

# **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**CONVENT of the VISITATION SCHOOL**



**2455 Visitation Drive  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120  
651-683-1700**

## Convent of the Visitation School

### MISSION STATEMENT

2016-2017

Convent of the Visitation School provides an excellent education within a Catholic environment permeated by Salesian Spirituality.

The Visitation sisters, faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees, with the support of parents and students, are committed to:

The spiritual, academic, emotional, physical, social, and cultural development of each student from infancy to adulthood.

Co-education through sixth grade. Single-sex education for young women in grades seven through twelve.

The formation of students in faith, worship, and moral and social responsibility.

A supportive learning environment, a challenging academic program, and a college preparatory curriculum.

Student development through the arts, athletics, and co-curricular activities.

Holistic growth through the promotion of leadership, self-confidence, social interaction, and personal fulfillment.

Respect for one another and appreciation of human diversity.

With God's help and the wisdom born of a long history, Visitation moves into the future realizing its motto,

***“Non Scholae, Sed Vitae,” “Not for School, but for Life.”***

### VISITATION SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, we celebrate the way you inspired Mary to carry the new life of Christ to her cousin, Elizabeth. We also carry Christ in our hearts, and we celebrate the great things you do for us.

Guide all of us at Visitation to respect and appreciate ourselves and others. As we gather, help us to continue to work for the good of our school and all creation. In the gentle spirit of St. Jane de Chantal and St. Francis de Sales, teach us to love you by serving and supporting one another.

Bless and protect each of us, our families, those we love, and all who are in need of our prayer. Amen.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT .....	2
VISITATION SCHOOL PRAYER .....	2
ADMINISTRATION/FACULTY ASSIGNMENTS .....	6
FACULTY ASSIGNMENTS .....	7
GENERAL INFORMATION .....	9
EXPECTATIONS FOR VISITATION STUDENTS: .....	10
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY .....	11
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE POLICY: .....	13
ANNUAL GIVING .....	13
ATTENDANCE HOTLINE .....	13
AUTOMOBILES .....	13
BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL POLICY: .....	13
BOARD OF CONDUCT: .....	14
BUS CONDUCT .....	15
BUSINESS HOURS .....	16
CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR FAMILY STATUS CHANGES .....	16
CHAPEL .....	16
COMMUNICATION SCHOOL/PARENT/STUDENT: .....	16
CONCERTS .....	16
COUNSELING POLICY: .....	16
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY .....	17
DISCIPLINE POLICIES .....	17
ELECTRONIC DEVICES .....	17
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES .....	17
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM .....	17
ENDOWMENT .....	17
FINANCIAL GRANTS .....	18
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS .....	18
HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE/BULLYING POLICY .....	18
HAZING .....	18
HEALTH SERVICE .....	18
LIBRARY/COMPUTER CENTER .....	20
LOCKERS .....	20
LOST AND FOUND .....	20
LUNCHES/DINING ROOM: .....	20
MERRIE MARKET .....	20
MONEY/VALUABLES .....	20
NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT POLICY .....	20
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION .....	21
PARENTS OUT OF TOWN .....	21
PHONE MESSAGES .....	21
PREGNANCY POLICY .....	21
PROHIBITED AREAS .....	21
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT .....	21
REGISTRATION .....	21
RELIGION POLICY .....	21

RE-ENROLLMENT HOLD POLICY .....	22
SCHOOL PEDDLER .....	22
SEXUAL IDENTITY POLICY .....	22
SNOW DAYS/WEATHER DIMISSALS .....	22
SPECIAL COURSE FEES.....	23
STEALING AND VANDALISM .....	23
STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT .....	23
STUDENT INSURANCE.....	23
STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT.....	23
STUDENT RECORDS .....	23
TAX DEDUCTIONS .....	24
TELEPHONE.....	24
TOBACCO FREE POLICY .....	24
TRADITIONS AND EVENTS .....	24
TUITION PAYMENT POLICY.....	24
VISTA TRANSPORTATION .....	24
WEAPONS POLICY.....	25
<b>UPPER SCHOOL.....</b>	<b>26</b>
ACADEMIC AWARDS - SENIORS.....	26
ACADEMIC/PERSONAL INTEGRITY.....	26
ACADEMIC PROBATION .....	26
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) ADMISSION CRITERIA.....	27
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM POLICY.....	27
ATTENDANCE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES .....	27
ATTENDANCE POLICY .....	27
ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES – DAILY .....	28
EXTENDED ABSENCE REQUESTS .....	28
ATTENDANCE POLICY—STATE TOURNAMENTS.....	29
BOARD OF CONDUCT.....	29
CLOSED CAMPUS .....	29
COURSES AT SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY .....	29
DETENTION POLICY .....	30
DISCIPLINARY PROBATION.....	30
FAILED CLASSES .....	30
FIELD TRIPS .....	30
GRADING .....	30
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.....	31
GUESTS .....	31
HOMEWORK.....	31
HONOR ROLL .....	31
INCOMPLETES.....	32
MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS .....	32
MESSAGE BOARD .....	32
POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION.....	32
RETREAT POLICY .....	32
SALESIAN VIRTUES PROGRAM .....	32
SENIOR EXAM POLICY.....	32
SENIOR PRIVILEGES .....	32
SENIOR PROJECTS.....	33
SENIOR SPEECHES AT STA.....	33
SKIPPING.....	33
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS .....	33

STUDENT ACTIVITIES/GROUPS .....	34
STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS .....	34
STUDENTS DRIVING STUDENTS.....	34
SUGGESTED PARENT GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES .....	34
TARDINESS.....	34
TUTORING.....	35
UNIFORM REGULATIONS .....	35
VIS/STA EXCHANGE POLICY.....	35
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL.....</b>	<b>36</b>
ACADEMIC/BEHAVIOR CONCERNS .....	36
ACADEMIC PROBATION .....	36
ACADEMIC/BEHAVIOR REGARDING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: .....	36
ATTENDANCE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: .....	36
ATTENDANCE POLICY .....	37
ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES – DAILY .....	37
EXTENDED ABSENCE REQUESTS .....	38
ATTENDANCE AT AFTER SCHOOL/EVENING ACTIVITIES .....	38
BOARD OF CONDUCT.....	38
FAILED CLASSES: .....	38
GRADING .....	38
HOMEWORK:.....	38
HONESTY POLICY .....	39
INCOMPLETES.....	39
LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY.....	39
PARENT CONFERENCES .....	39
TARDINESS:.....	39
UNIFORM REGULATIONS: .....	40
<b>MONTESSORI &amp; LOWER SCHOOL .....</b>	<b>42</b>
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL .....	42
ATTENDANCE.....	42
BOARD OF CONDUCT.....	42
BIRTHDAYS .....	42
CAR POOL ARRIVALS.....	42
CAR POOL PICK-UPS.....	42
DISCIPLINE .....	43
HOMEWORK.....	43
PARENT CONFERENCES .....	43
PLANNED ABSENCES.....	43
UNIFORM REGULATIONS .....	43
<b>EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>VISITATION ATHLETIC POLICIES AND INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>45</b>

# ADMINISTRATION/FACULTY ASSIGNMENTS

## **HEAD OF SCHOOL** - Rene Gavic

B.S. Mathematics-University of Minnesota  
M.A. Educational Leadership - University of Dayton, Ohio  
Visitation Employee since 1989

## **INTERIM DIRECTOR OF UPPER SCHOOL** - Rene Genereux

B.A. French - College of St. Benedict  
M.A. Theology - St. John's University  
Certification in Educational Administration - University of Utah  
Visitation Employee 2005-2014, 2016

## **DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Benjamin Tierney

B.A. Philosophy – Saint John's University  
M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of Minnesota  
Ph.D. Curriculum and Instruction – University of Minnesota  
Visitation Employee since 2014

## **INTERIM DIRECTOR OF LOWER SCHOOL** - Mary Pat Ferraro

B.A. Elementary Education - University of St. Thomas  
M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
Ed. Specialist – University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2001

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM DIRECTOR** - Sr. Mary Denise

Villaume, VHM  
B.A. Elementary Education - College of St. Catherine  
M.A. Elementary Administration - University of St. Thomas  
Montessori Diploma  
30+ years at Visitation

## **DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT** – Anne Brady Kane

B.A. Economics & Political Science, St. Mary's of Notre Dame  
Visitation Employee since 2011

## **DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE** – Ann Feitl

B.S. Science Education-University of Minnesota  
M.A. Education- University of Minnesota  
Ed. Specialist – University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2003

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL GRANTS** - Katie Owens

B.A. Communication/Management - College of St. Benedict  
Visitation Employee since 2002

## **DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES** – Elisa Ryan Manny

B.A. English Writing – St. Mary's College, Notre Dame  
M.A. English Literature – De Paul University  
Certificate in Sports Management – Loyola University, Chicago  
Visitation Employee since 2015

## **DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT** – Beth Cutter-Wilson

B.A. History - University of Minnesota  
M.A. Social Work - University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Visitation Employee since 2016

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS** – Gregory Engel

B.A. Accounting - University of St. Thomas  
M.B.A. Finance and Economics – University of Chicago  
Visitation Employee since 2014

## **DIRECTOR OF SALESIAN STUDIES** - Anne Eilers Williams

B.A. English & Business Administration - University of Notre Dame  
Visitation Employee since 2004

## **COORDINATOR OF CHILD CARE** - Anne Cherrier

B.A. Early Childhood Education - University of Wisconsin  
Visitation Employee since 2000

## **COORDINATOR OF EXTENDED DAY AND SUMMER PROGRAMS**

- Julia Dale  
B.S. Human Development & Family Studies - University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Visitation Employee since 2008

