

Blessed Sacrament School

Student/Parent

Handbook

2025-2026



21 Westfield Road
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040

www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org

Main Building (413) 536-2236
Fax (413) 534-0795

Office Email: officebss@comcast.net

Blessed Sacrament Community



August 2025

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Blessed Sacrament School Student/Parent Handbook. Policies, procedures, behavioral guidelines, dress code, uniform guidelines, and much more have been included. This handbook is for all Blessed Sacrament School students in Preschool – 8th Grade.

Please review the handbook carefully with your child. **Parents and students must sign** the signature page at the end of the handbook and return it to school. A thorough understanding of and willingness to follow our school's guidelines and policies will allow for a positive learning environment for all.

Necessary updates to this handbook will be posted on our school website throughout the school year.

As always, thank you for your support and your commitment to Blessed Sacrament School.



Blessed Sacrament School

MISSION STATEMENT

Blessed Sacrament School, a parish sponsored preschool through eighth grade school, is guided by Catholic values. We foster a caring community, provide a high standard of excellence in education, empower students to develop God-given talents and enable them to be life-long learners, problem solvers, and active participants in their world.

*Blessed Sacrament School is accredited by
The New England Association of Schools and Colleges*

Blessed Sacrament School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or athletic and other school administered programs.

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I. Parents'/Guardians' Role In Education

We, at Blessed Sacrament School, consider it a privilege to work with parents/guardians in the education of children because we believe parents/guardians 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 - physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Your choice of Blessed Sacrament School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his/her life.

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 a partnership with us at Blessed Sacrament School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years (Preschool-Grade 8), your child needs constant support from both parents/guardians and school in order to develop his/her moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical endowment. Neither parents/guardians nor school 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/guardians and school 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 of all authority. **If there is an incident at school, you as parents/guardians must make investigation of the complete story your first step.** Evidence of mutual respect between parents/guardians and school will model good, mature behavior and relationships. **Parents/guardians should contact the teacher involved with an issue BEFORE contacting the Principal or Pastor.**

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, it is boundaries and limits which 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 all other assignments. This responsibility also extends to times of absence and early dismissal when attending special events that require missing classes.

As we begin the new school year, the goal of the Blessed Sacrament Community is to have a strong working partnership with all our families. However, in the rare case of a breakdown in this partnership, parents/guardians can be required to withdraw the child from our school.

II. Parents/Guardians As Partners

As partners in the educational process at Blessed Sacrament School, we ask parents/guardians:

1. To set rules, times, and limits so that your child:
 - Goes to bed early on school nights and has breakfast each morning
 - Arrives to and is picked up from school on time
 - Adheres to the school dress code
 - Completes assignments on time
 - Brings a healthy snack every day (Preschool-Grade 8)
 - Orders lunch from school or brings a nutritional bag lunch from home every day
2. **To actively participate in school activities such as Parent-Teacher Conferences, PTG events, and school fundraisers**
3. To volunteer ten (10) hours of service during the parish's fiscal year, July 1-June 30. Families may opt to buy-out five (5) of the ten (10) hours at the price of \$125.00. (Refer to the Blessed Sacrament Parish Volunteer Requirements 2025-2026 forms included in the August packet.)
4. To pay for any damage to school library books, textbooks or property due to carelessness, neglect or loss on the part of the student
5. To immediately notify the school office of any change of address or phone number
6. **To meet all financial obligations to the school on time** so as not to prevent participation in activities, events or release of report cards and/or transfer of records
7. To inform the school of any special situations regarding the student's well-being, safety, health, or change in family dynamics
8. To empty backpacks/folders on a nightly basis and complete and return to school any requested information promptly
9. To check and sign student planner on a nightly basis (Grades 1-8 if requested by teacher)
10. To read school notes, newsletters, and website weekly to stay current on the student's total education
11. To regularly check the school portal for your child's academic progress
12. To support the religious and educational goals of the school
13. To support and cooperate with the academic and disciplinary policies of the school
14. To support the Blessed Sacrament Community by sharing positive Christian dialogue about our Community and refrain from involvement in negative gossip or comments
15. To be respectful and courteous of students, teachers, staff, Principal, and Pastor at all times. Any unacceptable behavior that is deemed to be a breach of this partnership can result in a recommended transfer of the student. Please see Parent/Guardian Behavior under VIII. Discipline, Section E, on page 39 of this Handbook for more details on this topic.

III. School Day Information and Rules

A. SCHOOL HOURS:	<i>Regular School Days:</i>	<i>Early Dismissal Days:</i>
	7:45-2:00 Early Childhood Center (ECC)	7:45-11:00 (ECC)
	7:45-2:15 Main Building (Gr.1-8)	7:45-11:15 Main Building

- 7:00-7:30 a.m. - Before School Care - **Arrival by 7:20** (Main Building for Preschool - 8)
- 7:30 a.m. - Teacher supervision on school grounds (*students are not to arrive before this time*)
- 7:30 a.m. - Preschool students enter their building and will be escorted to their classrooms
- 7:45 a.m. - All K-8 students enter their buildings. **All students ARE TARDY AFTER 7:45 BELL: THIS INCLUDES PRESCHOOL STUDENTS** Mass is celebrated every Friday at 8:00 a.m., except on certain Holy Days and special Mass days. The school office closes for Mass. Parents must escort their student to the church.
- 2:00 p.m. - Dismissal for Early Childhood Center (PreK & K)
- 2:15 p.m. - Dismissal for Main Building (Grades 1-8)

B. DAILY DROP-OFF PROCEDURE

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (Preschool & Kindergarten)

Enter and exit **only** using the driveway from Northampton Street next to the rectory.

PreK3 students must be escorted to **Door #6** at the front of the ECC building. Students will be met at the door by their teacher and escorted to their classroom by a teacher aide **without a parent**.

PreK4 students must be escorted to **Door #5** in the alleyway where they will meet their teacher.

Kindergarten students must be walked to their building/line-up area (**Door #8**) where they will meet their teacher.

- All vehicles must exit the 2nd driveway and turn right out of the parking lot
- Preschool and Kindergarten students are **never** allowed to walk through the parking lot on their own
- Please be patient, drive slowly, never drive through cones, and watch for children

MAIN BUILDING - GRADES 1-8

Enter the driveway closest to the church on Westfield Road and follow the cones towards the Main Building. The area within the cones is for drop-off only. Students must promptly exit from the **passenger side** once the vehicle is at the end of the driveway. Students will walk up the Westfield Road sidewalk to the upper parking lot of the Main Building where teachers are on duty. **Students are not allowed to arrive at the playground until 7:30 a.m. when teacher supervision begins.** All students in Grades 1-8 will enter the Main Building from the upper parking lot entrance at the 7:45 a.m. bell.

Parents who need to help a child unload or who need to come into the school, should park in the Early Childhood Center parking lot **using the driveway closest to the rectory**. Families dropping off at both the ECC and Main Building must park at ECC and have your Grade 1-8 child walk up the alleyway to the upper parking lot where a teacher is on duty.

Parking is not allowed in the Main Building drop-off area between 7:00-8:00 a.m. unless using the Before School program.

C. DAILY PICK-UP PROCEDURE

Pickup is promptly at 2:00/2:15 p.m. A late fee at the hourly ASEC rate will be assessed for students picked up after their 2:00/2:15 p.m. pick-up time.

Preschool and Kindergarten students can be picked up **only** at their own building at 2:00 p.m.

PreK3 and PreK4 students are dismissed at **Door #6** located at the front of the ECC building. Pick-up people will line up in a single file line on the front sidewalk at 2:00 p.m. The front door will be opened by a staff member when the children are ready for dismissal (please do not ring the bell). Once a student is “signed out” he/she must leave the building immediately through the front door, since the ASEC program is preparing to start.

Kindergarten students are dismissed and exit at **Door #7** located at the Parish Center. **All students must be signed out by a parent/guardian or approved pick-up person.** This procedure is for the safety of our students. (Students are not allowed to play in front of the ECC building or in/near the wooded areas after dismissal for safety reasons. Please do not let your child run on the property, swing on the tree, etc.)

Parking for the Early Childhood Center and the Main Building pickup is the main church parking lot. Main Building pickup is the drive-thru line. Students are **never** allowed to meet their ride in the parking lot. All students must be escorted to their pick-up vehicles by an adult. For safety reasons, please carefully supervise your child(ren) at all times before and after school in our parking lots and on our grounds. Please do not loiter with your children in the parking lots after dismissal and do not park in the fire lane.

All Students:

- All students must have a gold dismissal form on file that states their daily transportation information. All students will be dismissed according to this form unless **the office is notified in advance with a written note from a parent/guardian**. Please include first and last name as well as dates on all transportation notes.
- The pick-up person must be an adult or older sibling who has a valid state issued ID. Pick-up people will be asked to show a picture ID if unknown to staff. Any other person must have prior approval from the Principal.
- Students are only dismissed to parents/guardians unless a written note is received from the student’s parent/guardian. Even if the pick-up person is listed on your child’s dismissal form, a note is still needed.
- We are aware that circumstances happen during the day and changes to your child’s dismissal plan may become necessary. Please limit phone calls to the office with verbal changes in transportation. This can cause much disruption and possible confusion to our end-of-day dismissal routine. We cannot be held responsible when a change occurs without a written note in advance.

- Students may not change the mode of transportation without a written note from a parent/guardian and approved by the Principal.
- Bus students are not allowed to change buses or ride a bus that is not their own. **Bus students may get off at a different bus stop on their own route if they have a note from a parent and permission is granted by the Principal.** This is the bus company policy.
- Students are never allowed to walk home unaccompanied by an adult without a written note from a parent and prior permission from the Principal. Grades 1-4 students are not allowed to walk without an adult escort, but may walk with an older sibling if approved by the parent/guardian and the Principal.
- **Do not email the office** with transportation changes or with absent information. A staff member may not be available to receive the information.

D. DAILY DISMISSAL – DRIVE-THRU PROCEDURE

All families with students in both buildings must first pick up their ECC student, then enter the drive-thru pick-up line per the directions below to pick up their Grade 1-8 students.

The drive-thru line goes up the alleyway from the lower parking lot by the church, and cars exit the upper parking lot onto Westfield Road.

Cars must enter by the far driveway on Westfield Road closest to the church, proceed around the parking lot traveling on the outside perimeter of the lot, pass by the rectory and the front door of ECC, and enter the alleyway by making a right turn. This will allow for a smooth flow of traffic and allow as many cars as possible in the line, limiting traffic congestion.

Families should remain in their cars. Your student will be brought to you. Families are provided a “car card” with their family identity information. Please display these cards on your dashboard when picking up your students. Cards will be given out on the first day of school in the car line, and subsequent days thereafter. Families will get two (2) cards to provide to other approved pick-up persons. A note must be provided for unexpected pick-up persons.

Staff will use a check sheet for dismissing students. Identification will be required for any people not known to staff on duty. Once the students are safely in their cars, you will be directed to exit the upper parking lot. Any students not picked up by the end of the car line will go to ASEC, be billed at the hourly rate, and charged as of 2:00/2:15 p.m.

The City of Holyoke provides free bus transportation for students in Grades 6-8 residing in Holyoke who live 1½ miles or more from the school. Bus transportation is also provided for students in Kindergarten-Grade 5 residing in Holyoke who live 1 mile or more from the school. Please help our traffic flow by using the bus! Information on this may be obtained by contacting the school office. Bus schedules will be posted on our website when they become available.

