to see a weekly communications from the your student's teachers that will review academic material from the week, as well as important announcements for school life, and upcoming dates and events from the Administration.
5. **Social Media Policy** - To complete enrollment, every family was required to opt in to allow the school to use their student's image to promote the school to

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<sup>1</sup> Available upon request to parents.

our wider community. SPCS will never use personal identifying information or tag parents or students on public posts.

6. **Family Moral Policy** - All of our students, families, faculty, and staff are expected to govern themselves according to the Christian moral tradition wherever they may be. If there is any severe breach of Christian morality by students or parents outside of school may be used as grounds for dismissal from SPCS. Examples include (but are not limited to) sexual immorality, public intoxication, physical violence and other threatening communications and behavior.
7. **Parent-Teacher Conferences** - Each year there are two mandatory parent-teacher conferences in order to keep parents informed on student progress. One will meet at the end of the 1st quarter and the other at the end of the 3rd quarter. At least one parent must be present at both conferences.
8. **Standardized Testing** - In compliance with the State of Florida, we administer standardized tests to students near the end of the year. SPCS currently uses the Classical Learning Test. Testing for 2024-2025 academic year will be administered on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.
9. **Attendance** - Attendance is mandatory for all students at SPCS. Students are considered tardy if they arrive later than 8:10 AM. Drop-off begins at 7:55 AM.
  - Tardies - If students are late to class they are counted as “tardy”. If students are more than 15 minutes late to a class, then they are counted absent for the class. Two tardies is equivalent to one absence.
  - Check In/Check Out - Students must check in at the Registrar’s office before going to class if they are any later than 8:10 AM. A parent or guardian may check a student out of class, but all classes missed after check out time will be counted as absences.
  - Absences - SPCS allows 16 absences per class per school year and no more than 8 absences per semester without administrative action. Excused absences are only granted for sickness (with a doctor’s note) or for a family emergency. Parents should notify their student’s teacher when they know a student will be absent and coordinate with teachers for make-up work. All doctor’s notes must be provided to the school Registrar in order to count as an excused absence.
  - Make-Up Work - It is the responsibility of the student and parent to find out what work was missed during an absence and to arrange for make-up work

with the teacher. All make-up work (including assessments) is fully at the discretion of the teacher.

10. **Medical Policy** - We like to stay healthy at SPCS. We avoid screens, encourage physical activity and healthy food choices. SPCS does not dispense prescription or daily medications. Occasional medications for common symptoms (e.g., headache, stomachache, etc.) would be available only with parent signature. Any student who has a temperature of 100.4 F or symptoms which interfere with learning will be sent home. Students may return to school when they are fever free without medication for 24 hours. Parents should notify the school about any allergies or medications a student takes. All students are required to have immunization documentation or exemptions on file with the school. The school will also need to have a copy of the student's health insurance on file for field trips or emergencies. Please do not come to school with fever or other signs of sickness (e.g., runny nose, fever, congestion, cough, etc.) SPCS reserves the right to call 911 in the event it is necessary. If student's need to bring epipens, they need to be stored in the designated area in the Registrar's office with name clearly affixed.
11. **School Visitations** - Parents may visit the school at appropriate times and for appropriate reasons, but we ask that appointments be made rather than drop in visits as to not disrupt class time. All non-parent visitors must be approved by administration. Appointments must be made with the school office in coordination with your student's classroom teacher. All visitors must check in at the office and wait to be escorted to the school.
12. **Emergency Procedures** - In the case of a weather emergency, SPCS will consider public school closures, but issue formal communication about school closure from the Registrar's Office. We will communicate these closures by email. In case of fire students will be guided by teachers to pre-approved fire zones.
13. **Severe Weather Dismissal** - During heavy rain, or when there severe weather is obvious or indicated according to Weather Bug Schools, a severe weather dismissal will be called. If a severe weather dismissal is called, afternoon dismissal is delayed until the severe weather alert is no longer in effect. Students will remain in the classroom during the severe weather alert. Parents are notified of severe weather dismissal conditions via email or text message. Once notified that a severe weather dismissal is in effect, parents should stay in their cars until the severe weather alert has been called off.

Once the alert is called off, notification will disperse via email or text message students will be dismissed according to their usual dismissal procedures.

