



NATIVITY^{of}MARY

SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The middle school years are of great importance in the formation of young people. Middle school is a bridge linking the elementary school to the high school years, and students formulate the attitudes and habits they will carry into their high school years during this time. The philosophy of our middle school is to help students realize their potential academically and understand their place in the community of Christian persons. An emphasis on accepting personal responsibility, personal growth and independence is central in this philosophy. These are vital to the student's overall development.

While self-discipline is the ideal, it is understood that corrective measures will be required at times. When it becomes necessary to enforce the consequences of discipline violations as outlined below, the consequences are enforced in a manner that respects the dignity of the student and promotes healthy and responsible behavior.

Discipline is a learning experience, not just a punishment. To that end discipline:

- Helps the student learn a lesson that will positively affect present and future behavior.
- Is designed to help the student control and change behavior, and guide the student into adulthood.
- Helps the student to grow intellectually and emotionally.
- Enhances the student's self-confidence, self-work, and self-image.

General Middle School Expectations:

Middle school students are the leaders of the school. As role models for the younger students, there are high expectations for behavior. Some general expectations are listed below.

1. Speak and act respectfully to everyone.
2. Follow directions the first time they are given.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Be on time, seated, and prepared for advisory and classes.
5. Use property with respect: lockers, displays, books, etc.
6. Keep halls and classrooms clean. Pick up after yourself and others!
7. Walk quietly at all times.

8. No gum on campus at any time.
9. Do NOT leave school grounds during school or while staying for extracurricular activities.

Cafeteria Expectations:

Students should go to the lunchroom promptly after being dismissed from class. Students are expected to stay in the lunchroom while eating and remain in the lunchroom until at least 12:50 or when the recess supervisor is ready. All food and drink must be consumed in the lunchroom. No food or drink should be brought to recess. After eating, students are required to go outside for recess (weather permitting). Students will not be allowed to sit in the lunchroom for recess. If a student needs extra time to finish eating they may ask the lunch supervisor. If approved for extra time, a student may be asked to finish their lunch at a different table or location depending on needs.

Students should keep their table and floor area clean. When assigned as a table helper, it is expected that the job be done well and cheerfully.

Recess and Playground Expectations:

All middle school students are expected to go out to recess in a timely manner after eating lunch and may not return to the middle school wing without permission from a teacher. Middle school students are also expected to bring and wear the appropriate clothing for outdoor recess every day. Expectations on the playground include but are not limited to:

- Snow Hill: Must have appropriate snow apparel to be in snow. No pushing, grabbing or pulling people down the hill. No king of the mountain/hill. No throwing snow or ice.
- Playground Balls: Can be used anywhere in the appointed parking lot areas or soccer field. Also, balls are permitted on the basketball court portion of the playground only. No balls allowed on the playground equipment.
- Playground: Middle school students only allowed on swings; playground use reserved for grades Pre K-5.

Church and Assembly Expectations:

Walk to and from church quietly; silence upon entering church. Be reverent in your words and actions. Be courteous and show appropriate appreciation for liturgies and performances.

Bus Behavior:

Middle school students are role models for the younger students who ride the bus. Middle school students should be leaders by always sitting while the bus is in motion, keeping their body and items out of the aisle, and speaking respectfully and at an appropriate level. Violation of rules or creating an unsafe environment on the bus will result in disciplinary action by the school which could include, but is not limited to, assigned seating and suspension/expulsion from the bus. Discipline is decided on a case-by-case basis by administration.

PIPs:

PIPs stand for Personal Improvement Plan—the purpose for a PIP is to help students improve their behavior while stopping undesirable behaviors that negatively affect the learning environment in a classroom. It is important to remember that parents and teachers must work together to guide students in appropriate decision-making. When a student receives a PIP, they will be asked to fill out a document reflecting on the following questions:

1. What did I do that was inappropriate?
2. What effect did my behavior have on my learning and on the learning of others?
3. What I will do differently next time/what I should have done this time?

Teachers will notify parents when a student has received a PIP and parents will be expected to sign the document completed by the student. The form must be returned to the teacher who issued the form on the following day before school.

Students who have received 3 PIPs in one trimester will receive detentions instead of PIPs thereafter. Depending on the severity of a behavior, a detention may be issued instead of a PIP.

Although PIPs are serious, they should be seen as a way to grow. When a student earns a PIP, it does not mean that the student is a bad person, nor does it mean that a teacher dislikes the student. A PIP is a way for a student to reflect on his or her poor behavior choice so he or she can improve his or her behavior in the future while recognizing how behavior affects how others learn in class.

Behaviors that earn PIPs (not an exhaustive list)—

- Repeatedly talking/ blurting out of turn (interrupting in any way) while a teacher is instructing/ not keeping hands/feet to oneself
- Repeatedly talking to another student during a teacher's instruction after being told to stop
- Yelling, running, or other disruptive behaviors in the hallway during or between classes—especially on the way to gym, church or lunch
- Arguing, being defiant/oppositional, or talking-back in a disrespectful manner when a teacher provides a direction or instruction—this includes arguing over a grade and negative/ rude/ oppositional language toward a teacher
- Disrespectful behavior toward another student—put-downs, rudeness, hurtful actions and unkind language that does not reflect Nativity of Mary Catholic School values
- Choosing to not follow instructions as assigned
- Whispering, giggling or other irreverent actions during Mass
- Sneaking out of the classroom before bus dismissal
- Leaving a classroom or assigned area without a teacher's permission
- Using the computer for non-academic pursuits, especially during instruction—playing games, scribbling/doodling, watching videos, listening to music
- Excessive roughness or carelessness with school or personal property

- Not respecting others' property
- Chewing gum

Detentions:

For students whose actions are beyond minor disruptions, consistently disruptive, or violate appropriate conduct, an after-school detention will be issued. The detention will be a 45 minute period and will be served on the next day after being issued. Detentions will be issued to students whose behavior shows blatant disrespect, mutilation of property, fighting, blatant refusal to cooperate, behavior to be considered seriously disruptive, not returning a PIP when issued, having a cell phone in class without teacher approval, and other inappropriate behaviors.

After-school detentions must be served on the date designated, as the consequence of the student's actions should follow within close proximity of the act. Extra-curricular activities are not an acceptable excuse to reschedule the detention. During detention time, students will either sit quietly or provide service to the school. Students serving detention may not work on homework. A second detention will be issued if a detention time is missed. Should a student's behavior consistently violate appropriate conduct he/she may forfeit his/her privilege to participate in school sponsored activities and administration may provide additional consequences in accordance with our discipline policy.

Uniform Code:

The Catholic School uniform shows dignity for the process of education and is a visual sign of our school unity. It shows respect for authority and order as well as the idea of basic equality in the eyes of God. Nativity of Mary students wear their uniform in a manner which reflects pride in themselves and in their school. See the Parent/Student Handbook or policy for the complete Uniform Code. Students who are habitually in violation of the uniform code will receive a warning and parents will be contacted. Subsequent violations after the warning will result in a PIP.



NATIVITY *of* MARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

I/We have read and discussed the Middle School Procedures and Behavior Expectations with our child (ren) and agree to the policies and procedures contained herein.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Please print the names of your child (ren) and have each child sign the form.

(Student's Signature)

(Student's Signature)

(Student's Signature)