Bus Behavior

Students must always exhibit good bus behavior. Riding the bus is a privilege and safety is the primary concern for our students. Students must always remain seated while riding the bus. If the school receives a warning from the bus company about a student’s behavior, the parent/guardian will be notified. If a child has had one (1) warning pertaining to his/her behavior on the school bus, has been made aware of this warning and receives one (1) more complaint, he/she will not be allowed to ride the bus for up to five (5) school days. Any further complaints may result in loss of bus privileges for a longer time period and/or the duration of the school year. Parents/Guardians

will have to make arrangements to transport their child during a loss of bus privilege. Parents/Guardians must emphasize the importance of appropriate language and proper behavior on the bus.

The Principal reserves the right to suspend a student from the bus for inappropriate behavior/language or other infractions without warning at any time.

E. EARLY RELEASE DAY DISMISSAL - Same Drive-Thru procedures

Early Release Days are recorded as academic school days. If a student is tardy or dismissed early, he/she will be considered absent for the day. Dismissal time is **11:00 a.m.** for Preschool & Kindergarten and **11:15 a.m.** for Grades 1-8. When Mass is celebrated on Early Release Days, students are to remain until dismissal and cannot leave after Mass. The ASEC Program will not be available on Early Release Days. Students will be responsible for any work missed on these days.

F. DISMISSAL (Appointments/Illness)

- Dismissed students are not permitted to leave the school grounds alone and must be picked up at the office by a designated adult or older sibling, with a valid state issued ID.
- A parent/guardian will be contacted if a student is ill and must be dismissed
- Scheduled appointments should be made outside of school hours and must be accompanied by a written request addressed to the Principal

G. AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED CARE (ASEC)

ASEC is a program for families in need. Please sign up only if it is a necessity for your family. Exceptions can be made in case of emergencies and at the discretion of the Principal.

After School Extended Care is available each full day of school. ASEC runs from dismissal until 5:30pm in the Early Childhood Center and/or the Main Building. ASEC is available to all Blessed Sacrament Students in Preschool through Grade 8. Students must register and return all paperwork with an activity fee 48 hours before joining the program to allow for proper staffing. The fee for ASEC is **\$10.00** per hour for one child, **\$12.00** per hour for two children, and **\$15.00** per hour for three children. A one-time activity fee of **\$10.00** per family is due at the time of registration.

Students in Grades 1-8 will have homework time. All students will have snack time and activity time as well as outdoor play time. When picking up their child, parents/guardians or designated adults must see a member of the staff to ensure that their child has been signed out, indicating the time of pickup. The pick-up person must be prepared to show identification until the staff is familiar with them. Students are only dismissed to a parent/guardian or a **known** pick-up person. Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing a nutritious snack/beverage for their child every day as well as any supplies (including paper, pens and pencils) needed for homework time for Grades 1-8. Kindergarten homework is not done at ASEC as parent interaction/supervision is needed.

After School Extended Care (ASEC) GUIDELINES 2025-2026

PLEASE do not register for ASEC unless you intend to use the program on a regular basis. Registrations are used to determine our staffing needs. Registrations are accepted throughout the year, if needed.

The Blessed Sacrament After School Extended Care Program is available to all of our Blessed Sacrament Students in Preschool through 8th Grade. We are open from dismissal until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. ASEC is not offered on Early Release days.

ASEC starts for ALL GRADES Preschool - 8th grade on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

***ASEC may close early or be cancelled due to inclement weather (predicted or current). Parents must be prepared to have someone pick up their child immediately upon being notified of ASEC closing.*

***Hourly Rates**

At the end of each month, you will be billed for the service your child(ren) received for the previous month of childcare. Your bill is calculated by the **amount of time** your child(ren) spends in the program. The hourly payment rate is **\$10.00** (1 child), **\$12.00** (2 children), and **\$15.00** (3 children). Your bill is calculated from the time of dismissal until you pick up your child(ren). Billing is calculated in 15 min. increments.

If your child is attending an after-school activity (Choir, clubs, etc.) you will not be charged during the time of the activity. There is a \$10.00 per family activity fee that is due with ASEC Registration Forms that are available on our school website.

***Billing System**

Bills are sent home in a separate “After School Extended Care” envelope most times on the first Wednesday of the month. Bills are sent as close to the first of the month as possible. All ASEC bills are due by the due date on the bill (see Payment Procedure). If you are having difficulties paying your ASEC bill, please speak to the principal so not to jeopardize your child’s participation in ASEC and other activities and events.

***Payment Procedure**

Please utilize the special “ASEC” envelope to ensure payments are received and processed accurately. **Payments must be received by the due date on the bill at the latest. Payment deadlines must be adhered to every month. If your payment is not received by the due date on the bill, the outstanding balance will be added to your next FACTS payment and your child(ren) will be removed from the program. The business manager will notify you that your child(ren) may not return to ASEC. Your child may return once payment has been confirmed by the business manager.**

Example: Tuition is \$350.00 and the ASEC overdue balance is \$160.00; your next Facts Payment will be \$510.00.

*ASEC teachers cannot accept ASEC payments. Payments should be sent to school with your child to give to his/her homeroom teacher, who will forward the payment to the school office for processing.

- * PAYMENT is preferred by check or money order. If paying by cash, you must pay at the office in person and obtain a receipt. Students cannot deliver cash payments.*
- *A fee of \$25.00 will be charged on returned checks. Students are not able to attend ASEC if payments are not up to date.*

***Student Schedule**

Students signing up for ASEC after the start of the school year must complete and return all paperwork and the activity fee 48 hours before joining the program to allow for proper staffing. Students using the ASEC Program must have all of their ASEC Registration and Emergency paperwork completed and turned in before being able to begin the program.

If you need to send your child to ASEC on a day that they are not usually scheduled, please be sure to send a written note to school to your child's homeroom teacher and call the office so adequate supervision can be scheduled.

Parents are asked to do their best to adhere to listed departure times to ensure proper supervision coverage. If a change needs to be made to your departure schedule, please call the office.

All students must be picked up by 5:30 p.m. at the latest. After 5:30, for every 15 minutes that the pick-up person is late, there will be a \$20.00 fee added to your bill.

***Behavior Policies**

Your child(ren) is expected to behave in a respectful way during her/his stay in the program. If your child(ren) is unable to be cooperative, a staff member will notify you. Please make sure to discuss any incident that has been brought to your attention regarding her/his behavior. If the problem persists, your child(ren) will have to speak to the principal and may be suspended from ASEC for a period of time. Students with serious or continued behavior issues will be dismissed from ASEC.

Everyone is responsible to help maintain toys, games, materials, and outdoor equipment, which are used in ASEC. If your child(ren) is found responsible for losing or destroying materials, you will be required to reimburse the program for replacement.

Please make sure your child(ren) understands that she/he needs to pick up any game, toy, art project, etc. that they are playing with prior to their departure. Everyone is responsible for the maintenance of each classroom.

Your child will have a scheduled quiet time to begin his/her homework assignments during ASEC from dismissal until 3:00 p.m. for all students in grades 1-8. Persistent disruptive student behavior will result possible dismissal from the ASEC program. Students must bring a book to school in case his/her homework is finished early. Any unfinished homework must be finished at home. Students are only allowed to work on homework during the scheduled time each day. Parents are responsible for "checking" nightly homework and making sure it is complete. **Students who arrive at ASEC after other after-school activities will not have homework time.**

All students must bring their own healthy snack and drink. Parents must supply their child with supplies (pens, pencils, and paper) to use during homework time (grades 1-8 only). Please do not send toys from home including but not limited to baseball cards, Pokémon cards, toy trucks, etc.

***Important Policy**

In order to ensure the safety of all our students, all doors in both ASEC buildings will be locked **during our extended hours from dismissal – 5:30 p.m.**

***PICK-UP PROCEDURE**

All sign-outs for ASEC will now take place in the Main Building.

The pick-up person must park in the front parking lot by the church and walk up the alley to the upper parking lot behind the Main Building and ring the bell at door #3. You must sign your child out with a staff member and your child will be released to you. You must exit through door #3 only. Please do not park your car in the upper parking lot or the alley between the two school buildings because our students walk and play on the pavement in these areas.

***Please share this important safety message with all of your child's pick-up people.**

H. BEFORE SCHOOL CARE (BSC)

Before School Care is available for all students (Preschool-Grade 8) from 7:00-7:30 a.m. in the Main Building. **Students must arrive before 7:20 a.m.** Parents/Guardians escort their child(ren) to the front door and check in with the staff member on duty. Preschool and Kindergarten students are escorted to the ECC building at 7:30 a.m.; All other students are escorted to the playground at 7:30 a.m. The BSC program is CLOSED when school is delayed or cancelled.

The fee for BSC is a flat rate of \$10.00 per family, per day. Invoices are sent monthly in a combined statement with ASEC. Payment Procedure, Billing System & Behavior Policies for BSC are the same as those listed in the ASEC Guidelines

I. ATTENDANCE

The law requires that children attend school regularly from the age of six until the age of sixteen. It is the responsibility of the parents to see that their children attend school regularly and punctually. It is also important for children to understand that their education is a high priority, and that frequent tardiness/absenteeism is a detriment to learning.

Students cannot start the new school year until the proper medical and emergency forms are completed and returned to school. All financial obligations from the previous year must also be fulfilled.

A student must be in school for **three (3) hours** to be considered "present" for a day of school. Anything under three (3) hours will be recorded as an absence. If a student is tardy or released early on an early release day, he/she will be considered absent.

When a student is to be absent from school, a parent/guardian must call the school office before 8:30am at 413-536-2236. If the office does not receive a call by 8:30am, a parent/guardian will be contacted. **Emails are not accepted as notice of your child's absence.** This policy is for the protection of the Blessed Sacrament School students. If on a given day, a student is absent or dismissed early, he/she may not attend any after school or school functions unless approved by the Principal. This includes, but is not limited to, school dances, and all club and school events.

Parents must make every effort to schedule vacations, trips, and days off around the school calendar. These types of absences are considered unexcused absences. **Schoolwork is not given in advance of these absences.**

Students absent from school for three (3) consecutive days must have a doctor's note upon their return to school. Absences due to prolonged illness or medical conditions will be taken into account regarding attendance requirements. If a student has a prolonged, doctor verified illness, a tutor from the public school system of the student's residence may be provided.

Students absent from school nine (9) days per half year or eighteen (18) days per full school year, will have a report filed with the Diocesan Superintendent's office and risk not being promoted to the next grade level and. This includes absences due to vacations, family events, and unexcused or excused illnesses. In extreme situations, the involvement of Diocesan School Officials and The Department of Children and Families may be necessary.

J. TARDINESS

TARDINESS IS DISRUPTIVE TO THE SCHOOL AND CLASS ROUTINE REGARDLESS OF THE GRADE LEVEL

All students are tardy when arriving after the 7:45 a.m. bell. Tardy students with a parent/guardian must first check in at the office and obtain a late slip to bring to his/her homeroom teacher. Preschool and Kindergarten students are to be escorted by a parent/guardian to their building. Students who arrive after 8:45 a.m. will not be eligible for hot lunch unless approved by the Principal or office staff. **NOTE: Mass is celebrated every Friday at 8:00 a.m., except on certain Holy Days and special Mass days. The office is closed during Mass. Parents must escort their student to the church.**

A tardy is "excused" when a doctor's note accompanies a student's arrival at school or when there is a school approved reason, such as a bus or traffic issue. Running late is **not** an excused tardy, even when a parent calls ahead. Unexcused tardies, as well as absences, are recorded on a student's permanent record card. For students in Grades 1-8, an in-house detention will be issued **each time** a student reaches **three (3)** unexcused tardies per marking period. Students in Grades 1-2 will serve in-house detention by losing a recess; students in Grades 3-8 will serve in-house detention during a "Special."

