

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Mission and Philosophy	2
Admissions	3
Collaboration: Family-Academy regarding Student Formation	5
Academic Schedule	9
Attendance Policy	12
Meal Policy	15
Health Policy	15
Grade School Curriculum	17
High School Curriculum	19
Grading and Academic Discipline	22
Honor Roll	25
Homework Policy	26
Uniform Policy	29
Uniform Supplier Information	31
General School Rules and Guidelines	35
Disciplinary Policy	40
Extra-Curricular Activities and Eligibility	44
Field Trips	44
Appointments and Contact with School Personnel	45
Visitor Policy	45
Emergency Procedures and School Closings	46
Tuition, Fundraising and Financial Aid	47
Withdrawal, Transfer and Readmission	49

Campus Locations

Tracy Campus

(K-12 Girls and K-6 Boys)

2727 Tracy Avenue

Kansas City, MO 64109

816-601-1414

Flora Campus

(7-12 Boys)

3104 Flora Avenue

Kansas City, MO 64109

816-923-6411

Administration

Prior

Father Michael Goldade

Principal

Father James Trummer

Vice Principals

Father Scott Graves (Flora Campus)

Mrs. Christie King (Tracy Campus)

Secretaries

Mrs. Elizabeth Townshend (Flora Campus)

Mrs. Josette Wohletz (Tracy Campus)

Introduction

St. Vincent de Paul Academy, a private Catholic school for grades K through 12 and a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, operates under the guidelines of the United States District of the Society of St. Pius X. This handbook is provided as a reference to school parents and students regarding school policy. St. Vincent de Paul Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration and hiring of personnel, admissions, or any other school administered programs.

Mission and Philosophy

St. Vincent de Paul Academy provides children with a thorough Catholic education founded upon traditional principles. The school strives ultimately to form good Catholic citizens, men and women willing and able to work for the restoration of all things in Christ, freely submitting to the reign of Our Lord in the spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical realms.

The Catholic school exists to cultivate a soil in which the Faith and the love of God might grow. The teachers at St. Vincent de Paul Academy serve this end by helping form in the child lasting qualities of the mind and heart through exposure to the true, the good and the beautiful across the entire curriculum. In the study of literature and the humanities, they reveal to the child the nobility of the human soul, which is ever thirsting for the absolute, and all their effort as teachers is to awaken this same thirst in the child's own soul. Throughout the various disciplines, they draw the child to rectify and strengthen his natural faculties in harmony with his created good so that he might have the desire and the strength to embrace, freely and with confidence, the supreme Good, God Himself.

Learning is a profoundly human process, one best accomplished through patient, qualitative drawing out, rather than a mechanistic, quantitative filling up. Although the school will strive continuously to provide teachers and students with the best possible tools and resources in terms of texts and an integrated curriculum, it will be the obvious love which the teacher has for the subject matter, his mastery of it, and his talent in communicating that knowledge and love, which will spark a fire in the children, fostering in them a lifelong love of learning.

Admissions

The admission application is available on-line at the St. Vincent's website at www.stvincentkc.org under the Academy tab. Kindergarten applicants must be 5 years old by June 1 of the summer preceding enrollment.

School personnel will review academic, testing and behavioral records from previous schools, and will administer entrance exams, if necessary, to prospective students before initial grade placement.

Parents must notify the school of any learning, emotional or behavioral handicaps prior to admission. The Academy reserves the right to deny admission due to limited special education facilities and resources. Religion is integral to the education offered at St. Vincent de Paul Academy. All students must submit to the entire curriculum as offered; they must attend all religion classes, conform to all school policies and participate in all scheduled activities.

As a matter of policy, new students automatically remain on academic probation for at least a semester.

New Students

The school considers any child not enrolled in the school during the previous semester as a new student for enrollment purposes. All new students will be placed in the grade for which they are aged appropriate. If the student's grade needs to be adjusted, after a certain period of assessment of the teacher, the administration, the teacher and the parents will meet and the necessary action will be taken. The following are required for new student enrollment:

- A letter of recommendation from student's pastor or from the most current classroom teacher
- Academic placement test
- All academic, standardized tests, and behavioral records
- Completed registration forms
- Registration and book fees paid, along with the first month's tuition
- Physical examination, including hearing and vision screening, with physician documentation

- Official birth certificate (copy)
- Baptismal and sacramental certificates from non-parish families (copies)
- Official custodial documents, when applicable (notarized copies)
- Updated/completed immunization record or signed conscientious objection card, as mandated by state law
- Meeting with the principal

Returning students

The following are required for returning student enrollment:

- Demonstration of adequate academic and disciplinary performance to warrant continuation
- All registration forms completed online by the deadline
- Current in fee and tuition payments
- Registration and book fees paid, along with the first month's tuition
- Updated/completed immunization record or signed conscientious objection card, as mandated by state law
- Custodial/legal documents provided and up-to-date (as applicable) (notarized copies)
- Meeting with the principal (as applicable)

Collaboration between the Family and the Academy

In the effort to provide a true Catholic formation, St. Vincent de Paul Academy needs the cooperation of the parents of its students. The Academy strives to implement the laws of God and the discipline of the Church, imperative for the students' sanctification, as well as for their proper intellectual development. Without parental reinforcement (initially entrusting the school with educable children, and supporting school policy and procedures throughout the educational process) the school can accomplish little of lasting impact. With this in mind, the school urges parents to observe the following:

Communication

Parents must provide any information (concerning health, behavioral idiosyncrasies or difficulties, spiritual and intellectual strengths or weaknesses, physical deficiencies, etc.) that could be helpful or necessary in the proper formation of the child in an open and timely manner. Withholding necessary information not only impedes the efforts of teachers and administrators but indicates a potentially damaging mistrust. In order to maintain the vital cooperation between family and school in the work of education, all communication (written, email or verbal) between parents and school personnel is expected to be conducted in a civil manner. Use of threatening or intimidating language constitutes a direct attack on this unity among educators and so is grounds for immediate student dismissal, or, in less severe cases, may be used as a factor in determining family eligibility for re-enrollment.

Spiritual and Moral Formation

The primary role parents fulfill as educators of their children most specifically relates to the formation of good intellectual and religious habits and attitudes, and the development of a genuine love for learning and the Faith. It is imperative, therefore, that parents provide a balanced and joyful home life, in which the child may receive his first experience of the nourishing authority and protective affection of his heavenly Father. The home environment should foster a respectful and affectionate docility in the child, based on his confidence in the love and wisdom of his parents. This docility is absolutely vital for his education and for his healthy development as a human being and a child of God.

Regulation of Electronic Media

Television, electronic games, and recreational use of the internet not only impede the intellectual and spiritual progress of the student, but are also severe moral risks. By their nature, they work directly against the goal of education, which is to draw the

child into reality. Parents are urged to minimize exposure to these media in the home to the greatest extent possible. Movies should be thoroughly screened for content and spirit, and should be forbidden on school nights. Academy students should not have access to channel television as it is detrimental to education and morals and allows no parental foresight or real supervision. The Academy forbids the creation, hosting, or maintenance of personal websites and participation in on-line social-networking among her students. Further, all infractions listed in the Handbook apply to both physical and electronic/cyber environments; students will incur the same punishment for lying online, for example, as in the classroom.

