

Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Owensboro Catholic Middle School family! With the Holy Family as our example, we plan to provide as Joseph and Mary did for Jesus, a safe, Christian 'home' for your child. It is our belief that you as parents are giving your child a lifelong gift by providing a faith-based education here at OCMS.

The sacrament of Confirmation is the culminating spiritual goal for each of our students as they near completion of their middle school education. We hope to teach our students the joy of being servant leaders within the Catholic Church. It is only by sharing our time, talent, and treasure with others that we can understand the deep love Jesus has for us and wants us to share with others.

Academic excellence is of utmost importance to the OCMS faculty and staff. Our standards are aligned to the ACT, the college entrance exam of choice in our region.

Please pray for us, the Owensboro Catholic Middle School faculty and staff team, as we partner with you to fulfill our mission. You are always welcome to contact any of us at OCMS if you have any concerns.

Olivia Schilke, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Owensboro Catholic Schools share in the mission of the Church, in cooperation with families, to provide a religious and academic education that prepares students to become responsible members of family, Church, and community.

PHILOSOPHY OF OWENSBORO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

The primary purpose of Owensboro Catholic Middle School is to provide a Catholic education for the young people of our local parishes.

The philosophy of the Owensboro Catholic Schools is centered on the total development of the Christian child: spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, cultural, emotional, and physical. We believe that the function of the educator is to nurture this development of students as persons of the community, supporting and building on the faith-life of the child, which is begun and encouraged in the home. We provide a safe faith environment in which each member of the school family will be comforted and challenged by the Gospel message.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The philosophy of the Owensboro Catholic Schools will be implemented by the following goals and objectives:

- Goal 1.** Students' spiritual and moral development will be nurtured.
Objective: Educators will design and teach formal religion classes, prepare, direct, and evaluate student participation in liturgical and para-liturgical prayer, and service projects.
- Goal 2.** Students' intellectual, social, and cultural growth will be promoted.
Objective: Educators will prepare and teach the standards-based curriculum, provide co-curricular experiences, and encourage extra-curricular activities.
- Goal 3.** Students' physical and emotional growth will be fostered.
Objective: Educators will organize and direct activities that aid in the development of physical and mental health.

THEOLOGY PROGRAM

Owensboro Catholic Middle School takes pride in the Theology program offered to the students. Realizing that the purpose of our existence is the sharing of our Catholic faith, the faculty, staff, and students strive to build a faith community that reflects back into the homes and parishes.

Students at Owensboro Catholic Middle School have Theology class each day as a regular class period. Opportunities for planning liturgies, reconciliation services, prayer days etc. will be given to all students. Students will have the opportunity to attend liturgy on a regular basis and on holy days and special feasts throughout the year.

Eighth grade students will prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation preparation will be in cooperation with individual parish programs.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school building will be open each day from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. School is in session from 8:20 a.m. to 2:53 p.m. The only exceptions will be school related activities or arrangements made through the office.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

GIRLS

- Navy skirts are NO longer allowed.
- Navy twill, trouser-style, uniform pants, uniform shorts (no more than 5 inches from the floor when kneeling), or navy capri pants can be worn. No skinny pants, stretch pants, leggings, or jeggings.
- Long or short-sleeved white knit shirts with collars must be worn. No monograms or logos are allowed. **Shirts must be tucked in at all times.**
- No shorts other than uniform shorts. .
- Belts must be worn.
- **OCS uniform** sweatshirts may be purchased through the OCS Central Office. No other sweatshirt/hoodie may be worn, including OCHS.
- A **white** collared shirt must be worn under the uniform sweatshirt.
- Dress type or tennis/athletic shoes must be worn. Open toe shoes, open back shoes, clog style crocs, and slippers/house shoes are not permitted except on spirit days or dress-up days.
- Socks must be worn and visible.
- Earrings may be worn. No other body piercings or visible tattoos are permitted. No gaudy or inappropriate jewelry may be worn. No gauges.
- Modest make-up is permissible.
- Hair must be neat, clean, a natural color, and out of eyes. No unusual styles.
- No writing on any part of the body or clothing.
- No jackets, hoodies, or sweaters are to be worn during the day.

BOYS

- Navy twill uniform pants
- Navy twill Bermuda length shorts
- Long or short-sleeved white knit shirts with collars must be worn. No monograms or logos are allowed. **Shirts must be tucked in at all times.**
- No shorts other than uniform shorts.
- Belts must be worn.
- **OCS uniform** sweatshirts may be purchased through the OCS Central Office. No other sweatshirt/hoodie may be worn, including OCHS.
- A **white** collared shirt must be worn under the uniform sweatshirt.
- Dress type or tennis/athletic shoes must be worn. Open toe shoes, open back shoes, clog style crocs, and slippers/house shoes are not permitted except on non-uniform days or dress-up days.
- Socks must be worn and visible.
- No gaudy or inappropriate jewelry may be worn.
- No earrings, body piercings, or visible tattoos are permitted. No gauges.
- Hair must be neat, clean, a natural color, no longer than collar length, and out of eyes. No unusual styles.
- No facial hair is permitted.
- No hats.
- No writing on any part of the body or clothing.
- No jackets, hoodies, or sweaters are to be worn during the day.

Wednesday Dress Code For Athletic And Other Extra-Curriculars

On Wednesdays during the season of a given OCS team or group: Students may wear their team jerseys or t-shirts, as approved by the coaches or sponsors. **No other t-shirts may be worn. No team sweatshirts, hoodies, pullovers, or jackets are allowed. Team jerseys or t-shirts may be worn if they are all matching and must remain tucked in.**

Rules for Wednesday Attire

- Students may wear “Wednesday attire” only on Wednesdays during the season of the OCS team or extra-curricular group (from the Wednesday of their FIRST GAME until the Wednesday of the LAST GAME – not during pre-season practice). Club sponsors and coaches will define this for their members.
- Faculty will be notified, if/when there are exceptions to the rule.
- The coach or sponsor should make clear to students what they are to wear. The WHOLE TEAM must wear the same jersey or t-shirt.
- Wednesday attire refers only to clothing from the waist up. It must be worn with uniform shorts or uniform pants.
- **ANY DEVIATION OF THE UNIFORM DRESS CODE IS BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL.**

Rules for Friday Attire

- “Faith- in-Education” t-shirts may be worn with uniform pants or uniform shorts.

P.E. UNIFORM

- All students are required to wear school-issued gym shorts and a school-issued t-shirt for P.E. class. All students must dress for class whether or not they participate.

NON-UNIFORM DAY POLICY

- No shorts other than uniform shorts
- Clothing must have no questionable printing or pictures (if in doubt don't wear it)
- No sleeveless shirts, skirts, or dresses.
- No pajama pants
- Slacks or Jeans may be worn
- Jeans may be worn, but no skinny jeans or jeans with holes will not be allowed.
- No exposed shoulders or backless attire
- Hoodies may be worn.
- No see-through attire
- No hats
- No yoga/spandex pants or leggings/jeggings
- Open-toe and backless shoes are allowed.

If rules are not followed, parents WILL BE CONTACTED and asked to bring in a uniform.

