



**Erie Catholic School System
Middle School Handbook
2017-2018**

Our Lady of Peace School

2401 West 38th Street

Erie, Pennsylvania 16506

814.838.3548

Doors Open 7:45 AM

Tardy After 8:20 AM

Bus Dismissal 3:20 PM

Car Riders 3:30 PM

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Course of Studies: Core curriculum courses are offered in the following subjects: English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Religion, Technology, Physical Education, Art, Library/Media and General Music.

ECSS uses the Diocese of Erie curriculum standards and approved textbooks. The Erie Diocese curriculum can be accessed at www.eriercd.org under the Catholic Schools Parent link.

Religion: ECSS provides regular instruction in the Catholic faith and students attend Mass weekly. Students who are not Catholic are expected to receive religious instruction and attend Mass with their classmates.

As part of daily school life, both within and outside religion class, emphasis is placed on encouraging students to develop a sense of caring and respect for others, and developing social responsibility.

Homework: Homework provides an important extension of classroom instruction, reinforcing skills and knowledge learned in class. Homework is usually assigned nightly. Research has shown that children who complete their homework on a regular basis perform better in school.

The ECSS wants each child to reach his/her optimal academic potential. Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives and can make a positive impact on their child's learning. Here are a few guidelines on how parents can support academics:

- Establish homework as a top priority for their children
- Make sure children do homework in a quiet environment
- Establish a daily homework time
- Provide supportive feedback when homework is completed

Missing Assignments: All assignments are due to the teacher by the designated date. Assignments that are not handed in on time are considered incomplete until they are submitted to the teacher. Students with a missing assignment(s) will complete the work for full credit by working before school, during the day and after school until the work has been completed. Our goal is to teach each child to be responsible for his/her own choices. Their development in this area will enhance their potential for success.

Missing Assignments Due to Legal Absence: For every day the student is absent, that is the number of days that they have to make-up the missed work. For example, if the student misses one day, the work should be made up upon their return. If the student misses two days, upon returning to school, the student has until the next day to make-up the work. It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher when a missed test may be made up. This can include time during the school day or after/before school. The teacher will make arrangements with the student/parent to schedule a time.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating/plagiarism is defined as copying and/or taking someone else's work and passing it off as their own. Enabling or helping others to cheat is also cheating. Plagiarism can be done by obtaining and copying other people's work or using technology.

Parents will be notified if their child has been involved in any type of cheating/plagiarism. A student found guilty of cheating/plagiarism can expect consequences which may include: detention, being assigned an alternate assignment, suspension or expulsion. This will be decided on a case by case basis by the teacher/school administration.

Grading Policy: The ECSS schools are committed to academic excellence. All students are encouraged to reach their full potential through an academic program which consists of high standards. Student progress will be monitored and reported regularly to both students and parents. Sincere efforts will be made to correct deficiencies. All students will have the opportunity to retake summative assessments/ tests one time within three school days.

The goal of academic excellence can only be reached when parental involvement occurs and open communication among parents, guardians, teachers, students, and administrators is practiced. Parents are encouraged to follow their students' progress online.

Grading Scale: The scale for grades is as follows:

A = 93 – 100

B = 85 – 92

C = 76 – 84

D = 68 – 75

F = 67 and below

*I = Incomplete Assignments

*Due to certain circumstances, the teacher, in conjunction with the administration may issue an incomplete on the report card. These situations will be handled on an individual basis.

Honor Roll - First Honors: All A's all 2's & 3's

Honor Roll - Second Honors: All A's and B's and all 2's & 3's

Failure: A student may be retained if a child is failing one or more class. Retention decisions will be made on an individual basis by the teachers, principal and parent/guardian.

Service: Each class will complete two projects, one focused on service to the school, the second, focused on the community. In addition, each student will be responsible to complete a minimum of four hours of community service per quarter with a total of 16 hours by May 1st of that school year. These hours are a requirement of the school program. If a student fails to submit service hours, they will be unable to attend that year's class trip. Students can start

accumulating service hours from August 1st of the new school year. Forms for the submission of service hours are available in the back of the student handbook and on the school website.

Report Cards: Report cards will be sent home quarterly. Parents are asked to sign and return the report card envelop after the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters.

Student Records: Parents and students over the age of 18 have the right to inspect their records upon written request. The federal mandate Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that parents/guardians be informed of this mandate every school year. Notification is issued at the beginning of every school year. Records may be reviewed by making an appointment with the principal.

Classroom Assessments: Assessments include projects, portfolios, curriculum based tests, journals, oral presentations, PowerPoint projects, written essays and more.

Standardized Assessments: The primary purpose of diocesan testing is to improve student learning by driving instruction.

Standardized testing includes: Terra Nova III Achievement Test – given in grades sixth through eight as a measure of academic achievement and ability.

In View – a cognitive abilities test administered to students in sixth grade

Both of these tests are administered during the first week of October of the school year. Results are used to address educational needs of individual students by making adjustments in curriculum and instruction as needed.

Special services Available in Erie Catholic Schools: Title I math and language arts remediation, and Act 89 mathematics, reading, and speech and language therapy.