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** - Wendy Short-Hays

VISTA Productions  
Visitation Employee since 1993

## **COLLEGE COUNSELOR** – Brian Burgemeister

B.A. Communication – Bethany Lutheran College  
Visitation Employee 2015

## **COLLEGE COUNSELOR** – Sarah Patterson

B.A. Biopsychology - Tufts University  
M.A. Educational Studies - Tufts University  
Visitation Employee since 2013

## **LOWER/MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR** - Jeanne Scanlan Doyle

B.A. English - College of St. Catherine  
M.S. Education - Fordham University  
Visitation Employee Since 1997

## **UPPER SCHOOL COUNSELOR/ACADEMIC COUNSELOR** - Anne

Gimpl  
B.A. Social Work - St. Mary's College, Notre Dame  
M.A. Social Work - Loyola University, Chicago  
Visitation Employee since 2008

## **REGISTRAR/GUIDANCE COUNSELOR** – Andrea Hofland

B.A. Elementary Education - College of St. Benedict  
M.S. School Counseling – University of Wisconsin, River Falls  
Visitation Employee Since 2012

## **COORDINATOR OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY** – Tracey Joyce

B.S. Business Administration - University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
M.A. Elementary Education - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2007

## **COORDINATOR OF TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS** – Paul Goodhue

Visitation Employee since 2014

# FACULTY ASSIGNMENTS

- ANDAHAZY, Marius J.**  
Teacher of Ballet  
Ballet Master in Residence/Adjunct Professor - University of Wisconsin-River Falls  
Visitation Employee since 1984
- ARNSTEIN, Elizabeth**  
Teacher of English-Upper School  
B.A. English & Communication - St. Francis University  
M.A. Education - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2001
- ASPLUND, Liv Anda**  
Teacher of Mathematics-Upper School  
B.A. Mathematics - St. Olaf College  
M.S. Computer and Information Sciences - University of Minnesota  
Visitation Employee since 2006
- BACA, Ronna**  
Teacher of Art-Lower School  
B.A. Studio Art and Spanish – College of St. Benedict  
M.A. Art Education – University of Minnesota  
Visitation Employee since 2013
- BAUMEISTER, Kay**  
English Department Chair/Teacher of English-Upper School  
B.A. English and Communication, Arts Literature - College of St. Catherine  
Visitation Employee since 2007
- BREYEN, Gretchen**  
Teacher of Mathematics-Upper School  
B.A. Mathematics - University of Minnesota  
M.A. Education - University of Minnesota  
Visitation Employee Since 2011
- BURG, Anita J.**  
Visual Arts Department Chair/Teacher of Art-Upper/Middle School  
B.A. Art Education & Physical Education - Concordia College  
M.A. Art Education - University of Minnesota  
Visitation Employee since 2005
- CLEVELAND, Charlotte**  
Teacher of Art-Upper School  
B.A. Art - College of St. Benedict  
M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2002
- COLON, Connie**  
Science Department Chair/Teacher of Science-Upper School  
B.S. - St. Cloud State University  
M.A. Educational Leadership - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 1986
- CUTTER SULLIVAN, Mary Frances**  
Teacher of Spanish-Upper School  
B.A. Spanish - Rosary College  
M.A. Educational Technology - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 1977
- DANIEWICZ, Kathleen**  
Campus Minister and Teacher of Religion-Upper School  
B.A. Music & Secondary Education - College of St. Catherine  
M.A. Theology - College of St. Catherine
- Visitation Employee since 1992
- DOLAN, Laura**  
Physical Education & Health Department Chair/Teacher of Physical Education-Montessori & Middle School  
B.A. Communications – Boston College  
M.A.T Elementary Education K-6 - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2011
- FAHEY, Julia**  
Teacher of Music-Middle School  
B.A. Music Education - Southwest State University  
Visitation Employee since 1991
- FENNEMA, Katherine**  
Teacher of Mathematics-Upper School/Tech Integration Specialist  
B.A. Mathematics - Smith College  
M.A., Mathematics Education - Western Michigan University  
Visitation Employee since 2007
- FOLEY, Lucy**  
Library Media Professional  
B.A. Catholic Studies, Literature & Philosophy – University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2015
- HAGERTY, Kathryn**  
Teacher of English-Upper School  
B.A. English - College of St. Catherine  
M.A. English - Marquette University  
Visitation Employee since 1999
- HANSELL, Rachel**  
Teacher of Music-Lower School  
B.A. Music and French – Luther College  
Visitation Employee since 2013
- HAYS, Elliott**  
VISTA Scenic Technical Director  
Visitation Employee since 1997
- HICKOK, Molly**  
Teacher of Grade 2  
B.A. Elementary Education and Sociology - University of St. Thomas  
M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 2005
- HORTTOR, Brett**  
Teacher of Social Studies-Upper School  
B.A. Economics - University of Kansas  
J.D. University of Kansas  
M.A. Teaching - University of St. Thomas  
Ed. Specialist Educational Leadership - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 1999
- HORTTOR, Carolyn**  
Teacher of Geography/Religion-Middle School  
B.A. Elementary Education and Social Studies - University of St. Thomas  
M.A. School Administration - University of St. Thomas  
Ed. Specialist - University of St. Thomas  
Visitation Employee since 1984

**IRIZANNEY, Kelsey**  
 Teacher of Computer – Lower School  
 B.S. Elementary Education – College of St. Catherine  
 M.A. Education – St. Mary’s University, Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2016

**KING, Rachel**  
 Teacher of Mathematics-Upper School  
 B.S. Physics and Mathematics - Illinois State University  
 M.A. Education in Mathematics - University of Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2012

**KISCH PAUL, Carrie**  
 Teacher of Montessori Preschool  
 B.A. Education - College of St. Benedict  
 M.A. Early Childhood Education - College of St. Catherine  
 Certified Montessori Early Childhood - College of St. Catherine  
 Visitation Employee Since 2004

**LEWIN, John**  
 Teacher of Science-Upper School  
 B.A. Chemistry - University of St. Thomas  
 Ph.D. Chemistry - University of Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2010

**MANCEBO, Graciela**  
 World Language Department Chair/Teacher of Spanish-  
 Middle/Upper School  
 B.S. Biology - Centro de Altos Estudios en Ciencias Exacta  
 M.S. Biology - Buenos Aires, Argentina  
 M.S. Ecology - Universidad Inca Garcelaso de la Vega, Lima, Peru  
 M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 2001

**MALOVRH, Christine**  
 Teacher of Social Studies-Upper School  
 B.A. History – University of St. Thomas  
 M.A. History – Fordham University  
 Visitation Employee since 2014

**MATELSKI, Theresa**  
 Religion Department Chair/Teacher of Religion-Upper School  
 B.A. Environmental Studies and Economics - Binghamton University  
 M.A. Religion and Religious Education - Fordham University NY  
 Visitation Employee since 2013

**MATTSON, Ann**  
 Teacher of Grade 6  
 A.A. Liberal Studies - College of St. Benedict  
 B.A. Communications - College of St. Catherine  
 M.A. Education - College of St. Catherine  
 Visitation Employee since 2000

**McCLURE, Mary**  
 Teacher of Religion-Upper School  
 B.A. French Education minor in Theology - College of St. Catherine  
 M.A. Catechetics and Liturgy - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 2004

**MILEY, Kathy**  
 Teacher of Religion-Upper School  
 B.A. Elementary Education – Benedictine University  
 M.A. Pastoral Studies – Loyola University, Chicago  
 Visitation Employee since 2014

**MILLER, Erin**  
 Teacher of Science-Upper School

**B.A. Biology – St. Olaf College**  
**M.A. Human Resource Development- University of St. Thomas**  
 Visitation Employee since 2014

**MILLER, Kathryn**  
 Teacher of Grade 3  
 B.A. - College of St. Scholastica  
 M.A. Area of Creative, Gifted & Talented - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 1992

**MOONEY, Zindy**  
 Teacher of Science-Middle School  
 B.A. Human Biology - Stanford University  
 M.A. Education - St. Mary’s University of Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2004

**MUNGER, Clark**  
 Teacher of Chinese-Middle and Upper School  
 B.A. Philosophy - Lewis and Clark College  
 M.A. Environmental Law and Policy - Vermont Law School  
 Visitation Employee Since 2011

**NICOL, Kevin**  
 Mathematics Department Chair/Teacher of Mathematics-Upper  
 School  
 B.S. - University of Minnesota  
 M.A. Education - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 1978

**NORRIS, Ilse**  
 Teacher of French-Upper School  
 B.A. English Linguistics and Literature, German, Secondary Education  
 - University of Ghent, Belgium  
 M.A. Education and K-12 French Cert. - College of St. Catherine  
 Visitation Employee since 1999

**OLKEN-HUNT, Elizabeth**  
 Teacher of Montessori  
 B.A. Art History - Boston University  
 M.A. Education - Lesley University, Cambridge, MA  
 Visitation Employee Since 2011

**OLSON, Nichole**  
 Learning Specialist-Lower and Middle School  
 B.A. Broadcast Journalism - University of Missouri Columbia  
 M.A. Learning and Instruction - University of San Francisco  
 Visitation Employee Since 2013

**PARENTEAU, Jennifer**  
 Teacher of Grade 4  
 B.A. Elementary Education - College of St. Benedict  
 Visitation Employee since 2013

**PEEL, Susan**  
 Teacher of Orchestra  
 B.S. - University of Wyoming  
 Visitation Employee since 2013

**REXROTH, Randi**  
 Performing Arts Department Chair/Teacher of Music-Upper School  
 B.M. Vocal Music Education - St. Olaf College  
 M.M. Choral Conducting - Michigan State University  
 Visitation Employee since 2004