SCHOOL CLOSING

Owensboro Catholic Schools follow the Daviess County School Calendar. If the county calls a closing day due to inclement weather, be it a full or partial day, Owensboro Catholic Middle School will also close. Notification will be by OCS Text Alerts, radio, or television. Parents can sign up for OCS Text Alerts at <https://owensborocatholic.org/text-alerts/>. When early dismissal is deemed necessary, students may be released to parents or authorized designated transporters as soon as it is announced.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

No person shall be refused admission into or excluded from Owensboro Catholic Middle School because of race, color, national origin, or sex. Students who are active members of the Roman Catholic faith will be accepted before non-Catholic students.

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Owensboro Catholic Middle School guidance counselor will be available to help students in the areas of:

- Individual Student Counseling: Personal, Social, and Academic
- Small Group Counseling
- Monthly Classroom Guidance Lessons
- Parent Education, Support, and Consultation
- Teacher Support and Consultation
- Community Referrals
- Creation of the OCMS Master Schedule and individual student schedules for existing and transfer students.

Students are welcome to visit the counseling office during the school day, as needed. Parents are invited to contact the office to schedule appointments with the guidance counselor regarding any questions or concerns or concerns they might have.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

In accordance with regulations established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), parents are hereby notified that asbestos is present in all of the schools of the Owensboro Catholic School System. OCMS has an Asbestos Management Plan on file in the school office. This file is available for inspection by parents at any time. The Plan shows the location of asbestos in the school and contains other pertinent information.

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

State regulations require a 24-hour notice to any pest control application made on school property. This information is available to all parents and employees requesting it. Parents and employees may be placed on a list for notification. To do so, please come to the OCMS office and sign the notification Registry.

WEAPON POSSESSION

Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property in Kentucky is a felony punishable by a maximum of five (5) years in prison and a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) fine. Weapons are not allowed on school property.

ABUSE PROCEDURE

If school personnel suspect or are aware of child abuse or domestic violence in the home, the law requires them to report such abuse to the proper authorities. School officials will follow all requests issued by the proper authorities regarding these matters.

Diocesan Safe Environment Policy will be adhered to for all of the OCMS community.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Owensboro Catholic Middle School is a smoke-free and drug-free environment. Consumption, possession, sale, supply, or use of alcohol, marijuana (including synthetic), tobacco, vaping products, or any other illegal or dangerous substances on or about the school premises or at any school-sponsored activity, on or off campus, is strictly prohibited and will result in a Disciplinary Review Board, and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion. Possession of essential oil inhalers, vaping devices, or electronic cigarettes (i.e. Monq or JUUL) by students will be seen as suspicion of being under the influence of an illegal substance.

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

Students are expected to show respect for all property - both the schools and that which belongs to other students and teachers. This includes the bathrooms and cafeteria. Failure to do so will be dealt with on an individual basis through the *Discipline and Conduct Code*.

Books issued to a student are the responsibility of that student. Books must be covered and handled with care. If a book is damaged or otherwise defaced, the student to whom the book was issued will be expected to pay the cost of replacement.

LOST AND FOUND

Students are encouraged to be careful with their belongings. In the event students lose something, they should immediately notify the teacher. Any items found should be given to the teacher or brought to the office. Students who are missing items should check with the office secretary, as well as each teacher. The school nor it's staff are liable for any lost or stolen items.

MEDICATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are to ensure the safety of any student receiving medication during school hours. All medications must be delivered to and picked up from the school by a **parent/guardian**. Students are NOT allowed to carry or have in their possession any medication at any time during school hours. This includes both prescription and over-the-counter medications (i.e. Tylenol, Advil, etc). OCMS students may "self-carry" his/her emergency medication such as Epinephrine autoinjector (i.e. Epi-Pen, Auvi-Q, etc) &/or asthma inhaler, with authorization by the School's Registered Nurse, signed physician's order, signed parental consent. However, if the student carries his/her Epinephrine autoinjector, an additional supply MUST be kept in the Health Room to ensure it is readily available in case of an emergency.

Medications (prescription & non-prescription) are NOT allowed on the Daviess County School System Buses at any time. The exception to this rule is lifesaving or life sustaining medications (asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, & seizures).

NONPRESCRIPTION (OVER THE COUNTER) MEDICATION

A variety of over-the-counter medications to manage uncomplicated/common symptoms may be available in the Health Room during the school year (i.e. Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Cough Drops, etc.) A parent/guardian's consent is required before the student will be given any of the optional medications. This consent allows designated staff to administer specific over-the-counter medications as needed without having to contact you each time during the current academic school year. If a student has a temperature greater than 100.4, has severe symptoms, and/or if symptom interventions are not effective, the parent/guardian will be notified. Nonprescription medication brought in from home will be dated upon receipt and given no more than 3 consecutive days or at the School RN's discretion. A parent/guardian will need to retrieve these medications within 10 days or they may be destroyed. No products containing aspirin will be given without a written physician order.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Prescription medications will be accepted on an individual basis at the School RN's discretion. Prescription medication must be provided by the parent/guardian in the original pharmacy labeled container that includes the student's name, date, medication dosage, strength, and directions for use. Labels that have been altered or changed in any way will not be accepted. Two medications may not be mixed in the same bottle, as the medication MUST match the label. It is requested that prescription medication be brought to school only in the amount that will be needed or as specified by the nurse. Medication left at the end of the school year may be destroyed unless picked up within 5 days after school closing or at the discretion of the RN. OCS School Health Staff will not administer any medications containing narcotics for pain control (i.e. Lortab, Codeine, Tylenol #3, etc.) during the school day except when identified in an individual care plan for chronically ill students. Antibiotics or other medications that are directed to be given two or three times a day should be given at home unless specifically ordered to be given during school hours by the health care provider. An exception may be made by the school RN if the student remains at school after 3:00 p.m. Policies and Procedures regarding other medications or special needs pertaining to asthma, allergies, diabetes, insulin, seizures, etc. are in place. If your child has special health concerns, please notify the school RN so that a plan can be developed to provide a safe and consistent environment for your child.

IMMUNIZATION & HEALTH REGULATIONS

KY STATE IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH PHYSICAL REGULATIONS

Immunizations and certificates MUST be kept current. The immunization certificate required by 902KAR2:060 shall be on file within two (2) weeks of the student's enrollment in school or proof an appointment with the health department or his/her health care provider must be presented.

Immunization certificates must have all age appropriate immunizations with a valid expiration date & the administration date of each immunization. Certificates not meeting these requirements will be returned to the parent/guardian for correction from their health care provider.

Any student initially entering any KY school must have a School Entry Physical Exam by a health care provider and be current on all required KY immunizations regardless of age or grade level. For example, if a student is transferring into 7th grade from out-of-state, the student will be required to have all vaccinations and a health physical that was required when entering 6th grade in the state of Kentucky. The School Entry Physical Exam must be on the approved KDE form. This is different from a "Sports Physical" which cannot be accepted as the school entry physical. The healthcare provider will complete the Sports Physical on a separate form.

In Owensboro, Immunizations may be obtained from most pediatrician offices, pharmacies, and urgent care facilities. Immunizations are offered at Green River District Health Department to qualifying participants only.

If you have any questions, please contact your Health Care Provider of Green River District Health Department.

Web-link to the KY Immunization Laws and forms:

<https://education.ky.gov/districts/SHS/Pages/Immunization-Information.aspx>

<https://education.ky.gov/districts/SHS/Pages/Health-Forms.aspx>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Philosophy

OCMS personnel hold that there is a direct relationship between class attendance and school success. The daily activities that take place in the classroom are a vital part of the learning process. The learning that takes place in the classroom cannot be made up by simply doing the written assignments missed during the absence. Therefore, to earn credit in a course, the student is required to fulfill course requirements established by the teacher and school administration and conform to the attendance policy stated herein.