New students to a school are screened their first year for services. If a student qualifies for any of the above services, a permission slip will be issued prior to any service being rendered throughout the school year. As part of these services, students will be given multiple assessments to determine their academic progress and level of proficiency throughout the year. These assessments align with and support the curriculum of ECSS, and the results will be shared with the parent/guardian accordingly.

ECSS does not provide special education services. This includes Individual Education Plans and Section 504. However, the Intermediate Unit 5 can provide screening services, to test to see if a child may qualify for extra services beyond Title1 and Act 89 as necessary.

Special Education Identification is only permitted to occur under the direction of a school district in the State of PA. ECSS can assist in scheduling testing with a family's school district of residence, but cannot identify any special education label or service independently of the local school district of residence.

Catholic High School Honors: Please contact Mercyhurst Prep, Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy to inquire about the prerequisites regarding these programs.

Educational/Enriching Opportunities: These include but are not restricted to: Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Local and State Competitions, Challenge 24, Quiz Bowl and more.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Erie Catholic School System strives to develop each student academically, socially, physically, mentally and spiritually. Spiritual development of our students is a very important part of our Catholic Identity. The following are an integral part of preparing our students to be strong and faithful Christians:

- Daily Religious Instruction
- Weekly Mass celebrations
- Reconciliation (4 times a year)
- Retreats
- Service Projects
- Prayer Services
- Adoration
- The Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Seasonal Church Celebrations

ERIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENT

Who: Grades 6-8

What and When: 16 hours of Service

- 1st Quarter-4 hours
- 2nd Quarter-4 hours
- 3rd Quarter-4 hours
- 4th Quarter-4 hours

It is recommended that students complete 4 hours of service each quarter as to avoid trying to complete them all at the end of the year.

Where: Anywhere outside of one's home.

Why: To give our students opportunities to become active members of their community, to have a positive impact on society, to acquire life skills and knowledge, to develop a sense of true selflessness and self-giving, and most importantly, to do the work that Christ asks of us.

Service Learning Requirement Guidelines

The student must be supervised by an adult.

The student cannot be working for monetary gains.

The work cannot be a requirement for membership in any type of club. Work for family such as: daily chores—putting away the dishes for one's mother does not count.

Always discuss possible service opportunities with your Religion teacher if you are unsure if it will qualify or not.

TECHNOLOGY

Personal Laptops, Tablets and iPads: Personal laptops and iPads are not allowed. The school will provide the needed technology that each students needs to complete his/her work.

Cell Phones/Personal Devices: Cell phones and other electronics are not permitted at school. Cellular phones and other electronic communication devices are not to be powered on, heard, used, or visible during school hours and must remain in book bags during school hours. This time includes waiting in the gym before school for homeroom and waiting for pickup after school. Cell phones and similar electronic devices that are discovered powered on, seen, or heard by staff/faculty members during school hours will be confiscated. Devices confiscated will be held until the parent can pick up the device at dismissal. If there is a second offense, the child will be prohibited from bringing in the cell phone at all. The school is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken cell phones.

Acceptable Use of Technology: The use of school technology resources is a privilege. The privilege of using the technology resources provided by the ECSS is not transferable or extendible by students to other individuals or groups outside the school, and terminates when a student is no longer enrolled in the school. This policy is provided to make all users aware of the responsibilities associated with efficient, ethical, and lawful use of technology resources.

Unacceptable Use of Technology: The following is a non-exhaustive list of strictly prohibited student activities.

- Illegal installation, appropriation, or transmission of copyrighted materials
- Any action that violates existing ECSS policies or public law
- Sending, accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing offensive or embarrassing, profane, threatening, pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials or those that can be interpreted as harassing or demeaning
- Using the iPad/computer camera, video, FaceTime or other apps in any way that is offensive, profane, threatening, pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit or damaging to another person
- Use of chat rooms, sites, or other means that sell/copy/distribute term papers, book reports and other forms of student work
- Taking pictures of other students' work without specific permission granted by the teacher
- Use of bit torrents or any illegal file sharing sites
- Any form of jail breaking, rooting or in any other way tampering with the iPad's iOS/computer's operating system

- Changing iPad/computer settings (exceptions include personal settings such as font size, brightness, etc. in which teacher permission has been specifically granted)
- Spamming, sending mass or inappropriate emails
- Gaining access to other students' accounts, files, and/or data
- Use of the school's Internet, network or e-mail accounts for financial or commercial gain, or for any illegal activity
- Use of any form of anonymous and/or false communications
- Participation in credit card fraud, electronic forgery or other forms of illegal behavior
- Vandalism (any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, software, or data, including but not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses or computer programs that can infiltrate computer systems and/or damage software components) of school equipment
- Bypassing the school's web filter through a proxy server or any other means
- Using another student's iPad
- The iPad/computer may not be used to take pictures, videos or record sounds of other students, guests or school personnel without their express consent
- A student cannot take a picture, video or record sounds of another child without the permission of the parent if the child is under the age of 13

Legal Propriety/Copyright: All students must comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements. Ignorance of the law is not immunity. If you are unsure, ask a teacher or parent. Plagiarism is a violation of the ECSS handbook. Give credit to all sources used, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text. Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited. Violation of applicable state or federal law will result in criminal prosecution and/or disciplinary action.