**RITZENTHALER, Sarah**  
 Middle School Instructional Specialist  
 B.A. History - Lawrence University  
 M.A. Instruction – St. Mary’s University, Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2015

**ROSAS, Amanda**  
 Teacher of Spanish-Upper School



B.A. Spanish - College of Notre Dame, Maryland  
 M.S. Spanish - University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 Visitation Employee since 2006

**RUSSOMANNO, Susan**  
 Student Support Department Chair/Learning Specialist-Upper School  
 B.A. Child Psychology and Sociology - University of Minnesota  
 M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 2006

**SCHLEHUBER, Michell**  
 Writing Resource Teacher – Grades 5/6  
 B.A. Elementary Education – St. Norbert College  
 Visitation Employee since 2013

**SCHLETZ, Tara**  
 Resource Teacher – Lower School  
 B.A. Elementary Education/Middle School Social Studies – Minnesota State, Mankato  
 M.A. Education, Curriculum and Instruction – St. Catherine University  
 Visitation Employee since 2016

**SCHUMACHER, Kelly**  
 Teacher of Kindergarten  
 B.A. Elementary Education - College of St. Catherine  
 M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 1993

**SIMON, Jayme**  
 Physical Education & Health Department Chair/Teacher of Health/Phy-Ed-Upper School  
 B.S. Health & Physical Education - Northern Michigan University  
 M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 2002

**SPELTZ, Rita**  
 Teacher of English-Upper School  
 B.A. English - College of St. Teresa  
 B.S. Education - University of Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2000

**SUTTON, Nicole**  
 Teacher of English-Upper School/Religion – Middle School  
 B.A. English and American Literature – Seton Hall University  
 M.A. British and American Literature – New York University  
 Visitation Employee since 2014

**TORBORG, Cheryl**  
 Teacher of Mathematics-Middle School  
 B.S. Mathematics - Mankato State University  
 M.A. Education - Hamline University  
 Visitation Employee since 2007

**TRAXLER, Brian**  
 Social Studies Department Chair/Teacher of Social Studies-Upper School  
 B.A. Social Science - St. John's University  
 M.A. Educational Leadership and Administration - University of St. Thomas  
 Visitation Employee since 2012

**VAN SLOUN, Priscilla Hui-Ping Chen**  
 Teacher of Chinese  
 B.A. English Literature - Tamkang University  
 Visitation Employee since 2008

**VOLPE, Michael**  
 Teacher of Science – Upper School  
 B.S. Physics - Indiana State University  
 Visitation Employee since 2015

**WEISS, Meghan**  
 Teacher of Physical Education – Lower School  
 B.A. Psychology and Exercise Science – St. Olaf College  
 Visitation Employee since 2015

**WRIGHT, Steve**  
 Teacher of Grade 5  
 B. A. Communications - Metropolitan State University, St. Paul  
 M.A. Education - St. Mary's University, Minneapolis  
 Visitation Employee since 2010

**ZANDER, Curt**  
 Teacher of Grade 6  
 B.S. Elementary Education - University of North Dakota  
 M.A. Education Administration - Seattle University  
 Visitation Employee since 2003

**ZEIMETZ, Ann Marie**  
 Teacher of Grade 1  
 B.A. Elementary Education – St. Mary's University Minnesota  
 M.A. Elementary Education - University of Minnesota  
 Visitation Employee since 2008

*Administration/Faculty Assignments updated 8/2/2016. May be updated at a later date.*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR VISITATION STUDENTS:**

The Visitation school community is built upon fundamental attitudes of faith in God and respect for His creation. This respect is an outgrowth of the virtues that are characteristic of Salesian Spirituality. St. Francis de Sales, founder of the Visitation Order, a Christian Humanist and joyful optimist, was a strong proponent of the “little virtues’ that make a great difference in any community: kindness, thoughtfulness, patience, courtesy, graciousness of manner, gentleness, simplicity and common sense.

Visitation encourages all members of the school community to show a constant respect and sensitive concern for one another and to offer gracious assistance to visitors of the school.

The regulations of the school attempt to assist each student to grow in individual freedom (the ability to choose the better thing), personal responsibility, self-discipline, and the gracious manner characteristic of a young Christian woman or man. Enrollment in the school implies an approval of its standards and a willingness to cooperate with them.

In addition, as part of the re-enrollment contract, Visitation students and parents are required to sign an agreement to abide by all of the policies outlined in the parent/student handbook. By signing this contract, parents and students agree to the rules and regulations of the school and understand that the student’s continued enrollment at the school is subject to the student’s compliance with such rules and regulations and that disregard of them may be deemed sufficient cause for dismissal. Parents and students also understand that the head of school has the right to dismiss, at any time, any student who fails to fulfill the student’s obligations or whose enrollment in the school is, in the head of school’s judgment, contrary to the best interest of the school. Parents and students understand that the policies outlined in the 2016-2017 Parent/Student Handbook supersede all previous publications of school policies.

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY:** The Convent of the Visitation School, as described in its Mission Statement, provides an excellent education within a Catholic environment permeated by Salesian Spirituality. In accordance with the Mission and in conjunction with the Strategic Plan, Visitation School developed this policy as a guideline for acceptable and safe use of the Internet, school systems, and electronic communications. St. Francis de Sales, founder of the Visitation order, was a strong proponent of the little virtues. These virtues - *kindness, thoughtfulness, patience, courtesy, graciousness of manner, gentleness, simplicity, and common sense*- make a great difference in any community. Today, the online and virtual worlds are an extension of our Visitation School community where we must continue to embrace these virtues. In addition, Visitation School holds in high regard personal and academic integrity as well as provides an atmosphere where each person is valued and trust is genuine.

These ideals continue to apply whether a student is on or off campus. The School expects student behavior in the electronic world to be in line with Visitation School's Handbook Policies and reflect a commitment to the Visitation Community just as it would in face-to-face interactions. Whether spoken or written, words can hurt or heal. Students are expected to be courteous, well mannered, and respectful both in person and on-line. Electronic communications are replicable and can be downloaded, copied, forwarded, published, or traced. Demeaning, disrespectful and harassing communications words, images, videos, etc. will last forever on the internet.

Visitation School provides technology resources for educational purposes supporting its mission. **The use of these resources is a privilege, not a right.** The resources include, but are not limited to, telephones, desktop computers, laptops, digital cameras, printers/copiers, AV equipment, servers, network connections and the Internet, and stored electronic data.

**Intended Use:** All school resources, including technology, are to further educational and personal goals consistent with the mission of Visitation and other school policies. Visitation expects respectfulness and appropriate language in all communications, including e-mail, blogs, wikis, web pages, podcasts and other electronic forums. Use of the Internet and communications through the network and email have no guarantee of privacy and should be treated as if they occur in public. The use of equipment and online resources may be monitored or tracked by Visitation School or a designated third party at any time without further notice.

Visitation students must observe the following:

1. Respect and practice the principles of the Visitation community.
  - Comply with teacher/staff member requests regarding laptop use.
  - Communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.
  - Report threatening, inappropriate, or discomfoting materials to a teacher or administrator.
  - Do not send spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings to members of the Visitation community or more broadly.
  - Do not buy, sell, advertise, or otherwise conduct business, unless approved as a school project by a teacher or administrator.
  - Do not engage in any form of harassment or cyber bullying.
  - Do not access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates Visitation's Handbook Policies including, but not limited to, material, language, images, and messages that are illegal, sexually-explicit (including nudity), threatening, rude, discriminatory, harassing or disruptive to the educational process.
  - Not use the school resources to engage in or assist any illegal act.
2. Respect and protect the privacy of others.
  - Use only assigned accounts.
  - Do not share your passwords with others or use or copy other students' passwords.
  - Do not post or distribute private information about another person including, but not limited to, contact information, access codes or passwords without that person's permission.
  - Do not re-post or re-transmit a message that was sent to the user privately without the permission of the person who sent the message.
  - Do not use the system to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to access another person's materials, information or files without permission of that person.
  - Do not record teachers or students without their permission.
  - Respect the privacy of others at all times – laptops, digital cameras and other technology are not to be used in school bathrooms and locker rooms.
3. Respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources.
  - Observe all network security practices, as posted.
  - Report security risks or violations to a teacher or network administrator.

- Receive approval of the technology department to borrow school equipment. Equipment, must be reserved, checked out, and returned promptly in good working order. Other than school-issued laptops, equipment is not intended for home or personal use and should not be taken off campus or removed from its designated location without authorization of the technology department. Students are accountable for school equipment that they check out, and may be billed for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.
  - Bring to the attention of the technology department any physical damage or missing equipment as soon as possible.
  - Do not attempt to bypass blocked sites e.g., Facebook.
  - Do not download or install software without permission of the technology department.
  - Do not destroy or damage data, networks, or other resources. Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment or data will result in the loss of the privilege and other disciplinary action.
  - Do not use Visitation School's system to vandalize, damage or disable the property of another person or organization; make deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt equipment, software or system performance by spreading computer viruses or by any other means; tamper with, modify, or change the school system software, hardware or wiring; take any action to violate the school system's security; and in such a way as to disrupt the use of the system by other users.
  - Do not attempt to gain or allow unauthorized access to Visitation School's system or any other system through school's system.
  - Do not attempt to or allow someone else to log in through another person's account, or use computer accounts, access codes, or network identification other than those assigned to the user.
4. Respect and protect the intellectual property of others.
- Do not infringe copyrights (no making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
  - Do not plagiarize. Users must give proper credit when using materials created by others by citing the source of such materials.