Overview of Absence Policy

The attendance of our students is a responsibility shared between OCMS, the student, and the parent/guardian of the student. Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for all classes. Students are expected to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility.

Contacting School

- For absences other than prearranged, EACH day the student will not be in school, a parent/guardian must notify the office before 9:15 a.m. via phone or email.
- If a student is absent and the parent/guardian does not call the school, someone from the school office will call the home to ensure the child's safety.

Doctor's Note Required

- If a student is absent for four (4) consecutive days the student must have a doctor's note to return to school (other than a pre-arranged absence).
- After a maximum of five (5) absences in a semester, a doctor's note is required.

Students Who Become Ill at School

- Students who become ill must report to the school nurse. The nurse will determine if the student should go home and will contact the parents/ guardian if necessary.
- Students are not permitted to contact parents by cell phone or email and request early dismissal for any reason.
- If a cell phone or email is used it will result in a detention.
- The nurse must be aware of any student medical condition/concern.

Participating in School Functions on Date of Absence

Students who are absent from school for 4 or more periods may not participate in any athletic practice or contest or any social or school sponsored event that same day. Violation of this procedure will make the student ineligible for the next scheduled game or event.

Prior Notice Required

- When a student must be absent from school for reasons other than the below excused reasons, parents must contact the Office for principal approval. Requests can be submitted via email or by a written note. The principal will determine whether time out of school is excused or unexcused.
- The students will be given a prearranged absence form that must be signed by the parents, teachers, and Principal.
- The school reserves the right to make a judgment about the validity of each request.
- Students will follow the homework policy for make-up work upon return to school. No advance work will be given. Teachers will not be required to stay before or after school to get a student caught up.

Excused Absences

- Personal illness
- Death in a family
- Severe illness of a member of the immediate family that requires the presence of the student. Immediate family is defined as father, mother, sister, brother, or members of a student's household
- Orders from the court

- School sanctioned activities, with Principal approval
- The school reserves the right to confirm the doctor's excuses. All doctor's notes must be originals or can be faxed/emailed from the doctor's office.
- Other valid reasons as determined by the principal, including trips qualifying as educational enhancement opportunities for up to 10 days, and must follow the notification process outlined above.

Unexcused Absences

- If an absence is unexcused, the student may not receive credit for missed work.
- Students with 3 unexcused absences per semester may meet with the counselor to discuss improving the student's attendance. Parents may be contacted at this time.
- Students who are absent 5 days per semester, not verified by a parent and/or doctor's note, will receive a notification by mail, requiring a doctor's note for subsequent absences to be excused.
- Students with more than 8 unexcused absences per semester will be assigned to after school detention.
 - Subsequent absences within the same semester will result in a detention.

Excessive absenteeism may result in further disciplinary action as well as consultation with local authorities and truant officers.

Tardy

- A student arriving at their Homeroom after the 8:20 a.m. bell is tardy.
- Attendance will be taken every class period.
- Excessive tardiness results in lost instructional time, therefore a conference will then be held with the principal, student and/or parent after 5 unexcused tardies to address this issue.
- Five (5) unexcused tardies per semester will result in a lunch detention.
- Eight (8) unexcused tardies per semester will result in an after-school detention.
- Any subsequent unexcused tardies will result in after-school detentions.
- Class tardies are also included in this policy.

Make Up Work

- If a student is very sick, do not worry about homework. **Students** are allowed and responsible for making up all work they missed due to an excused absence. **Students** must make arrangements for missed work upon returning to school. ***OCMS expects our students to take on more responsibilities, and homework is their responsibility.***
- Students who are absent due to illness have one day for each day of absence to make up the missed assignments, quizzes, or tests.
- Failure to complete make-up assignments will be treated the same as failure to do in-class assignments.
- Make-up work may be requested after a student has missed more than one day. **Requests for work must be made before 9:00 a.m. and picked up between 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. If requests are made later than 9:00 we will not have time to collect the work needed.**

RELEASE OF PUPILS

- A student will not be released from school into the custody of any person other than the student's parents, guardian, or person authorized in writing by the parent/guardian. This is for the protection of the student.
- Unless the principal makes exceptions, only a parent may check a child out of school to attend a funeral.
- If your child must leave school during the day, please observe the following:
 1. When arriving at school to pick up your child, come to the school office where a staff member will have you sign the early dismissal book. Your child will then be called to the office for dismissal. You are encouraged to call when you are on your way to pick up your child.
 2. Upon returning to school, the student must check in at the school office.
 3. Please make every effort possible to make doctor appointments outside of school hours.
- When parents or guardians request by telephone that their child be sent home because of an emergency, the school will check the authenticity of the message by calling the telephone number listed for the student's parents or guardian on the EMERGENCY ADDRESS FORM FOR STUDENT.

- When it is necessary to send a student home because of illness or for some other important reason, the parent or guardian will be telephoned to make suitable arrangements by school personnel. Students may not use cell phones to contact their parents.
- Students may not be checked out during Mass or other religious services. If your child will need to be picked up for a doctor/dental appointment during a scheduled Mass time, **you MUST check them out by 1:30 p.m.** Students **WILL NOT** be called out of church-
- If it is necessary to change transportation for your child, **the office MUST BE notified by 2:15 p.m.**
- All bus notes must be turned into the office by the student by **9:00 a.m.** The bus note must include the bus number(s) of each bus the student will be riding, and the name and address of the destination.

OCMS SPORTS' HANDBOOK

Catholic Identity

- The Owensboro Catholic Middle School (OCMS) sports program, like the school as a whole, is provided for the ultimate purpose of developing student athletes as young Christian men and women. Likewise, the school is governed by the guidelines of our Christian faith as imparted to us by the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Owensboro.

Sports Physicals

- A student athlete is not to begin practice for a sport until he/she has turned in a Middle/High School KHSAA physical form to the coach allowing participation in that sport and all student accounts are current. It is the coach and athletic director's duty to see that this is enforced.
- For sports programs that require tryouts, a student athlete must have a completed KHSAA physical before the athlete may tryout.
- A physical form is good for one calendar year from the date in which the student athlete received the physical. Thus, an athlete who competed in a fall sport does not need a new physical for a winter or spring sport.
- Sports physicals are required for any student participating in an intramural sport at Owensboro Catholic Middle School.

Responsibilities of the Student Athlete

- Student Athletes are also expected to follow a code of conduct befitting the Christian attitude as taught in our Catholic schools.
- Student athletes are to conduct themselves in a proper manner in school. The OCMS principal has the responsibility to suspend or otherwise discipline a student in regard to sports, due to the student's conduct in the classroom or at other school activities.
- It is the responsibility of the student athlete to maintain grades at an acceptable level while participating in a sports program. More specific details are provided in the Academic Eligibility Policy.
- Student Athletes are expected to treat their teammates in an appropriate civil manner. Athletes are to compete and practice in an atmosphere that is free from abuse from other teammates.
- Student athletes are to remember that their actions are a reflection of their school, school system and Church, and must therefore conduct themselves accordingly at all team activities.