Policy Violations and Disciplinary Consequences: Disciplinary action and or loss of privileges/features may be taken by the school depending on the severity of the infraction. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved. The school principal will be the sole arbiter of interpretation, violation and penalization of every aspect of this policy.

Social Media: Parents/guardians, relatives, etc., should be made aware of best practices regarding pictures they take on field trips, at class parties, plays, activities, etc. Parents should refrain from posting pictures on personal and social media websites that include children other than their own. Discretion should be used to honor the wishes of parents who do not want their children's pictures available on the internet.

The following are prohibited on any personal websites, blogs or social networking sites:

- Pictures, photos or drawings of the school's name or logo, including clothing.
- Pictures, photos, drawings, references to or names of school employees or students.
- Threats or disparaging remarks about the school, its employees or its students.
- Cyber bullying or sexual harassment and/or any behavior that is ill-mannered or disrespectful.

The consequences for the above will be handled on an individual basis.

PARENT TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Rediker – Student Information System: The Erie Catholic School System employs Rediker Software for data management. Parents receive a login to access the system, which allows them admission to their child's data and information such as grades, schedules and homework. Parents also receive alerts and announcements through the Rediker system. The portal directory provides access for parents to send email to any staff member.

Email Guidelines: Students do not have school email addresses per Erie Diocesan policy. Students will have Office 365 accounts that allow them access to the online resources of Word, Excel, Power Point and One Drive. One Drive will permit students to share and store documents with other students and with teachers.

Conferences: Student Led Conferences (SLC) differ from traditional conferences in that they place students at the helm of teacher-supported discussions with parents about student progress and learning. SLCs also present opportunities for students to prepare, reflect on, and discuss evidence of their learning and growth by way of student portfolios. SLCs encourage students to take responsibility and ownership for their learning by involving them in the goal setting and assessment process. They engage families in richer, more transparent conversations about student progress.

DRESS CODE

Girls' Uniforms:

- Traditional plaid uniform jumper
- Traditional plaid uniform skirt
- Traditional plaid uniform skirt (grades 5-8)
- Navy blue walking shorts (August-November and May-June)
- Navy blue dress slacks
- Navy blue uniform skirt
- White blouse – long or short sleeved
- Navy blue or white polo/knit shirt – long or short sleeved

- Navy blue or white turtleneck
- Navy blue or white sweater– Cardigan, V-neck, or crew
- Navy blue OLP sweatshirt (crew neck)
- Closed-toe dress shoes with a heel no higher than 1 inch- Black, brown, navy blue
- White or navy blue socks- ankle, crew or knee high
- White or navy blue tights (no footless leggings)

Boys' Uniforms:

- Navy blue walking shorts (August-November and May-June)
- Navy blue dress slacks
- Brown or black belt (required)
- Navy blue or white polo shirt- Long or short sleeved
- Navy blue or white turtleneck
- Navy blue or white sweater- Cardigan, V-neck, or crew
- Navy blue OLP sweatshirt (crew neck)
- Closed-toe dress shoes- Black, brown, navy blue
- Black, white or navy blue socks- ankle or crew

All Students: Shirts must be tucked in at all times unless a banded shirt is worn.

Physical Education Uniform: Students are expected to wear an appropriate T-shirt (long or short sleeved), gym shorts of an appropriate length, sweat pants, or athletic pants, and clean sneakers. Students are not permitted to wear tank tops of any kind including cut-offs. All t-shirts must cover the entire torso so that no skin is showing between the shirt and the shorts/pants. On dress down days, students are not permitted to wear their jeans during physical education class.

Hair - Boys: Male students are expected to have neatly trimmed hair that does not exceed the shirt collar and that does not impair one's vision. It is also expected that one's hair is of a natural color and styled in a tasteful and appropriate fashion. Extreme hair styles are not permitted.

Hair - Girls: Female students are expected to have neatly styled hair that does not impair one's vision. It is also expected that one's hair is of a natural color and styled in a tasteful and appropriate fashion. Extreme hair styles are not permitted.

Make-up and Nail Polish: Female students in grades 6-8 are permitted to wear minimal and tasteful make-up. Students wearing an abundance of make-up or make-up that is very dark will be required to remove it. Female students are also permitted to wear lightly colored nail polish. Students wearing dark or very bright colored nail polish will be required to remove it.

Jewelry - Boys: The following accessories are acceptable: Wrist watch, one ring, and a thin gold or silver chain (remaining inside of shirt). Male students are not permitted to wear earrings of any kind.

Jewelry - Girls: The following accessories are acceptable: Wrist watch, one ring, a thin gold or silver chain (remaining inside of shirt), and stud-style earrings. Girls are not permitted to wear hoop or dangling earrings.

