

**St. Louis Catholic School**  
**Student Discipline Policy**  
**2010 - 2011**

**A. Discipline and Education**

St. Louis Catholic School (SLCS) believes that each student is unique and has the potential for making positive contributions to society. We recognize that in order to function in society, individuals need to master certain basic skills and need to continue learning throughout life. We believe that while learning the need for the value of group dynamics, individuals will come to know and to appreciate their worth and that of others in a Christian environment. By accepting and fulfilling appropriate responsibilities, individuals come to value resultant privileges of sensitivity to creativity in all things. Therefore, SLCS is committed in a cooperative effort with parents, community, and teachers to provide an atmosphere that will allow all students to:

1. be accountable for their actions and realize that with privileges there are responsibilities.
2. acquire Christian values and attitudes necessary for lawful and responsible citizenship.
3. display a positive attitude toward learning and the school environment.
4. know and obey the rules and decisions of those in authority.
- 5 demonstrate appreciation for the human dignity and Christian integrity of all.
6. respect people of various cultural, social and ethnic groups.
7. develop a sense of responsibility to groups in which they participate.
8. develop their talents to the fullest.
9. respect the rights and educational opportunities of all students and teachers.

SLCS serves a community of many age groups whose levels of maturity differ. Our school must be an orderly environment in which learning is not jeopardized by disruptions. A necessary assumption is that students will accept their responsibilities. In addition to learning, the most important responsibility of students is to obey all school rules and policies. Quality education cannot proceed without good discipline, fairly and consistently applied.

Student misconduct is separated into two classifications. **Type I Behavior**, which is considered serious misconduct, and **Type II Behavior**, which is less serious but nevertheless disruptive and, therefore, unacceptable. Teachers and the Principal are expected to hold students accountable for their failure to obey standards of conduct set out herein.

The principal, teachers, parents and students need be responsible for maintaining an atmosphere of acceptable and consistent discipline at all times with all students while engaged in performing their duties and the responsibilities that go along with learning. The principal and teachers are required to administer and enforce disciplinary rules, regulations, and actions, in a consistent and fair manner at all times. The teacher, in carrying out assigned duties and responsibilities in disciplining students, shall first make every attempt(3) to correct the situation through verbal communication. If this does not prove to be adequate, the teacher may then use reasonable and appropriate physical force upon a student to maintain discipline or promote the general welfare of all in accordance with the Children's Code of the State of Texas.

## **B. Province of the School**

SLCS has the authority to control student conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the school or which tends to impair the morale or good conduct of all pupils. Therefore, student misconduct in the school building, school grounds, a school bus, and at school related activities and trips, will be cause for discipline by school officials. In addition, misconduct which occurs of campus or at non-school related activities which affects the health, safety and welfare of staff and/or students may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **C. Code of Conduct**

Suspension or expulsion shall be mandatory for serious violations in a school building or on school property. The principal may recommend expulsion of a student who engages in one or more of the following specific activities while in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles or during a school sponsored activity.

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or private property.
2. Causing or attempting to steal school property or private property.
3. Commission of robbery or assault.
4. Violation of diocesan or school policy and/or regulations. (dangerous weapon, alcohol, drug use, smoking, use of tobacco, sexual harassment, or cyber harassment, bullying)
5. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or damage property.
6. Direct use of profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures toward students, school personnel or visitors.
7. Engaging in verbal abuse, i.e. name calling, ethnic or racial slurs or derogatory statements addressed in public to others.
8. Obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling or unknowing individual through force of threats.
9. Lying or giving false information verbally or in writing to a school employee.
10. Committing scholastic dishonesty which includes but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration with others in the preparation of written work.
11. Deliberate, consistent, willful disobedience and persistent defiance of and refusal to obey a member of the school staff.
12. Detrimental behavior on or off school property to the welfare, safety or morals of other students or personnel.
13. Repeated interference with the school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.

Copies of these rules shall be available to any patron or student of St. Louis Catholic School.

## **D. Consequences of Misconduct**

Students jeopardize their right to a Christian education by engaging in conduct which is detrimental to the good order and discipline in school or which tends to impair the welfare, safety or morals of other pupils or of school personnel. Possible consequences of student misconduct include the following:

1. In-school suspension (ISS) is the removal of a student issued by the principal pending a conference with parents between one and ten school days as the result of a Type I or Type II behavior.
2. Expulsion is the removal of a student from the school for Type I Behavior that is detrimental to the good order and discipline in the school or which tends to impair the welfare and safety of other pupils or school personnel.

## **E. Student Discipline**

Students demonstrating unacceptable behavior shall not be tolerated and shall be dealt with accordingly. However, every available alternative should be explored to help students who are at risk of suspension or expulsion. In some cases, a remedial discipline plan may be the means by which various intervention and prevention services are identified and made available to a student. Support services may be provided. Students shall always be given written notice of charges; always be given an oral or written explanation; and always provided the opportunity to present their version of the incident. Parent notification shall always be immediate and provided by administration when possible. Proceedings with appropriate disciplinary measures always takes precedence over the availability or lack of an intervention program.

**Type 1 Behavior:** is student misconduct so serious that it normally will result in a suspension by the principal and may result in an expulsion recommendation. Type I Behavior includes: persistent disruption or obstruction of the educational process; intentional damage to school /personal property; theft of school/personal property or possession of stolen property; threats, assault and/or battery to staff personnel, other students on or off school grounds, before, during or after school hours; possession, handling or transmittance of a weapon or dangerous instrument on or off the school grounds, before, during or after school hours; the possession, use of or transmittance of narcotics, marijuana, alcoholic beverages, stimulant drugs or any other controlled substance on or off of the school grounds, before, during or after school hours; any sexual misconduct; fighting; repeated school violations; and any other misconduct not covered by the aforementioned.

**Type II Behavior:** is student misconduct which is disorderly or otherwise unacceptable but does not violate the Type I Behavior regulations. Students who engage in Type II Behavior will be disciplined appropriately by the principal or other school officials. However, Type II Behavior misconduct only reaches the office of the principal following teacher disposition, interventions, parent contact, and school/parent collaboration. Examples of Type II Behavior include the following: cheating; minor theft; forgery; littering; profanity; insubordination; verbal abuse; refusal to comply; class disruption; lack of class participation; and any other inappropriate behavior as defined by a school official.

## **F. Type I Behavior and Type II Behavior Consequences**

Students who engage in Type I Behavior and/or Type II Behavior will be subject to one or more of several consequences. These may include but are not limited to: principal suspension; notification of parents by phone or letter; conference with the parents; in-school suspension if available; temporary separation from peers; change of class schedule; special work assignments; loss of class or school privileges; verbal reprimand; after school detention; interventions; shadowing of a student by the parent. The expulsion process involves a letter of notification; a hearing process for parent appeal; and a review based upon the appeal proceedings.