Academic Eligibility Policy

- Student athletes' grades will be checked every Thursday after 8:20 a.m. during their sports season. If a student has two or more deficiencies (D or F), the student will be listed as ineligible.
- The student will be notified of his/her ineligibility on Friday, and parents will also be sent notification of suspension by email. The suspension will begin the following Monday and continue through Sunday.
- If after a grade check on Thursday of the suspension week, the student has no more than one deficiency, he/she will be eligible again at the end of his/her suspension week.
- Grade Check: Thursday after 8:20a.m.
- Ineligibility Notice: Friday
- Suspension days: Monday – Sunday

Definition of Ineligibility

- The ineligible student may not participate, or even be present at any practice during his/her suspension.
- The ineligible student may not be present at any game as a player. This includes such things as riding with the team on away trips, being present on the bench (either in uniform or in street clothes) or being in the locker room with the other athletes.
- In an effort to improve his or her grades, the suspended athlete is encouraged to attend morning study hall that is supervised by the faculty.
- Any reasonable effort to work with teachers, parents, coaches, and administration by the student to improve the student's grades will be encouraged.
- The suspension policy is not meant to be punitive, but rather is meant to encourage the student to succeed academically by using participation in sports as a positive incentive.
- The Athletic Director, under the guidance of the OCMS principal, is the primary enforcer of the eligibility policy.
- This handbook pertains exclusively to competitive school teams and not to intramural sports.

Transportation Policy

- All student athletes must ride the team bus to any game outside of Daviess County. Student athletes must also ride the bus home from games unless riding home with their own parents (i.e. not grandparents, not brothers or sisters, not family friends and not other student athlete parents). Coaches are to record (sign out) student athletes when parents do take their own children home.

Middle School students playing at the High School

In some cases, it may be appropriate and acceptable for a student athlete to move up to the high school level in a sport such as basketball, soccer, or track even though the sport is available at the middle school. In such cases, the following guidelines will apply:

- "Moving up" or "playing up" can only be done with the approval of the student's parents, the principals from both schools, and coaches. The refusal on the part of any one of the four will prevent "moving up".
- Any sport that plays within the confines of the Midwest Kentucky Athletic Conference must adhere to the conference bylaws. An athlete may not play up to any high school level (freshman, JV, or Varsity) in any single game and play back down at the middle school level, as mandated by the Midwest Kentucky Athletic Conference.
- The exception to this rule is middle school girl's basketball. The Midwest Kentucky Athletic Conference voted to allow middle school girl's basketball to play up to the freshman level only and then play back down to the middle school level.

Policies of the Grade School Program

- Football and Boys & Girls Soccer: Sixth grade students who attend the Owensboro Catholic 4-6 center will be allowed to play or try out for the following sports due to a consistent issue with a low number of players.
- Volleyball: Owensboro Catholic Middle School has a sixth grade volleyball team that any sixth grade student attending OCS 4-6 Center may try out for. Sixth grade students will only be allowed to try out for the seventh grade team when the number of seventh grade students trying out for the team is not enough to sustain that team. This decision will be determined by the OCMS coach, athletic director, and principal.
- Boys & Girls Basketball: Sixth grade students will only be allowed to try out for the seventh grade basketball teams when the number of seventh graders trying out is not enough to sustain a team. This decision will be determined by the OCMS coach, athletic director, and principal.
- A student athlete may not participate in Middle School athletics if he or she has turned 15 years old before August 1st of a given school year.
- Grade school students who move up to middle school sports are governed by the academic policies of the OCS 4-6 Center.

PROMOTION POLICY

- A student who has an "F" yearly average in two or more classes will not be promoted to the next grade.

- Parents are notified after the third quarter if their child is in danger of not being promoted to the next grade.

HONOR ROLL

- The Owensboro Catholic Middle School Honor Roll will be published at the end of each quarter. Honor Roll will be based on the quarter grades.
- At OCMS, there are three categories for the honor roll:
 1. High Honors
 2. Honors
 3. Academic Achievement

GRADING SCALE for Middle School classes

A 100.00% – 92.50%

- Superior knowledge of subject matter and application of skills
- Exceptional reasoning skills
- Thorough and punctual in required work
- Worthwhile contributions to class discussions
- Ability to work independently
- Consistent high test grades

B 92.49% – 84.50%

- Above average knowledge of subject matter and application of skills
- Above average reasoning skills
- Thorough and punctual in required work
- Worthwhile contributions to class discussions
- Ability to work independently
- Above average test grades

C 84.49% – 76.50%

- Adequate knowledge of subject matter and application of skills
- Average reasoning skills
- Satisfactory completion of required work
- Limited participation in class discussions
- Average study habits
- Average test grades

D 76.49% – 69.50%

- Below average knowledge of subject matter and application of skills
- Below average reasoning skills
- Assignments below standard
- Minimal participation in class discussions
- Below average study habits
- Low test grades

F 69.49% – 0.00%

- Insufficient knowledge of subject matter and application of skills
- Unsatisfactory reasoning skills
- Assignments unacceptable and/or incomplete
- Little or no participation in class discussions
- Poor study habits

- Below 70 in test grades

Incomplete (I) - missed classwork and tests due to extended absences must be completed within a reasonable time frame (determined by the teacher and/or academic dean) or the grade will be recorded as Incomplete.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

OCMS students may earn high school credit upon completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and two years of Spanish if they maintain a yearly average of at least a "B-" for the year, and each year of foreign language (7th & 8th grades).

The following is the grading scale for high school credit courses.

A	100.00% – 90.00%
B	89.99% – 82.00%
C	81.99% – 75.00%
D	74.99% – 70.00%
F	69.99% – 0.00%

Grades will not be rounded up to the next whole number.

SEMESTER EXAMS

All students will take Semester Exams in year-long courses. We take these exams very seriously in your child's preparation for high school and beyond. We ask that you please do not schedule appointments or trips during these scheduled times.

Semester Exams

- These exams are given in December before Christmas Break and again in May at the end of the school year.
- These are comprehensive exams that span the entire semester (approx. 18 weeks).
- Exams periods are 90 minutes and include a 30-minute review period and a 60-minute test.
- Semester grades will be based on a 45-45-10 formula with semester exams comprising 10% of the student's total semester grade.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

- Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Parents are asked to review report cards. Parents should feel free to contact teachers if there is a need.
- Progress reports are issued mid-quarter. Progress reports serve the purpose of informing parents at the halfway mark of that grading period, as to the need for improvement in their child's progress. This should provide sufficient time for the student to improve grades before the distribution of report cards. It is possible for a student's grades to drop, even to failing, after progress reports are issued, if effort and performance are not maintained.
- Grades can be accessed through the Parent Portal daily or as often as a parent wishes. Teachers will update grade books by 8:20 a.m. Thursday mornings.

HOMEWORK (not optional)

Home study is an integral component of the total life experience of the student. Motivation for home study lies in the cooperative efforts of home and school in support of the learner. Students should set aside a daily block of time outside of school hours, for home study. During this time, students should review and practice skills learned in school and complete assigned work. The amount of homework will vary from day to day and subject to subject. However, students can expect the average amount of time to be spent on homework per night to be between sixty and ninety minutes.

Each student is required to take a seven period day. Homework assignments must be turned in on the day due, during the scheduled class period. Students may hand in late assignments until the end of the quarter but may only receive partial credit. The amount of credit is left to the discretion of the teacher. Allowances will be made for the days a student may be out of school, but it is the student's responsibility to find out what work is due and when it must be completed. Since the class material is designed for the students, extra credit work cannot be accepted unless all assigned work is completed satisfactorily and on time.