All Students: Students are not permitted to wear facial jewelry of any kind including nose, lip or eye brow piercing.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absenteeism & Tardiness: Regular attendance at school is important to student development, readiness to learn, and social and academic progress. The Erie Catholic School System is committed to providing a school environment that enforces the compulsory attendance law through proactive cooperation among students, parents, administrators, teachers, district judges, juvenile probation and the Office of Children and Youth. ECSS is responsible for monitoring and maintaining records of the attendance of students. Please ensure daily and timely attendance for your student(s).

Parents are responsible for calling the school when their child is going to be absent. Parents may leave a message to notify the school of the absence, between the hours of 7am and 9 am. When calling, please give the child's name, homeroom teacher, reason for absence, and request for any homework you wish to be sent home if the child will be absent for more than one day. Specify the name and grade of the child who will be taking the homework assignments and books. Homework requests may also be picked up in the school office between 3 pm and 3:45 pm.

Lawful Excuses from the attendance of school include the following: mental or physical illness, family emergency, death of a family member, medical or dental appointments, authorized school activities, educational travels of five days or less, and student-centered court hearings.

Students must present a written excuse within three days upon returning to school; otherwise, the absence is considered unexcused. After an extended illness a doctor's excuse must be provided. Written excuses for dental or doctor appointments must be presented to the homeroom teacher the day of the appointment. The parent or designee must pick the student up in the school office and sign him/her in and out of the building for security reasons. Students are responsible for making up any work missed.

Cumulative Lawful Absences: A maximum of ten days of lawful absences, verified by written excuses are permitted during one school year. All absences past the ten allotted require a written excuse from a physician.

Unexcused Absences: Any absences for which the school has not received a written excuse from the parent/guardian is considered unexcused. If an excuse is not produced within three days of the absence, the absence becomes permanently unexcused. Students who do not receive advanced permission for educational travel will accumulate unexcused absences for the days missed.

**After 10 consecutive unexcused/unlawful absences, the student will be automatically withdrawn from the school and must re-enroll in either his/her current school or his/her school district of residence. At this point, a referral will be made to the truancy courts.*

Educational Travel: Students are permitted to utilize a maximum of five (5) excused school days for educational travel per year. All educational travel must be submitted to the school principal two weeks prior to the date of leave. Parents must complete the educational travel form provided by the school. If the educational travel experience is not approved by the school principal, the absences accrued will be marked as unexcused. Special circumstances will be reviewed by the principal on an individual basis. Students are required to make up all work missed while on leave for educational travel.

Tardiness: Students are considered tardy if they are not present by 8:20 am. Tardy students must obtain a tardy slip from the school office upon arrival before going to class. Parents are also required to produce a valid excuse for tardiness. The following excuses are acceptable: mental or physical illness, family emergency, death of a family member, medical or dental appointments, or authorized school activities. Tardy minutes will be tracked by the school. When the total number of tardy minutes reaches a full school day, an additional absence will be documented and counted as an absence in the student's attendance file. Students with frequent and persistent tardiness issues may receive relevant consequences accordingly. Tardiness due to bus delays is not counted against the student.

Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities: Students must attend a full day of school in order to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. The only exceptions to this rule are as follows: excused absences due to a doctor or dental appointment and funerals. Students must be in school by 9:30 am to be considered present and must stay for the remainder of the school day in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities.

Truancy: A student is considered truant when he/she is absent for six (6) or more days without a valid excuse. After the six (6) unexcused absences, the truancy office from the home district of the student will be notified. The truancy officer will issue fines through the courts if deemed necessary.

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, Our Lady of Peace School will follow the Millcreek School District schedule regarding closing and delays. In the event of a delay, the students will not be marked tardy. On days that school is on a two (2) hour delay, Before School Care will be in operation ONLY for children registered in Extended Care. After School Care will be available until 5:30 pm. Inclement weather that results in a school delayed starting time, early dismissal, or cancellation will be communicated via the Rediker Communication System.

Health and Wellness: The Erie Catholic School System is committed to providing an environment that promotes student health – physically, mentally, academically, and spiritually. Proper nutrition and education, along with physical activity help students develop a healthy lifestyle and promote overall well-being. The Erie Catholic School System in conjunction with the Diocese of Erie maintains a Student Wellness Policy. This policy can be found at:

Health Services: A school nurse is provided by the local public school district of residence. The school nurse is responsible for all student health records. These include, but are not limited to: immunization records, physical exams, and dental exams.