Visitation School considers its mission, strategic plan, and educational objectives when purchasing, repairing/replacing, adjusting, and/or providing access to a particular resource. This practice includes filtering of some internet content. The use of the school's technology, including access to the Internet, is a privilege and not a right. Illegal, unauthorized, or inappropriate use, including attempting to bypass Internet content filters, may lead to loss of this privilege and/or other disciplinary action. However, the fact that certain content is not blocked does not mean that accessing the information is permitted. You must use your good judgment consistent with this policy and seek direction from your teacher or other school personnel if you are unsure.

Use of the school's computer system and use of the Internet shall be consistent with other school policies and the mission of the school, including the policies on academic integrity, respect and harassment. This Acceptable Use Policy applies to all student activity on campus or off campus, on the school-issued computer, on the school's network, and outside of the school's computer and networks. Students' conduct must be in line with Visitation School's Handbook Policies whether on campus or off campus and apply not only during the school day but at all times. Students participating in a 1:1 program must also comply with the Visitation 1:1 Laptop Manual. Visitation School retains the right to discipline its students according to our policies and guidelines. We urge students to use caution and compassion in determining the messages and pictures that they post to the Internet about themselves and others.

**No Expectation of Privacy:** Visitation reserves the right to monitor any student's school-related emails, Internet use and computer files for business and/or educational purposes. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to, ensuring that students are using Visitation computers in a manner consistent with this policy, day-to-day management of the system; monitoring performance or productivity; preventing a suspected adverse impact on the school, its students, or its employees; and/or investigating possible violations of this or other school policies.

1. By using the school's system a student is considered to have consented to such monitoring. Maintenance and monitoring of the school system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another school policy, or the law.
2. Because the school may monitor students' email, Internet use and computer files, students have no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their use of the school network or hardware.
3. Parents have the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their child's files stored on the school network or school computers.
4. The school will cooperate fully with any investigation by local, state and federal authorities concerning or related to any alleged illegal activities conducted through the school's computer system.

**Parent Responsibility:** Outside of school, parents bear responsibility for proper guidance of computer, phone, and Internet use. If the student is accessing the school's system from home or a remote location, parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the computers, computer system and of the Internet.

Users are required to sign a form indicating they have read and agree to the above guidelines at the time of enrollment in the school or any other time designated by Visitation School.

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE POLICY:**

**Policy Prohibiting Alcohol and Illegal Drug Use:** Visitation educates children on its campus from preschool through high school. Visitation is committed to providing a safe learning environment for its students that is free of unnecessary distraction and fosters responsible behavior by its students. Any student use of alcohol or Illegal drugs\*, is inimical to that commitment and jeopardizes the learning environment and the safety and well-being of the user and our community.

**Visitation School strictly prohibits students from possessing, using, supplying\*\*, distributing, or being under the influence of alcohol or Illegal Drugs.**

This policy states an essential expectation of Visitation students; it applies on and off campus, as well as during and outside the school day. It is important that students and parents understand the consequences of violating this policy. Every violation of this policy will be considered serious and a student violating this policy will be subject to a Board of Conduct hearing. Disciplinary action will vary depending on the circumstances of the student's behavior, and may range from disciplinary probation to expulsion. \*\*\*

Visitation may also contact the police regarding suspected violations of this policy. In addition, a student under suspicion may be asked to submit to a Breathalyzer or other tests.

\* "Illegal Drugs" includes unlawful drugs, and the misuse of chemicals and prescription drugs.

\*\* "Supplying" includes hosting a party or gathering in which alcohol or Illegal Drugs are offered or used by the host.

\*\*\* A violation that occurs on campus during the school day is an example of a violation that will typically result in expulsion.

If a student or a student's parent has a concern about chemical health and/or use issues, he/she is encouraged to contact a school counselor. A student who is referred for alcohol or drug abuse counseling – before and unrelated to an investigation of an alcohol/Illegal Drug violation – will not be subject to disciplinary measures because the student sought or received alcohol or drug abuse counseling.

**ANNUAL GIVING:** The DeSales Annual Fund provides the opportunity for current parents, alumnae/i, grandparents, parents of alumnae/i and friends to make tax deductible contributions to Visitation. Parents are invited to make a gift at a level reasonable for their family. A high percentage of parent participation can strengthen Visitation's opportunity to raise funds from other sources, particularly corporations and foundations. -Tuition does not fully cover the cost of education. Approximately \$2000 of the cost per student is funded through gifts to the DeSales Annual Fund. Every Visitation student benefits directly from contributions.

A special program within the DeSales Annual Fund is the *Sed Vitae Society*. Donors contributing \$1,500 or more annually become members of the *Sed Vitae Society*.

**ATTENDANCE HOTLINE:** To report attendance when a student is ill, dial 651-683-1732 for the Attendance Office.

**AUTOMOBILES:** Students, parents, faculty and staff are to exercise extreme caution while driving on Visitation property. This caution involves a special concern for the many small children who are present at school. All drivers are expected to obey all traffic signs on campus at all times and should not exceed posted speed limit. Driving violations will result in loss of driving privileges on campus for a period of time. All drivers are to park in designated student parking areas only. Only Child Care and Montessori families are allowed to park in the marked 10minute parking spaces near the Early Childhood Center. Failure to park in proper parking areas may result in either a fine by the school or the police department and loss of privileges to park on school property. **During school hours, students are not allowed to drive cars to STA.**

### **BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL POLICY:**

1. Upper School and Middle School students are not to arrive before 7:30 a.m. Middle School student may be in the heart area after 7:30 a.m., but are not to enter the Middle School wing until after 7:45 a.m. Lower School students should not arrive before 7:45 a.m.
2. Students should enter the building immediately and are not to loiter in the parking lot, playground, or anywhere else on school grounds.
3. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly after classes have been dismissed. They are to refrain from running in hallways or on stairs, from making excessive noise. Food is NOT allowed in the Heart on ground floor or 1<sup>st</sup> floor.
4. Upper School and Middle School-students not involved in school sponsored activities should leave school by 3:15 p.m. Those

students involved in extra-curricular activities should leave immediately following cessation of those activities. After 3:15 p.m. US students may be in the Heart space or library.

5. Middle School students may remain in the Middle School wing to be picked up between 3:00 and 3:15p.m. After 3:15 p.m., all students should **report to the library, and remain there until picked up** or until their school sponsored activity. Middle School students in tutoring or those working directly with a faculty/staff member may remain in the Middle School wing past 3:15 p.m.
6. At dismissal, Lower School students should either leave the building or report to Extended Day. Lower School students involved in sports or school clubs should report to the coach or club supervisor.

There are extenuating circumstances that may necessitate deviation from these rules. When such circumstances exist, inform the director. Please do not expect to have access to the school on days when there are no classes such as weekends. We urge all of you to help us provide a safe environment for your child by lending your support and cooperation to these requests.

## **BOARD OF CONDUCT:**

The Board of Conduct is a school committee that meets to determine the consequences for a student's violation of Visitation School policies.

### **A. Membership:** Division Director

- One Teacher
- School counselor
- A Sister from the Visitation Community

None of the members of the Board of Conduct shall be directly involved in the matter at issue, including as a witness or an internal investigator of the alleged violation. The dean of student life will be in attendance to present the facts of the violation at Upper School meetings of the Board. A student's homeroom teacher may also be present.

### **B. Scope of Responsibility:**

- Review school disciplinary policies.
- Conduct full and fair investigation of facts.
- Resolve issues of credibility.
- Review and take appropriate action for breaches of conduct by individual students.

### **C. Process:**

1. The dean of student life/division iddle will notify the student and her parents of the alleged violation of Visitation School policies and provide an oral summary of the facts believed to support the conclusion that school policy was violated.
2. The Board of Conduct hearing will be scheduled as quickly as is reasonably possible.
3. Before the hearing, the student and/or parent will provide the dean of student life with any information she/they want to be presented to the Board of Conduct before the hearing. The student and/or parents may request to meet with the Board of Conduct prior to the hearing and may present oral or written statements of the student's and parents' position regarding the alleged inappropriate behavior and possible discipline, and any other Information they believe the Board of Conduct should consider in making its decision.
4. The Board of Conduct will convene to review the facts.
5. The student and parents may be present at the Board of Conduct's meeting to review the facts and may submit questions to the Board of Conduct regarding evidence presented at the hearing.
6. The student or her parents may make a closing statement.
7. After reviewing the matter, the Board of Conduct will meet in closed session to review the facts and to decide whether a violation occurred.
8. The Board of Conduct will consider how any inappropriate behavior relates to handbook policies and general expectations for Visitation students.
9. If the Board of Conduct determines that a violation occurred, it will decide in its sole discretion the course of action the Board of Conduct believes is in the best interests of Visitation, including appropriate discipline.
10. The dean of student life/director will inform the head of school of the Board of Conduct's decision and will notify the student and parent(s) of the outcome.

### **D. A student may be asked to appear before the Board of Conduct for any violation of Visitation's expectations for its students, including the following:**

1. Breaches of academic integrity/personal integrity policy;
2. Computer/Internet infraction;
3. Driving violation;
4. Excessive detentions;
5. Excessive tardiness;
6. Harassment/bullying/racism/improper electronic communication;
7. Off campus violation;
8. Senior prank;

9. Serious breach of conduct as determined by the division director or dean student life;
10. Violation of policy prohibiting alcohol and illegal drug use;
11. Communication (Verbal, non-verbal, written, etc.) that is interpreted by students or school employees as highly inappropriate, violent, threatening or otherwise creating an unsafe environment.
12. Theft or vandalism;
13. Unexcused absences;
14. Verbal, physical or emotional abuse (including improper electronic communication);
15. Violation of weapons policy; or
16. Violations of MSHSL Student Code of Conduct.