Spiritual Formation

As part of their regular schedule, students will assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 11:00 a.m. Monday and Thursday mornings (at the Flora Campus) and Tuesday and Friday mornings (at the Tracy Campus) at the same hour, unless otherwise posted. Families are always encouraged to attend the daily 7:15 a.m. Mass if they are able. In addition to assisting at Mass, students will recite daily prayers before and after school and at meal times. Students will also observe seasonal devotions throughout the Liturgical Year.

Students will have the opportunity to go to confession during Thursday morning Masses at the Flora Campus, and during both Masses held at the Tracy Campus. All students must have their own Missals and rosaries. Girls must also have their own white chapel veil.

Conflict Resolution

Antagonism frequently arises as the result of poor communication and misinformation. Parents are asked to exercise discretion and follow school procedure if a child expresses school related dissatisfaction or problems; both the school and the parents must avoid; on the one hand, assuming ill will, or on the other, denying the possibility that it could exist. In the case of student conflict with a teacher, parents need to withhold assessment of the situation until they have first contacted the teacher involved. Only after this initial contact, and if the conflict remains unresolved, should parents contact the assistant principal. Direct recourse to the principal is justified when an issue relates directly to overall school policy, or to some matter difficult to present discreetly to the teacher or to the assistant principal. In any case, parents are advised to discuss with school officials matters of concern to ensure proper understanding. Doing so helps to avoid potentially harmful judgments based upon second-hand information. A spirit of disunity and mistrust among educators is deadly to the formation and healthy development of the child.

Discretion

As a matter of charity and unity, parents are asked to avoid discussion of any faults, difficulties or problems - actual or perceived - with the Academy or its staff, with or in the presence of students. Beyond being an objective source of scandal, this spirit of criticism severely undermines the operation of the school and destroys in the children their confidence in any authority.

Homework Supervision

Parents are expected to supervise homework to ensure completion and accuracy. This daily investment of the parents' time is the strongest proof they can give to the child of their respect for what he is learning and their desire for his good. *(See page below for homework expectations by grade level.)*

Paternal Participation

As an extension of God's authority and Catholic hierarchy, and as heads of families, fathers must take an active interest in the education of their children in matters of subjects and curriculum, school activities, and especially in their children's progress. As St. Thomas Aquinas teaches, "It is obvious that the upbringing of a human child requires not only the mother's care for his nourishment, but much more the care of his father as guide and guardian, and under whom he progresses in goods both internal and external ... On the father devolves the upbringing of the child." (IIa IIae q. 154, a. 2, c.) As their primary

intellectual and moral guide, the father needs to realize that his children will be the reflection of his own thought and attitudes. May these reflect the truth and charity of God.

Financial Obligation

Parents must fulfill, to the best of their ability, all points of the tuition contract, including the support of official fundraisers. This is a question of justice towards teachers, students and other Academy parents alike.

Academic Schedule

The school day for all grades consists of classroom instruction, lunch and recess. The school doors are open from 7:30 am to 3:45 pm (Flora Campus) and 7:40 am to 3:55 pm (Tracy Campus) Monday through Friday. Kindergarten is in session Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Daily Timetable

	Flora Campus	Tracy Campus
Building open to students	7:30 am	7:40 am
Morning lineup bell	8:05 am	8:10 am
1st period begins	8:10 am	8:20 am
1st period ends	9:00 am	9:09 am
2nd period begins	9:05 am	9:13 am
2nd period ends	9:55 am	10:02 am
3rd period begins	10:00 am	10:06 am
3rd period ends	10:50 am	10:55 am
4th period begins	10:55 am	10:59 am
4th period ends	11:45 am	11:48 am
Lunch and recess	11:50 am	11:52 pm
Lunch and recess ends	12:35 pm	12:42 pm
5th period begins	12:40 pm	12:46 pm
5th period ends	1:30 pm	1:35 pm
6th period begins	1:35 pm	1:39 pm
6th period ends	2:25 pm	2:28 pm
7th period begins	2:30 pm	2:32 pm
7th period ends	3:20 pm	3:21 pm
Dismissal bell	3:25 pm	3:25 pm

Student Drivers

High School students who are licensed drivers may drive themselves, their immediate family members, and carpool students to school, if written permission to do so is provided to the Academy by the parents. Students are not allowed to drive anyone outside of their immediate family to or from any school-related activities. Student drivers must give the keys to their cars to the secretary each morning.

Arrival

On-time arrival at school is a matter of justice toward teachers and students. Students must arrive at school no later than five minutes before lineup bell Monday through Friday. Students arriving after this time will be marked “tardy” for the day. Parents must call the office to advise of late-arriving students, or they may send a note with the student which must be presented to the Academy secretary. Five unexcused tardies will trigger a 30 minute after school detention.

Students may not arrive before that time at which the building is officially opened to them. The Academy is not responsible for students who arrive before then.

Parents must **drop off their children at the sidewalk and watch them enter the building**. Students who arrive after the Academy building opens, but before the lineup bell will be supervised in a designated area.

Departure

We ask parents to pick up students promptly, and to notify the secretary if there will be any delay in this. Teachers will make every effort to ensure that children are ready for pick-up at the proper time for dismissal.

In the event of an emergency requiring alternative transportation arrangements, parents must notify the school secretary of the change in arrangements.

Once a parent has arrived for pick-up, the student is considered under the parent’s care and supervision. Students may not be left unsupervised in the school building or on school premises.

Students will be dismissed from the Academy as a group after the completion of the hymn. The teachers on dismissal duty will escort the students to the parking lot via the crosswalk. Once in the parking lot, K- 6 students are expected to wait in the designated area for their parents/or carpool driver to escort them to their cars. Seventh – 12 students must go directly to their parent’s car/carpool driver’s car, and are to refrain from playing on the playground. Students will be supervised in the designated area while waiting for their parents to pick them up. When it is clear that all timely-arriving parents have picked up their children, teachers on dismissal duty will return to the Academy building with those students whose parents have not yet arrived. Students will be supervised by Academy personnel in a silent study hall. Late-arriving parents must ring the bell at the school door to collect their children. Once their parents have arrived, the students are considered under parental care and supervision.

Early Departure

Parents must inform the school office in advance of any instance when a student needs to leave the school premises before the usual dismissal time. This written notice must indicate the reason for dismissal (doctor or dentist appointment, etc). Whenever possible, parents should schedule appointments outside of school hours. Parents who need to pick up students during the school day must go to the school office to pick them up.

The school requires advance written notice if someone other than the parent will pick up a student for an appointment.

Early Dismissals

On occasion, school may be dismissed early for special evening events or for other reasons. The school will notify parents in advance of these early dismissals. An unexcused absence would be incurred by the student(s) if kept home from school for no other reason than it being an abbreviated school day.

Carpools

All parents participating in a carpool arrangement are responsible for the students in the carpool. Additionally, if one student is dismissed late from school, the parents/drivers in the carpool must ensure that the other students are picked up in a timely fashion and are properly supervised by the designated parent/driver. Parents must advise the school in writing of all those authorized to transport their children, and the school must be advised of any subsequent changes in those arrangements.

