

MISCELLANEOUS

REPORTING PHYSICAL/SEXUAL ABUSE

Parents and guardians should understand that State law requires the person who has reasonable suspicion that sexual or physical abuse has occurred to report this to the Division of Children and Family Services. The person who fails to fulfill the responsibility can be charged with sexual or physical abuse because the silence contributes to the crime.

COOPERATION WITH LEGAL AUTHORITIES

It is the practice of the school to cooperate with any local, state, or federal investigators or law enforcement officers that contact the school in the course of any criminal investigation. The school will attempt to notify the parents of any student sought to be interviewed in the course of a criminal investigation on the school premises, unless directed by an investigator or law enforcement officer to the contrary, which is usually the case in investigations involving sexual or physical abuse. The school will attempt as well to have a representative present during such an interview, unless this is not permitted by the investigators, which also is often the case in investigations involving sexual or physical abuse.

CUSTODIAL RIGHTS

In the case of divorced parents, the school will interact with the parent who has legal custody of the child. The school ordinarily will deal with the parent having legal custody in matters of absence, lateness, truancy, early dismissal, disciplinary issues, school records, etc. Access to in-person conferences and the records and information pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to school records, may not be denied to a parent because the parent is not the child's primary residential parent. Full rights apply to either parent **unless** a court order specifically revokes these rights. In the latter case, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to provide evidence of such a court order.

FACULTY ASKED TO TESTIFY IN DIVORCE OR CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS

It is the policy of the Archdiocese to have school personnel whose presence is required to attend legal proceedings represented by an attorney. Whenever school personnel are compelled to participate in divorce or custody proceedings, any and all legal fees and or costs incurred by the school will be charged and become the responsibility of the parents.

ASBESTOS

Federal regulations require that St. Bartholomew Catholic School inform its families that the school complies with all testing and monitoring of asbestos on its premises.

SMOKE

St. Bartholomew Catholic School maintains a ‘smoke-free’ environment, as required by federal regulations. Staff members and all visitors are asked to refrain from smoking in any and all of the school’s facilities. Students possessing or using tobacco products are subject to disciplinary measures. Refer to the discipline section for further information.

USE OF STUDENT INFORMATION AND PICTURES

The school reserves the right to use student pictures in publications and on the school website. Any parent who does not wish the picture of his/her child to be used must notify the principal in writing prior to the beginning of the school year.

PARENTAL COVENANTS

At the beginning of the school year, all parents, or legal guardians, must sign and agree to adhere to the school’s codes and practices.

STUDENT COVENANTS

At the beginning of the year, all St. Bartholomew Catholic School students are requested to sign covenants with their teachers in which they agree to adhere to certain standards of conduct. The covenant includes, but is not limited to, areas such as the dress code, study habits, treatment of adults and schoolmates, and daily prayer. Students who do not adhere to the contract are subject to disciplinary measures.

PRINCIPAL’S RIGHT TO AMEND

Any student action that is not in keeping with the philosophy/objective of St. Bartholomew Catholic School is subject to the review of the administration and may lead to withdrawal from school.

Since situations can arise that were not foreseen at the time of writing the Handbook, the principal reserves the right to initiate, change or modify the policies as needed. Parents and students will be notified of any amendments.

The principal and/or Pastor are the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rules for just cause at his/her discretion.