*Vision Screening	Grades K – 8 annually
*Hearing Screening	Grades K, 1, 2, 3, & 7 annually
*Height/Weight	Grades K – 8 annually
*Physical Exams	Grades K, 1, & 6 unless verification of a physical exam is provided by the family physician and is on file at the school
*Dental Exams	Grades K, 3, & 7 unless given by a private dentist and the form is on file at the school
*Scoliosis Screening	Grade 6 & 7 unless verification is on file from a family/private physician

Immunizations: The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires the following immunizations as a condition of attendance for all children entering school (K – 12):

Diphtheria	4 doses
Tetanus	4 doses
Acellular Pertussis	4 doses (DTaP or DTP or DT or Td)
Polio	4 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses (correctly spaced)
MMR	2 doses (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
Varicella	2 doses (Chicken Pox)

Additional requirements for grades 7 – 12:

MCV	2 doses (Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine)
Tdap	1 dose (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis)

Exceptions: Medical – a medical contraindication because of rare conditions.
Religious – this requires a written statement from the parents/guardians.
Philosophical/Strong Moral or Ethical Conviction – this requires a written statement from the parents/guardians

Communicable Diseases: The following are Pennsylvania Department of Health requirements regarding school attendance and communicable diseases. If you suspect that your child has one of the following diseases/illnesses, please consult a physician before sending him/her to school. If your child has been diagnosed by a physician as having one of the following conditions, your child must be kept home for the required period of time. The school may require a doctor's note/excuse before your child is permitted to return to school.

*MMR	Diagnosis and recommendation by physician
*Chicken Pox	Return 6 days after last crop vesicles
*Scarlet Fever	Return after 7 days of onset or 24 hours from the institution of antibiotics
*Pink Eye	Must be excluded from school until the eye is clear or has received a doctor's clearance that it is no longer contagious
*Impetigo	Diagnosis and treatment by a physician May return to school with doctor approval
*Tonsillitis	May return 24 hours from the institution of antibiotics
*Strep Throat	May return 24 hours from the institution of antibiotics
*Scabies	May return 24 hours after treatment
*Ringworm	May return to school with doctor approval
*Head Lice	All nits (eggs) must be removed for return to school. Shampooing with lice shampoo must be repeated after 8 – 10 days to be sure that all lice have been eliminated. Student must be checked and cleared by the school nurse before returning.

Illness: If your child has a fever above 99 degrees, becomes sick and vomits or has diarrhea, please keep them home. They should be free from fevers, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. This is to ensure the health and well-being of our students and faculty/staff.

If your child becomes ill at school, he/she will be seen by the school nurse (if available) or the office staff (and/or principal). If your child has a fever above 99 degrees, becomes sick and vomits or has diarrhea, we will notify the parent(s) and the child will be sent home. If the parent(s) cannot be contacted, we will contact the person(s) listed on your Emergency Data Form.

Medical Emergencies: In the event of a medical emergency, 9-1-1 will be called if deemed necessary, and the parent(s) of the student will be contacted immediately.

Medications: Any medications (over-the-counter or prescription), including cough drops, cannot be dispensed by the school nurse or office personnel unless written permission has been received from the parent(s). If a child has need of an inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector, or seizure medication, the school must have on file a medical permission form filled out by both the parents and the child's health care provider.

Counseling: A certified guidance counselor will be available on campus. The counselor works with both small groups and individuals as well as classroom programs.

SAFETY

Visitor Procedures: Any person, parent or non-parent, must be buzzed into the school and go directly to the Office. Every visitor must then sign in at the Office stating the purpose of his/her visit. He/She will then be given a Visitor Badge to wear while in the school building or on school property. Every visitor must remain in the office until school administration grants permission to enter any other part of the school building. Once his/her business is completed, he/she must return to the Office to sign out and return the badge.

Please call or email the teacher to set up an appointment. Parents are not permitted to enter the building and go to a classroom to see a teacher as it disrupts the educational process and compromises the safety of our students. No meetings can be guaranteed, unless they are scheduled and agreed upon prior to visitation.

Transportation: Parents are responsible to transport their child(ren) to and from school and school activities, unless they receive busing from their local school district. If a student needs to take a different form of transportation home, parental written or verbal notification must be received by the Office. If possible, contact the school by 2:00 pm.

Buses will be used to transport students on field trips. These will be arranged through the school office and will be noted on Field Trip Permission Forms. In the event that only a small group of students needs to be transported, parents may be required to take their children to and from the event.

Emergency Drills: The following drills are conducted throughout each school year:

- *Tornado Drills
- *Fire Drills
- *Gas Leak Evacuation
- *School Lock-Downs

These drills are to ensure the safety of our entire school family.

Each of our six school campuses have specific locations within and outside of the building to make sure that our students are safe from any inherent dangers. Critical Incident Plans are in place and are used by each campus. These plans are developed in collaboration with the Diocese of Erie and the Catholic Schools Office.

Severe Weather Closings: In the case of severe weather, when the school would need to be closed, an announcement would be made by the Erie Catholic School System. The announcement would be made via Rediker (the Student Information System) email. It may also be posted on the local television networks.

Emergency and Crisis Procedures: A Critical Incident Plan (CIP) for each campus school is a plan which covers a wide range of incidents, such as bomb threats, gas leaks, weapons, hazardous spills, hostage situations, etc. Each campus school has a specific plan to follow in each case scenario. In the event of such an emergency or crisis, parents/guardians would be notified by the Erie Catholic School System as to how to proceed in order to keep our students safe.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Student Arrival: When students arrive for school, they should follow campus procedures. If arrival time is before school, they should go to the Before School Care Program. Once the teachers have arrived and are in their classrooms, students may report directly to their homerooms.