Attendance Policy

Healthy students are expected to attend school every day, and all students are encouraged to strive for good attendance. Students who have 15 absences in an academic year *may be retained in the same grade*, or denied a diploma, or lose credit for a high school class due to excessive absenteeism. The principal will make the final decision in these cases. A student with excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. Exceptions may be made for extensive medical emergencies, with a written explanation signed by a physician. The principal will make the final determination on a case-by-case basis.

Absences

In the case of an unforeseen absence, parents need to notify the school office by 9:00 a.m. and provide an explanation. In the case of an extended absence, parents must make arrangements for schoolwork. Absence due to sickness exceeding 5 consecutive academic days requires an explanatory note from a physician. For those students with frequent absences, an explanatory note from a physician may be required for all absences. Student absences for which parents provide no explanation will be considered unexcused. If a student has a doctor/dental/orthodontics appointment, please request that the doctor/dental/orthodontics' office provide you with a note indicating that the student had an appointment. The student must submit the note to the secretary. Unexcused absences may result in disciplinary action. Assignments missed on account of unexcused absences will be penalized at the teacher's discretion.

Absences will be calculated based on the number of hours a student is present at school:

Present 2 hours or less = Full day absence

Present 2 hours, but less than 4 hours = 1/2 day absence

Present 4 or more hours = Full day present

Students absent for more than half a day may not participate in any extracurricular activities scheduled on that day. A student who is taken out of school before the end of the academic year and who has not completed class work and final exams prior to departure is subject to a final report card grade of INCOMPLETE. In the case of a foreseen absence, parents must provide the school with advance written notification. Planned absences of more than one day (for special occasions such as out-of-town weddings or funerals, etc.) require the further permission of the principal.

Whenever possible, parents should avoid making personal plans that will result in missed class time. In order to avoid disrupting the schedule of the class or of the school, retarding the child's academic progress, and sending conflicting messages to the children regarding the importance of academics and duty of state, families must plan vacations around the school schedule. Absences for vacation taken during the academic term will be considered unexcused.

Calendar

The school distributes a yearly academic calendar, and will notify parents of any changes should they occur. The calendar is also available online. Please contact the school office for the link. It is the parent's responsibility to be aware of important school dates and functions. Working parents should take special note of the school's days off, early dismissals, conference dates, etc., and should make every effort to arrange their work schedules accordingly.

Participation in functions noted on the school calendar is mandatory unless explicitly indicated otherwise.

Meal Policy

Parents should closely supervise all school meal preparation by their children. Students - especially younger children - need sufficient healthful nourishment in order to function properly in school. Hungry children will lack energy and concentration, and those given excessive sugar frequently exhibit hyperactivity and irritability.

Health Policy

Communicable Diseases

A student suffering from a contagious illness, a bad cold or a continuous cough will not be admitted to school. Students should not be sent to school if they are running a temperature. If students are found to have a high temperature, parents will be called to pick them up. Should an outbreak of a communicable disease occur, children not vaccinated against that disease (for which a vaccine exists) must be removed from the school for a period of time determined prudent by medical professionals. Parents must report all instances of communicable diseases to the school office. Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to: chicken pox, pink eye, flu, impetigo, head lice, scabies, measles, mumps, whooping cough, ringworm, roseola, strep throat, German measles, mononucleosis, and scarlet fever. Parents unsure of the communicability of an illness should consult a medical professional and call the school office before sending a child to school.

Food Allergies

Parents must notify the school of any and all food allergies, as well as their specific nature and severity and whether the student has been prescribed an EpiPen. It is the parent's responsibility to provide the school with an EpiPen to keep on file for their child.

Illness and Injury

Parents will be notified in the case of serious illness or injury that occurs at the school. In such cases, the child(ren) will be sent home only in the care of a parent or person designated by the parent. If immediate notification is not possible due to the nature of the injury or circumstances, the school will act in compliance with the registration releases and permissions and will notify the parents/legal guardians in a timely manner. In emergency situations, the school will contact emergency medical services and parents (or designated personnel) as expeditiously as possible.

Immunizations

State law requires children enrolled in a Missouri school to be immunized against certain diseases, allowing for certain exceptions, including conscientious objection. Parents must submit a pupil immunization record upon enrollment and provide updates as required. Parents assume all legal and financial responsibility in representing to the school whether or not the child is in compliance with all required immunizations.

SSPX Statement on Vaccination

Schools of the US District of the Society of Saint Pius X comply with vaccination policies of local health and education authorities while adhering to moral principles of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church does not oppose vaccinations in principle, but it does consider as morally illicit the development of vaccines from aborted fetal tissues. In 2005, the Vatican clarified¹ the proper position of all Catholics on this matter, and the SSPX adheres to that declaration.

Schools of the SSPX also support parental authority and freedom of choice, in matters not opposed to the moral law. If the state law does not mandate vaccination, neither do our schools. In the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease, our schools work closely with local and state officials to respond according to the guidelines prescribed by the governing authorities.

¹ Pontifical Academy for Life. Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from human aborted fetuses. Cf/. *The Angelus*, February 2006, vol. 29, n. 2.

Medications

The school may not dispense medication without professionally indicated direction. Students may not self-medicate, with the exception of insulin pumps, epinephrine (EpiPen), and asthma inhalers. The following forms, available from the online enrollment packet, must be completed, signed and dated in every applicable case:

1. Request for Prescription Medication to be Administered During School Attendance
2. Request for Non-Prescription Medication to be Administered During School Attendance
3. Permission for Self-Administration of Medication for Anaphylactic Reactions or Asthma
4. Asthma Action Plan
5. Food Allergy Action Plan

Parents should administer medication at home whenever possible, and should ask their doctor or pharmacist to develop an at-home dosing schedule to avoid the need for medication administration at school. Students may only bring prescriptions and other medications to school in original containers, appropriately labeled by a pharmacy or physician. Prescribed medications must be given to the school secretary for administration only. Dosing directions should be clearly marked on each container.

School personnel will not administer first-time medications.

Grade School Curriculum

The curriculum for Kindergarten through eighth grade includes the following subjects: Religion, Language Arts (Phonics, English Grammar, Dictation, Literature, Composition), Latin, History, Geography, Mathematics, Nature Study and Science, Art, Music, Sewing, Applied Arts and Physical Education. These will be taught at the appropriate developmental level for each grade.

Fine arts - music (sacred and secular), poetry, art and drama - are an important part of the curriculum. The school encourages performing skits, copying and drawing pictures, dramatizing poetry and singing, along with creative projects and presentations, in all subjects.

Religious Instruction

Formal religion instruction holds the place of honor in the curriculum. Classes include an ordered presentation of the Catholic Faith through the study of Christian doctrine, the life of Our Lord, the Mass, the liturgical year, bible history, and the lives of the saints. The child is taught to memorize his catechism, and at the same time to see behind these truths the face of Our Lord, calling him to a life of holiness in union with Him. Thus the students are encouraged to develop a profound spiritual life in union with the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.