**E. Disciplinary action:**

The disciplinary action recommended by the Board of Conduct may include one or a combination of the following and will be communicated to the parent in writing:

1. Expulsion
2. Suspension: The student may turn in assignments and take tests and quizzes during her suspension from school, but all such work will receive reduced credit pursuant to the teacher's policy. The teacher is not obligated to tutor the student for any work missed while on suspension.
  - a. In-House Suspension: The student must attend school but will be deprived of contact with fellow students and must spend non-class time studying in an isolated situation. In-house suspension will be for a specified period of time.
  - b. Away from School Suspension: A student is suspended from attendance and all activities for a specified length of time. Repetition of misconduct during a period of suspension may result in continued suspension or expulsion.
3. Disciplinary probation may include some or all of the following:
  - a. Temporary removal from all elective offices.
  - b. Temporary removal from inter-scholastic/extra-curricular participation.
  - c. Temporary removal of other student privileges.
4. The student's behavior will be examined during the probation period. Repetition of misconduct while on a probationary status may result in suspension or expulsion.
5. For cases involving MN State HS League violations, MN State HS League sanctions will, in conjunction with the Visitation code of conduct, be imposed and may be extended.
6. Staff or professional counseling.
7. Saturday detention.
8. Community service hours.
9. A fine to be paid to a school, a student activity, or an appropriate charity
10. Restitution in the case of property loss or damage.
11. Any other disciplinary or corrective action as is deemed, in the judgment of the Board of Conduct, to be appropriate under the circumstances.

**F. Appeal Process:**

The judgment or recommendations of the Board of Conduct will be final. If parents feel that there are extenuating circumstances concerning a decision of the Board of Conduct, they may request a review of the decision by the head of school. This appeal must be made to the head of school within 10 working days of receipt of the Board of Conduct's decision.

**G. Review Process:**

1. The head of school will meet with the student and parents to hear their request for a change in the decision.
2. The head of school will review the decision of the Board of Conduct.
3. The head of school will speak with any other persons as deemed necessary to understand the situation.
4. A decision will be made by the head of school within 10 working days and will be conveyed to the student, parents and the Board of Conduct. The persons involved may also be notified by telephone and a follow-up letter will be sent.
5. The decision of the head of school is final.

Because Visitation School recognizes the serious nature of disciplinary issues that are brought to a Board of Conduct, these issues will be treated sensitively and confidentially to the extent practicable as we respond to the needs of the student, family and school community.

**BUS CONDUCT:** Students who ride school buses are expected to behave in a courteous manner. Students who violate rules of conduct may lose bus privileges. The activity bus after school is for grades 7-12. No Lower School student is allowed to ride the activity bus. **Good conduct is required for bus privileges.** Students must not distract the driver, be boisterous or rude, swear or use obscenities, disobey the driver, fight or destroy property, throw objects when in the bus, use physical force, light matches or a lighter, harass other students or bus driver.

**BUSINESS HOURS:** The school business hours are from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Please limit school business to these hours. Do **NOT** call the sisters outside of school hours unless it is an emergency or personal business.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR FAMILY STATUS CHANGES:** It is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school of changes in family status, custody agreements and or contact numbers. Parents should log in to the parent portal at [www.visitation.net/parents](http://www.visitation.net/parents) to change home address, home phone, cell phone and/or business phone. Changes will be sent to database administrators in the school. To change emergency contact information or family changes such as divorce, guardian or custody arrangements, parents should contact the division director. The information will be disseminated to those staff members who need access to the information.

**CHAPEL:** The chapel is open at all times during the school day for student use. Students are encouraged to attend the many liturgies and worship services available to them during the school year.

### **COMMUNICATION SCHOOL/PARENT/STUDENT:**

The following are vehicles used to communicate school information to parents and/or students:

1. Visitation website: [www.visitation.net](http://www.visitation.net)
2. Visitation parent electronic newsletter, referred to as "enews" (sent every other Wednesday at noon)
3. Upper, Middle and Lower School "Back to School Night" in September
4. Parent/Teacher conferences - see calendar, enews and website
5. Access to online grades via PowerSchool
6. Haiku Course Pages for US and MS students
7. School calendar
8. Middle School Mind Meets (Monthly Meetings with Middle School Director and Parents)
9. Various mailings for special events
10. Vision magazine (mailed three times per year)
11. Visitor (student newspaper)
12. Wednesday Folder (LS)
13. Emergency and/or school closings will be announced on the school website, parent email, and text message (Must register a cell phone number for this at [www.visitation.net/parents](http://www.visitation.net/parents).)

**CONCERTS:** Each year the music department schedules a variety of concerts to give the students an opportunity to show what they have been learning throughout the year. These concerts are **mandatory** for all students involved in music classes and performance groups. When students prepare for a concert, they are working towards a group goal. Each member of the group is important to the final product. Concerts are also a part of our grading system, and a concert counts as a final exam. If your child has a conflict that cannot be resolved, please contact your child's music teacher as soon as possible. Choir/Orchestra/Band students are expected to be in school for a full day the day of a concert.

### **COUNSELING POLICY:**

**Personal Counseling:** Confidentiality and trust are basic to counseling relationships between Visitation students and school personnel. Although parents are not routinely informed when a student seeks counseling or is referred for counseling by school personnel, there may be instances where school personnel think it is advisable to involve parents. In such instances, school personnel may share with parents information disclosed by students without the student's knowledge or permission. Personal information regarding students will only be shared among school personnel on a need to know basis, under the circumstances particular to each student in each situation.

When students have academic difficulty due to test anxiety, deficiencies and study skills, or personal problems, they should seek help from the school counselor.

When it appears a student may need counseling beyond what the school can provide the school may assist families by providing referral information. Such help, however, should not be understood as an endorsement of any person or agency, nor shall any such endorsement be made. Families should research further before they freely choose where and from whom to seek help.

**Counseling Office Sponsored Seminars, Convocations, and Support Groups:** Each year Visitation students participate in seminars and convocations that deal with various topics of interest and concern. These topics vary from year to year and may include: chemical use, sexuality, eating disorders and stress management. Parents who wish to have their children excluded from these seminars, convocations and/or special programs must express their wishes in writing to the head of school at the beginning of the school year.



**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY:** All employees as well as all school volunteers who have regular or unsupervised contact with minors are subject to criminal background checks.

The following positions are subject to a mandatory background check:

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Student Support Staff
- Substitute Teachers
- Athletic Coaches
- Extracurricular Advisors
- Food Service Personnel
- Custodial Staff
- All other paid employees
- All Volunteers who have regular or unsupervised contact with students

**DISCIPLINE POLICIES:** In keeping with the school’s philosophy, Visitation will strive to inspire and nurture students who behave in a manner that reflects a commitment to honesty, respect for others, and respect for self. Every effort will be made to work with students who make errors of judgment and find themselves in breach of good conduct.

The following procedures have been adopted to deal with students who do not maintain a level of self-discipline consistent with school expectations:

The dean of student life and division directors are responsible for the day-to-day administration of student conduct and discipline in Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. Teachers are responsible for classroom behavior. Repeated or serious breaches of conduct in the classroom or violation of school rules will be referred to the dean of student life or appropriate division director, which may result in disciplinary action.

The dean of student life or division director may refer to the Board of Student Conduct matters deemed to be within its scope of responsibility. When the school has reason to believe that the student has violated school policy and may be subjected to discipline, the student will be given an appropriate opportunity to present his/her views of the situation before disciplinary action is taken. Repeated infractions against school policies could result in the student having to appear before the Board of Conduct, suspension, or expulsion. All matters of student conduct shall be under the general supervision and review of the head of school. All disciplinary dealings will be treated sensitively and confidentially to the extent practicable as we respond to the needs of the student, family and school community.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Students are prohibited from using personal devices such as cell phones, tablets, laptops, smart watches, and personal listening devices during school hours, 8 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Students who fail to follow this policy will have their cell phones and/or other electronic devices confiscated and held until a detention has been served. It is imperative that this rule is followed as cell phones are a major disruption to the school day. Students are expected to follow the same guidelines as stated in the student handbook related to respect towards others and appropriate use of technology when using their personal devices on and off school grounds when the use includes the Visitation community.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** Fire drills will be held periodically during the school year (Five per school year). When the first alarm sounds during a class period, each student walks silently in single file to the exit appointed for that particular classroom. When the all-clear signal is given, the students return to their classrooms. Drills for tornadoes will also take place. Students report to designated shelter areas in the building. The school will also conduct five lock-down drills during the school year.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM:** The school has developed an emergency response team composed of various school personnel to address emergencies or crises that occur at Visitation. The team will convene as soon as possible after an emergency situation to address faculty and student needs, appropriate sharing of information with the Visitation community and prepare media statements if needed.

**ENDOWMENT:** To insure long-term fiscal stability, provide student assistance, attract and retain the best faculty and staff, maintain the campus, and provide for economic downturns, Visitation has an endowment program. Gifts to this program can be made outright or through planned giving instruments such as naming the school as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policy, or retirement plan. Other options might include establishing a charitable remainder trust or annuity. All who include Visitation in their estate plans are enrolled in the DeChantal Foundation.

**FINANCIAL GRANTS:** If a student (Kindergarten-grade 12) is awarded a financial grant, the awarded amount will be deducted immediately and the resulting payments will be based on the payment plan you have chosen. Parents requesting any information on a financial grant should contact the Director of Financial Grants in the Business Office by February 15. It is imperative that applications be filed by February 15. Applications not filed by the March 1 deadline may not be considered.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS:** If you have a concern about a class or a teacher, you should take the following steps:

1. Speak to the teacher.
2. If you do not reach a satisfactory resolution to your problem, contact the appropriate school director.
3. If there is still not a satisfactory resolution, you may request a meeting with the head of school.