14. **Drop Off / Pick Up Procedure** - Drop Off begins at 7:55 AM and attendance will taken at 8:10 AM by teachers. Pick Up will be from 3:15 PM to 3:25 PM. Students may only be picked up by someone other than a parent or legal guardian with written communication to their teacher or to the Registrar. Directions concerning pick-up and drop-off line will be distributed. Please clearly display family name card in dashboard to facilitate smooth pick up.
15. **Field-Trip Guidelines** - Each grade will take at least one field trip per semester during the course of the school year. Field trip costs for students are covered by tuition and fees (except for food). Chaperone costs are not covered. Field trips are planned in conjunction with classroom learning and are designed to give active application to their academic and spiritual development. Field trips are required for attendance and any absence without a doctor's note is considered as an unexcused absence. Students who do not attend their class field trip may not be at school during the field trip. Students leaving campus for a field trip or school function must return a signed permission form both to go on the trip and for their child to ride in another parent vehicle. SPCS behavioral standards apply to all field trips. All drivers and chaperones must have an updated copy of their automobile liability insurance and a background check on file with the Registrar at least two days prior to the trip. Chaperones may not dispense medication to any child other than their own.
16. **QuickSchools** - Parents will receive an account to access their student(s)' grade book information, attendance records, billing details, and other personal information such as authorized pickup persons, emergency contacts, and student documents. An email will be sent from QuickSchools to the email address registered for each parent at the start of the school year.



# DISCIPLINE POLICY

## **Introduction:**

At Saint Paul's Classical School, we consider the Christian Life the best life. Each stage of our life requires us to obey Christ in particular ways, but above all, the Christian life is a life of love. Love is not a feeling but an action. Love, a virtue unique to Christianity, tells us that we ought to will the "good of the other"<sup>2</sup>. God wills our good by creating us and then in re-creating us in the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. The law of God, given first to Moses and clarified by Jesus, tells us that we are to practice three things: love for God, love for each other, and love for ourselves. These are then the three headings of our student and faculty Code of Conduct. The code provides the setting in which we live our lives together as a school striving towards virtue and knowledge of God.

## **Summary of the Law:**

"THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."— Matthew 22:37-40

## **The Code:**

### **I. Love the Lord thy God**

- We conduct all of our schoolwork as an act of worship to God.
- We treat all sacred spaces with dignity and honor by using them for their intended purpose.
- We participate earnestly and pray reverently during Mattins and Evensong.

### **II. Love thy Neighbor**

- We speak to one another with kindness and grace as well as address all faculty, staff, and classmates with appropriate honor.
- We leave our common spaces in a better state than how we found them.
- We strive to make one another's lives easier.

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<sup>2</sup> Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, II-II, q. 23, a. 1, ad. 2

### III. Love Thyself

- We present our best work before our teachers and classmates.
- We maintain our own personal spaces and materials with tidiness.
- We always present ourselves as dignified and civilized in our appearance.

#### **School Rules:**

1. Students are expected to uphold and practice basic Christian standards of behavior and conversation.
2. Students are expected to treat all church and school property and materials with dignity, reverence, and care.
3. Students are expected to cheerfully and promptly obey all those in authority and treat others how they would want to be treated. Requests from the teacher should not need to be repeated.
4. All assigned work must be completed on time and with effort.
5. Gum is never allowed on campus for any reason.
6. Students are not allowed personal electronic devices (or “screens”) at school. Phones, tablets, smart watches, etc. distract from the classroom environment. Students who have a cell phone must turn it off at the beginning of school and place it in their backpacks. Devices may not be turned on until after dismissal. Parents who need to contact their student should call the school office or communicate directly with their teachers via email, phone call, or text message. A device may be taken up by the teacher until the end of the day if used. Repeated offenses will become a disciplinary issue. Phones are not allowed on field trips. Students’ watches should not be able to connect to the internet.
7. All students must be aware of and adhere to the boundaries of the school campus.
8. Students must maintain their uniforms carefully and come to school looking sharp and ready for the day (e.g., tucked in shirts, no wrinkled shirts, no sloppiness). All students must keep proper hygiene and cleanliness. Please see specific uniform guidelines and policies below on page 18.
9. Hair must be styled neatly and not distract from the classroom environment (e.g., no mohawks). Use of unnaturally colored hair dye is not permitted (e.g., no purple hair). Girls may wear earrings which do not distract from the classroom environment. Nose piercings, multiple piercings, and other atypical piercings are not allowed. Boys may not have any piercings. Students may not have any visible tattoos.