Literature and Language Arts

SSPX schools place great emphasis on a literature-based language arts program. Good literature is essential to the proper and healthy development of both the intellectual and the spiritual life. As Our Lord knew when He chose to teach through parables, stories naturally engage the intellect, inspiring wonder and understanding. Literature presents accurate depictions of reality, including the best and the worst of human nature, allowing students to experience - vicariously yet profoundly - circumstances and scenarios that will inspire them to embrace the good and reject the bad. Through the teaching and discussion of good literature, as well as its profound integration through composition exercises, students gain an openness to the noble realities of the soul, and thus are made docile to the call of Grace, which draws them toward the noblest of all realities. Dictation and poetry are a preparation and extension of the study of literature, inspiring the intelligence and nourishing the memory with beauty. The study of grammar is the handmaid of literature, enabling the child to penetrate the essentials of the written word and to express himself with clarity and elegance.

Other Subjects

The other classroom subjects likewise harness the curiosity and strengthen the nature of the young learner. Latin opens to the child the world of Rome, giving him a sense of that ancient civilization which is his heritage; math teaches accuracy, order, and logic; science teaches children about the beauty of God's plan in the natural world; history reinforces the study of human nature and the world by bringing to life real heroes and important events; geography teaches students about the world and helps to develop a truly Catholic perspective.

High School Curriculum

At the basis of the education offered at St. Vincent de Paul Academy is the idea that human reason can discover and understand an order outside itself, the order created by God. Students receive a thorough and integrated view of this reality through the organic unity of all subjects. They learn to think in an orderly fashion, and to speak and write as clearly as they think, and ultimately, to judge with wisdom and prudence.

At St. Vincent de Paul Academy, students learn from the saints, ancients and secular masters through literature, history, philosophy, math, science and religion. By opening to them the treasury of human knowledge, teachers strive to inspire students with an ardent love of truth and an increasingly clear vision of their final end. By teaching them to think not only critically but classically, and to integrate that truth into their own actions, education prepares students both to face the concrete conditions in the world, and to embrace supernatural as well as natural happiness.

High school students are expected to complete the standard curriculum. All students will be assessed in accordance with the grading scale noted, and will be eligible for the honor roll based upon their achievement level. However, only those students who complete the standard curriculum will be considered for overall academic distinction (*e.g. Valedictorian and Salutatorian*).

High School Credits & Policies

Students graduating from St. Vincent de Paul Academy's high school program must have a minimum of 26 credits. The Academy honors high school credits issued by registered schools as reflected on their official transcripts. The Academy also honors high school credits issued by official homeschool institutions as reflected on their official transcripts. The Academy neither accepts nor validates independent private work. From the date of acceptance of a new student, the only credits accepted are those earned at St. Vincent de Paul Academy. However, the principal may make exceptions in particular cases. The high school curriculum is as follows:

FRESHMEN

Religion

English: Literature, Grammar & Composition

History: Ancient or Medieval (*rotation*)

Art History or Music Appreciation (*rotation*)

Math: Algebra I

Science: Physical Science or Biology (*rotation*)

Latin

Drama

Physical Education

Domestic Arts (Girls)

Auto Shop (Boys)

Choir/Music Appreciation

Schola (Boys)

SOPHOMORE

Religion

English: Literature & Composition

History: Ancient or Medieval (*rotation*)

Art History or Music Appreciation (*rotation*)

Math: Geometry

Science: Physical Science or Biology (*rotation*)

Latin

Drama

Physical Education

Domestic Arts (Girls)

Auto Shop (Boys)

Choir/Music Appreciation

Schola (Boys)

JUNIOR

Religion

Formal Logic/Material Logic

English: Literature & Advanced Composition

History: Early Modern History

or Modern History and US History (*rotation*)

Math: Algebra II

Science: Chemistry or Physics (*rotation*)

Drama

Physical Education

Domestic Arts (Girls)

Auto Shop (Boys)

Choir

Schola (Boys)

SENIOR

Religion

Philosophy/Rhetoric
 English: Literature & Advanced Composition
 History: Early Modern History
 or Modern History and US History (*rotation*)
 Math: Advanced Math
 Science: Chemistry or Physics (*rotation*)
 Drama
 Physical Education
 Domestic Arts (Girls)
 Auto Shop (Boys)
 Choir
 Schola (Boys)

Credit Requirements for Graduation

At St. Vincent de Paul Academy, **26 total credits** are required within four years of study for graduation. The following are **necessary credits** for graduation, with the exception of **Language, Math and Science**, which may suffer the loss of one full credit in each without detriment to graduation, (though the student’s GPA will suffer)

Religion (4 years):	4
Language Arts/English Literature and Composition (4 years):	4
History (4 years):	4
Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics (4 years):	4
Algebra I-II, Geometry, and Advanced Math (4 years):	4
Latin (Boys -2 years):	2
French (Girls -2 years):	2
Choir/Music Appreciation/Schola (4 years):	2
Physical Education (4 years):	2
US Government (1 year):	1
Formal/Material Logic (Boys -1 year):	.5
Philosophy/Rhetoric (Boys -1 year):	.5
Art/Art History (1 year):	.5

Other courses credited but **not necessary** for graduation are:

Domestic Arts (Girls -4 years)	2
Auto Shop (Boys -2 years)	1
Drama:	.5

Total credits possible (for both Boys and Girls): **30**

Graduation eligibility will be decided ultimately by the Principal, based on academic performance, effort, conduct and acknowledgement of the parent’s financial obligation to the school.

Commencement Honors

The Principal determines the Valedictorian and Salutatorian based upon academic performance and conduct.

Grading and Academic Discipline

Grading Scale

Equivalents		
Letter	Grade Point	Percentage
A+	4.0	97-100
A	4.0	94-96
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D	1.0	65-69
F	0.0	0-64
I	Incomplete	F, after two weeks

Grading expectations

The Academy expects teachers to grade fairly and as accurately as possible so as to present, by the grading system, a good indication of the performance of each student in each particular discipline. Grades are not an award given for good class participation or personal excellence. St. Vincent de Paul Academy strives, therefore, to avoid grade inflation for any reason, and instead to hold a high standard, knowing how beneficial and effective an educational tool student-grading can be. Parents and students are expected also to understand and cooperate with teachers according to these principles.

Calculating Grades in Grade School

The quarter grades are based on a weighted average of homework, quizzes and tests administered during that period. The final grade is calculated by averaging the quarterly grades.

Calculating Grades in High School

The quarter grades are typically based on a weighted average of homework (25%), quizzes (25%) and tests (50%) administered during that period.

There is a final examination at the end of each semester for the core high school courses. First semester grades are calculated by averaging grades from the 1st quarter, 2nd quarter and the first semester exam. Second semester grades are calculated by averaging grades from the 3rd quarter, 4th quarter and the second semester exam. An annual grade is not given.

Academic Discipline/Probation

- Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter. Hard copies will be sent home via the student. Parents will also receive a pdf copy sent to their email addresses.
- Grades are awarded to students according to the percentage scale. A score of 65% or above constitutes a passing grade. In order to be advanced to the next grade, students must maintain at least a composite weighted average of 65% in all subjects.
- Students in 5th grade or higher who fail one or more courses in one academic year will be required to remediate the coursework missed according to the parameters set by the Academy. Failure to successfully remediate according to school guidelines will necessitate a review and possible testing before the student can be promoted.
- Any student receiving a “D” or an “F” in three or more classes will be placed on academic probation for the following two quarters. Should no progress be made during that time, the parents will meet with the principal to determine a proper course of action.
- Failure of any class in the quarter immediately following probation will result in another probationary semester or expulsion, at the discretion of the principal.
- Students must understand that extensive paraphrase, excessive quotation, and unattributed sources constitute plagiarism, the theft of another’s work. Teachers will provide thorough critiques of papers and drafts, taking special care to elucidate the nature of legitimate research. Teachers will inform the principal of suspected plagiarism. In confirmed cases, the principal will determine appropriate sanctions and consequences.
- All academic discipline and ultimate consequences remain at the sole discretion of the principal.