Early Dismissal: Early Dismissal will take place based on the school calendar each month. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm. Each campus school will inform parents/guardians as to which buses are available for early pick-up of students. If no bus is available parents will be responsible for picking up their child(ren) on that day.

Forgotten Items/Messages: In the event that your child forgot something needed for class, the item may be dropped off at the Office. No parent is permitted to go directly to a classroom to deliver an item to a student. If you should need to speak to your child directly, we will call them to the Office for you. Any messages, either phone or written, will be delivered by the Office staff.

ATHLETICS

The ECSS recognizes that athletics and other extracurricular activities enrich students' lives. With God and Christianity as a foundation, the ECSS mission is to foster academic excellence and enable students to reach their full potential in the classroom and in life. Therefore, students participating in inter-scholastic sports are expected to keep classwork as a first priority.

Eligibility for Grades 5-8:

1. Students receiving a D or F in any class will be given a warning and re-evaluated weekly.
2. If the student is successful in raising the grade, he/she will be permitted to participate in the respective sport.
3. If after a week the student does not provide evidence of improvement, he/she is not permitted to participate in practices or games, including playoffs. This suspension is indefinite until evidence of growth has been provided.

4. It is the student's responsibility to provide evidence of improvement to the principal.
5. If a student is absent, he/she will not be permitted to participate in practice or a game on the same day he/she is absent. Exceptions to the above are those students who have pre-excused absences such as doctor or dental appointments, funerals, etc.

Sportsmanship: Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, community, and to the students themselves. The obligation of good conduct, fair play, honest competition, and respect extend far beyond the actual contests and into everything from bus trips to practices. Proper sportsmanship is expected by all student athletes. If sportsmanship comes into question, consequences may be issued by school administration accordingly.

Sports Programs: These are examples of the sports programs that are offered in the Erie Catholic Athletics Program.

Cross Country	Tennis	Soccer	Golf
Cheerleading	Basketball	Football	Swimming
Track & Field	Wrestling		

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Students are strongly encouraged to become involved in a variety of activities. Not only does involvement develop leadership skills, it also offers students the chance to develop a more positive attitude toward school.

Examples of Activities:

PJAS	Student Council	Math Competitions
Drama/Theater	Class Activities	Choir
Model UN	Altar Servers	Robotics

Eligibility: Students participating in extra-curricular activities are bound by the eligibility rules which apply to sports.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Volunteer Opportunities: The ECSS enjoys significant volunteerism by parents and alumni. Parent/Grandparent volunteers may serve as "Room Parents." Other volunteer activities may include, but are not limited to, coordinating class parties, assisting as field trip chaperones, helping in the classroom, and assisting with a variety of other activities and projects for the schools. All volunteers need to possess the appropriate paperwork which can be obtained in the school office or on the ECSS website. Volunteers need all of the following:

- *PA State Police Criminal Record check - <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
- *Child Abuse History Certification - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

- *Mandated Reporter Compliance Document - <http://www.eriescd.org/pdf/mandatedreporters.pdf>
- *Mandated Reporter Training – <http://www.eriescd.org/pdf/reportertraining.pdf>
- *Federal Criminal History Record Information – FBI Report - <http://www.pa.cogentid.com/>
FBI check is needed only if the adult has not lived in PA for the past ten continuous years.
- *Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement
- *Application for Adults Working with Children
- *Creating a Safe Environment – <http://www.eriescd.org> - Protection of Children/Youth
- *Statement of Compliance Document

Family Student Association (FSA): The Parent Teacher Organizations in each school support the families, faculty and staff of the ECSS through parent education and community-building activities. The FSA provides and sponsors events and opportunities that enhance the sense of community within the school family through Christian-based activity to support the goals and mission of the school.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY

The Erie Catholic School System (ECSS) focuses on Catholic Social Teaching and the academic success of every student. We seek to build within each child a love for God and His creations, a love of learning, a sense of responsibility, a positive self-image, self-discipline and respect for others. Students are expected to make positive behavior choices that promote their safety, the safety of others, and a productive learning environment.

Philosophy: School discipline is a collaborative effort by the parents, guardians, students, and staff. The focus of the ECSS Middle School Discipline Policy is to promote positive behavior choices by recognizing students who engage in consistent positive behavior. However, mistakes are a natural part of growth. We help students reflect on errors in judgment and behavior and support them in learning how to make better decisions. We teach and model positive behavior including listening, cooperation, and mutual respect. We encourage students to make independent decisions and act responsibly with empathy towards others and their property. We remind students to reflect on the life of Jesus and how He teaches us to live our lives. When this occurs, we believe that a very positive and productive learning environment will result, enabling students to strive for excellence.

Standards of Behavior: All students will be expected to uphold certain standards of behavior as part of the Erie Catholic School System.