10. Student misconduct off campus or at non-school related activities may be subject to discipline, especially if the conduct has an effect on the general welfare of the school community, causes scandal, negatively affects the reputation of the school, students, faculty, staff, families, or administration.
11. Students may not run or be loud while traveling on walkways. Teachers are always to escort students to their classes, chapel, assemblies, and other functions.
12. Students are to refrain from public displays of affection while on campus or at any school related activity or event (e.g., field trips, School Sunday, etc.) Students ought to socialize in groups and not “pair off” on campus.
13. Student drivers should always adhere to school traffic flow policies. Once on campus, a student may not leave unless authorized by a parent for a good reason (e.g., a doctor’s appointment) until the end of the school day. All parents must send in a written notice to the school office if a student is to leave campus before dismissal. Students may not leave campus for lunch.
14. Students may not be in possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or weapons while on campus.

### **Discipline Policy:**

Failure to uphold the Code of Conduct or breaking any school rules may result in discipline. All discipline may be administered by teachers or administrators in light of the student’s conduct and attitude. Discipline is the way in which we help our students cultivate the virtue of *self-mastery*. Self-mastery (or temperance or self-control) is a fruit of the Spirit and one of the four cardinal virtues of antiquity.<sup>3</sup> The mastery of our own desires allows us to cultivate good habits which produces love for the right things. Discipline is always intended to correct a student and help him back into the right way. External discipline supplied by the teacher in the form of correction is a support to the virtue of discipline we expect students to internalize. Restitution, reconciliation, and forgiveness are all observed in hope of the restoration of all of our students. SPCS favors using physical activity or labor as a disciplinary tool (running laps, push-ups, weeding, etc.). If a student damages school property, the student will be expected to restore it to its former state in a timely manner. SPCS does not engage in corporal discipline.

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<sup>3</sup> Please see Gal. 5:22, 23

The majority of discipline problems will be dealt with at the classroom level. However, if a student continually and chronically demonstrates that he or she does not want to be at school through misconduct or lack of effort in the classroom, then the teacher will begin the formal disciplinary process.

- I. Parent-Teacher Conference - The first stage of discipline beyond ordinary classroom procedures is for a teacher to meet with parents to outline and discuss the student's behavior with the expectation that parents will work to correct the student at home. Continuous and chronic misconduct will be communicated to parents by teachers before entering the formal disciplinary process.
- II. Parent-Administrator Conference - If the behavior continues, parents will meet with administration to create a disciplinary plan to correct continuous and chronic misconduct. This conference may result in a suspension and is the last conference that will be held with parents concerning a student's behavior or work ethic.
- III. Dismissal from SPCS - If a student refuses to correct his continuous and chronic misconduct, he or she will be asked to withdraw or be expelled from school.

Some infractions are so serious, that they necessitate an immediate initiation of the above formal disciplinary process. These behaviors are:<sup>4</sup>

1. Disrespect shown to any staff member. The staff member will judge of whether or not disrespect has been shown.
2. Dishonesty in any situation while at school, including (but not limited to) lying, deception, cheating, stealing, and plagiarism.
3. Obscene, vulgar, profane, or blasphemous language including taking the Lord's Name in vain.
4. Rebellion, i.e., outright disobedience and defiance in response to instruction
5. Fighting, i.e., striking in anger with the intention to harm another student
6. Bullying, i.e., malicious, cruel, intentional, and repeated misconduct, harassment, or communication towards others that intends to inflict harm, embarrass, intimidate, or coerce in any form (e.g., physical, verbal, cyber, etc.)

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<sup>4</sup> Examples of misbehavior given in the Code of Conduct, School Rules, and Discipline Policy is non-exhaustive.

Serious Misconduct - Should a student commit an act of such serious misconduct, the disciplinary process may be bypassed and suspension or expulsion imposed immediately. Examples of such acts include: endangering the lives and welfare of others, gross violence or vandalism to church or school facilities, violations of civil law, actions that would significantly damage the reputation of SPCS, or any act in clear contradiction to Scriptural commands. Any student who demonstrates disregard for the Christian life or Christian moral tradition may be subject to school discipline.