TELEPHONE USE

During school hours, students may call home from their classrooms for non-medical issues with teacher approval. We ask

that students leave a message, so parents will know the nature of the call. **Please check your messages before calling the school office.**

STUDENT INSURANCE

During registration, school insurance forms are available to parents. The purchase of school insurance is optional.

FOOD AND CAFETERIA REGULATIONS

All students are expected to bring or buy their lunch each day. A government lunch program is available. Options include the main offering or chef salad with milk or fruit juices.

Lunch forms for free or reduced lunches are available to qualified families through the cafeteria manager.

CHARGING LIMIT INFORMATION

Students will be allowed to charge up to (5) full Breakfast & Lunch meals only. No charges will be allowed on a la carte items. Students will be given one week to pay charges. No partial charges will be allowed. If a student does not have the full amount, they will have to charge that day. Once a student has accumulated charges for (5) breakfasts and (5) lunches, they are no longer allowed to receive the menu items that are served until their charges are paid. These students are served either a peanut butter sandwich or a cheese sandwich and milk only (they do not receive any of the other items that are available on the line – just the sandwich and milk). Additionally, if a student has hit the maximum allowable charges (5 breakfasts and 5 lunches) they are not allowed to purchase/charge ala carte items.

It is the parent's responsibility to maintain a positive balance for lunch accounts. Money can be added to lunch accounts by sending the money directly to the Cafeteria Manager or by accessing the online site www.myschoolbucks.org.

Competitive Food Policy

It is the intent of the Diocese of Owensboro Division of School and Community Nutrition Program to provide nutritious meals to students during the school day. Every student is encouraged to participate in the food service program offered at each school.

In order to maintain the nutrition integrity of meals available to students, the sale or serving of any food or beverage item to students in competition with the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program shall be prohibited on the school campus during the school day until one-half hour after the close of the last lunch serving period.

No food or beverage, including meals from outside restaurants, may be sold or served to the students in the cafeteria in competition with the National School Lunch/ Breakfast Program until one-half hour after the end of the last lunch period.

No student may be permitted to have a carbonated beverage in the cafeteria during the meal period.

Food Brought in Outside of Lunch Time

- Students are allowed to eat a small snack during their 3rd period class.
- Snacks must be individually wrapped OR be in individual baggies.
- Students may NOT bring in snacks for anyone other than themselves and cannot share their snacks.
- Students may NOT bring in any outside food or drinks to consume for breakfast.
- In order to protect all children with food allergies, we ask everyone to follow these guidelines. Suggestions for commonly available snacks free of peanuts, tree nuts and eggs can be found at www.snacksafely.com.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills are held regularly. Every class is assigned a specific place outside the building to which they must go when the fire alarm sounds.

Tornado drills are held regularly. The students are assigned safe areas within the building in case of a tornado warning.

Earthquake drills are held regularly in each individual classroom. Safety drills and plans are in place for other emergency situations.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at any time at OCMS. All visitors must register in the school office upon arrival and departure.

DELIVERIES AND PARTIES

No outside deliveries will be accepted for students. This includes flowers, gifts and food.

Party invitations are not to be distributed at school.

POLICY FOR HANDLING CONCERNS BETWEEN PARENT AND TEACHER

If there is a question or concern regarding your child and a teacher, please follow this procedure:

1. Talk with the teacher first.
2. Meet with the teacher and your child.
3. Meet with the principal and teacher.
4. Meet with the OCS president/director and principal.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Parent's Role in Education

We at Owensboro Catholic Middle School consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, it is your right and your duty to become the primary role models for the development of your child's life – spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally. Your choice of Owensboro Catholic Middle School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his / her life.

A good example is the strongest teacher. Your personal relationship with God, with each other, and with the Church community will affect the way your child relates to God and others. Ideals taught in school are not well rooted in the child unless these are nurtured by the example of good Catholic / Christian morality and by an honest personal relationship with God in your family life.

Once you have chosen to enter into partnership with us at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years, your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty in order to develop his /her spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest of challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his / her potential. It is vital that both parents and teachers remember that allowing oneself to be caught between the student and the other partner will never have positive results. To divide authority between school and home or within the home will only teach disrespect for all authority. If there is an incident at school, we ask that you as parents first make an inquiry of the complete incident with the teacher or principal. Evidence of mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good, mature behavior and relationships.

Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. However, sometimes in the process of maturation new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, boundaries and limits provide a young person with both guidance and security.

It is essential that a child take responsibility for grades he/she has earned and be accountable for homework, long-term assignments, major tests, service projects, and any other assignments. This responsibility also extends to times of absence.

Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child to become the best person he/she is capable of becoming.

Parents as Partners

As partners in the educational process at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, we ask parents:

To set rules, times, and limits so that your child:

- Gets enough sleep on school nights;
- Arrives at school on time;
- Is dressed according to the school uniform policy;
- Completes class assignments on time;

To support the religious and educational goals of the school.

To support and cooperate with the discipline policy of the school.

To treat teachers with respect and courtesy in discussing student problems.

To supervise the use of technology.

To actively participate in school activities such as the School-Parent Association, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and fundraising.

To see that the student pays for any damage to school books or property due to carelessness or neglect on the part of the student.

To notify the school office of any changes of address or important phone numbers.

To meet all financial obligations to the school system.

To inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety, and health.

To complete and return to school any requested information promptly.

To read school notes and any other correspondence to show interest in the student's total education.

Communication tools for students and parents:

- INOW/FACTs
- OCMS E-Mail/OCS Email
- Google Classroom
- Remind 101

Discipline

The goal of Christian discipline is self-discipline. The student chooses one form of behavior over another. Students must learn to accept the consequences of their chosen behavior. Students who choose specific actions which violate the rights of the school community must be dealt with in Christian justice. In order to maintain and promote good order and discipline, students must comply with the regulations listed. Failure to obey the rules will result in disciplinary action.

CONDUCT

Each student is responsible for displaying the qualities of a good Christian. Students should show their best conduct in the halls, in the cafeteria, in church, in the classroom, or when traveling to or from school. Immaculate Parish and the owners of homes near the school have the right to expect no trespassing on their property. These neighbors are expected to report any action of students that is harmful to their property or to other students. Proper behavior will help the students become better citizens. The staff will place special emphasis on honesty, morality, and courtesy.

Bus Conduct

1. The students must observe the directions of the bus driver as well as obey all bus regulations. All school rules apply to bus behavior as well as the following regulations:
 - A. Students are to conduct themselves at all times according to the rules of behavior established by Daviess County Public Schools and bus drivers.
 - B. No one is to change seats after boarding the bus unless requested by a school representative or the bus driver.
 - C. Voices are to be kept to a hushed tone, and when the bus driver requests silence, it must immediately be established.
 - D. Any behavior deemed unacceptable by the driver will be reported to the Principal. Serious misconduct may result in immediate ineligibility to ride the bus.
 - E. Stay back from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the doors are open. When boarding the bus, students are to be in a single line and wait until each student has stepped onto the bus before the next student starts to board.
 - F. Students should stay seated until the bus stops and then exit the bus slowly and carefully.
2. No food, drinks, candy, or gum are permitted on the bus.
3. Daviess County Public Schools reserve the right to issue a Bus Misconduct Report outlining disciplinary action to students for inappropriate behavior. Additional consequences may be given by OCMS.