Progress Reports

Progress reports for all students are sent home at the midpoint of the each quarter. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers regarding their child’s performance should there be a concern.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents are required to attend all parent-teacher conferences to discuss grades, general academic performance, character and moral development with teachers. General parent-teacher meetings take place following the first quarter report card each year so as to assess the performance of each student and to address any issue which may be presenting themselves. Individual meetings between parents and teachers, or parents and the administration may happen throughout the year regarding a particular student, requested by any of the parties concerned. In order for parents to set up such a meeting, they need only send a request via phone call or email to the teacher or the responsible Administrator according to the gravity of the issue in question.

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll exists to reward outstanding scholastic achievement and to recognize those students who demonstrate superior and sustained motivation, responsibility, hard work and character. Conduct is a factor in determining eligibility for the Honor Roll. Students who have been suspended for any reason or receive a conduct grade of a C- or below, will be ineligible for the Honor Roll.

From the *5th grade* on, students are eligible for the Honor Roll as follows:

Summa cum Laude

Final overall weighted average of 97% (A+) or above, with no final grade in any subject below a 90% (A-)

Magna cum Laude

Final overall weighted average of 94% (A) or above, with no final grade in any subject below an 87% (B+)

Cum Laude

Final overall weighted average of 90% (A-) or above, with no final grade in any subject below an 83% (B)

Homework Policy

Homework, General

Teachers assign homework to reinforce knowledge, instill a sense of responsibility, encourage time management, and develop independent study habits. This daily effort on the part of the student is essential to the formation of profound, lasting qualities of heart and mind. Students must turn in assignments on time and make up homework assignments missed due to absence.

Parents are asked to refrain from doing their children's school work for them. As a fundamentally dishonest circumvention of student duties, this undermines both the teaching and the learning processes, and it seriously impedes the development of good study habits. Parents should, however, supervise homework, offer any needed assistance, and see that their children have sufficient time and a suitable place in which to complete assignments.

Homework Time Guidelines

K-3: No assigned homework. **It is highly recommended that parents read to their children as often as possible,** preferably from the US District list of recommended reading. Once the child begins to read it is beneficial to have him/her read orally to someone every night. Below is a list of other possible activities to do with children after school:

- ***Kindergarten:*** read to children.
- ***1st grade:*** review of catechism questions, oral reading, review of poetry, practice math flash cards
- ***2nd grade:*** review of catechism questions, oral reading, review auto-dictation and poetry, review of grammar definitions, practice math flash cards
- ***3rd grade:*** review of catechism questions, oral reading, review auto-dictation and poetry, review of grammar definitions, practice math flash cards.

Homework is routinely assigned to students in grades 4 –12. Reasonable expectations of daily homework requirements:

- ***4th grade:*** 30 minutes
- ***5th grade:*** 45 minutes
- ***6th grade:*** 1 hour
- ***7th through 8th grades:*** 1 ½ hours.
- ***9th through 12th grades:*** 2 hours.

These are general guidelines. Actual requirements will depend on the child's ability to work diligently and efficiently both in class and at home. Parents should not allow their children to linger indefinitely over homework, but should set appropriate limits and require accountability for unfinished work. Teachers will strive to respect the above schedule, and the school in no way obliges or encourages giving unnecessary homework, merely busy-work, for its own sake. Weekend assignments may, on occasion, require more time than those given on weeknights.

Homework and Class Work Expectations

St. Vincent de Paul Academy and its teachers expect students to work to the best of their abilities, and parents should encourage students to take the time and care necessary to complete assignments well. Incomplete or poorly completed assignments may need to be redone. Students should take time to avoid misspellings and numerous cross-outs, and should keep homework papers in a protective folder or permanent notebook as applicable. Teachers will not accept soiled or damaged papers. Teachers will publish specifications for homework, to include acceptable formats, paper, notebooks, pens and pencils.

Late Work

Students must complete assignments by the morning of the day they are due. Teachers will penalize late assignments.

Homework Requests When Students Are Absent

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed assignments from his teacher. Ignorance is not an excuse. If your child is absent and you wish to obtain assignments for him, please contact a fellow student or teacher for the assignments needed. Teachers will outline their policy at the beginning of the year for accepting make-up work.

Note: Long-term projects and assignments that were given prior to a student absence are due on the original date announced and are to be delivered to the school on that date. Students do not have extra time to complete such assignments without a reduction in grade. Likewise, if a test was announced prior to an absence, the student will be expected to take the test the day he returns to school as this material was already covered in class and student mastery of the material is already expected.

Summer Homework

Teachers may assign summer reading, craft or nature projects or directed projects during the summer vacation time.

Uniform Policy

A school uniform acts as a visible sign of the unity of a student body striving to achieve a common goal. Bearing this in mind, the specifics of regulations follow simply. Regardless of particulars, the standard remains *uniformity*, not individuality or fashion. While the school strives to develop strong individuals, the well-formed student will possess a true depth of character and a personality strong from within that is not defined from without. A uniform facilitates all of this by minimizing the possibility of disordered, vain or immodest self-expression that seeks primarily to draw attention to self. Beyond this, uniform dress reinforces a sense of solidarity and belonging, and eliminates the significant social pressures associated with style consciousness and competition. Far from a means of suppressing individual expression, willingness to submit to the uniform policy indicates humility and maturity.

This handbook establishes the basic "letter of the law," but students, aided by their parents, should discern and submit more importantly to the spirit of the uniform policy. Rather than defining each allowable or disallowable clothing item, the school relies on parents, students and faculty to understand the purpose of uniforms and to recognize clothing items that match not only uniform materials, but synchronize with the intention of the regulations. Parents with questions or concerns should feel free to contact the school for clarification.

Hygiene and Appearance

For their own health and the consideration of others, students must bathe properly and regularly. Students must appear at school in clean, pressed, and complete uniforms. Damaged or excessively worn uniform items are unacceptable. Students must remain in full uniform while on the school property, even after school.

Make-up

Make-up and cosmetics are forbidden. Fingernail polish - colored or clear - is forbidden.

Jewelry

Jewelry is forbidden, with the exception of a fine-gauge necklace with a single religious medal. Girls with pierced ears may wear a single stud earring in each lobe of the ear (no hoops are allowed). A simple religious ring may be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Boys may not wear earrings.

Hair

Fad hairstyles in boys and girls are forbidden. Boys must be clean-shaven, well-groomed, with hair cut traditionally, off the collar and ears. Girls must wear their hair pulled back out of their faces, bangs must not hang past the eyebrows. They may wear a ponytail, braid, a neatly-pinned bun at the center back of their head or at the nape of the neck. Hair that is too short to be pulled back into a ponytail must be constrained by a headband, clip or barrette. Ribbons, hair bands, or other hair accessories are to be simple in design and color. Hair dye, highlighting and bleaching of hair is prohibited. The principal has the discretion of determining if hair styles are not acceptable.