In order to show **respect, maintain safety, and focus on learning**, I will:

- 1. Follow directions the first time.**
- 2. Speak using polite language, volume, and tone.**

3. **Keep hands, feet, and objects to myself.**
4. **Be where I am supposed to be.**
5. **Take care of school property and personal belongings.**
6. **Walk quietly in the hallways so I do not disturb other classes.**

Disciplinary Actions: While most students consistently observe these standards and behave safely and appropriately, there are times when misbehavior warrants intervention and consequences. Teachers and other staff use a variety of classroom and behavior management strategies to address such behavior. When these strategies are not successful in changing the behavior and/or serious incidents occur, it is necessary for additional action to be taken. The following pages outline potential disciplinary actions and are not all inclusive or exhaustive.

Please Note: Careful consideration is given to individual situations, so that the school's response to the student is appropriate. Consequences may be increased in cases of repeat offenses. Suspensions will be considered when behavior is disruptive and detrimental to the operation of the school. Consequences will be at the discretion of the school administration.

DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTATIONS AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to listen and follow all teacher directions and classroom rules.

Possible consequences: Staff/student conference, removal from situation, referral to the administration, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Behavior in Halls: Students are to walk quietly in an orderly fashion through the halls at all times. This quiet will be respected during the instructional school day and with consideration for others who are working.

Possible consequences: Staff/student conference, removal from situation, referral to the administration, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Behavior in Restrooms: Students are expected to respect the rights of others and act responsibly in restrooms. Any misuse of towels, toilet paper, soap, defacing of restroom facilities, and the like, constitutes destruction of property.

Possible consequences: Staff/student conference, loss of independent restroom privileges, supervised restroom visits, referral to the administration, fines for damages, loss of recess privileges, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian meeting, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Behavior in Lunchroom: The lunchroom should be a safe, comfortable, inviting, and

clean environment where all interactions between students and adults are respectful. Students are expected to follow directions the first time they are given. They must keep voices low while enjoying their lunch, stay seated unless given permission to move by an adult, keep their eating space clean, and practice good manners. For health reasons, children are not allowed to share food of any kind with others.

Possible Consequences: Verbal warning, move to an assigned seat, exclusion from the lunchroom; lunch detention, suspension, etc.

Behavior on Playgrounds/Recess: The playground should be a safe, pleasant, friendly environment where all interactions between students and adults are respectful. Students are expected to follow directions the first time they are given. They must walk in an orderly fashion to the playground, use the equipment responsibly, show respect for others by using appropriate language and leave the playground only when permission is given by an adult in charge.

Possible Consequences: Verbal warning, recess privileges contained to an assigned area, staff/student conference, removal from situation, referral to the administration, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Behavior on Bus: The same standards of behavior that apply at school also pertain at the bus stop and/or while boarding, riding and unloading school busses. Students must respect the rights of others and must not pose a threat to anyone's safety. Students must not distract the bus driver.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, loss of recess privileges, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, assigned bus seat, loss of bus privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, and suspension, etc.

Behavior During School Sponsored Activities/Field Trips: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner during school sponsored activities, programs and field trips. Behavioral expectations are consistent with school policies.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, removal from activity, referral to the administration, parent/guardian notification, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, exclusion from future activities, suspension, etc.

Behavior in Church: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and reverent manner during school Liturgies, prayer services, Reconciliation services and other programs that occur in church. Behavioral expectations are consistent with school policies.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, removal from activity, referral to the administration, parent/guardian notification, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, exclusion from future activities, suspension, etc.

Excessive Tardiness, Truancy, Leaving School Without Permission: Students must be on time for school and in their classrooms by 8:25 am; missing the bus and oversleeping are not excused reasons for being late to school. Students are to remain on school grounds in their scheduled classroom locations unless written permission for early dismissal has been provided to the school by a parent/guardian.

Possible Consequences: Parent/guardian notification, referral to the administration after three unexcused tardies within a marking period, verbal notification, written parent notification, parent/guardian conference at school, in-school detention, in-school suspension, referral to law enforcement, etc.

Dress Code: Please see Dress Code page 10-12.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, parent notification, referral to the administration, change of clothes, loss of recess privileges, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Fighting/Physical Aggression: This includes but not limited to play fighting, pushing, wrestling, hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, slapping, spitting or throwing harmful objects, etc. involving two or more people. It is any form of physical confrontation.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, removal from situation, referral to the administration, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Cheating or Plagiarism: See Plagiarism Policy on page 4.

Inappropriate Use of the Computer Systems: See Technology Safe Usage Policy on page 8-10.

Incendiary Devices: This is the possession of firecrackers, matches, lighters, caps or any other object which has potential to start a fire.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, confiscation of item, referral to the fire marshal or law enforcement, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, recommendation for expulsion, referral to law enforcement, etc.

Bullying: Bullying exists if all three parts of the following exist: 1. Any intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts, which are severe, persistent or pervasive; 2. Are directed at another student or students with the intent to hurt/harm; 3. AND there must be an imbalance of power between the two or more parties involved.