Cafeteria Conduct

In order to keep the cafeteria clean and attractive as well as a pleasant place to be, appropriate behavior is expected of all students. All school rules, as well as the rules listed below, must be observed in the cafeteria. ***Students should show the same respect to cafeteria employees that they show OCMS faculty and staff.***

1. Students must stay seated. The Principal and Administrative Staff will serve as cafeteria monitors to supervise during the

lunch periods. Respect must be shown to the monitor and to the cafeteria staff.

2. There must be no loud talking, cutting in line, pushing, etc. Students may not throw objects or food. If a student is found to have thrown an object or food in the lunchroom they will receive an after school detention.
3. All food is to be eaten in the lunchroom; not carried out in the hallway or classroom. Students are responsible for their own eating area, which includes the use of napkins and cleaning the area around them. Students should also check the floor space near their places. All trays and silverware are to be deposited in the proper places. Students will be assigned turns to wipe the tables at the end of the lunch period.
4. Students will not be permitted to leave the cafeteria except to use the restroom during their lunchtime. Students must have the permission of the monitor on duty to do so.
5. Restroom use should take place during the scheduled lunch period, not after the lunch bell has rung, to avoid being late for class.

Church Conduct

Proper etiquette is expected of all students while they are in the Church. Our Church building is the "House of God" and should be treated that way. Acceptable Church behavior will be explained in the classroom.

Classroom Conduct

1. Students have the responsibility to conform to the rules of conduct set up by a teacher within a classroom or area of responsibility. Each classroom will have a posted set of rules, which are consistent with the school's general rules.
2. At the start of the school year, the teacher and students will discuss the rules for their classroom. There will also be rules for when the teacher is out of the room. Students are expected to comply with these rules or face the consequences. Consequences are determined by the individual teacher and should conform to the basic discipline philosophy of Owensboro Catholic Middle School.

These same rules and procedures apply when there is a visitor or substitute teacher in your classroom.

Destruction of School Property

Recompense for willful or careless destruction of school property or that of another student must be made by the offender. The consequence and/or fine for the defacement or destruction of school property will be determined by the extent of the damage or seriousness of the act. Parents will be notified.

Prohibitions

1. Possession, use, or distribution of any narcotic substance, alcoholic beverage, controlled drug (other than a drug prescribed for the specific student), or any intoxicant including vaping devices.
2. Student smoking or possessing smoking paraphernalia (Cigarettes, lighters, matches, etc.) on school property or while traveling to and from school
3. Gum chewing on school property
4. Disruptive behavior in halls, classrooms, rest rooms, and library, e.g., running, tripping, pushing, etc.
5. Improper or profane language (verbal or written)
6. Throwing things, such as metal objects, snowballs, paper wads, or any other objects.
7. Stealing and cheating
8. Defacing or destruction of personal property, property of others, or school property
9. Fighting and "rough play" such as pulling and punching, pretend Karate, etc.
10. Being out of class without permission (students must be on time for class unless they have a pass from another teacher).
11. Possession of any unauthorized dangerous instruments, e.g. knives, pocket-knives, sharp items, fireworks, firearms, etc.
12. Bringing valuables to school
13. Public display of romantic affection
14. Eating or drinking outside cafeteria unless given permission by Principal
15. Racial slurs or culturally insensitive conversations

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

General Procedures

The classroom teacher is best situated to ensure high standards of behavior in a classroom. He or she will implement procedures to help students realize expected standards of behavior, the mistakes that lead to unacceptable behavior, and alternative behaviors that may prove more successful. Teacher options include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal corrections
2. Room cleaning
3. Note/phone call/email to parent
4. Extra assignment
5. Change in seating assignment
6. Student/Teacher Conference
7. Loss of privilege
8. Referral to Counselor
9. Repairing/replacing that which is damaged
10. Loss of participation in extracurricular activities
11. Detention (lunch, after school)
12. Temporary Suspension (Supervised Isolation)
13. Referral to office

If additional detentions or Saturday School times are required at the end of the school year, students will be required to return after the regular school year ends. Report cards will be held until the time has been served.

Parents are an essential element in maintaining the school's climate. Parents will be alerted to an ongoing problem by the teacher so that parents can encourage their student to become self-disciplined. Teachers should document all student conflicts and parent contacts. Teachers may refer students to the principal for repeated offenses that do not get resolved or for serious offenses. **The principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises.**

Serious Offenses

Repeated/chronic violation of school regulations	Detentions
Repeated/chronic disruptive classroom behavior	Detentions

Cheating of any type (may result in a failing grade)	1-2 Detentions and a zero on quiz, assignment, or test
Disrespect toward any adult or child on school property	Detention
Bullying behavior towards another student or students	Detention up to Suspension or Expulsion
Fighting or excessive physical aggression against another student	Suspension to Expulsion
Sexual harassment	Detention up to Suspension or Expulsion
Immoral behavior	Detention up to Suspension or Expulsion
Possession of firearms, other weapons	Suspension to Expulsion
Use/possession of vaping products, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, or drug paraphernalia	Saturday School or Suspension to Expulsion
Threatening behavior towards an adult or student on school property	Suspension to Expulsion
Membership/identification/use of symbols pertaining to gangs	Parent Conference and Detentions up to Saturday School, Suspension or Expulsion
Racial Slurs	Detentions up to Saturday School, Suspension or Expulsion
Inappropriate hand gestures	Detentions
Fireworks	3 Detentions or Suspension
Stealing or vandalism	3 Detentions, Saturday school, possible suspension or expulsion depending on degree of seriousness

Other serious misconduct	Suspension to expulsion
Repeated violation rules	Discipline Board

The Dean of Students and Principal have the right to change or modify any and all disciplinary consequences as they see fit.

Bullying Policy

Owensboro Catholic Middle School has an educational plan to address the problem of bullying behavior in the school. The Counselor will conduct appropriate lessons that deal with identifying bullies, how to deal with a bully, and empowering students observing the bullying to report the behavior or to stand up for the victim. Students will be made aware how they can report bullying behavior confidentially. The following guidelines are addressed by each teacher:

According to the National Centre Against Bullying, "Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records)."

1. Bullying is not allowed in our classrooms.
2. We don't tease, call names, or put people down.
3. We don't hit, shove, kick, or punch.
4. If we see someone being bullied, we speak up and stop it (if we can) or go for help right away.
5. When we do things as a group, we make sure that everyone is included and no one is left out.
6. We make new students feel welcome.
7. We listen to each other's opinions.
8. We treat each other with kindness and respect.
9. We respect each other's property. (School property, too.)
10. We look for the good in others and value differences.

One or more of the following disciplinary actions when bullying behavior is observed or reported will be followed depending on the severity of the incident:

- A. Apology
- B. Detention
- C. Persistent bullying could result in one or more of the following:
 1. Detention
 2. Parent/Principal conferencing
 3. In-School suspension
 4. Saturday School
 5. Out-of-School suspension
 6. Discipline Review Board

Threatening Behavior

All threatening behavior should be reported to school administration immediately. Any behavior deemed threatening is inappropriate and may result in immediate suspension and/or dismissal from school. Threatening behavior is defined as statements, gestures, or actions intended to cause harm to oneself, another person, and/or damage to property. Behaviors

deemed threatening are to be addressed in the following manner.