Four (4) in-house detentions (regardless of infraction) in a school year will make a student ineligible for one or more events/activities. This may include, but is not limited to, field trips, dances, Carnival Day, or other events/activities deemed appropriate by the Principal.

K. SCHOOL CANCELLATION/DELAYS

Blessed Sacrament School follows the decision of Holyoke Public Schools to either cancel or delay school due to inclement weather. The only exception is if Holyoke Public Schools cancels school due to a Heat Day. Blessed Sacrament is air conditioned and will not close for a Heat Day. Cancellation/Delay announcements will be listed as Holyoke Public Schools (**NOT** Blessed Sacrament School) and will be broadcast on radio channels News Radio **560 WHYN** and **MIX 93.1 WHYN FM**, and on television stations **WWLP-22 News** and **Western Mass News (CBS3, ABC40, FOX6)**. Announcements also can be found on TV station websites. We do not make Family Alert calls for snow days, delays, and cancellations. The Before School Care program is **closed** when school is delayed or cancelled. Please do not call or email the staff, school, or rectory about school cancellations/delays.

L. ASEC AND CLUB/ACTIVITY CANCELLATION/EARLY CLOSE

1. ASEC and all other after school activities/clubs are cancelled when Holyoke Public Schools cancels its after school activities before the start of school.
2. ASEC will close promptly at 3:45 p.m. and all other after school activities/clubs will be cancelled when Holyoke Public Schools cancels its after school activities while school is in session.
3. ASEC Notification Process For Cancellation/Early Close
 - a. Parent/Guardian phone and email information should be up to date in the office and in FACTS.
 - b. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to monitor television/radio for cancellation/early close. Individual calls will not be made to families.
 - c. Family and friends listed as pick-up people for your child should be ready to pick up your child if your child's after-school club/activity is cancelled
 - d. Cancellations are also listed on Western Mass News and WWLP-22 News websites

IV. General School Information

A. CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK AND ABSENT/MAKE-UP WORK

Headings on all papers and assignments for all classes, including specials, should be the same for Grades 1-8. The following is an example of proper heading: (margins must be made with a ruler)

Name	Date
Blessed Sacrament School	Grade/Homeroom
Subject	
$\frac{1}{2}$ inch margin	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch margin

Homework is the reinforcement of classroom instruction. The respective teachers will assign homework according to the need of students. Parents/Guardians (Grades 1-3) are required to check and sign the **Student Assignment Book**. Preschool 3 through Grade 4 parents/guardians must **empty their child's take home folder every day**.

Nightly homework assignments should typically take the following amounts of time:

Grade K	15-20 minutes
Grades 1&2	30 minutes
Grades 3&4	45 minutes*
Grades 5&6	1 hour*
Grades 7&8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours*

*Studying for tests/quizzes and nightly reading may be in addition to these times

In Grade 4, four (4) missing assignments in the same subject will result in an in-house detention and no credit for the assignment. In Grades 5-8, three (3) missing assignments in the same subject will result in an in-house detention and no credit for the assignment. In-house detention is served during a "special."

Four (4) in-house detentions (regardless of infraction) in a school year will make a student ineligible for one or more events/activities. This may include but is not limited to field trips, Carnival Day, Field Day, or other events/activities deemed appropriate by the Principal.

NO WORK IS GIVEN OUT IN ADVANCE OF ABSENCES

- **Main Building:** If a student is absent, parents/guardians may call and arrange to pick up absent work. If a sibling is in the same building, efforts will be made to get the work to that child by the end of the day. **It is the responsibility of the parent to pick up a child's homework.** Any child who is absent for the day or is sent home due to illness may not come into the buildings to get their work.
- **ECC:** If a Kindergarten student is absent for five (5) days or more, parents/guardians may call and arrange to pick up absent work. No absent work is given for Preschool students.

It is the responsibility of the student to have all homework and classwork made up within two (2) days of one (1) absence or a **zero (0)** will be earned for that assignment. Tests and quizzes must be made up after school and students should confirm day and times with subject teacher in advance. Classwork, tests, and quizzes are **not** made-up during recess.

If a student is suspended from school, refuses to attend school, or has more than nine (9) unexcused absences in a half year or eighteen (18) in a school year, a **zero (0)** will be earned for all classwork, homework, tests, quizzes, and projects if/when a student is absent.

No amount of homework can replace direct classroom instruction; therefore, family vacations, and absences due to extracurricular activities, including sports, during school time are seriously discouraged. **No assignments will be given in advance. Students must make arrangements to have their work collected and must check for assignments posted in Google Classroom if they are absent due to vacations.**

Grade 8 students who wish to “shadow” at a high school/prep school should make every effort to do so on a no-school day at Blessed Sacrament. If a student does miss school to a “shadow day,” he/she will be responsible for turning in projects/homework on time and taking exams as scheduled. "Shadow day" absences will be excused.

All homework/projects need to be printed at home. Students must not come to the office asking to print work assignments due to home printers not working or being out of ink. School printers cannot be used for this purpose. Homework/projects/assignments are not excused for being late due to computer/printer issues. Please remind your child to plan ahead and not print homework/projects/assignments at the last minute.

B. TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher conferences may be scheduled at any time during the year to discuss the student's progress. Conferences may be requested by parent, teacher, or Principal. To request a conference, **please send a note directly to the teacher with whom you need to meet.**

C. PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports are generated through the family portal at the five-week (5) marking period. **It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to check their child's progress through the family portal at mid-quarter and throughout the year.** If there are concerns regarding your child's

progress, please address it with the corresponding teacher by email. Teachers should respond within 24 hours of being contacted.

D. REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued three (3) times per year for Kindergarten and four (4) times per year for Grades 1-8. Preschool students receive assessments at mid-year and at the end of the school year. Report cards and permanent records are held by the school if all materials are not returned in acceptable condition and all financial obligations have not been met.

Report cards are issued and sent home at the ten-week (10) marking period. **It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to view their child's report card, sign and return the signature portion in the envelope provided. Report cards are available for parents to view/print for quarters 1-3. Final year-end report cards will be printed and mailed home once all financial obligations are met.**

GRADE SCALES

Numeric Scale (Grades 1-8)

A+ 97 - 100	B+ 87 - 89	C+ 77 - 79	D+ 67 - 69	
A 93 - 96	B 83 - 86	C 73 - 76	D 63 - 66	F* 0 - 59
A- 90 - 92	B- 80 - 82	C- 70 - 72	D- 60 - 62	

* F = Failure Failure to produce acceptable quality work, parent/teacher/student conference required, weekly after school class help required

Letter Scale (Grades 1-8)

E = Exemplary
VG = Very Good
S = Satisfactory/Meets Expectations
N = Needs Improvement/Needs to Improve Skills
U = Unsatisfactory/Failure to Produce Acceptable Quality Work

Grading scales and assessment keys can be found on our website

E. HONOR ROLL Grades 5-8

	Major Subjects	Specials Subjects	Conduct/Work Habits
High Honors	All A	E or VG	E or VG
Honors	A or B	E, VG or S	E, VG or S
Commendations	A, B, or C	E, VG, or S	E, VG or S

Should a student earn a D, F, N or a U in Specials Subjects, Conduct and Work Habits, or General Conduct, no recognition will be offered.

Conduct, Work Habits and Comments

Comments can be added with each assignment entered into the FACTS Portal. Comments should be added in the FACTS Portal when a student is not making sufficient progress or when a student is earning a grade of C or below.

Conduct is scored based on the student's respect, responsibility, cooperation, and self-control.

Work Habits are scored based on the student's completion of assignments, submission of work, quality of work, acceptance of responsibility for learning, and effort.

F. CHEATING/PLAGIARISM/FORGERY/AI

Plagiarism, forging of an adult's signature, copying from another person's work, inappropriate use of AI, as well as any other kind of behavior regarded as **cheating will not be tolerated**. Parents will be notified when an infraction occurs. Students who choose to take part in any of these behaviors face earning a **zero (0)** for their grade as well as detention/possible suspension.

G. RETENTION

Any student who fails two (2) or more quarters in any major subject may be required to attend, complete, and pass summer sessions or tutoring in order to be considered for advancement to the next grade. A student failing two (2) major subjects for the year may face retention following a review of his/her performance by the Principal, teachers, and parents. If a student is significantly lacking in skills for the next grade, has more than nine (9) absences per half year, eighteen (18) absences for the year, or has an excess of twelve (12) tardies for the school year (excused or unexcused), retention will be a strong possibility. The final decision regarding promotion to the next grade is made by the Principal after much consultation with parents and teacher(s).

H. STANDARDIZED TESTING

Standardized tests will be given in Grades 1-8 throughout the year. Renaissance Star Assessments will be used to evaluate students' aptitude and achievement in basic learning areas. Results of these tests are used to improve and evaluate curriculum and determine the needs of the individual student. The results become a part of the student's permanent record and are available to the parents.

I. LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Liturgy plays an important part in the life of each student. Liturgical and Para liturgical services provide a setting for the development of a full Catholic life. The gathering of the Blessed Sacrament School family nourishes its members and unites them in Christian spirit.

We attend Mass as a school community every Friday, on the last day of school, Holy Days of Obligation, Thanksgiving and Christmas times, Ash Wednesday, and Mary Day. Other Masses and services may be celebrated during the year, including quarterly praying of the Rosary. All students are expected to be active participants in our services and act in a reverent manner in our church. These actions will be reflected in the student's Religion and General Conduct grade.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. Students are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at other times during the year in their own parishes.

Full dress uniforms, which include the uniform shorts during fall and spring, must be worn on church/Mass days. Gym uniforms may be worn if your child has Physical Education class on church/Mass days, unless it is a special liturgy day. Holy Days of Obligation are special liturgy days; therefore, students should wear full dress uniforms. Preschool students wear their daily school uniform on church/Mass days.

Adults are asked to remember that when attending events in church, whether it is a Mass, a special event, or a graduation, all in attendance should act in a reverent manner. Picture taking should only be done from your seat and not interfere with the Mass. Making loud noises, whistling, and calling people's names is never appropriate in church. Family members are welcome to join us at our liturgical services and are asked to sit in the open sections of the church.

J. PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

Parents/guardians should communicate with teachers by written correspondence or email, which can be found on the faculty page of the school website. Teachers check their emails daily and should respond within 24 hours. Emails should never be sent to the office as a form of communication regarding school issues or to report an absence. Written correspondence should be sent in an envelope and clearly marked with the teacher's name and grade.

Teachers should be contacted at school for issues concerning daily activities, schedules, conferences, etc. Please contact the teacher directly to set up an appointment for a parent/teacher conference or phone conference regarding any issues, questions, or concerns you may have.

When a problem arises, **the first person to be contacted is the teacher**, the person most likely to have the accurate information and the truest picture of the situation. Only after contacting the teacher and attempting to solve a problem together should the Principal be contacted.

Unscheduled drop-in visits/conversations are not appropriate before or after school or while a teacher is on duty.

Money or checks sent to school must be sent in an envelope and clearly marked with the child's name, grade and name of event. **Checks may not be combined for separate events and/or payments.** The school will not be held responsible for any lost checks/money if not sent in properly. A fee of \$20 will be incurred on any returned checks.

K. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are provided an opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular and after school activities, including Student Council, school dances, choir, and clubs. Participation in these activities is a privilege and will be withdrawn if a student's conduct is unbecoming. In order to participate, a student must have a written note from a parent/guardian stating that he/she has permission to stay after school. If a student does not have a note, he/she must go home by his/her usual means of transportation. Students will be told the pick-up time in advance and parents/guardians are asked to pick up their students on time.