Uniform Supplier Information

Parents are expected to purchase uniform items from our uniform suppliers. For additional details and ordering information, please refer to St. Vincent de Paul Academy's school uniform 2020-2021 memo available online at www.stvincentkc.org under the Academy tab.

Required Uniforms

The following provides details concerning the school uniform, including outerwear. Any elements of the uniform that do not match the components available through the Academy are non-regulation.

- **Level One:** The basic uniform
- **Level Two:** The first outer layer, the navy v-neck long sleeve sweater with crest (K-12), the navy blazer with crest (9-12). Students are not authorized to wear any other items in the classroom.

Girls, K - 4

- Green plaid uniform jumper extending at least 2 inches below the bottom of the knee
- White blouse with collar (Peter Pan collar) and long or short sleeves; blouses must button at the throat; knit or "polo" shirts are not allowed
- Navy v-neck long sleeve sweater with emblem
- Navy blue, black knee socks or white bobby socks. Navy or black tights may be worn during the winter.
- Clean simple solid black, all-purpose shoes.
- **White** triangular shaped chapel veil

Girls, 5 - 8

- Green plaid uniform skirt extending at least 2 inches below the bottom of the knee
- White blouse with collar (preferably button-down collar) and long or short sleeves; blouses must button at the throat; knit or “polo” shirts are not allowed
- Navy blue uniform vest with school emblem
- Green plaid uniform tie
- Navy v-neck long sleeve sweater with school emblem
- Navy blue or black knee socks or white bobby socks. Navy or black tights may be worn during the winter.
- Grades 5-6: Clean, simple solid black all-purpose shoes. Grades 7-8 - Simple black dress shoes; no high heels or funky soles; athletic shoes are required for recess and only worn for recess or physical education
- **White** triangular shaped chapel veil

Girls, 9 - 12

- Charcoal gray pleated uniform skirt extending at least 3 inches below the bottom of the knee.
- White uniform blouse with pointed collar (long or short sleeves).
- Navy v-neck vest with school emblem
- Navy v-neck long sleeve sweater with school emblem or navy blazer with school emblem
- Navy or black knee socks or white bobby socks; neutral, black or navy hose. Navy or black tights may be worn during the winter.
- Simple black dress shoes; no high heels or funky soles; athletic shoes are required for recess and only worn for recess or physical education
- **White** triangular shaped chapel veil

Girls 7-12 PE Uniform

- Sweatshirt, T-shirt or polo shirt, A-Line athletic skirts that fall 2 inches below the knee, white socks, and athletic shoes.
- PE clothes are to be devoid of decals and logos, with the exception of the school crest (a small manufacturer's logo is tolerated)
- The Principal or Vice-Principal may forbid any individual item of clothing that is found to be objectionable.

Boys, K - 8

- Charcoal gray uniform trousers 7-8
Blue chinos trousers K-6
- Black belt
- Plain white cotton or cotton-polyester button-up shirt (long or short sleeves)
- Plain white t-shirt worn under uniform shirt; no logo or print t-shirts allowed
- Navy v-neck long sleeve sweater with school emblem
- Green plaid uniform tie
- Navy blue or black socks
- Grades K-6: Clean, solid, black all-purpose shoe
- Grades 7-8 Clean black, polished leather shoes.

Boys, 9 - 12

- Charcoal gray uniform trousers

- Black belt
- Plain white cotton or cotton-polyester button-up shirt (long or short sleeves)
- Plain white t-shirt worn under uniform shirt; no logo or print t-shirts allowed
- Navy v-neck vest with school emblem
- Navy v-neck long sleeve sweater with school emblem or navy blazer with school emblem
- Green & navy striped uniform tie - senior boys may wear an approved senior tie
- Black socks
- Clean black, polished leather shoes; athletic shoes are required for recess and only worn for recess or physical education

Boys 7-12 PE Uniform

- Green athletic polo with school crest.
- Athletic pants or shorts, white socks, and athletic shoes.
- Sweatshirt, when weather dictates.
- PE clothes are to be devoid of decals and logos, with the exception of the school crest (a small manufacturer's logo is tolerated)
- The Principal or Vice-Principal may forbid any individual item of clothing that is found to be objectionable.

The Academy reserves the right to permit or forbid non-Academy outerwear, worn when necessary for outdoor activities on cold days, when it does not conform to dignified apparel or the spirit of the Academy.

General Academy Rules & Guidelines

Character training is an important element of the education at St. Vincent de Paul Academy. The school expects loyalty, respect and good manners, as well as immediate, cheerful cooperation from all students. Good discipline results, in large part, from the natural response students have to a gentle but firm command of respect rather than a rigid enforcement of a long list of rules. However, the school imposes certain rules to maintain order, and to help students develop the habits of discipline, courtesy, etiquette and culture necessary for intellectual and spiritual advancement.

Forbidden Items

The following are **not to be brought** to school. Teachers will confiscate these and other inappropriate items:

- Cell phones: St. Vincent de Paul Academy students may not bring cell phones to the Academy, with the exception of a student driver whose parent(s) requires him/her to have a cell phone when driving to and from the Academy. The parents must notify the school of this necessity by completing and signing the Student Cell Phone Parental Consent Form. Students with this exemption must check in their phone to the secretary's office upon entering the school and will receive their cell phone back at the end of the day, at which time they will be expected to store their cell phone in their backpacks until they are in their car and off school property. Students without this exemption, or those who abuse the exemption, and are discovered with a cell phone on school property during school hours, will have the phone confiscated for a duration of time according to the discretion of the principal.
- Electronic devices, including but not limited to: radios, CD players MP3 Players, iPods, iPads, CDs, DVDs, cameras and games
- Inappropriate material such as books, magazines, pictures, comics, letters, notes, etc. of immoral or inappropriate content (reading books brought from home must be approved by administration)
- Any drugs or alcoholic beverages

- Any tobacco or smoking paraphernalia including matches, lighters, etc.
- Weapons of any kind

General Classroom Behavior

- Students will raise their hands and wait to be called upon before asking or answering questions.
- As a gesture of respect, grade school students will stand to ask or to answer questions or to read aloud. The teacher may excuse the student from this obligation in certain circumstances for the sake of convenience (e.g. when it is a question of short answers).
- Students will stand and respectfully greet all adult visitors to the classroom, addressing them by their appropriate title: Father, Sister, Mr., Mrs., Miss, etc.

Lunchroom Behavior

- Students need to bring their lunches in a lunch box marked with their name. Soda is not allowed, and candy desserts are discouraged.
- The kitchen area is not for student use. Students do not have access to the refrigerator, microwave, and other items in the kitchen area. Coffee is for the teachers and staff only.
- Students will clean up after themselves and will help maintain the overall cleanliness of the cafeteria.
- Cafeteria supplies (i.e. bowls, cups, plates, plastic spoons, knives and forks) will not be provided by the school. Parents need to send these items to school with their children.