1. Students exhibiting threatening behavior are removed from the situation and placed under the direct supervision of appropriate school personnel.
2. Once the student is removed, the Principal/Assistant Principal/ Dean of Students/Guidance Counselor will investigate, gather facts, and conduct a threat screening (see Diocesan Threat Screening Form).
3. Based on the results of the threat screening, the school may determine:
 - No further assessment is needed.
 - Further assessment is needed by a Mental Health Therapist approved by OCMS.
4. If further assessment is needed, the school will need professional assurance that the student does not present a danger to him or herself, or to others at the school, the student may be suspended from school and may not attend any school activity or be present on school grounds pending a threat assessment and a final placement decision. The expense of any required counseling will be borne by the parents/guardian.
5. The threat assessment results and recommendations are to be shared with the principal and counselor who will make a final placement/reinstatement decision and follow up.

We will also follow the current Diocesan Guidelines on threatening behavior.

NATIONAL HOTLINE NUMBERS

- **Domestic Violence** – 800-799-7233 or 800-799-SAFE
- **Sexual Assault** – 800-656-4673 or 800-656-HOPE
- **Suicide Prevention** – 800-273-8255 or 800-273-TALK

Homicidal Threats

If a homicidal threat is made, the above steps will be followed, and the police will be contacted. The student(s) who have been threatened, as well as their parents, are to be notified as soon as possible.

False Threats

Any student falsely reporting threatening behavior will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension or expulsion.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

If a teacher or principal believes that a student is carrying a dangerous, harmful, or restricted item on his or her person, the principal or dean of students will ask the student for it. If the student refuses, the student will be asked to empty pockets, book bags, backpacks, purses, etc. If the student does not comply then the parent will be asked to come to school immediately to meet with the principal about the matter. The student will not return to the classroom until the issue is resolved.

Lockers and desks are school property. Students are granted their use and must care for them properly. School personnel may search lockers or desks at any time without notice.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

Items such as, but not limited to, gum, candy, questionable books, pictures, magazines, laser lights, or anything that will detract from a learning situation, and all items listed under the *Serious Offenses* section of this handbook are not allowed at school. These items are also not allowed on field trips.

The school administration, in accordance with state laws, will determine the appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken concerning the presence of these items in the school. **Items that are taken away from students will be returned only to the parents.**

CELL PHONES

Cell phones must be turned off before students enter the school building and remain in the students' locked locker during school hours. Students are allowed to turn on their cell phones once they exit the building. If a student is found to be using the phone in any manner or if the phone rings during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and kept in the school office until the end of the day at which time the student will be given detention in exchange for the cell phone. Parents must pick up cell phones from the office for a second offense. Following offenses will result in more serious disciplinary repercussions. OCMS is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

SMART WATCHES

Student use of smart watches is allowed here at OCMS. Students may however be asked to remove their watch while testing

to deter misbehavior. If a student is found to be using their watch in an inappropriate way they will no longer be allowed to wear it at school and are subject to other disciplinary repercussions.

DISCIPLINARY REPERCUSSIONS

Lunch Detentions

Lunch detentions are given for, but not limited to, less serious infractions such as tardiness to class, not being prepared for class (not having books and materials), not raising a hand before speaking, leaving trash or other materials in the classroom, and not following guidelines in the lunchroom. Lunch detentions are not given for repeat offences and parents are, generally, not informed of them.

For every 5 lunch detentions that a student earns within each quarter, he/she will be given 1 after-school detention. Calculation of lunch detentions begins on the first day of every quarter and ends on the last day of every quarter.

Students assigned to lunch detention will eat lunch in a teacher's classroom or in the cafeteria at the detention table, which is placed away from the other lunch tables. Students are not allowed to talk or socialize during the detention.

Detention

Detention may be issued for a breach of classroom and/or school rules. Any faculty and/or staff member of Owensboro Catholic Middle School can issue a detention. Parents are given written notification of the detention. The day, date, and time of the detention are at the discretion of the administrator who monitors the detention. **Detention takes precedence over extracurricular activities, appointments, practices, lessons, etc.**

The purpose of a detention is to help the student identify misbehavior, accept responsibility, and correct it.

1. A student receiving a detention slip is required to take the slip home for their parent's signature and present the slip to the Dean of Students within two (2) days. Failure to follow this policy may result in an additional after-school detention.
2. Students needing to reschedule the detention must see the Dean of Students in advance.
3. If the student fails to take the detention by the date assigned and does not contact the Dean of Students in advance the penalty will be an additional detention(s). Failure to serve these detentions will result in being assigned Saturday School or suspension.
4. Reports of detention will be mailed to parents when their child has earned 5, 8, & 12.
5. No one will be permitted to serve if they come in late unless they have written permission from the Principal.
6. Students will:
 - a. be in uniform
 - b. work in school or community service or write a reflective essay

When the student has accumulated in one school year:

5 Detentions:

8 Detentions: One Saturday School will be assigned; parents/guardians must meet in person with the Principal and an additional administrator to discuss a program for improved student behavior.

12 Detentions: the student will serve a one day in-school suspension, and is placed on probation for the remainder of the school year. In addition, the student will go before the Principal and Discipline Review Board to evaluate the effectiveness of the behavioral intervention program. The results of the review board will be communicated with all stakeholders in a timely manner.

Subsequent infraction occurrences may result in out of school suspensions or expulsion.

Saturday School

Saturday school will be in session from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on scheduled Saturdays. Doors will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. No student will be admitted after 8:00 a.m. Tardy students will be required to report to the Principal before 8:15 a.m. on Monday morning for discipline action.

1. Saturday School will be used for completing work assigned by classroom teachers and for study after all other work is completed.
2. Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers or use the telephone (emergency excepted).
3. Students will be expected to remain busy throughout the entire morning. The monitoring teacher may give additional assignments to keep the student busy.
4. Students must be in regular uniform.

5. There will be a short break at 9:30 a.m.

Failure to comply with the rules listed above will result in the student being sent home immediately by the teacher in charge. The student would then report to the Principal before 8:15 a.m. Monday morning.

Any student who is ill, has a death in the family, or is otherwise excused should report to the Principal before 8:15 a.m. the following Monday morning for reassignment. Failure to attend Saturday School will result in additional disciplinary action, including but not necessarily limited to, in-house suspension and making up the Saturday School.

Temporary Suspension (Supervised Isolation)

Temporary suspension is a disciplinary procedure by which a student is removed from the class for a specified period of time within the school day. This gives the student an opportunity to realize that certain aspects of his or her behavior and attitude are unacceptable to the classroom or school community. Assigned work will be given credit.

In-School Suspension

In-School Suspension is a disciplinary procedure by which a student is kept in school but is removed from the classroom. Students will be assigned space in the school building for in-school suspension. The teacher(s) will assign sufficient work for the day. The student must stay seated in this area at all times during the day, except for restroom breaks. Students who are given an In-School Suspension will be required to report to school each day and work with a substitute teacher. The student will have no contact with other students during the in-school suspension. Students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities on the day(s) of the in-school suspension.

Suspension

Suspension is a disciplinary procedure by which a student is removed from the school for a specified period of time to give the student the opportunity to realize that certain aspects of his/her attitude and behavior are unacceptable to the school community. Students who receive a suspension will not be allowed on the campus during the time of their suspension. Students will be expected to complete all assignments given during the suspension. However, students will receive no credit for any and all assignments while on suspension. Long-term assignments may be accepted for credit at the discretion of the administration.

Students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities during the dates of the suspension. Additional consequences may be imposed by the coach/sponsor of an extracurricular activity. The principal will notify the parent of the suspension and a conference may be required for re-admittance to school. Reasons for the suspension and conditions to be met before the student can return to school will be detailed in the suspension letter. A copy of the suspension letter is sent to the student's parents.