Students registered in the ASEC program will be brought to ASEC after an extracurricular activity.

Reasons to Restrict or Withdraw Participation

- A student may not attend any after school or evening school functions (i.e. rehearsals, dances, etc.) if they are absent or dismissed on that day, unless approved by the Principal.
- A student who is suspended from school will not be able to attend school functions during the suspension and for a period of time after the suspension. Parents, student, and Principal will meet to discuss the length of time for loss of privileges.
- A student who is having difficulty with behavior in school or at extracurricular activities will have their privileges suspended until a change of behavior is evident.
- A student who is having academic difficulties may be asked to stop attending extracurricular activities until academic issues are remedied.
- A student who is repeatedly tardy may be prevented from participating in extracurricular activities for a period of time.
- A student who is chronically late in being picked up may not be allowed to continue in the after school activity, including extra help class.
- **A student who has not met all financial obligations may not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities, field trips, or special events.**

L. EXTRA HELP

Teachers offer extra help in their subject areas after school. Please contact your child's teacher directly for more information and to make **advance** arrangements. Students must have a written note from a parent/guardian stating they have permission to stay after school. If a student does not have a note, he/she must go home by his/her usual means of transportation.

M. STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

Student Council Officers are held to a high standard and are expected to exhibit leadership qualities through their academics and behavior. Officers who do not follow the below rules and expectations may be removed from office after meeting with advisors, parents, and the Principal. A school suspension will result in an immediate suspension from the role of officer. Potential reinstatement will be determined through a meeting with the advisors, parents, and the Principal.

Rules and Expectations of Officers:

1. Must always be in good academic and behavior standing
2. Must act as a leader and role model to classmates, acting appropriately both in and outside of school
3. Must always be current with schoolwork and class assignments
4. Must receive permission from a teacher to miss class and complete missed work by the next school day
5. Must make every effort to attend council meetings and events
6. Must be willing to collaborate with fellow officers, council representatives and advisors

N. FIELD TRIPS

School sponsored field trips represent an extension of the educational curriculum and are considered a privilege to attend. Poor academic performance or behavior can result in a loss of this privilege, even if payment for the trip has already been made. Because field trips are an extension of our educational curriculum, students who do not attend their field trips may also be subject to a **zero (0) grade** in a main subject for that day.

Field trips are under the supervision of school staff and must always be made on licensed buses, never in private vehicles. When needed, parents can volunteer as chaperones if they have: (1) a current CORI, (2) a signed Code of Conduct on file, and (3) completed the online VIRTUS training. Siblings are not allowed to attend a field trip even if the parent is a chaperone. Family members who are not chaperones are **not** allowed to come to field trip destinations, even if they provide their own transportation.

Permission slips are sent home stating the specifics of the trip. Preschool students who do not attend school on the day of a scheduled field trip are invited to attend and will receive a permission slip. **A parent/guardian must sign and return the original school permission slip by the stated deadline for the student to be able to attend.** Phone calls, emails, and faxes cannot be accepted as forms of legal permission to attend a field trip.

Attire for the field trip will be based on the trip's location and activities. **Not all field trips are dress down days.** If a field trip requires students to dress down for the day, all Student/Parent Handbook dress down rules apply. Families will be notified in advance as to the dress code for field trips.

Cell phone use on field trips will be determined by the Principal.

Field trips costs are calculated in advance and are based on the participation of **ALL STUDENTS**. Therefore, every student is expected to attend his/her field trip. Students who do not attend scheduled field trips due to **unexcused reasons or reasons not approved by the Principal** are still expected to pay for their field trip. Once funds are collected for field trips, **there are no refunds.**

All financial obligations must be up to date for students to participate in field trips (including, but not limited to, tuition, ASEC/BSC payments). If a parent/guardian is experiencing financial difficulty regarding field trip payment, please call the Principal for confidential assistance.

A teacher and/or the Principal has the right to deny a student participation in a field trip if the student has/is:

- 1) Not fulfilling his/her academic responsibilities
- 2) Exhibiting behavior issues or shows a lack of self-discipline, including N's or U's on report card
- 3) Unable to exhibit the cooperation and attitude necessary for successful participation in an event away from school.

If a parent chooses not to allow his/her child to participate in a field trip, or if the student loses field trip privileges, he/she must remain at home on field trip day. This day out of school is an **unexcused absence**.

Four (4) in-house detentions (regardless of infraction) in a school year will make a student ineligible for one or more events/activities. This may include but is not limited to field trips, dances, Carnival Day, or other events/activities deemed appropriate by the Principal.

O. SPECIAL EVENTS/ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY

Students may be ineligible to participate in special events, school activities, extracurricular activities, field trips, and end-of-year activities (including graduation events) if there are behavioral issues (including in-house detentions), academic issues (including missing assignments), or outstanding financial obligations (tuition, ASEC/BSC payments, etc.). **Please refer to the In-house Detention Policy.**

P. GRADE 8 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For an eighth-grade student to attend any Grade 8 activity, be issued a diploma, or have school records forwarded, the student must have met all tuition and financial obligations, and returned all schoolbooks, technology, and materials.

V. General Operating Procedures

A. SCHOOL VISITORS

Visitors to the Main Building must enter through the **main entrance** only and sign in at the office before going anywhere in the school. Visitors to the Early Childhood Center must also report to the **Main Building main entrance** and sign in at the office before visiting the Early Childhood Center. All visitors **MUST** wear a visitor's badge at all times.

B. TUITION

The school offers families two (2) payment options for tuition.

- Payment in full by August 15th
- Enrollment in FACTS® Tuition Management Service

All tuition and FACTS® account information is handled through the parish business office. No transactions are handled through the school office, only general inquiries. Any issues must be directed by email to Tom Schwensfeir, the Parish Business Manager, at: tmsbusinessmanager@comcast.net.

Students may not start a new school year if all financial obligations have not been met from the prior year. Report cards and transfer requests will be withheld for any non-paid tuition, ASEC/BSC payments, or other financial obligations. Students are not able to participate in field trips and other school events during the school year if financial obligations are not met. Please see the Principal to arrange a confidential meeting if you are experiencing financial difficulties.

C. ADMISSION POLICY

New/Transfer students must go through the following procedure:

1. Interview with the Principal
2. Tour of facility
3. Provide official copies of report card, discipline report, standardized testing, special education testing, and/or IEPs for review by Principal

4. Informal or formal testing by classroom teacher may be required
5. A shadowing day will be suggested and may be required
6. Students accepted into Blessed Sacrament School will be on a probationary period for one complete marking term. This probationary period will allow us to assess the student's academic success, behavior, and social adjustment as well as their ability to be a positive and contributing member of Blessed Sacrament School. Students who exhibit difficulties in any of these areas may be asked to withdraw from Blessed Sacrament School.

D. STUDENT RECORDS/TRANSFER

Student records are confidential and kept in a locked, fireproof cabinet in the office. "Request for Transfer of School Records" forms are available in the office. This form must be signed by a parent/guardian to expedite the transfer of records when a student transfers into or out of Blessed Sacrament School. **If withdrawing mid-year or after re-registration in March, notification of withdrawal must be made to the office and a Request to Unenroll Form must be filled out by a parent/guardian prior to a transfer of student records.** Records will not be released for any student in Preschool-Grade 8 until all financial obligations have been met and all books and materials have been returned in acceptable condition. **All records must be mailed by our school directly to the next school placement.** Records are not given directly to parents.

E. LIBRARY

Please refer to our Library Use Policy at the end of this handbook for additional information and guidelines regarding our libraries.

1. Students use the library to take books out and must return them on the proper due date.
2. Students must leave the library in proper order.
3. A book is subject to a replacement cost if the book is lost, damaged or defaced. End-of-year report cards will be held for unreturned library books and/or books not replaced.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

Weekly emails are sent with updates of school activities. Monthly school calendar, lunch menu, and quarterly classroom news are found on our school website. **Hard copies are not sent home.** Many other important notices will be emailed and/or posted on the website on a regular basis.

Please be sure to check the website often for updates, changes, and the latest Blessed Sacrament news. The school website is: www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org.

Any money or checks sent to school **MUST** be sent in an envelope and clearly marked with the student's name, grade and name of event. **Checks may not be combined for separate events and/or payments.** The school will not be held responsible for any lost checks/money if not sent in properly.

G. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Blessed Sacrament School is approved, through the Holyoke Public Schools, for the Community Eligibility Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which is offered as part of the National School Lunch Program. This program allows every student the option of receiving free lunch. Holyoke Public Schools also invites us to participate in Breakfast in the Classroom.

These programs are provided by the Holyoke Public Schools. Breakfast is delivered to homeroom each morning. The lunch menu is posted monthly on the school website.

ALL CLASSROOMS ARE NUT/PEANUT FREE DUE TO ALLERGIES. Students must not bring any kind of snack/food that contains nut/peanut butter ingredients or is processed on machinery that may also process foods that contain nuts. Please read labels. Sun butter is available through the lunch program daily.

Students may **not** bring glass containers or bottles, soft drinks, or candy to school for lunch or snack. Parents must provide napkins and utensils (except knives) for snack and lunch sent from home. Parents may **not** bring lunches or drinks to school **from carry-out/fast food restaurants.**

Students should have a water bottle every day. There is a water station in each school building for refilling. **NOTE: Squeeze style water bottles are not permitted.**

Please make every effort to provide healthy snack and lunch choices for your child.

H. BACKPACKS

All students in preschool through Grade 8 are required to bring a backpack to school. Backpacks should be large enough to hold a 9"x11" folder and lunch bag. **Double strapped backpacks are preferred/recommended over messenger type bags.** If a student uses a messenger type bag, the bottom of the bag cannot hang below the knee for safety reasons. Messenger bags are not allowed for Preschool or Kindergarten students. **Wheeled backpacks are not allowed for any student unless ordered by a doctor and approved by the Principal.**

I. TEXTBOOKS/NOTEBOOKS/BINDERS

School books must be carried in a backpack to prevent damage. **Books must be covered at all times.** Teachers will let students know what type of cover is required for the textbooks. (Adhesive-type book covers are not allowed.)

Any lost, vandalized, or damaged textbooks must be paid for by the student. With the exception of necessary basic information (name, subject, homeroom, etc.) no other writing is allowed on the cover of books, notebooks, binders or backpacks.

Please check the school approved supply list before purchasing supplies. Writing, drawing, or any materials deemed inappropriate or contrary to our Catholic mission are not tolerated in any form and may result in in-house detention or suspension.

End-of-year report cards will be held for unreturned books and/or books not replaced or paid for due to being damaged, lost or defaced.

J. CELL PHONE/DEVICE/TELEPHONE USE POLICY

Cell phones have become a way of life, a technological convenience that has impacted most of our lives in one way or another. While we realize this fact, restrictions must be in place in our school environment. Cell phones or other communication devices are strongly discouraged at Blessed Sacrament School.

Electronic devices, including, but not limited to, iPods, iWatches, Air pods, Fitbits, laser pointers, Gabb phones, and cell phones, along with personal devices from home such as laptops/iPads, cameras, etc. cannot be used by students while in school, on school grounds, or at ASEC. (Personal devices from home must be approved by the Principal.) Blessed Sacrament School will not be held responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen personal property.

Preschool, Kindergarten and students in Grades 1-4 are not allowed to have cell phones or smart devices in their possession at any time, including Gabb phones and watches. Parents can reach their students by calling the school office.