### **Definitions:**

Definitions for matters of discipline are as follows:

1. Expulsion - An expelled student will no longer be allowed to attend classes at SPCS.
2. Suspension - Suspension results from conduct warranting the student being sent home for a period of time determined by SPCS.
3. Withdrawal - Withdrawal occurs when a parent voluntarily withdraws their student out of SPCS.
4. Incident Report - If a student is implicated or involved in any altercation involving violence or danger towards himself or other students, faculty, or staff, an Incident Report will be written and kept in a student's record. A copy will be provided to parents. Accumulation of Incident Reports and their severity can be considered grounds for dismissal.
5. Administrative Discretion - All discipline and school policy falls under the Headmaster's discretion with the Rector as the court of final appeal. He may adjust policies at any time.

# ACADEMIC LIFE

**Homework Philosophy & Guidelines** - Any and all kinds of homework are assigned to help a student build proficiency and, ultimately, mastery of academic material. SPCS does not assign homework for its own sake. Homework is something that will naturally increase as a student grows and matures. A kindergartener is not expected to have any homework, while a secondary student should expect to write papers, study for tests, and complete assignments as part of his normal academic course. Some points about our homework philosophy at SPCS:

1. Homework and other assignments are assigned or modified purely at the teacher's discretion.
2. All homework and other assignments are expected to be completed on time and with a student's best effort.
3. Homework is used by the teacher to locate gaps in knowledge and proficiency to provide feedback and further instruction to the student.
4. Brief, regular, and consistent practice is better for learning than one long study period.
5. Most assignments will be able to be completed in the allotted class time. Students who do not use their time wisely in class will be required to complete classwork as homework.
6. Homework encourages parental involvement in their student's studies.
7. Homework is not assigned as discipline.
8. Normal homework is not to be assigned over weekends or over Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, Spring Break, Holy Week Break, or Easter Break during the academic year.
9. Early and frequent communication with teachers is the best way to clarify homework, projects, and other assignments.
10. Parents may check on attendance, all grades, due dates, and student assignments throughout the year via the "QuickSchools" portal.

**Grades & Progress Reporting** - Grades are an important part of assessing a student's academic progress. SPCS uses grades to help students develop proficiency and mastery of new material.

1. Grading Scale - Our grading scale at SPCS corresponds to our students' growth and development in their mastery of new academic material. Certain classes may use the Pass/Fail model and younger students may use the E/S/N model.

Percentage	Grade	Grade Point	Meaning
100-94	A	4.0	Mastery
93.9-90	A-	3.7	
89.9-87	B+	3.3	Proficiency
86.9-84	B	3.0	
83.9-80	B-	2.7	
79.9-77	C+	2.3	
76.9-74	C	2.0	Approaching Proficiency
73.9-70	C-	1.7	
<70	F	0.0	No Proficiency/Failing
100-70	P	N/A	Passing
N/A	I	N/A	Incomplete
N/A	E	N/A	Excellent
N/A	S	N/A	Satisfactory
N/A	N	N/A	Needs Improvement

2. Academic Terms - There are four academic terms at the end of which report cards will be issued: Michaelmas (ends Oct. 10), Christmas (ends Dec. 20), Lent (ends Mar. 14), and Easter (ends May 23).
3. Assessments - Tests, quizzes, exams, papers, and other projects are given to students to help them practice what they have learned and help assess mastery of ideas and concepts. Any kind of assessment is given strictly at the teacher's discretion.
4. Academic Probation - Academic probation is disciplinary term defined as any student who, in any academic term, earns below a C- in any class. Academic probation status will mean that a student will be restricted from participating in any school related extra-curricular clubs or activities. Teachers will call a meeting with parents and Headmaster to discuss an academic plan for the student to raise his or her grade. If the grade is raised by the end of the probationary period, this may be used as grounds for dismissal from SPCS.

5. Changing Grades - Only teachers can ordinarily change grades. Administration will not change the grade of a student except in the most extraordinary cases.

### **Grading Guidelines:**

1. All grades will be criterion-referenced, and no grades will be assigned based on a normal curve.
2. Teachers may assign different weights to assignments, homework, and class participation to calculate an overall grade.
3. No single assignment should be weighted more than 25% of a student's overall grade.
4. Projects, depending on the scope of the assignment, may be used in lieu of tests.
5. Teachers may not use academic grades for discipline purposes.