Probation

1. Probation is a disciplinary procedure by which a student who is in school is evaluated with regard to attitude and behavior over a specified period of time by the teacher and the Principal to determine the student's resolve to remain in the school community. When a student is placed on probation, the following procedures are generally followed.
 - A. The Principal conferences with the student, parent and teacher to advise of reasons, conditions and length of the probation.
 - B. After the period of probation, the Principal, teacher, parent and student meet to decide whether the probation is to be terminated or if any other disciplinary actions are necessary.
 - C. If probation continues, expectations and conditions will be reviewed, and either continues or modified as appropriate to meet the goals of the probation. A follow-up parent conference is scheduled.

DISCIPLINE REVIEW BOARD

The Discipline Board consists of the/Dean of Students, School Counselor, and two teachers chosen by administration. A student who has been referred to a Discipline Board may also choose one faculty representative to advocate on his/her behalf as well as their parish priest. The committee conducts hearings on major violations of school rules. Using input from teachers, the committee makes recommendations to the principal regarding the status of a student. The committee will meet as needed throughout the year and a discipline review board can be called at any time by the principal or dean of students.

The school reserves the right to discipline students for conduct, whether inside or outside school, that is detrimental to the reputation of the school. Any student undergoing a disciplinary review board may not participate in extracurricular activities until a repercussion has been communicated.

Expulsion

Expulsion is a disciplinary procedure of last resort. It will be applied only in the most serious of discipline incidents or after all

other discipline measures have been applied without success. The school reserves the right to review a student's performance at any time. Students may be dismissed for a single serious violation of school rules or for chronic or habitual violations which indicate an inability to meet the normal expectations for behavior and academics. The principal in consultation with the Director of OCS and the Priest Pastor, may dismiss an OCMS student.

INTERNET

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

OCMS's Chromebooks, iPads, computers, and student owned Chromebooks are to be used for educational purposes only. If students choose to bring their own Chromebook to school, they must sign the User Agreement. Students are only allowed to use their personal device at the teacher's discretion. We recognize the need to use technology ethically and effectively and consider the use of the computer network a privilege, not a right. Student users are personally responsible for their actions in accessing and using the schools' technology resources. Network administrators may review communications and electronic files to maintain system integrity and ensure the appropriate use of the system. Those who do not abide by the Acceptable Use Agreement will be denied access and will be subject to disciplinary action. OCMS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged Chromebooks.

The Internet is a research tool beneficial to both teaching and learning. To ensure that we use the Internet in an appropriate and responsible manner, Owensboro Catholic Schools have instituted the following:

- Moral and responsible use of the Internet will be taught along with technical skills.
- Access to the Internet will be allowed only in public places under supervision.
- Students should not access their personal accounts during the school day.

These are basic measures that will allow our students to enjoy the benefits of the Internet while adhering to the acceptable use policy of Owensboro Catholic Schools.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

I recognize that computers have the potential to make either a positive or a negative impact on the world. As a member of Owensboro Catholic Middle School, I pledge myself to do all I can to ensure that computers influence the world in a positive manner. To that end, I pledge the following:

1. I will honor all files as private property and will refrain from erasing, renaming, or making unusable any file or program that is not my personal property.
2. I will keep my user information – my name and files – confidential and will share them with no one (except duly authorized faculty and/or staff).
3. I will use the school's computers and /or accounts for educational purposes only.
4. I will honor the privacy of all other users' passwords, never attempting to gain illegal access or use.
5. I will respect copyright protection for all software. I will never copy, change, or transfer any software provided by the school, teachers, or another student without permission from an authorized source. I do understand that copying software without permission is illegal and copying or knowingly using such software is a criminal offense.
6. I will endeavor to keep all systems with which I work safe from any virus (bug, worm, Trojan Horse, or other term). I will never knowingly write, produce, generate copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory
7. I will respect all others with whom I communicate through the computer (e-mail, Internet, or other). I will never use the computer to annoy, offend, or threaten others.
8. I will practice good stewardship with all technology systems. I will never intentionally damage any part of the system or resources and information not belonging to me, nor allow others to do so.
9. I will recognize my own limitations and will not tamper with terminals, CPUs, printers, or other associated equipment without explicit direction from teachers or technicians.
10. I will practice good stewardship in my use of telecommunications resources. I will use the school's telecommunication resources only in public places under the supervision of authorized faculty or staff. I will use the school's telecommunication resources only for matters directly related to educational needs.

I understand that my not abiding by the above can result in punishment, including but not limited to the suspension of computer privileges.

CHROMEBOOK RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to arrive each day with their Chromebook battery at least 85% charged.
2. Students must keep their screens at a minimum brightness of 70%.
3. Students may not look at or listen to any inappropriate content or music while in the school building.
4. Students are not allowed to take pictures, live stream, or record video or audio on any platform without prior teacher approval while in the school building.
5. Students may only have OCMS educator approved VPNs or extensions on their browser while logged in to their school account.
6. Headphone usage is a privilege and is determined at teacher discretion.

Any violation of OCMS Internet or Chromebook expectations may result in disciplinary action.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT

The Offices of Catholic Schools, Religious Education and Youth Ministry provide opportunities that allow young people from all over the Diocese of Owensboro to be educated, grow in their faith, have a fun time, and form Christian friendships. All that we do stems from our belief in Jesus Christ and the following of his teachings. Therefore, we have certain expectations of the children, youth and adults who participate. To ensure a safe and enjoyable time for everyone, the following guidelines are in effect.

- I will treat everyone with respect, courtesy, dignity, patience, loyalty, and integrity. I will behave in a way that respects the rights of all. If I am being hurt or if I become aware that one of my peers is being hurt verbally or physically, I will notify a supervising adult.
- I will be cooperative and do those things that promote a good reputation for my school/parish and me.
- I will treat property with care. If I break something, I will tell my supervising adult.
- I will avoid posing any health risk to others (i.e. fevers or other contagious situations).
- I understand the use of cell phones is prohibited, unless a supervising adult grants permission.
- I will not possess/use/purchase tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, inappropriate videos, reading materials or objects.

I understand that in extreme cases of misconduct my parents/legal guardian and legal authorities will be notified, regardless of the time. Parents/legal guardians will be financially and /or physically responsible for the participant's transportation home from school/event. I understand I am subject to search and seizure guidelines, which are in place (Page 300:11).

If I become aware of any violation of this Code of Conduct by a peer, it is my responsibility to notify my supervising adult as soon as possible.

PUBLICATION RELEASE

Regarding school activities, I give permission for my child to be interviewed and or photographed by the school and or news media. I also give permission for the release of the interview and. or photograph for use by the school and/or news media.

PHONE DIRECTORY RELEASE

The Owensboro Catholic Schools PTO may print a school directory. The information used in the directory will be: parent name, student name(s), address, home telephone number, grade and homeroom of the student(s). I give my permission to use all of the family information listed in the school directory.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER.

Students and parents,

Please read the 2021-2022 Student/Parent Handbook, sign and return this form.

I have read and agree to be governed by the rules, regulations, and policies in the Owensboro Catholic Middle School Student/Parent Handbook.

I understand that the school system reserves the right to amend the rules, regulations, or policies for just cause and that I will be notified of said changes as they occur.

Student signature

Parent signature

Date