Cell phones brought to school by students in Grades 5-8 must be in the **OFF** position during the school day and placed in individual storage pockets in homeroom until dismissal. Each student will have a pocket with their name on it for storage during the school day. Homeroom teachers will have a designated location for cell phone storage. Cell phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

NO CELL PHONE USE ALLOWED DURING SCHOOL OR ON THE BUS!

Any use of a cell phone by a student during school hours or on the bus will result in in-house detention and/or suspension and possible loss of bus privileges. This includes texting, emailing, messaging, recording or photographing of students, staff, or activities. If the phone is removed from the backpack at school or on the bus and turned on, it will be taken from them.

AT THE PRINCIPAL'S DISCRETION, cell phones may be allowed on certain school field trips, off premise activities, and other school functions for the purpose of taking pictures. Cell phones should not be used on the bus when transporting to and from field trips/events. Social media usage, texting, and excessive use of cell phones during field trips/events will result in confiscation of the cell phone. Blessed Sacrament School will not be held liable for any unauthorized calls, texts, photos, or postings to social media that occur during school hours or during field trips/events. Any social conflict created by the use of cell phones must be kept outside our school environment.

While cell phones can be a safety/security tool, they can also be a detriment in the event of a building emergency and our protocol to manage such emergencies in a safe and effective manner. Please do not encourage cell phone use by texting or calling your child during school hours. Parents/guardians are urged to utilize the school phone to relay any messages that may be urgent in nature to your child.

The office telephone is for **EMERGENCY USE ONLY**. This means that it cannot be used for forgotten homework, books, etc., or going to a friend's home after school.

By signing the last page of this handbook, parents/guardians and families agree to abide by this policy.

K. BIRTHDAYS/INVITATIONS

Students may celebrate their birthday in school by “dressing down.” All handbook dress down rules apply. Snacks, birthday treats and outside food are not allowed to be brought into the classrooms. Invitations must be sent via mail. Please do not send invitations, thank you notes, goodie bags or any birthday gifts (including balloons) to school. Exchange of these items must be done outside of school and off of school grounds. If you are unable to obtain classmate addresses, please contact the office for assistance.

Students with summer birthdays may celebrate their “half birthday” at school. Please notify your teacher when your half birthday is approaching. Summer birthdays will **not** be celebrated at the end of the school year. This includes ECC.

L. CHILD CUSTODY

The school recognizes that issues related to the legal and physical custody of students are complicated and can impact the student’s educational experience.

Parents and legal guardians of students are strongly encouraged to stay involved with their student’s academic progress. Unless a court decrees otherwise, and we have proof of such on file, either parent or legal guardian may view educational records and attend school functions and meetings regarding the student. Official notices and report cards will be sent to the parent or legal guardian with primary physical custody of the student during the school year and a copy will be made for the non-custodial parent, if allowed by the parent with sole custody or by court order.

It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian with primary physical custody to provide copies of current court orders to the school. **Child visitation and exchange of custody cannot take place during school hours or on school property. The school will assume no responsibility for enforcing visitation or custody orders and reserves the right to prohibit parents or legal guardians from entering school property if their conduct becomes disruptive to the school environment.** Concerns regarding court orders, custody and visitation should be directed to the Principal.

M. SCHOOL BOARD

The Blessed Sacrament School Board is an advisory board that meets once a month.

Current School Board members are:

* Fr. Duy Le, <i>Pastor</i>	* Mrs. Jackie Guenette, <i>PTG</i>
* Mrs. Susan Heavren, <i>Principal</i>	* Mrs. Judy Nadler
* Mr. Tom Cadigan	*Mrs. Lissa Picard
*Mr. Dakota Hebert	

N. PARENT/TEACHER GUILD (PTG)

The Blessed Sacrament Parent/Teacher Guild is an essential part of our school community. The PTG generally meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month after our School Board meeting in the Main Building or virtually. Present at the meetings are the PTG Officers, any interested parents/guardians, Principal, and teacher representatives.

The general purpose of this organization is to provide a channel of communication between parents, faculty, the Pastor, and the principal of Blessed Sacrament School, in order to promote the general well being of the students. This guild fosters a spirit of loyalty to the school, offers financial assistance with extracurricular/educational programs, provides social activities for the school community, and assists in financial support of the school through fundraising. The PTG has an obligation to contribute \$25,000 to the annual school budget. **Family participation in fundraising is critical** to meeting this goal while also enabling us to help fund special events.

Volunteerism is an essential part of the Blessed Sacrament Parish School Community. Active participation in school events and activities not only builds community, but strengthens our relationships and supports our school's mission, all of which are for the benefit of our students.

Beginning with this coming school year, all families are required to volunteer ten (10) hours of service during the parish's fiscal year, July 1-June 30. Families may opt to buy out five (5) of the ten (10) hours at the price of \$125.00. If choosing the buy-out option, payment of \$125.00 must be received by September 30th of the current school year. After the September 30th deadline, ten (10) volunteer hours will be required. For every volunteer hour not served by June 30th, the Volunteer Coordinator will notify the business manager and a surcharge of \$50/hour will be added to your final FACTS bill for the year.

PTG may be reached by email at: ptg@blessedsacramentholyoke.org. PTG Officers for the 2025-2026 school year are:

- President: Jackie Guenette
- Vice-President: Elizabeth Beaudry
- Secretary: Marybeth Stratton
- Treasurer: Danielle Betters
- Volunteer Coordinator: Adair Rivest

O. FUNDRAISING

Since tuition does not cover the entire cost of educating your child(ren), fundraising is necessary to maintain our budget while also providing funds for special projects and events. Blessed Sacrament Parish subsidizes a portion of this cost along with fundraising within the school. Our PTG is obligated to contribute to this bottom line as well, therefore making fundraising an integral part of our mission.

All families are expected to participate in our school fundraisers. Failure to participate in our fundraising efforts may increase the cost of tuition and prevent us from providing much needed support for special projects and events. *If any family is experiencing financial difficulties that make it impossible to participate in a fundraiser, or you have an issue with our fundraising, please contact the Principal for a confidential conversation.*

P. GIFTS

In an effort to prevent any family from being put in an uncomfortable situation, parents/guardians are asked to refrain from soliciting funds from other parents for group gifts for faculty/staff or school families.

Q. PETS/ANIMALS

Pets and animals are **NOT** allowed on school property from 7:00am to 5:30pm or at any school event, function, activity, or activities where we represent the Blessed Sacrament Community. Students are not allowed to bring pets and animals to school for projects or show and tell.

VI. Health and Safety

A. EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORTATION FORMS

Emergency and dismissal forms are included in the August mailing. **It is imperative that the original forms be legible and completed, both front and back, by August 15, 2025.** Emailed or faxed copies will not be accepted. We must have up to date information in order to reach parents/guardians. **Please notify the school office of any changes in address and/or phone number (home, cell, or work).** Also, please list trusted family/friends who can take responsibility for your child should a parent/guardian be unavailable. Should a student need to leave school due to illness, he/she must be picked up within a reasonable period of time. Please print neatly on these forms so as not to delay our ability to contact you.

B. Health

A part-time school nurse is available Monday-Friday from 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

First Aid (Immediate temporary care in case of accident or sudden illness)

- Staff members in all buildings and at ASEC/BSC are trained in CPR and first aid.
- After first aid treatment, parents are notified according to severity.
- If a student must be sent home, parents/guardians are notified and should pick up their child at the office.
- When parents/guardians cannot be reached, person(s) listed on the emergency forms will be called to pick up the student.
- In case of an emergency, 911 will be called and a staff member will accompany the student to the hospital while the parents/guardians are being notified.

Illness

If your child(ren) is sick or not feeling well, PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME for their own well-being and for the health and safety of our school population. There is no perfect attendance award, so please help us limit the spread of illness.

Students MUST be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. Students who are sent home during the school day with a fever will not be allowed to return to school the next day as this would not allow for the 24-hour protection of the entire school community. Students on antibiotics must take them for 24 hours before returning to school.

Special Health Conditions

If your child has a chronic health condition of any kind [e.g. asthma, diabetes, seizures, allergy (food, insects, medicine, environment, etc.)], you must notify the school office, homeroom teacher, and the nurse of the condition. A list of students with health problems is prepared annually and updated when necessary. This list is distributed to the staff to inform everyone of any special concern that would affect a child at school.

C. MEDICATION

Students who have a prescription for medication that must be taken during the school day must have an authorization form filled out by their physician. The medication must then be brought to school **by the parent/guardian**. Medications may be dispensed by the school nurse with written

authorization from a physician. **Medications cannot be dispensed by any other school personnel.** If the school nurse is not present, the parent/guardian or an authorized adult other than school personnel may come to school to administer the medication to the student.

Inhalers and epi-pens are kept in the main office for Grades 1-8 and at the ECC building for Preschool and Kindergarten. Students cannot have an inhaler or epi-pen on their person or in their backpacks. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide up-to-date inhalers and epi-pens, to replace them before expiration, and to inform the office of any change in medical status. **An additional inhaler and/or epi-pen MUST be provided for students attending ASEC/BSC.**

Over the counter (OTC) medication cannot be brought to school by any student and cannot be dispensed by school personnel other than the school nurse. A parent or authorized adult may come to the office and give medication to the student there. A parent/guardian may complete a permission slip to allow the school nurse to dispense Tylenol, Advil, Calamine lotion, and antibiotic ointment as needed to your child. **Students are not allowed to have cough drops or throat lozenges at school.**

Grades 1-8 may use lip balm for acute issues only. It must be kept in the student's backpack and **must never be shared**. Lip gloss and lipstick are not allowed. Preschool and Kindergarten students must leave their lip balm with the teacher in a baggie or envelope with their name on it.

D. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES & IMMUNIZATIONS

Please notify the school if your child has contracted a communicable disease. Students who are ill with a fever or sent home from school with a fever must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school.

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>MINIMUM ISOLATION PERIOD</u>
Strep Throat	24 hours after the start of antibiotics
Pediculosis (Lice)	Free from lice and nits (eggs) for 24 hours
Pink Eye	24 hours after the start of antibiotic drops or ointment
Scarlet Fever	7 days without drug treatment or 24 hours after drug treatment has begun with treatment continuing at least 10 days

IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS

Vaccination Requirements Per Massachusetts Law 105 CMR 220.000

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS</u>
PRESCHOOL	Hib: 1-4 doses (the number of doses is determined by individual vaccine product and the age at which series begins)

	DTaP: 4 doses Polio: 3 doses Hepatitis B: 3 doses* MMR: 1 dose, given on or after the 1st birthday* Varicella: 1 dose, given on or after the 1st birthday**
KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 6	DTaP: 5 doses Polio: 4 doses Hepatitis B: 3 doses* MMR: 2 doses* Varicella: 2 doses**
GRADES 7 AND UP	Tdap: 1 dose Polio: 4 doses Hepatitis B: 3 doses* MMR: 2 doses* Varicella: 2 doses** Meningococcal: 1 dose

*Laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable

**Previous history of chickenpox with verification and documentation from a healthcare provider, or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- A lead test, with date and results, must be on file for students entering preschool and/or kindergarten.
- New students in any grade and/or students entering grades K, 1, 4, and 7 must have a current physical on file.

E. INSURANCE

All students must be fully covered under accident insurance. If a student does not have accident insurance, the parent/guardian must provide coverage through a Diocesan sponsored plan. Please contact the school if you require this insurance. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school office if a change in insurance coverage/information occurs during the school year.