### **Late Assignments:**

All homework assignments are “due” at the beginning of the period on the assigned due date. Assignments turned in after assignments are collected are considered late. For each day an assignment is late, the grade is to be reduced by ten percent. Assignments may not be turned in five days after the due date. The only exception to this rule is for a student's unplanned absence, in which the due date may be extended by the number of days the student was absent. If a student has a planned absence, the due date may be extended by only half of the number of days that he was absent. If a student has a planned absence of less than three days, then the student will have at least one day to make up missed work.

### **Issuance of a Failing Grade:**

In the event that a student earns a failing grade (i.e., <70.0% or “F”) for the quarter, parents must be notified prior to the report card being issued. Parents and student must understand the reasons for the failing grade, and the student will be immediately placed on Academic Probation. The teacher must notify the headmaster prior to issuing any student a failing quarterly grade. A conference must be held between parents, teacher, and headmaster to create an academic plan for the student to raise his or her grade.



## SCHOOL LIFE & CULTURE

1. **School Sunday** - As a parochial school, SPCS students present the offertory anthem at Saint Paul's Anglican Church on a certain Sunday in the academic year.
2. **Family Forum** - Parents are a vital and necessary part of making SPCS a successful school, and they can help by first and foremost praying for the students, faculty, and mission of SPCS. Second, they can assist our mission by ensuring that their students study, eat well, go to bed on time, and are ready each day to cheerfully perform their duty to learn and mature. Third, parents are crucial in developing school community and spirit. Family Forum gives our families an avenue to build those ties that bind us together as a school, as well as support the classroom teachers in their mission. The Family Forum Tribune will communicate to families primarily by email.
3. **Class parties** - SPCS loves to celebrate our students. Many of our teachers will have parties to celebrate certain milestones and achievements in the academic year. Many parents like to bring treats to celebrate their student's birthday. Special food and activities are welcome only with prior coordination with the classroom teacher. If you plan to bring in special food please consider things like the allergies and dietary restrictions of other students. Please plan to bring enough to for the student's entire class or the entire school.
4. **Feast Days** - As a parochial school, SPCS observe special times in the Church year to celebrate God's grace in His Church. These days will be announced school wide so that all will be able to participate in special events associated with those days. Examples include St. Michael and All Angels, All Saints, and Shrove Tuesday.
5. **Mascot** - We are officially the SAINT PAUL'S GLADIATORS! Why "Gladiators?"

Saint Paul in 1 Cor. 9 likens the Christian life to an athletic contest -- both a race and a fight with "24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:

lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

The Lord Jesus Christ calls us to strive for self-mastery that ends in holiness and the incorruptible crown of everlasting life. We bring our desires in subjection to our reason and our reason in subjection to God, that we might always run in such a way that we may obtain this crown. Each generation of Christians have run this race and fought this fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil, all surrounded by the “great cloud of witnesses” of the saints who have come before and now cheer us on to victory (Heb. 12:1).

All of the students, faculty, and staff at SPCS recognize that all the baptized have been called to this great contest of eternal consequence, and we eagerly jump into the arena with zeal. As we strive to grow in grace and virtue, we are confident that the Lord will bless our efforts with victory.

Furthermore, Saint Paul has also always been depicted with a sword or “gladius.” He exhorts all Christians to take up the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Eph. 6:17). As we engage in the great contest, we never forget that we possess the “gladium Spiritus” of Holy Scripture which is capable of defeating every temptation. A “Gladiator” is one who wields the gladius. May every student always wield this great gift with the singular purpose to obtain the immortal crown of everlasting life.

# UNIFORMS & DRESS

## Introduction:

In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, students wear uniforms. These uniforms are a requirement for school attendance. SPCS reserves the right to adjust the uniform requirements at any time. We attempt to make our uniforms simple and affordable.

SPCS now exclusively uses Sir Walter's, a local and reputable company known for its high-quality school uniforms and exceptional customer service. Starting in the 2024/2025 academic year, all new uniform purchases (i.e., shirts, jackets, sweaters, skorts, shorts, and pants) will need to be exclusively purchased from Sir Walter's. Please be advised that any uniform items previously purchased from Land's End are acceptable and this policy pertains to any new purchases going forward. That said, all uniform items must comply with one of these two vendors; no outside vendors for uniform items will be permitted for jackets, sweaters, shirts, skorts, shorts, or pants in the next academic year.