Recess

Recess is held outside most days of the school year. In general, students will go outside as long as the temperature is 10° F or higher, weather permitting. Generally speaking, if a student is well enough to be at school, the student is well enough to go outside for recess. A physician's request to be excused from recess will be honored. Children who need to stay in at recess to recover from an illness will need a note from a parent to this regard. If your child needs to stay-in more often than three consecutive days, a doctor's note will need to be provided. No child will stay in for recess without a note. Students may occasionally be held inside for make-up work or extra help. Students who are held inside for these things will be expected to go outside for at least part of the recess.

Playground Expectations

- Weather permitting, all K-8 grade students are expected to go out for play during recess. The school requires detailed written notification if a student cannot participate in recess activities for health or other reasons.
- Students must have appropriate cold weather clothing and footwear for recess.
- For safety reasons, the school does not allow rough play or tackle football. Snowball fights will be permitted only when conditions are safe, as determined by the playground supervisor.
- Children must remain within established boundaries.
- During inclement weather, recess will be held indoors. Running and other horseplay are not permitted inside the school.
- Students will not bring personal toys for recess.

Parties and Gift Deliveries

- Deliveries of flowers, balloons, gifts, etc. are not to be made to students during the school day.
- Birthday Parties: While birthdays are a special day in a child's life, a uniform treatment of birthdays is important for purposes of harmony within the school and between school families. For this reason, classes may not have birthday parties for individual students. Subject to teacher discretion, students may bring a snack to share with fellow classmates. Students may distribute birthday treats during lunch.

- Feast Day and Holiday Parties: Teachers, parents and students will not arrange classroom parties other than those scheduled by the school principal.
- All treats and snacks brought into the school must be **NUT FREE**.

Respect for School Property

- The school will not tolerate any abuse of school property or acts of vandalism, including defacing or damaging desks or books. *Parents will be billed for damages, and the student will be required to do any necessary clean-up work.*
- Students will help maintain an orderly environment in the school by properly looking after their own belongings and cleaning up after themselves.
- Damaged or lost books will be replaced at the parent's expense.
- Students must realize that though the school assigns desks and lockers for their individual use, these are school property and therefore, not private. The school may access desks and lockers at any time.

Restroom Use

- Students will use only designated restrooms
- Barring a legitimate emergency, high school students may not take restroom breaks during class time.
- Barring a legitimate emergency, students in grades 5 and up may not take restroom breaks during Mass.

General Items

- Students may not pass personal notes or written communications of any kind. Invitations to non-school sponsored social events should be distributed outside of school and off campus to preclude any implication of school endorsement, and to ensure parents are aware of such activities.
- Students must generally maintain an attitude of quietness in the school. Moderate noise is permitted during recess and breaks.
- Students may not run, jump or roughhouse in any part of the school building.
- Students may not chew gum on school premises.
- Students may use the school phone only in emergencies, and only with permission from the Vice-principal or school secretary.
- Students may not leave school premises during the school day without written permission.

Disciplinary Policy

St. Vincent de Paul Academy applies the principles of Catholic education to student discipline. True charity at times obliges correction and even punishment, but as a means of encouraging amendment, not inflicting suffering or fostering resentment. The Catholic educator strives to win the heart of the student; both instruction and discipline rest on a foundation of charity. As Christ Himself showed, unwavering admonition does not preclude patience and kindness, and those corrected with charity will learn to embrace virtue motivated by filial love rather than servile fear. St. Vincent de Paul Academy does not use corporal punishment. Disciplinary measures consist chiefly in the restriction of activities and privileges. Depending on circumstances, the school may limit or deny recreational activities, impose detention or study hall, assign work tasks, etc. The school will punish students based on the severity of the infraction as follows:

Minor Infractions

These are incidents attributed more to thoughtlessness than to a defective disposition or ill will. Examples of minor infractions:

- Disorderly desks or lockers
- Incomplete uniform
- Excessive tardiness
- Neglect of school property
- Causing disturbance in class or during line-up
- Neglect or improper performance of academic duty

Teachers and staff will correct minor infractions during the school day and may issue an infraction slip, a short after-school detention (10-15 minutes), or a recess detention. After an accumulation of three infraction slips a 30 minute detention will be given.

Major Infractions

These are incidents of a more serious nature indicating knowledge of wrongdoing. Examples of major infractions:

- Insubordination or deliberate disobedience
- Unexcused absence
- Fighting
- Bad language
- Persistent failure to submit homework
- Failure to show up for a detention or minor (in-school) detention
- Use or possession of tobacco products
- Excessive repetition of minor infractions such as those listed in the section above

The Dean of Discipline will handle infractions of this nature. Students will be punished with detention or other means, at his discretion. A detention may entail extensive janitorial work or after-school study hall. Students guilty of major infractions may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.

Grave Infractions

These are incidents indicating knowledge of wrongdoing with social and moral ramifications. Examples of grave infractions:

- Conduct or spirit prejudicial to the school
- Offensive behavior or lifestyle not in line with that of a traditional Catholic school student
- Lying, cheating, or any academic fraud, including plagiarism*
- Any illegal activity
- Use, possession, purchase, attempts to purchase or sell drugs or drug paraphernalia or alcohol
- Possession, purchase, or selling of weapons or fireworks
- Grave or repeated disrespect
- Theft
- Vandalism or destruction of property
- Indecent fraternization
- Obscene expressions, gestures, writings, or conversations, including postings of such nature on the internet
- Possession of immoral material
- Excessive repetition of major infractions such as those listed above

* Students must understand that extensive paraphrasing, excessive quotation, and unattributed sources constitute plagiarism, the theft of another's work. Teachers will provide thorough critiques of papers and drafts, taking special care to elucidate the

nature of legitimate research. Teachers will alert the principal of suspected plagiarism. In confirmed cases, the principal, in cooperation with the teacher, will determine appropriate sanctions and consequences.

The principal will handle grave infractions. Students will be punished by suspension or expulsion at his discretion. Suspensions may be of shorter or longer duration, depending on the gravity of the offense. Work missed during the time of suspension may receive a zero, at the principal's discretion. Expulsion, once imposed, will last for the duration of the academic year. The principal may grant readmission at his discretion.

Notice of Disciplinary Action

Parents will be notified officially, by way of a disciplinary notice, of major and grave infractions and of the disciplinary measure taken. A copy of the notice will remain in the student's file. The principal may request a meeting.

Miscellaneous Rules and Consequences

Loyalty and respect, as well as immediate cheerful cooperation, are the virtues expected from all students. Immature or uncivilized behavior will not be tolerated.

All buildings and areas on campus in which the student does not have immediate academic interest are off-limits, with the exception of the chapel.

Exclusion from Academy Activities

Dependent upon the level of an infraction, the principal may choose to restrict an offending student's access to Academy functions for a period of time. "Academy functions" include, but are not limited to the following school activities: field trips, concerts, fundraising activities, science fairs, geography fairs, awards ceremonies, and running the Jog-A-Thon. If parents have any question about whether or not restricted students may attend a school event, they must discuss this with the principal before the event.

There are different levels of restriction from Academy functions. Generally, the principal will specify the duration of event restrictions. Expelled students may not attend any Academy functions until they are readmitted to the school, or their class graduates. Parents may appeal in writing to the principal for changes in restricted status. If parents have doubts about restrictions, they should discuss them with the principal.