F. EMERGENCY CRISIS PLAN

In keeping with citywide plans and in accordance with Diocesan regulations, Blessed Sacrament School has developed an Emergency Crisis Plan. All doors are locked, and visitors **must** identify themselves to office personnel **before** entering the buildings. Volunteers/visitors must sign in and out at the office and wear a visitor's badge at all times. Faculty and staff members wear ID badges. The crisis plan has been formulated, implemented, and practiced by staff and students.

G. CIRCLE OF GRACE PROGRAM

Blessed Sacrament School participates in the Circle of Grace program for Grades K-8. The Circle of Grace program teaches children to identify, respond to, and report situations that might be harmful to them. This program is taught in our Religion classes.

The mission of this program is to help ensure the personal safety of children and youth through increased awareness, education, advocacy and action. The goal is to prevent all forms of child victimization by teaching our students how to recognize, interrupt and report inappropriate behaviors and situations.

VII. Dress Code & Uniform Guidelines

(Preschool 3 – Grade 8)

All uniform purchases must be made through Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger.

Students may wear optional items purchased through School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger and the Blessed Sacrament-Holyoke Sporting Goods (BS-HSG) online store are acceptable to wear in school. (Exception: Flannel lounge pants from BS-HSG)

Blessed Sacrament School requires that all students follow the uniform and dress code rules. If a student is not dressed appropriately, and/or not following the dress code guidelines, he/she may receive a dress code/uniform alert and an in-house detention. A parent/guardian may be called to bring appropriate clothes to school for the student in the event of an infraction to these guidelines. Families must adhere to the dates for summer/winter uniforms. **The Principal has the right to make the final determination as to what is appropriate in all situations regarding dress code and appearance.**

- No coats, non-uniform sweaters or sweatshirts worn in school.
- Uniform gray or green crewneck, hooded, and zip-up sweatshirts may be worn indoors with polo shirts worn underneath. Students MUST wear the uniform polo shirt under the sweatshirts.
- No hats worn indoors. When outside, hats must be worn with the brim facing forward.
- Polo shirts may be untucked but cannot go below pleat on skirt or where pocket meets seam on shorts or pants.
- Uniforms must fit appropriately. Pants should not be baggy; skirts and jumpers must touch the top of kneecap.
- Only plain white shirts and undergarments may be worn under uniform shirts.
- Long sleeve shirts cannot be worn under short sleeve school shirts.
- No symbols or wording on clothing and footwear that are inconsistent with our Catholic mission. Clothing and footwear must not have any design that goes against our Catholic and moral values.
- Outerwear may not display the names of bands, alcohol, tobacco or any design that goes against our Catholic and moral values.
- Belts must be solid brown or solid black with no designs or decorations.
- No boots in school for Preschool & Kindergarten at any time

**Grades 1-8 may wear boots with a modest heel (1/2"-1") on designated dress down days only.*

- No slippers or moccasin style shoes, including Ugg moccasins
- No Crocs or Croc-style shoes
- Pants must be worn on the hips and cannot show undergarments.
- No tattoos – permanent or temporary.

A. UNIFORM GUIDELINES

PRESCHOOL:

<u>BOYS:</u>	First Day of School – Oct. 15	Micromesh shorts w/ logo short sleeve t-shirt w/ logo
	October 16 - April 30	Sweatpants hem bottom w/ logo long or short sleeve t-shirt w/ logo
	May 1- End of school	Micromesh shorts w/ logo short sleeve t-shirt w/ logo
<u>GIRLS:</u>	First Day of School – Oct. 15	Short sleeve knit jumper w/ logo black bike shorts
	October 16 – April 30	Micromesh shorts w/ logo short sleeve t-shirt w/ logo
	May 1 - End of school	Long or short sleeve knit jumper w/logo, black leggings Sweatpants hem bottom w/ logo long or short sleeve t-shirt w/ logo Short sleeve knit jumper w/ logo black bike shorts Micromesh shorts w/ logo short sleeve t-shirt w/ logo

*Preschool girls DO NOT wear tights. Black bike shorts or leggings must be worn according to dates listed above and purchased at Blakes. (Leggings may be worn on cooler days past April 30 or before Oct. 15.)

*All Preschool students may wear the Blessed Sacrament logo crewneck sweatshirt over their tee shirt or knit jumper in school if they are cold.

*Preschool girls may also wear the crewneck cardigan sweater w/logo.

*All items listed above must be purchased through Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger.

*Students may wear optional items purchased through School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger and the BS-HSG online store. (Exception: Flannel lounge pants from BS-HSG)

*On Mass days, preschool students wear their usual daily uniform.

Sneakers: All preschool students must wear sneakers. Any sneakers, except slip-ons, those with noise, lights, or wheels may be worn. Rain boots and snow boots may be worn when necessary, but students must bring their sneakers with them or keep an extra pair at school to change into each day. Sneakers must be a matching identical pair. Slip-on sneakers are not allowed for safety reasons.

Socks: (Boys & Girls) **SOLID WHITE OR BLACK ANKLE SOCKS. (No-show socks are acceptable.)**

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 8

***Only our logo with the cross is acceptable.**

***Blake's School Uniform Co. or Tommy Hilfiger pants/shorts and only Blake's gym uniform are acceptable.**

***Optional items from School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger and BS-HSG online school store is acceptable.**

Gym uniforms may be worn if your child has Physical Education class on church/Mass days unless it is a special liturgy day, including Holy Days of Obligation. Preschool students wear their daily school uniform on church/Mass days.

Boys (K-8)

- Khaki uniform pants purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger
- Green polo shirt with school logo
- Dark green sweater only with white turtleneck and pants (v-neck, crewneck, sweater vest) turtleneck may not be worn alone
- Dark green "letterman" two-pocket sweater, 5-8
- Dark green fleece vest with school logo, K-8 (with white turtleneck and pants only)
- Optional items from School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger and BS-HSG

****Only plain white shirts and undergarments may be worn under uniform shirts.****

Sneakers: Any sneakers except those with noise, lights or wheels may be worn. Sneakers must be a matching identical pair. Slip-on sneakers are not allowed in Gr. K for safety reasons.

Shoes: Kindergarten **MUST** have a strap on their shoes or have shoes that tie, hook and loop, or buckle to keep foot in shoe. Slip-on shoes are not allowed for Gr. K for safety reasons. Shoes must be flat with no heel.

Socks: **SOLID WHITE OR BLACK ANKLE SOCKS. (No-show socks are acceptable.)**

Girls (K-8)

- Blake's School Uniform Company plaid uniform jumper (Gr. K-4) (must touch the top of kneecap) with white blouse (purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger)
- Plaid uniform kilt or pleated skirt (Gr. 5-8) (must touch the top of kneecap) with gray polo shirt with school logo
- Black bike shorts (suggested and an acceptable part of dress uniform for girls K-8 purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger...bike shorts can be worn under skirts all year)
- Crewneck cardigan button-down (Preschool-8), V-neck "letterman" two-pocket sweater (5-8 only)
- Dark green fleece vest, sweater vest, crewneck pullover, v-neck pullover with school logo K-4 (with white turtleneck and pants only)

****Only plain white shirts and undergarments may be worn under uniform shirts.****

Socks may not be worn over leggings.

Sneakers: Any sneakers except those with noise, lights or wheels may be worn. Sneakers must be a matching identical pair. Slip-on sneakers are not allowed in Gr. K for safety reasons.

Socks: Dark green or gray knee socks; **SOLID WHITE OR BLACK ANKLE SOCKS. (No-show socks are acceptable.)** Black, gray, or dark green tights purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company may be worn.

Shoes: Kindergarten **MUST** have a strap on their shoes or have shoes that tie, hook and loop, or buckle to keep foot in shoe. Slip-on shoes are not allowed for Gr. K for safety reasons. Shoes must be flat with no heel.

Gr. 5-8 girls may not have a heel more than 1/2 inch on their shoes.

Winter Option (Girls K-8): November 15 through April 1 (Girls **MUST** wear their full dress uniform from Oct. 16 until Nov. 14 and then have the Winter Option)

- Khaki uniform pants purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger (K-8)
- Long sleeve gray polo with school logo (K-4) (worn with pants)
- Long sleeve gray polo with school logo (5-8)
- White turtleneck under green sweater options or with vest. Turtleneck may not be worn alone or with jumper. (K-4)

*Leggings may be worn under skirt/jumper Oct. 15th through April 30th (worn all day) for Grades K-8. Leggings must be purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger. Leggings are acceptable as part of the full dress uniform. (Leggings may be worn on cooler days past April 30th and before Oct. 15th. Socks may not be worn over leggings.)

Summer Options (Boys and Girls K-8): These items can be worn in addition to the regular uniform from the **First day of school through October 15 and May 1 through the last day of school** (Girls **MUST** wear their full dress uniform from April 1 until April 30 and then have the Summer Option)

- Khaki uniform shorts (no more than 2 inches above knee) purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company or School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger
- Green (boys) or gray (girls) polo with school logo (Girls K-4, worn with khaki shorts)
- Green gym shorts on P.E. days
- Solid white or black ankle socks with no brand logos (**No-show socks are acceptable**)

Physical Education Classes (K-8) All K-8 students must wear the official gym clothing on P.E. days. Students not dressed in their gym clothing on P.E. days will be marked down which may affect their grade for Physical Education. Gym clothing must be purchased from Blake's School Uniform Company. Green logo t-shirts purchased from School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger or the BS-HSG online store is an acceptable option.

P.E. Uniform (boys and girls)

- Gray t-shirt with school logo (long or short sleeve)
- Gray sweatshirt (crew or hoodie) with school logo (P.E. uniform t-shirt must be worn under sweatshirt)
- Green sweatpants – (K-4 with logo) (5-8 with Blessed Sacrament down the side)
- Green shorts with logo-must be an appropriate length (not more than 2 inches above knee) **Gym shorts can only be worn from the first day of school through October 15 and May 1 through the last day of school.**
- Solid white or black ankle socks with no brand logos (**No-show socks are acceptable**)

P.E. Uniforms must be clean and fit appropriately. Torn P.E. sweatpants must be replaced and cannot be worn.

***Preschool students wear their regular uniforms on Phys. Ed. days.**

B. HAIR/JEWELRY

Hair styles are to be modest. Bangs must be cut no longer than the bottom of the eyebrows. Hair must be away from the face and not falling into their eyes. **Boys' hair must not be longer than the top of their collar and out of their eyes.** Girls' hair must be fashioned so it is out of their eyes. **Neither girls nor boys may have their hair chemically colored or treated.** Mohawks, stenciling/designs, hair beading, feathers, and other hair decorations are not allowed. **Haircuts that are extreme in style are not allowed. The Principal has final discretion to what is appropriate.**

- Boys may not have facial hair. Sideburns cannot go below the middle of the ear.
- Boys may not wear earrings to school or to school events. Girls may wear only stud earrings unless approved by the Principal. Jewelry should not impede ability to write or be a distraction. Jewelry must not be excessive.

Hair clips, headbands, barrettes, and hair ties must be one single solid color or matching plaid of school uniform. They must be plain with no decorations or embellishments. **Uniform alerts will be sent when a violation occurs for ALL STUDENTS PREK3 -GRADE 8.**

C. MAKEUP/ACCESSORIES

Students in grades preschool through Grade 6 are not allowed to wear makeup of any kind. Girls in Grades 7 and 8 may wear a **very modest** amount of **natural looking** makeup. Eye liner or dark colored makeup of any kind is not allowed. **Artificial and/or long nails are not allowed.** Boys may not wear colored nail polish or makeup of any kind. Only clear contact lenses are allowed at school. **The Principal has final discretion to what is appropriate.** These guidelines are for all school and school sponsored events.