1. **Shirts** - Our shirts are navy polos with a white logo. The logo is required! All shirts must be tucked in. Old white shirts with a colored logo should be bright and clean and not appear dingy from frequent use. Old shirts from Land's End may be worn as long as they are in good repair.
2. **Shorts & Skorts; Pants & Leggings** - Shorts are for boys and skorts are for girls. Boys are not allowed to wear skorts. Girls are not allowed to wear shorts. Boys and girls may wear khaki pants. Girls may wear leggings under their skorts for cooler weather. Skort length is "top-of-the-knee". Leggings are not pants.
  - Exceptions: Leggings may be purchased from any vendor, but must be solid navy, gray, or black. Families that wish to have "below-the-knee" skort length, may purchase longer skorts or skirts from outside vendors. Please remember that in order to use this exception, the garment must be "below-the-knee"! Parents will need to replace any item that does not comply with our school standard.
  - Guidelines: Modesty and orderliness in our appearance is the virtue we wish to cultivate in all of our students. When you are purchasing a skort for your student, remember that the standard for SPCS is "top-of-the-knee" length. If

you have an older student, please do not purchase children's sizes from Sir Walter's. Please remember that students grow during the year. All shorts and pants should fit comfortably and not be tight or form fitting. It is always wiser to order up a size! Administration will alert parents if an item is no longer compliant with our standard. All non-compliant items must be replaced.

- Non-compliance: If a student wears non-compliant shirts, shorts, pants, skirts, skorts, or shoes parents must come to the school to replace them. Students may not attend class in non-compliant uniforms. Continuous or chronic non-compliance may be subject to discipline.
3. **Belts** - Belts must be worn with shorts or pants. Belts may be solid brown, black, or a navy fabric belt with tucked in shirts.
  4. **Shoes** - All students should wear a closed-toe shoe suitable for physical activity. Cleats, sandals, and flip-flops nor any distractingly bright colored shoes are not allowed. Shoes that light-up, with characters, or with wheels (e.g., "heelys") are not permitted.
  5. **Socks** - Socks should be solid navy, white, gray, or black. Ankle-high or calf-high socks are permitted for boys and girls. Girls may also wear knee-high socks with skorts.
  6. **Backpacks** - Backpacks and bags may not have distracting designs, characters, or emblems (e.g., no sports teams or Disney please). They should be as close to solid colors as possible.
  7. **Outerwear** - Outerwear options now must be purchased exclusively from Sir Walter's or previous pieces grandfathered in from Land's End. All other outerwear items outside these two vendors (jackets, sweaters, cardigans, etc.) are not permitted and will need to be removed. Please remember to order outerwear items for cold weather early.
  8. **Accessories** - Girls are permitted to wear bows, headbands, headscarves, necklaces, earrings, rings, and watches as long as they are tasteful, proportional, and keeping with school colors and expectations. A good example from past years were navy hair bows with the school logo embroidered. Students will be asked to remove obtrusive, distracting, or excessive items (e.g., multiple bracelets on the arm, wearing more than one piercing per ear, multiple rings on the hand, etc.) and such items are expected to stay home in the future. Nose piercings and other atypical piercings are not

allowed. Students may not have any visible tattoos. Boys are permitted to wear watches. Students' watches should not be able to connect to the internet. Boys may not have any piercings.

9. **Hygiene** - Proper hygiene is required to attend classes. Please make sure that your students wash regularly! Uniforms should be clean, and hair should be neatly styled and combed. Facial hair is not permitted for students. Please have older students bring extra deodorant or uniform shirt on P.E. days.

# TUITION & FEES

## Guidelines & Expectations

Tuition, books, and fees is set at \$8,000 for the 2024-2025 school year payable monthly between August 2024 and May 2025. SPCS will never let cost or significant financial pressure prevent a student from attending school. Everyone ought to apply at [www.stepupforstudents.org](http://www.stepupforstudents.org) to participate in our statewide scholarship fund. Award ID numbers are due by June 30th. Families who enroll after June 30th may be responsible for the 1st Quarter payment.

- Registration - \$250
- Tuition - \$7,000
- Materials - \$600
- Testing - \$50
- Curricular - \$100
- Total - **\$8,000**

At the beginning of the school year, all families will receive an invoice for the year. This invoice will include expected payments from Step Up For Students. Families are responsible for the difference to be paid out monthly over 10 months from August 2024 to May 2025. Payments are due on the 5th day of each month.