Disciplinary Probation

Any student demonstrating consistently poor conduct will be placed on disciplinary probation by the principal for a designated period of time. While on disciplinary probation, a student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities. If a student in a probationary status shows no substantial improvement in behavior, his or her parents will meet with the principal to determine a proper course of action, which may include expulsion.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Eligibility

Students must be academically current to participate in extracurricular activities. Students must not be on suspension or detention the day of the activity; if so, the student will be excluded from these activities. Students must be present at school on the day of the extra-curricular activity when these days fall on regularly scheduled school days. If the student is absent during the day, he or she will be excluded from participation.

Field Trips

Field trips can provide meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences for students. Parents need to fill out a general field trip permission form, a release of liability form, and a medical treatment consent form at the beginning of each school year. This permission form will remain on file for the entire academic year.

The school will inform parents of field trips throughout the year by means of an email or a written memo for the specific activity. Field trips are a student privilege and not a right. Students may be denied field trip privileges if they are not performing well academically and/or behaviorally. Students who choose not to participate in a field trip will be marked absent for that day.

Appointments and Contact with School Personnel

Appointments with Teachers or Administration

Parents may request meetings with any member of the Academy faculty or administration. Such meetings should be scheduled in advance, by phone, through the secretary's office.

Contacting Teachers

Contact teachers regarding school matters at the school number during regular school hours or email them at their Academy email address. The school will not normally call teachers out of the classroom, or away from other supervisory duties to take calls during school hours. Teachers who receive messages relating to school matters will return phone calls and emails during available free periods. Teachers will respond to messages left after hours at their earliest convenience. Please do not contact teachers at their homes, via cell phone or other electronic means, or at parish functions regarding school matters.

Visitor Policy

Visitors

Visitors, including parents, must enter the building through the main entryways and check in with the Academy secretary.

Classroom Visitation

Occasional classroom visits by parents can benefit the educational process. Parents should make requests for classroom visits in writing, and at least 24 hours prior to the desired visit. Teachers and parents will decide on a mutually agreeable visitation time, and the teacher will confirm the visit with the school office and the assistant principal. A follow-up meeting can be scheduled after the visit if it is desired by either the parent or the teacher.

Emergency Procedures and School Closings

In case of severe weather (tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, ice storms, etc.) during school hours, students should remain at school. The school will maintain contact with the U.S. Weather Service and Office of Civil Defense for tornado warnings or other severe conditions. In the event of a tornado warning, students will assemble in the safest locations within the buildings and the school will follow procedures recommended by the Office of Civil Defense. Parents should not attempt to pick up

children during emergency conditions prior to dismissal time. During emergencies, as at all other times, teachers will not release children to any person other than parents unless specifically notified by the parents.

Fire and Tornado Drills

Fire drills are mandatory, and the school conducts them throughout the year. The school will conduct tornado drills as required. During drills, students must maintain silence and behave in a controlled manner to ensure safety of other students, faculty, and staff personnel.

Inclement Weather and School Closings

School will close at times due to inclement weather. These closings will coincide with those of the local public school district (Kansas City, Missouri Public School District 33). In the event of a public school closing, the Academy will also close, though the Academy may choose to close even if the local school district remains open. Parents will be notified of school closings via email.

If severe storms begin after the school day has begun, parents may pick up students and form carpools at their discretion. The school will contact parents in the event of an early closing, and parents should have an emergency transportation plan in place in case they cannot come and pick up their child or children.

Tuition, Fundraising and Financial Aid

For details regarding St. Vincent de Paul Academy's tuition, fundraising and FACTS sign up, are available online at www.stvincentkc.org under the Academy tab.

Tuition

As a matter of justice and the financial stability of the school, parents must take their tuition obligations seriously. Parents, who for valid reasons cannot meet their monthly obligation as agreed upon in the tuition contract, must contact the principal to inform him of their difficulty and make alternative arrangements, such as a payment plan.

In the absence of special arrangements made with the principal, the school may apply late fees to missed payments. The school may require parents to withdraw students until they can meet financial obligations. The school reserves the right to withhold report cards, transcripts, and diplomas in these cases.

Fundraising Obligations

Fundraising provides necessary operating income and allows the school to maintain tuition costs well below average for private institutions. Fundraising also instills in students a sense of ownership and responsibility. Participation in official school fundraisers is mandatory for all families.

Financial Aid

Each year, the school is able to provide a limited amount of financial assistance to families in legitimate need, though the amount available depends entirely on benefactor donations earmarked for this purpose. To be considered for financial aid, applicants must:

- Submit completed financial aid application for current year
- Submit a copy of tax return and other applicable documentation for the previous year
- Maintain a monthly payment schedule as developed with the principal
- Support and participate in all official school fundraisers

- Families receiving financial aid will be asked to contribute to the overall good of the school by performing some assigned volunteer work or services.

Volunteering

Volunteers are vital to the successful operation of the school. Those interested in volunteering should contact the school office. For security purposes, volunteers may be asked to complete a routine background check release.

Confidentiality Agreement

Volunteers must understand the importance of confidentiality and students' privacy rights. Any information obtained or overheard while volunteering at the school, or in any capacity in or out of the classroom, must remain confidential.

Volunteers will:

- Respect the confidentiality of all faculty, staff and students
- Remain in designated work areas
- Dress appropriately for activities according to standards of modesty
- Know and adhere to Academy rules and expectations
- Notify the school office and the appropriate teacher if they cannot come when expected

Volunteers will not:

- Hold unscheduled conferences with teachers
- Visit classrooms of their own children without permission
- Bring their own children, other than those directly involved, to scheduled activities without prior approval
- Use cell phones while supervising children in class, on the playground, or on field trips, except to fulfill assigned duties

Withdrawal, Transfer and Readmission

Continued enrollment requires strict observance of school rules as prescribed in the School Handbook including, but not limited to, general behavior, academic performance, and attendance. Continued enrollment in any given school year and re-enrollment in any subsequent school year are subject to continued support of the mission of the school as discussed in this handbook, and the maintenance of a demonstrably effective and supportive relationship between the family and the school. Re-enrollment in any given year requires the mutual agreement of the parents and the school; either the parents or the school administration - or both - may withhold that agreement with or without cause.

Withdrawal Guidelines

In the event of withdrawal from the academy during an academic year:

- Parents should arrange a meeting with the principal to discuss and/or finalize the withdrawal.
- After finalizing the decision to withdraw, parents need to return all borrowed books and materials to the school.
- Faculty will have at least three days to prepare materials for the withdrawal.
- The contract signed for enrollment is binding; parents must pay all fees and reconcile all accounts.

Transfer

St. Vincent de Paul Academy will not automatically release records to another school in the case of transfer. The new school must request student health, scholastic and standardized test records from the Academy in writing with a transcript release form. St. Vincent de Paul Academy reserves the right to withhold all records until all financial obligations have been met.

Readmission after Withdrawal

The school will not guarantee readmission to students withdrawn from the Academy during an academic year for reasons other than relocation, health or other good reasons. At the discretion of the principal, the school may impose a one year waiting period before considering a request for readmission. In these cases, the school will consider these children to be new students for purposes of admission and enrollment.