D. FIELD TRIP ATTIRE

Attire for a field trip will be based on the trip's location and activities. **Not all field trips are dress down days.** If a field trip requires students to dress down for the day, all Student/Parent Handbook dress down rules apply. Families will be notified in advance as to the dress code for field trips.

E. SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

Appropriate dress is expected at all school functions regardless of time or place. This includes school dances and/or school sponsored dances. When in doubt of what is appropriate, please check with teachers or the Principal.

F. LOST AND FOUND

Please label all clothing so that it can be reunited with its owner. Lost clothing and other items will be kept for a reasonable time. If the lost clothing is not claimed in a reasonable time, it will be donated to charity.

G. DRESS DOWN/UP DAYS AND DRESS DOWN AGREEMENT

All students/families must read this dress down agreement, and *sign and return the signature page at the end of this handbook by the first day of school on August 27, 2025* to be able to participate in dress down days (including birthday dress down, paid dress down, special events, and field trips, etc.)

It is important that all students adhere to the proper dress code for dress down days. When students do not follow appropriate dress code on dress down days, it becomes a problem that cuts into our educational time to deal with such issues. If we find that students are not adhering to the dress code on dress down days, we will discontinue dress down days which would include birthday dress down.

Shorts may not be worn after Oct. 15th or before May 1st

Clothing NOT permitted:

- No spandex shorts (uniform bike shorts are worn under skirt/jumper only)
- No short shorts or miniskirts (no more than 2" above the top of the knee)
- No leggings with short tops. Must wear a top that covers to mid-thigh.
- No pajamas or lounge pants
- No halter, spaghetti or strapless tops
- No bare midriff, crop tops, or low cut tops
- No see-through or revealing clothing
- No profanity, drug, alcohol or tobacco ads, or band names on clothing
- No torn or cut clothes or clothes with holes including jeans.
- No baggy or tight clothes
- No sandals, flip-flops, crocs, or croc-like material shoes
- No slip-on sneakers or shoes for Preschool and Kindergarten students
- No boots in school for Preschool and Kindergarten at any time
 - *Grades 1-8 may wear boots with a modest heel (1/2"-1") on designated dress down days only.*
- No slippers or moccasin style shoes including, Ugg moccasins, at any time

Dress down may not take place on a day when we are attending Mass or having special visitors, or assemblies. This includes birthday dress down days. Please check with your teacher BEFORE dressing down.

Students, who do not follow the guidelines on dress down/up days, will not be able to participate in the next dress down/up day.

When a donation is required for a dress down day, any student who does not bring in their charity donation on or before the dress down day will not be able to participate in the next dress down day. Parents are not allowed to bring in a change of clothes if a student forgets that it is a dress down day; this includes Preschool and Kindergarten. **Students must be responsible for bringing in the donation and are encouraged to earn the donation.**

PLEASE REFER TO PAGES 36-37 OF THIS HANDBOOK FOR ALL DRESS DOWN DAY RULES AND PROPER ATTIRE.

We are grateful to those of you that take our dress codes seriously and appreciate being able to have dress down days! However, if we find that our educational time is taken up with dealing with dress down dress code issues, we will have no choice but to discontinue dress down days.

DRESS DOWN AGREEMENT

By signing the last page of this handbook, I understand the dress code requirements for my child to participate in dress down days. If my child is NOT appropriately dressed for a dress down day, my child may receive a detention for not adhering to the dress down dress code, and/or not be allowed to participate in the next dress down day.

Students WILL NOT be able to participate in any dress down days if the signature page is not signed and returned.

VIII. Discipline

A. CONDUCT

Students should always be respectful and act like Christians. Students should exhibit seriousness of purpose at school, on the bus, and at all school sponsored activities and events.

Expected Student Conduct

1. Be courteous, respectful and cooperative to faculty, staff, administrators, and fellow students
2. Abide by the rules of the school and avoid disrupting behavior
3. Respect the rights and property of others
4. Use appropriate language
5. Abstain from fighting/aggressive behavior
6. Be respectful of school property and refrain from chewing gum on school property, on the bus, and on field trips
7. Avoid use or possession of unsafe/illegal and forbidden items such as weapons, drugs, and alcohol. Possession of any of these items will involve suspension and possible expulsion, as well as notification to the authorities

Failure to meet the general conduct expectations of Blessed Sacrament School, as well as any disrespect shown towards a teacher, staff, administrator or Pastor including, but not limited to the above listed behaviors, will result in in-house detention, suspension or expulsion.

B. IN-HOUSE DETENTION

In-house detention slips must be taken home, signed by parent/guardian and returned to the issuing teacher on the next school day. Signing a detention form simply signifies that the parent/guardian is aware of the in-house detention being given. In-house detentions are served the day following the issuing of the detention slip. Students in Grades 1-2 will lose recess and students in Grades 3-8 will serve in-house detention during a “Special.” In-house detentions will be served outside the Principal’s office. Students serving in-house detention are **NOT** allowed to work on homework.

If a student is ill and absent on the day of his/her assigned in-house detention, the in-house detention will be reassigned.

Four (4) in-house detentions (regardless of infraction) in a school year will make a student ineligible for one of more events/activities. This may include but is not limited to field trips, dances, Carnival Day, or other events/activities deemed appropriate by the Principal.

C. FIGHTING

Preschool and Kindergarten - No fighting will be tolerated anywhere on school property. At the first serious offense, the matter will be referred to the Principal.

Grades 1-8 - The first time a student is involved in a fight, as well as any subsequent time, the student will be suspended for a minimum of the duration of the current day and the next day of school. He/she will be responsible for calling his/her parents, who must then come to school and take the child home immediately.

Students who are suspended will receive a zero (0) for class work, homework, tests, and quizzes on the days they are suspended.

D. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Unfortunately, cases arise that are not conducive to an atmosphere of learning, growth and development of Christian values. Consequently, suspensions are called for. Suspension is the temporary prohibition of a student’s attendance at school. The Diocesan Schools Office in Springfield must be notified of more than a one-day suspension. In some cases, depending upon the circumstances, a representative from the Diocesan Schools Office will meet with the student involved, parent/guardian, teachers and Principal. According to the seriousness of the offense, probation or other disciplinary action could result.

Students who are suspended from school or are unable to display proper behavior in school will not be able to attend school functions/events/activities for a given period of time. Parent/guardian, student and Principal will meet to discuss the length of time for loss of privileges. **Students who are suspended will receive a zero (0) for class work, homework, tests, and quizzes on the days they are suspended.**

When all other corrective measures have failed, expulsion from school will be considered. Expulsion is the permanent termination of a student's enrollment from Blessed Sacrament School. The parent/guardian will be made aware of the procedures under the guidelines of the Diocesan Office. These procedures will always be followed if expulsion is considered. Full accounts will be given of this serious situation to the Pupil Services Department of the Diocesan Office. **There is no tuition refund for suspensions or expulsions.**

E. PARENT/GUARDIAN BEHAVIOR

It is expected that parents/guardians and teachers work together by encouraging and supporting school programs, policies and personnel. Christian courtesy and respect are to be given to all school employees, at all times. The Principal may recommend transfer of a student when parents/guardians manifest any behaviors, including but not limited to:

- Behavior towards school personnel that is not respectful or is viewed as intimidating or threatening
- Non-cooperative or insufficiently cooperative regarding a reasonable request by the Principal in matters concerning the student
- Persistently and/or overtly uncooperative with school staff, policies, regulations, or programs
- Have interfered in matters of school administration or discipline to the detriment of the school's ability to serve their own or other children
- Have represented themselves to the school in a manner that contradicts Catholic principles
- Have not satisfied the requirements of their financial obligations with the school

In the event that any of these behaviors becomes a problem, the Principal may recommend the student be transferred to another school on the grounds of unacceptable parental/guardian behavior. If at any time any behaviors instill in any employee a lack of personal safety or jeopardizes the safety of any employee or student, local authorities will be called.

F. HARASSMENT

Any type of harassment (verbal, physical, sexual, or emotional), in any form, will not be tolerated. Harassment can be defined as aggression in which one child, or a group of children, engages in unprovoked and repeated physical, verbal, social, or emotional harm against another. Harassment differs from other forms of conflict in that the aggressors seek to gain power over their victims.

Harassment is an intentional behavior intended to disturb, upset, or threaten. It is a continuum of behaviors that ranges from name-calling to assault. There are two main types of harassing behavior: (1) Physical harassment includes such tactics as tripping, kicking, stealing, and shoving; (2) Emotional/social harassment includes gossiping, name-calling, publicly humiliating the victim, or convincing others to reject or isolate the victim. Students involved in any of these types of incidents (**seriously or in jest or online**) face in-house detention, suspension, and/or other disciplinary action.

Engagement in online blogs and/or social media sites such as, but not limited to, Facebook®, Twitter®, Snapchat®, Instagram®, etc., may result in disciplinary actions if the content of the student's blog includes defamatory comments regarding the School, Faculty, Students, Administration, Pastor, or Parish, or if the matter is discussed during school.

The Principal will investigate all complaints of harassment. The Police and the Diocesan Superintendent's office will be notified as necessary or immediately if a threat of harm is made against any individual or establishment whether seriously or in jest.

BULLYING

Bullying is a serious allegation, and the words "Bully" and "Bullying" should never be used lightly. **Teasing and occasional mean or cruel behavior between students is not bullying.** When an act or acts of harassment become repeated (three or more times repeated by the same person) they may be considered bullying.

The following is a guideline to aid in understanding when an act is considered "bullying" as defined by Massachusetts State Law. Also included are parent and school responsibilities when bullying is suspected.

All suspected acts of bullying are investigated by the Principal. The police and the Diocesan Superintendent's Office will be notified if necessary.

IS THIS BULLYING?

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

For a behavior to be deemed "bullying," it needs to include **ALL** of the following elements (defined by Massachusetts State Law):

- Must be **repeated** (three or more) actions by one or more Aggressors
- Must be a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof
- Must be directed at a Target so that it causes one or more of the following:
 - Physical or emotional harm to the Target;
 - Damage to the Target's property;
 - Places the Target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself or of damage to his/her property;
 - Creates a hostile environment at school for the Target;
 - Infringes on the rights of the Target at school, **OR**
 - Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

❖ **One-time incidents** may be deliberately mean or cruel, but they **ARE NOT** bullying. Still, one-time incidents may be subject to school discipline as per the school's policy.

Parental Bullying Information Sheet

When Should You Contact the School?

You should contact the school to inform them of a situation when:

The Situation	Your Role	What the School Can Do	What the School Cannot Do
Your child is afraid to see another child at school, or generally afraid to go to school because of any incident	Get as many specific details as possible about why this is occurring	They can create a Safety Plan for your child.	They cannot discuss with you any discussions or actions taken with other children, including the child your child is afraid of.
Your child reports to you an incident that occurred at school.	Be sure to get very specific information from your child about the incident.	They can take steps to ensure the safety of the children involved.	They cannot discuss with you the steps they take that involve any other child.
Your child reports to you that they've heard a rumor about a future incident that may occur at school.	Get as many specific details as possible.	Investigate the plausibility of the future incident and take appropriate actions	They cannot discuss with you their discussions with other children.
Your child reports to you that another child is being bullied at school.	Get as many specific details as possible.	Investigate the situation	Report back to you any outcome of the investigation.
You hear about a school bullying incident from any other credible source (e.g., from other children, or reading about it on your child's Facebook page, etc.)	Get as many specific details as possible.	Investigate the situation	Report back to you any outcome of the investigation, except for your child's part, if any.
If you have a serious disagreement about a disciplinary action taken by the school	If this is the case, begin by pursuing a private conversation with the school administration. Challenging the school's authority publicly to make such decisions will only, in the long run, lead to more disciplinary problems among children who will perceive that the adult community does not respect the school administration.		Educators are bound by policy. They may not be able to change an action if doing so violates the policy set by the Diocese.