To constitute bullying, the acts must have the effect of

- **Substantially interfering with a student's education**

- **Creating a threatening environment**
- **Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school**

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Physical Attack on Staff or Fellow Student: This includes any aggressive physical battery on a staff member or person. This includes but not limited to any physical contact (hitting, touching angrily, pushing, shoving, kicking, biting, etc.) in an aggressive manner with the intent to do harm.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Threats and/or Verbal Abuse: This includes but is not limited to any overt or implied verbal or physical threat. Examples include, but are not limited to, telling someone that you will hurt them whether in jest or as a serious suggestion, any conversation or discussion where you suggest action that will cause physical harm to someone, suggesting property destruction, and the like.

Possible Consequences: The Diocesan Threat Assessment Policy procedure will be started, Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Hazing – Anti-Hazing Policy: The Erie Catholic School System prohibits any form of hazing of or by employees, volunteers, or students.

Hazing is defined as: "Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to

be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. (From Pennsylvania Act 2016-31).

Any student who experiences some form of hazing or staff member who becomes aware of hazing should report it immediately to the school administration. School Administration shall investigate the reported incident, and shall render disposition of the reported incident pursuant to this policy and/or any other relevant policy school administration deems appropriate.

Possible Consequences: Referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Teasing, Verbal or Non-Verbal: This includes but is not limited to name-calling, put downs, making fun of the way someone talks or walks, making fun of someone's appearance or customs. Non-verbal examples include making faces, drawing inappropriate pictures, poking or pointing, and inappropriate hand gestures.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, personal apology to student who was teased, a letter of apology from the teaser must be signed by the teaser's parent(s) and returned to school the next day, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Malicious Pranks and Pseudo Threats: This includes any act or substance used to cause disruption, panic, or an unsafe situation. This also includes deliberately misrepresenting substances as something they are not.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to the fire marshal or law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Acts of Hate/Violence: This is any act of hate/violence including, but not limited to, verbal abuse, slurs (including ethnic, religious, or gender-based), threats, physical violence or conduct, vandalism or destruction of property directed against any person.

Possible Consequences: Referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Inappropriate Language/Gestures: This is the use of profanity, obscene language, or gestures, which are not acceptable in school or on the school grounds. All students and staff are entitled to an environment free from profane, hateful, racist, prejudice or obscene language and gestures.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school

suspension, suspension, etc.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct.

Possible Consequences: Referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, transfer to another class, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Theft/Extortion: Extortion is an act of attempting to secure money, property, or favors through a threat or implied threat of physical or psychological harm.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, return or replace the value of the item taken, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Theft/Burglary: This is taking something, which does not belong to you. Students must demonstrate a respect for the property of others. Any found articles must be returned to the office or the rightful owner.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, return or replace the value of the item taken, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, full restitution, etc.

Insubordination/Disrespect: This is willingly refusing to obey a lawful request of a staff member (e.g., principal, teacher, secretary, staff member, etc.). This includes, but is not limited to not removing a hat when asked to do so, chewing gum when not allowed, bringing inappropriate items to school (all toys and games, to be returned only to an adult), or refusing to identify oneself.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, detention, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Destruction of Property/Vandalism: This includes breaking, damaging or defacing school or private property, including graffiti. This also includes misuse of materials or equipment that results in damage to school or personal property.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school suspension, suspension, restitution, recommendation for expulsion, referral to law enforcement, etc.

False Fire Alarm: False Fire Alarm is activating or causing the fire alarm to sound when there is no real evidence or sign of fire. Falsely reporting a fire endangers the safety of

all.

Possible Consequences: Administration/student/parent/fire marshal conference, loss of recess privileges, in-school suspension, suspension, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Weapons: This is unauthorized storing, possessing, or carrying firearms, knives, or any other object (including look-alike or pretend weapons), which could be used as a weapon. This is a very serious offense and is strictly prohibited.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, confiscation of weapon, referral to the administration, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Possession of Communication and Other Electronic Devices: Cellular phones or personal devices are not allowed. Laser pointers and other disruptive devices will be confiscated.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, confiscation of device for parent to pick up, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, etc.

Possession or Use of Destructive or Harmful Substances: This is possession of matches, fire-crackers, snaps, tobacco products, smoke bombs, stink bombs, pepper spray, or any other destructive or harmful substance.

Possible Consequences: Staff/student conference, referral to the administration, confiscation of device for parent to pick up, parent notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of recess privileges, in-school detention, in-school suspension, suspension, referral to the fire marshal or law enforcement, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illegal Drugs/Intoxicants/Inhalants/Smoking

Materials: This is possession of intoxicants, inhalants, smoking materials or controlled substances, which are prohibited.

Possible Consequences: Confiscation of substance, administrator/student/parent conference, referral to law enforcement, suspension, recommendation for expulsion, etc.

Appendix A



Service Learning Documentation

Name _____

Date	Location of Service	Number of Hours	Area of Service	Adult Name and Signature
				Name _____ Signature _____
				Name _____ Signature _____
				Name _____ Signature _____
				Name _____ Signature _____
				Name _____ Signature _____

Appendix B
Application for Educational Travel

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Contact Email Address _____

Date of the First Day of Student Absence _____

Date of Return to School _____

Location of Trip _____

Reason for Travel _____

Educational Opportunities and Objectives _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Approved _____ Denied _____

Principal Signature _____