If you wish to review the law, it may be accessed through:

*Law Enforcement Dimensions – www.ledimensions.com This is the clearest and easiest to read.

*www.mass.gov The actual bill is listed as Senate #2313

*Additional information concerning bullying and cyber bullying can be obtained through: Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College “MARC” www.bridgew.edu/marc

Bullying Incident Reporting Process



REPORT from
Target/Other Student, Bystander/Witness, Staff
Parent/Guardian, Community Member/Agency, Anonymous*

Blessed Sacrament School

21 Westfield Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-536-2236

Principal: Mrs. Susan Heavren

Principal's email:
heavrens@blessedsacramentholyoke.org

Please see school website for more
information
www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org

Administrator or Designee

Is student injured, requiring immediate medical attention?

NO

YES

Medical Treatment

CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Interview student
Interview witnesses
Interview accused
Review Video (if applicable)
Review documents

Notify
Parents/Guardian

Documentation

Determination of incident
as other than bullying.

NO

YES

Notify parents/guardians
of target and of
aggressor

Counseling/Referral
(if recommended)

Pastor (if applicable),
Diocesan Superintendent's
Office

- Severe [I] or repeated behavior that has the effect of:
property? or
- Hostile environment at school for victim? or
- Infringement on student's rights at school? or
- Material/substantial disruption of
education/operation of the school?

Refer to
Code of Conduct

NO

YES

Is the behavior criminal?

YES

[I] = Is the incident significantly offensive from a
reasonable person standard?

*Reports do not lead to disciplinary action based solely on
an anonymous report; documentation is made only after
an investigation if the only complaint is made anonymously.

Follow up with all involved students

Notify authorities (Police Department)

G. SCHOOL AND THE LAW

Any unlawful act taking place on school grounds, busses or at school events not only makes a student subject to federal, state, and/or local laws, but may also result in dismissal from school. Students are warned against the possession of a weapon (i.e. knife, etc.) or any type of item which could be dangerous or injurious to students, staff, or property. Vandalism, theft, or the possession, sale or purchasing of drugs, alcohol and of illegal substances will not be tolerated.

Violation of any of the above laws will result in immediate suspension (in most cases a minimum of three (3) days) from Blessed Sacrament School and possible prosecution by the courts.

Search Policy

The Principal, in the exercise of the school's duty to enforce school discipline and protect the health and safety of the student body, has the right and duty to inspect and search school property and a student's possessions if there is a high degree of suspicion that drugs, weapons, other dangerous, illegal or prohibited items or stolen goods are likely to be found.

Ordinarily, inspection of personal property, (pockets, pocketbooks, backpacks, etc.) is conducted with the student's knowledge, unless there is a compelling reason to believe that to delay the search would endanger the health and well-being of the student, other students, or school staff.

When applicable, a witness may accompany the Principal or other school officials during a search of school property, and be present when it is necessary to search a student's property.

H. DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SMOKING

Blessed Sacrament School is a SMOKE-FREE, DRUG-FREE, ALCOHOL-FREE environment. Drugs, alcoholic beverages, and smoking within the school, on the school bus, on school grounds, or at any school event or activities including field trips and off sight events are forbidden. Violators will be suspended from school until a conference with parents is held. Adults must also abide by the above-mentioned regulations.

I. WEAPONS

Students are warned against the possession of weapons (knives, etc.) or any type of item which could be dangerous or injurious to students, staff, or property. Representation of weapons, such as drawings, gestures, etc., are not allowed. Violation will result in immediate suspension from Blessed Sacrament School and possible prosecution by the courts.

J. VANDALISM/THEFT

Vandalism and theft/stealing will not be tolerated. A conference with student, parent, and Principal will be required as will the repair or replacement of the defaced or stolen item. Removal, concealing or taking of any item not belonging to an individual is considered theft/stealing. Suspension may also occur as well as possible prosecution by the courts.

K. GUM CHEWING

Gum chewing is not permitted anywhere in the school, on school property before, during, or after school, at the ASEC/BSC program, on the bus, or on field trips. In-house detention may be issued for gum chewing.

L. YARD RULES

1. Students are expected to remain on school property.
2. Students are expected to be courteous and polite to teachers, staff, members of the community, volunteers, and fellow students.
3. Students must answer all bells/whistles promptly.
4. For reasons of personal safety and to prevent damage to the school, small balls, hard balls, Frisbees, and skateboards, etc., are not allowed.
5. Snowball throwing, kicking, or playing on snow/ice is absolutely forbidden before, during, and after school (including the ASEC/BSC programs).
6. Students should not bring any balls, toys, or games to school for recess time. Students may use only the school's recess equipment.

A student is a Blessed Sacrament School student at all times. A student who engages in conduct, whether inside or outside the school, that is detrimental to the reputation of the school, may be disciplined by school officials.

In the absence of the Principal, designated staff members will assume the responsibility of Acting Administrators.

IX. Technology Agreement

All students/families must read this Technology Agreement and sign & return the signature page at the end of this handbook by August 27, 2025.

Internet and computer access through Blessed Sacrament School is a **PRIVILEGE** offered to enhance your learning. It is not a right. Therefore, student access may be limited or revoked by school officials if this privilege is abused or violates acceptable use. Students engaged in unacceptable use of the internet and technology devices will also be subject to disciplinary action.

All student use of technology devices and the internet is to be conducted under faculty supervision. Nevertheless, students are responsible for acceptable use of a computer network. The computer network is provided for students to conduct educational research and support educational endeavors.

Blessed Sacrament School believes that the benefits to students from access to information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed any potential for abuse. Blessed Sacrament School maintains tools that are meant to block access to inappropriate sites. Ultimately, however, parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using technology devices and the internet.

Student Access

All students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will take part in an annual grade-level appropriate discussion of Blessed Sacrament School policies and regulations with their teachers before being authorized to use our technology devices and the internet. Students are never allowed on Social Media Networks such as but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc.

Access to Student Files

Students should have no expectation of privacy in the use of technology devices and the Internet. Pursuant to local, state, and federal laws, administrators and staff may provide access to student files and records to law enforcement authorities. All files will be subject to the Blessed Sacrament School policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

Personal Safety

Blessed Sacrament School in its commitment to promote a safe and secure learning environment, has filtering software that is designed to filter inappropriate sites. However, the filtering software cannot ensure that all inappropriate sites and images are blocked.

Students are expected to adhere to the Blessed Sacrament School policies and regulations. Any deliberate destruction, modification, and tampering of technology equipment will be subject to disciplinary action and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. Any activity which inhibits or interferes with the normal operation of the hardware and software which comprise the Blessed Sacrament Schools' computer network system is also subject to disciplinary action.

Acceptable Uses

1. Abiding by generally accepted rules of network etiquette including but not limited to; being polite, using appropriate language, respecting the privacy of other's work, and demonstrating courtesy toward others
2. Documenting and obeying the copyright laws
3. Reporting misuse of technology to appropriate school authorities
4. Using technology resources to ensure fair access to all students
5. Using computing and communications facilities in a manner consistent with local, state, and federal laws and policies
6. Notifying your teacher immediately if there is a problem with your technology device, or if anything inappropriate appears on technology devices

Unacceptable Uses

1. Providing private or personal information about yourself or others
2. Viewing or sending obscene or offensive material
3. Accessing another person's file or account, or opening another person's file without permission
4. Giving out your password to other students
5. Moving or unplugging other devices
6. Eating or drinking near or around the technology equipment
7. Violating the Blessed Sacrament School policies and regulations, engaging in racial or other forms of discrimination, including sexual harassment, hazing, plagiarism, cheating, or interfering with the rights of reproduction or transmission of material that is protected
8. Tampering with or accessing another person's flash drive

9. Accessing any social media sites, email accounts, or inappropriate material

Blessed Sacrament School makes every effort to ensure that inappropriate content is blocked on our school technology devices, but on rare instances, even our filters may not screen all items.

Students are expected to use best judgment at all times. Should a student come across inappropriate content, they are to alert the instructor immediately so the site may be blocked. Students should never share inappropriate information/materials with other students.

CHROMEBOOKS: Blessed Sacrament School has issued Chromebooks to all students in grade K-8. All computer policies contained in our Student/Parent Handbook apply to the Chromebooks as well. In addition, families are responsible for the care and use of the Chromebooks when taken off the premises. By signing the Technology Agreement page in the Student/Parent Handbook, parents/guardians agree to the replacement or cost of the Chromebook if lost or damaged beyond our warranty policy.

By signing the last page of this handbook, and as the parent/guardian, I (we) have read, discussed, and understand the Blessed Sacrament School Policy on this Technology Agreement and we agree to abide by it. I grant permission for my child to access the network computer services and the internet. I understand that individuals and families may be held liable for violations of this Technology Agreement. I understand and agree that should my child(ren) fail to follow the rules as written, their privileges to use all technology may be taken away and I shall be jointly responsible for all repair and/or service cost incurred as a result of their intentional violation of this Technology Agreement. I also understand that some materials on the internet may be objectionable, but I accept responsibility for guidance of internet use, settings and conveying standards for my child(ren) to follow when selection, sharing or exploring information and media.

X. Library Agreement

All students/families must read this Library Agreement and sign & return the signature page at the end of this handbook by August 27, 2025.

Student: Please read with your parent/guardian.

1. First and Second Graders may borrow one book at a time from the library. Third and Fourth Graders may borrow two books at one time.
2. The class visits the library once a week. The student is responsible for returning the books they borrowed.
3. The due date can usually be found in/on the back cover of the book.
4. If the book is not returned within a few weeks, an overdue notice will be issued to the student through the library teacher.
5. The student will not be allowed to borrow any more books until the overdue books are returned.
6. Lost books should be paid for (replacement fee) or replaced with a new copy of the book

Parent/Guardian:

We recommend that:

- You develop a routine with your student to help them remember Library Day and bring their library books to school.
- The student makes a special place to keep their library books at home (i.e., a basket by the bed).

If a book is significantly overdue or lost:

- Student check-out privileges will be temporarily suspended.
- The student should look in their backpack, in the classroom, in the car, and at home for overdue books.
- Notices about overdue items will be issued to the student through the library teacher.

If a book is not returned after an overdue notice has been sent home, we will presume the book is lost. At this point we will send a replacement notice home to the parent/guardian.

Options:

- Find the item quickly.
- Pay the replacement fee.
- Purchase a new replacement copy of the book for the library.

The cost of the book will be found on the replacement notice and can be paid in either cash or check. **Checks should be made payable to Blessed Sacrament School. The fee or book should be given to the librarian.**



STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

The Principal retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause. Updates will be documented on the school website when made.

Please return this signed page to school by August 27, 2025.

Must be signed by all students in Preschool 3 – Grade 8

We have read this handbook and discussed its contents with my child/children. By signing below, we convey our understanding of its contents and our support of Blessed Sacrament School.

We agree to follow all the policies and guidelines of the Student /Parent handbook including the following pages and their content:

- ◆ Dress Down Agreement
- ◆ Technology Agreement
- ◆ Library Agreement

First Child's Own Signature

Grade 2025-2026

Second Child's Own Signature

Grade 2025-2026

Third Child's Own Signature

Grade 2025-2026

Fourth Child's Own Signature

Grade 2025-2026

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____