### **HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE/BULLYING POLICY:**

**Harassment or Violence Policy:** Convent of the Visitation School does not tolerate harassing or violent conduct directed against any person at the school or otherwise in connection with school activities or programs, which is based upon sex or the status of any person as a member of any class protected from discrimination under local, state, or federal laws, ordinances or rules. (Protected classes are: perceived race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, disability, public assistance, or marital status or age.) The Convent of the Visitation School's harassment and violence policy prohibits physical, sexual, verbal, written, electronic or other inappropriate harassment or violence and is applicable to all students, faculty, staff, parents and other persons engaged in any program or activity of the school. Each student, parent, faculty or staff member, or other person subjected to or becoming aware of any such conduct is asked to report such conduct promptly to officials of the school, in which case an investigation will occur and appropriate disciplinary or other action will be taken. Copies of the full Harassment and Violence Policy may be reviewed with the school head, the dean of student life, the division director, or director of human resources, each of whom is available for the receipt of charges or complaints of any such conduct.

**Bullying Policy:** Visitation School does not tolerate bullying on school property, school provided transportation, school sponsored activities or programs, use of school equipment, networks, forums or mailing lists, or through use of electronic technology off school premises that materially and substantially disrupts a students' learning or school environment. Bullying is defined as intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:

- there is an actual or perceived imbalance of power between the student engaging in prohibited conduct and the target of the behavior and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern;
- or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.
- "Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including but not limited to a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet Web site or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device.
- Retaliation is prohibited by any student or school employee against anyone who in good faith asserts, alleges, reports or provides information pertaining to an alleged incident of prohibited conduct. The school will take action against any student or employee who engages in retaliation. Filing a false accusation of bullying is also prohibited.

Each student, parent, faculty or staff member, or other person subjected to or becoming aware of any such conduct is asked to report such conduct promptly to officials of the school, in which case an investigation will occur and appropriate disciplinary or other action will be taken.

**HAZING:** Visitation permits no hazing of students, including belittling, ridiculing, humiliating or causing distress or embarrassment. In addition, the school neither sanctions nor allows the practice of "kidnapping" fellow students even if parental permission has been obtained. This has proven to be a practice which has caused distress in the name of "fun" and Visitation does not approve of fun at the expense of others.

### **HEALTH SERVICE:**

**Health Information:** In order to give students good health care during school hours, it is required that we have on file, for each student, the health information described below by the dates indicated. Lack of compliance will be brought to the attention of the appropriate director and appropriate action will be taken, including excluding a student from school until the required information is provided.

**Emergency Information Form:** A current emergency health information form with telephone, cellular, and pager numbers of parents/guardians, other designated responsible adults, physician and hospital choice must be on file for each student in the Health Office by July 15, 2016. **This form must be submitted each year your child attends Visitation. Please call the Health Office to update this information as often as necessary.** In the event of an emergency, your child's emergency form information will be used to try to

reach you, other designated adult guardians, or your physician and hospital. When contacted by the Health Office you must promptly pick your child up from school within one hour. If necessary, your child will be transported to the hospital.

**Physical Exams:** A current physical exam report is a physician-signed and dated form showing proof of medical examination within the past twelve months is required for all new students entering Visitation and all students entering grade 9, 7, Kindergarten and Montessori. **All physical reports must be in to the Health Office by July 15, 2016. Students will not be allowed to remain in school after September 16, 2016 if the physical exam forms and the emergency form are not on file.**

Students in grades 7-12 who play a team sport at school are required to submit a new physical every three years. Coaches will exclude athletes who are not in compliance with this Minnesota State High School League requirement.

**Immunization Records:** Minnesota law requires all students enrolled in school be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and meningitis. **Students, Montessori-12 must provide complete immunization records to the school by July 15, 2016. Any student without these current records on file with the school will not be allowed to remain in school after September 16, 2016. NO SHOTS, NO SCHOOL. This is a state law.**

**Dispensing of Medications:** Only medications prescribed by a physician in writing, including all over-the-counter medications such as Advil and Tylenol can be dispensed in the Health Office. **A copy of the written physician prescription for the over-the-counter medication will be required. Written parent permission is also required.** Forms for requirements are available in the Health Office and will be mailed upon request.

**Student Illness:** There is a school nurse at Visitation Monday through Friday. If your child is absent from school for any health reason, due to illness, please call the Health Office at 651-683-1708 and the Attendance Office at 651-683-1732. Also, it is essential to the health of your child and classmates that you report any diagnosed, contagious illness to the Health Office and Attendance Office at the above numbers. A student who is absent due to illness for extended periods of time may be asked to submit a physician's note to the Health Office.

Our goal is to keep students in school whenever appropriate and to get them home or to the doctor when necessary. In most instances, a student will be encouraged to rest for twenty minutes or less if he/she is ill in hopes that he/she will recover and be able to return to class. If at the end of the twenty-minute period he/she is not well enough to be in class, arrangements will be made for the student to go home or to the doctor. Parent or guardian contact will be made before the student leaves school from the Health Office. Students who become ill in school and need to go home will be excused from the Health Office once a parent or another adult responsible for the student can be notified and transportation is arranged. The student must be picked up within the hour.

Medical supplies such as elastic bandages, ice packs, etc. are loaned to students when necessary. A charge will be made on items not returned to the Health Office.

**Health Policies:** The following guidelines are recommended by the Visitation Health Office:

- If your child has had a fever of 100 degrees or more, he/she must stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal. Your child may return to school if he/she is **FEVER FREE - TYLENOL FREE.**
- If your child has vomited or has diarrhea, he/she must stay home for 24 hours after the **last** episode.
- If your child has a bad cold with a cough, green/yellow drainage, decreased appetite or it interferes with sleep, check with your family physician before sending your child to school.
- If your child has red eyes with drainage or matter, check with your family physician before sending your child to school. Your child will be sent home if pink eye is suspected.
- If your child has a bacterial infection (such as strep or impetigo) they must complete **24 hours of antibiotics before** returning to school.

**The Health Office must be notified of any communicable illness (insert – such as but not limited to: Chicken Pox, Hand, Foot, and Mouth.** By following these guidelines, we can help limit the spread of illness and ensure a speedy recovery for your child.

**HEALTH CONDITIONS:** A student may face a serious health issue or condition. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis by the division director and other school personnel including counselor, nurse, and/or the learning specialist. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to students.

## **LIBRARY/COMPUTER CENTER**

### **GRADES K-5:**

- Library hours are from 8 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. every school day.
- Materials to be taken out of the library must be checked out. Books are checked out for one week at a time and may be renewed.
- Students are encouraged to be responsible that books checked out are not damaged or left outside in bad weather. Students who lose or damage library materials will be charged the replacement cost of the book.

### **GRADES 6-12:**

- Library hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)
- Books may be checked out for two weeks and renewed if necessary. Most periodicals may be checked out overnight.
- All reference materials, encyclopedias, and the latest issues of periodicals must remain in the library for the benefit of all students.
- Students are expected to be responsible for library materials checked out and to pay the replacement cost of any books which are damaged or lost.

**LOCKERS:** Lockers are the property of the school to be used for students' personal property. The school cannot be responsible for items missing from a locker. Valuables should be kept at home. There is to be no writing, painting, or marking on any part of the locker. Consequences for vandalizing school property in this manner may include fines, Saturday detentions and/or a Board of Conduct. Books, coats, and all personal property are to be kept in the locker. The school reserves the right to inspect a student's locker at any time. Students should keep their lockers locked at all times. Students will not be allowed to bring padlocks from home. Locks are initially issued to students (grades 4-12) and are to be used throughout their time at Visitation. The cost to the student for a replacement lock is \$5.00. The school assigns lockers. Locker changing or exchanging may not be done without the approval of the dean of student life or appropriate school director. Because the school is also the home of the sisters who deserve some privacy, we ask that students and parents respect this and do not come to school in the evenings or over weekends in order to gain access to their lockers.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Articles are located in the lost and found cabinet located outside the dining room. Lost and found for Phy-Ed/sports clothing is located in the athletic trainer's room off the Commers Gymnasium. Please clearly mark or identify all clothing and items brought to school. Unclaimed articles will be sent to charity toward the end of each quarter. Jewelry and other valuables should be turned in to the dean of student life.

**LUNCHES/DINING ROOM:** All students are required to eat the school lunch in the dining room. This is served buffet style. The cost for the 2016-17 lunch program will be as follows \$902 for students in grades K-5, and \$998 for students in grades 6-8 and \$1020 for students in grades 9-12. This cost does increase each year. Only students with a written medical doctor's permission specifying the problem are allowed not to participate. We believe our dining room provides a gracious and pleasant atmosphere in which to cultivate courteous table manners, thoughtfulness of others and education in nutritious and healthy eating habits. In short, our lunch program serves our motto of education: "not for school, but for life."

**MERRIE MARKET:** Merrie Market is the primary fundraising *event* at Visitation. This effort is led each year by a committee of volunteers who plan, promote and host the gala. Parents are invited to support Visitation by volunteering, contributing auction items and by attending the gala.

**MONEY/VALUABLES:** Large sums of money or valuables should not be brought to school. If it becomes necessary to bring a large sum of money to school, it should be left in the accounting office.

**NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT POLICY:** All communications generated by the school will be distributed to the custodial parent, step-parent(s) and the non-custodial parent alike. Similarly, parents (as well as step-parents) will be granted permission to visit the student on school grounds or during school sponsored trips. However, given the unique legal situations of each family, the school may make exceptions to this policy. It is the responsibility of each family to provide to Visitation, upon request, a copy of its current custodial agreement or other court orders so that we may be in compliance. It is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school of any changes in family status, custody agreements and or contact numbers. Please notify the proper division director(s) of any changes. See **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR FAMILY STATUS CHANGES** for further clarification.

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:** The purpose of the Association is to support the strategic and operational goals of the school, to assist the fundraising activities in cooperation with the Development Office and to facilitate communication between the school and parents. The Association also creates and supports meaningful connections between and among parents, teachers, and students. The Parents' Association has annual dues of \$50.00. These dues will be added to your billing. If parents choose not to belong, please indicate this to the school, and the charge will be taken off the statement. The Parents' Association uses these dues for promoting many worthwhile student or parent-student projects in the school such as the printing of the Visitation directory which is available in September.

**PARENTS OUT OF TOWN:** Parents and guardians are requested to inform the school Attendance Office whenever they will be out of town. They should leave the name and phone number of the person in charge of the student and, if possible, the number at which the parents can be reached in case of an emergency.

**PHONE MESSAGES:** Students will not be called out of class for phone messages except in cases of emergency. Parents and others leaving messages for students throughout the day are asked to keep requests for relaying messages to students to a minimum. All messages for US students will be posted on the student message board except in emergency situations. LS/MS messages left with the director or attendance office cannot always be delivered due to teaching or meeting commitments. After school arrangements should be made in advance of the school day.

### **PREGNANCY POLICY:**

**Introduction** It is in a spirit of deep Christian concern for both the mother and child, and in a genuine desire to minister to the girl and her family at this stressful time, that the following regulations have been adopted. At this time the student will be given guidelines to follow to insure agreement and cooperation between home and school.

**Regulations** To ensure that the pregnant student receives proper support, counseling and prenatal care for herself and the baby, it is imperative that the school counselor or director be informed of the pregnancy and that a joint meeting take place with the student, her parents and designated school personnel.

The matter of pregnancy will be treated in a confidential and professional manner. A student who is pregnant will be required to provide the school with a health certificate from her medical doctor that must include the following:

1. Verification of the pregnancy;
2. A list of school related activities that should be curtailed during the pregnancy to ensure the good health of mother and child, and the dates when activities should be curtailed;
3. Any specific conditions of the pregnancy that would require special attention during the school day or by school personnel;
4. The date the doctor determines that the student should begin her maternity leave with a clear understanding that upon completion of the pregnancy, the student may return to school with a written authorization from her medical doctor.

The school will cooperate in helping the student make up missed school work.

**PROHIBITED AREAS:** The offices, faculty room, and monastery, including the kitchen area, and the Sisters' parking lot are off bounds to students. For safety reasons, students are not to be in the fine arts center, fitness center, gyms, and outdoor classroom areas unless authorized by a teacher.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT:** In cases in which a student has been requested, either by parents or the school, to have a psychological assessment, the school requires that the student have the process started within one month. The school highly recommends that the student follow through with the recommendations of the assessment. In addition, the school must receive verification by the appropriate outside professional as to the outcome and recommendation.

**REGISTRATION:** Registration for the school year is initiated in January. Tuition contracts, enrollment contracts, and a reservation fee are due in mid-February. Reservation fees hold your child's/children's spot(s) in their grades and do reduce total tuition due for the following school year. For the 2016-2017 school year the registration fees are as follows: Montessori \$350; grades K-5 \$350; grades 6-8 \$350; and \$350 for the high school. These amounts could change from year to year.

**RELIGION POLICY:** The Visitation philosophy emphasizes the centrality of the Gospel and the educational principles of St. Francis de Sales in the formation of our vision for the school. As a Catholic school, we participate in the evangelizing and catechizing mission of the Church. Therefore, all students shall participate in religion classes and programs of service sponsored by the school. Students of other faiths are required to attend liturgical and paraliturgical programs and are invited to participate as much as is appropriate.

Regarding the reception of communion by those who are not Catholic: because of the unfortunate, but real, differences in doctrine and practice that still separate Christian denominations, the Roman Catholic Church does not ordinarily invite non-Catholics to receive

communion at Catholic Eucharistic Liturgies. However, on special occasions, individual, non-Catholic Christians may receive communion on their own initiative, and under the following conditions: 1. The individual's belief in the Eucharist should be commensurate with that of the Roman Catholic Church. This is that Christ is truly and fully present in the consecrated bread and wine, just as He was present to the disciples at the Last Supper. 2. The individual must truly wish to receive in response to his or her own piety and is not merely responding to perceived expectations or following the lead of others. We urge those considering receiving Communion to apply these guidelines carefully and to follow their own consciences.

Sacramental Preparation: The Convent of the Visitation School is an independent school which is not affiliated with any single Catholic parish. The school is, however, bound by the Canon Law of the Catholic Church. Each family is encouraged to be an active member of a Catholic parish or other faith community. As an independent school, Visitation may not offer Baptism, First Eucharist, or Confirmation preparation or celebration to families. These are Sacraments of Initiation, and as such, are appropriately celebrated within the family's parish community.

### **RE-ENROLLMENT HOLD POLICY**

A student may be put on re-enrollment hold for the following reasons:

1. A student has been or is on Disciplinary Probation.
2. A student has been or is on Academic Probation.
3. A student exhibits a serious behavior problem and/or there are academic concerns.
4. Any combination of the above.

#### **Process:**

1. By December the faculty would alert the division director as to any **serious** academic or behavioral concerns.
2. In January, the Re-enrollment Hold Committee would meet to decide which contracts would be held.
3. Parents are notified by the division director.
4. The Re-enrollment Hold Committee meets again in June to decide which contracts may be given to students at that time.
5. All spots are held until a decision is made.
6. Appealed decisions are decided by the head of school.

In addition, per the Tuition Contract, all tuition must be current, or arrangements must be made with the Business Office, before Re-enrollment Contracts are issued.

**SCHOOL PEDDLER:** School supplies, uniform sweaters, gym clothing, used uniforms, and miscellaneous Vis logo clothing are available at the store located on the ground floor in the Heart/Coeur de Visitation. The Peddler is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and is staffed by volunteers. Uniforms (jumpers and blouses), skirts, blouses, used sweaters, Middle and Lower School sweatshirts, and gym clothing will be accepted as donations throughout the year. When a clothing donation is received, a receipt for tax deductions will be issued noting the value of the donation.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to work in the store should contact the Peddler coordinator listed in the directory. A portion of the profits generated for the Peddler sales are returned to the school to supplement various school programs and to purchase equipment.

**SEXUAL IDENTITY POLICY:** At Visitation all members are called to build a community, which fosters respect towards all people and provides a climate where all are welcome.

Recognizing parents as the primary educators of their children, it is understood that all members of the Visitation community will not avoid the topic of sexual orientation or gender identity, but will address the issue as it presents itself with openness and respect consistent with Catholic doctrine, the documents of the Catholic Church, and the Salesian mission and values of the school.

All teaching will be carried out in the keeping with Catholic doctrine in regard to chastity and will be appropriate for the age level and maturity of the learner.

Pastoral care will be provided in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Head of the School will ensure that all programs, procedures, and operations reflect this teaching.

### **SNOW DAYS/WEATHER DIMISSALS**

Visitation uses our website host to communicate with parents about school closings and emergency situations. The message will be pushed out to all parents via email and there is no action required by you. Alerts can also be sent to cell phones as a text message. The text message is optional but will be the best way to receive instant notification. This will require each parent or employee to enable his or her cell phone to receive the message. Sign up is done through the parent portal on the school website. The school will post announcements with local TV stations.

## **SPECIAL COURSE FEES:**

Athletic Fees	See Athletic Policy Section
Ballet* (after school hours)	\$275/semester
Book Fees: (Total tuition includes a book fee)	
Montessori	\$95/student
Grades K-5	\$120/student
Grades 6-8	\$142/student
Grades 9-12	\$158/student
Private Piano	\$345/semester
Retreat Fee (grades 9-10)	\$25
Retreat Fee (grade 11 - overnight)	\$80
Retreat Fee (grade 12 - (2 overnights)	\$150
Senior Graduation Fee (Mandatory)	\$150
Yearbook: (Total tuition includes yearbook fee)	
Montessori	\$63/student
Grades K-5	\$77/student
Grades 6-8	\$101/student
Grades 9-12	\$105/student

**STEALING AND VANDALISM:** All are encouraged to work together to provide an atmosphere where each person is valued and trust is genuine. Each one must strive to take good care of material things that are for the use of everyone and to respect each other's possessions. Students will be held liable for damage to school property.

Students guilty of stealing and/or destructive behavior may be subject to discipline by the Board of Conduct. Any incidence of theft or vandalism should be reported to the dean of student life or appropriate school director immediately.

**STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT:** Visitation fully supports Minnesota's public policy of protecting children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through abuse, neglect or sexual abuse. Visitation prohibits the abuse, neglect or sexual abuse of its students and will take strong and prompt action against any employee or student who engages in such actions. Visitation employees will comply with state law requiring notification of the appropriate governmental agency or agencies whenever a mandated reporter knows or has reason to believe that a student is being neglected, or physically or sexually abused. Any person who believes a Visitation student is being neglected or abused in any way should immediately report the matter to the director of the Lower/Middle School, the director of the Upper School, the director of the Early Learning Center, the coordinator of the Early Learning Center or the head of school.

**STUDENT INSURANCE:** -The school does not carry medical insurance for accidents on school grounds to individual students. Parents should check their insurance program to make certain that their children are covered while at school related activities, either at school or off campus.

**STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT:** Visitation is committed to academic success for all of its students. Toward that end, two learning specialists, a M-8 learning specialist and an Upper School learning specialist are available to work with students. The learning specialists collaborate with teachers, counselors and parents to assure that students with a documented learning disability receive the assistance and accommodations needed to succeed at Visitation School.

The documentation for a student's disability is kept on file in the learning specialist's office and the learning specialist meets with that student on a regular basis. In addition to working with diagnosed students, the learning specialist may also work with undiagnosed students who have been referred by a teacher. Teacher referred students will meet with the learning specialist for a designated period of time to address an area of concern. In some cases, the learning specialist may suggest that families seek outside testing to gather more information regarding the student's learning profile. Accommodations for students with diagnoses commonly include alternative testing arrangements, note-taking assistance, and preferential seating. Other reasonable accommodations may be implemented as deemed necessary by the school. The learning specialists monitor and evaluate the efficacy of accommodations for students throughout the year.

**STUDENT RECORDS:** Visitation keeps educational, attendance, and health records on individual students which parents or students with parental permission may review if they wish. Educational records include a transcript of courses and grades, standardized test scores, mid-quarter progress reports, and copies of records sent from schools previously attended.

**TAX DEDUCTIONS (Minnesota):** Some private school expenses are deductible on your Minnesota tax return. Items like tuition, non-reimbursed transportation costs, art supplies, etc. may be tax deductible. We recommend you check with your tax advisor **before** filing your return.

**TELEPHONE:** There is a telephone for student use on the ground floor in the commons area. Students may use this phone during free time but conversations should be limited to no more than three minutes. **There are phones in each classroom for teacher use ONLY! Students may use these phones only when the teacher is present and has given permission.**

**TOBACCO FREE POLICY:** The Visitation campus is tobacco-free. Smoking and use of tobacco products are prohibited on school property, at school sponsored events, or whenever students are in uniform. Any student in violation of this policy or in possession on campus shall be referred to the dean of student life for appropriate disciplinary action. This policy includes electronic cigarettes.

**TRADITIONS AND EVENTS:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Alumnae Reunion                                | Liturgies for 8 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> students and Parents (MS/US) |
| Art Festivals                                  | Merric Market - Family and Gala Night   |
| Awards Assembly (US)                           | Mixers & Movie Nights (MS)  |
| Big Sister/Little Sister: Senior-Freshmen (US) | Mother-Daughter Event (US)  |
| Clothing & Food Drives                         | Music Performances  |
| Commencement                                   | Opening Mass/Flag Raising   |
| Drama Performances                             | Senior Tea (US)   |
| Father-Daughter Dance (US)                     | Student Council Activities (US)   |
| Feast of the Visitation                        | Student Liturgies   |
| Founders' Day Celebrations                     | Student Retreats (MS/US)  |
| Homecoming Week (US)                           | Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) events (MS)                                     |
| Houses (US)                                    | Winter Week (MS/US)   |

**TUITION PAYMENT POLICY (As noted in the tuition contract):** Annual tuition payments are due July 5, and semiannual tuition payments are due July 5 and December 5. Monthly payments are due on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of each month July through April. Quarterly payments are due on July 5, October 5, January 5, and April 5. A late fee of \$50.00 will be charged each month a payment is late. In addition, a \$30.00 penalty will be assessed for non-sufficient funds. Please see the Smart Tuition payment contract for the specific tuition agreement. Note that by signing the tuition contract for the school, Extended Day and Summer Camp, you agree to be in compliance with the Student/Parent Handbook. No student will be allowed to start a new semester or received registration materials for the next year if tuition payments are not current. Graduating students will not receive diplomas and transcripts will not be sent to their college of choice until all tuition and other obligations to the school are fulfilled.

**VISTA TRANSPORTATION:** VISTA Transportation is a cooperative venture between-Visitation School and Saint Thomas Academy offering reliable bus transportation to parts of the metro area. All routes offer a morning, after-school and activity bus. Registration is required in the spring. See bus transportation webpage for more information or call the transportation coordinator at 651-683-1770.



## **WEAPONS POLICY:**

A. **Statement of Policy:** The Convent of the Visitation School takes a “zero tolerance” position on weapons’ possession. The school prohibits weapons of any kind or anything resembling a weapon on school grounds, at school sponsored events or activities, at bus stops, on school buses or any other school vehicle. Any person found possessing a weapon of any kind will have the weapon confiscated and both the student and the weapon will be turned over to the proper legal authorities. Objects which look like and appear to be weapons will be dealt with as if they were weapons. **Any student who violates this rule is subject to expulsion.**

B. **Definitions:**

“**Zero tolerance**” means that the school will not tolerate the possession of any weapon by any person. The term “weapon” is defined as any object or substance which by its design, threatened use, or use could cause bodily injury or property damage, including any object which could reasonably be mistaken for a weapon. The division director and dean of student life shall use their discretion when interpreting the use and intent of such articles at school.

“**Possession**” of a weapon means to carry a weapon on one’s person, to keep a weapon among one’s immediate possessions, in a locker, in a vehicle, or to handle or transfer a weapon belonging to another person.

C. **Procedures:**

1. Contact emergency services where appropriate.
2. Confiscate weapon if safe to do so.
3. Refer to the dean of student life who will call a hearing of the Board of Conduct with the understanding that any student who possesses a weapon at Visitation is subject to dismissal.
4. Report to the head of school a final disciplinary decision.

**In preparation for the hearing, the following will occur:**

1. Notify parent(s)/guardian.
2. Report to police where conduct may violate federal, state or local laws or ordinances.
3. Suspend student automatically and immediately from school.

# UPPER SCHOOL

## Welcome to the Convent of the Visitation Upper School.

The faculty, staff and administration of Visitation Upper School welcome you to the 2016-17 school year. Visitation Upper School is an independent Catholic day school committed to providing young women with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum that encourages independence, creativity and curiosity with an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning. We hope that this handbook will assist you in providing you with the policies and procedures of the academic life and student life of the school.

[Please refer to the General Information section for all-school information.](#)

**ACADEMIC AWARDS - SENIORS:** The Clementine Medal is awarded to the graduating senior who has earned the highest grade point average during the four year high school period (eight semesters). Similarly, the graduating senior with the second highest average is awarded the Teresan Medal. Transfer students with grades from weighted courses not offered at Visitation may only count those grades as unweighted when competing for the Clementine and Teresan medals. If there are unusual or extenuating circumstances, the Upper School director will make final decisions regarding the awarding of these and other senior awards. A student must earn at least one half of her credits from Visitation to earn academic awards at graduation. Those seniors who have a four-year cumulative grade point average of 3.7 will graduate with honors.

**ACADEMIC/PERSONAL INTEGRITY:** At Visitation we place the highest value on personal and academic integrity. Dishonesty in any area of the school's activities or classrooms is unacceptable. Visitation encourages the free exchange of ideas from discussions, assignments, and other resources among classmates and teachers; however, your final work must be your own.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is representing as your own the words, ideas, or images of someone else, and it also includes any scholarly sources you have consulted and used without giving proper credit. It is NOT sufficient merely to alter the words of a source and submit the paraphrased ideas as your own. Visitation's Upper School uses Turnitin.com to help students improve their writing and citation skills. Turnitin.com, an online service that helps teachers detect plagiarized or improperly cited material, requires students to submit papers electronically to its website. Submitted papers are then scanned against millions of web sites, previously submitted papers, and a subscription database called Proquest. Teachers across academic disciplines may use Turnitin.com at their discretion. As of September 2004, the English Department, in particular, will require students to submit papers both electronically using Turnitin.com and in a hard copy format. In addition to helping students improve their writing, this opportunity will allow students to become familiar with Turnitin.com, which is used extensively at the college and university level. Students must have an email account in order to use Turnitin.com. Students without email access must make special arrangements with their English teachers.

**Homework and Formal Assignments:** Teachers will explain their policies for homework and formal assignments clearly and in detail at the beginning of each course. If you are not clear about whether collaboration on any assignment is acceptable, or if you have concerns about receiving any help from other sources, such as parents, friends, tutors, etc., you must discuss this with your teacher.

**Tests:** It is unethical to give or receive the details of a test before, during, or after the test.

**Consequences:** A student who violates the rules of academic integrity by cheating or plagiarizing is subject to the following consequences: 1. The teacher will notify the parents of the incident by phone or in writing; 2. The student will receive an F on the assignment, test, or quiz. All violations of academic integrity will be referred to the dean of student life for appropriate disciplinary action.

**ACADEMIC PROBATION:** A student will be placed on academic probation if her grades fall into any of the following categories:

1. Grade point average below 1.70 at end of semester.
2. An "F" in one or more course(s) at end of quarter or end of semester, or two or more end of quarter or end of semester grades lower than a "C-".

A student on academic probation is required to receive tutoring in the courses for which she has been deficient. Participation in co-

curricular activities may be curtailed. The student will be given one quarter to raise her academic performance to the minimum requirements. If academic performance does not improve, one or more of the following action will be taken, as determined by the director of the Upper School:

1. A continuation of mandatory tutoring.
2. Mandatory summer school to make up credits.
3. Ineligibility in co-curricular activities.
4. Re-enrollment Hold (See **RE-ENROLLMENT HOLD POLICY** for policy details.)
5. Consideration of a change in schools.

**Seniors on academic probation will be required to report to study hall during their free period.**

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) ADMISSION CRITERIA:**

1. Students must obtain the signature of her current teacher in that department.
2. There is a limit of three A.P. courses per year.
3. If a student wants a fourth A.P. course, she must submit a petition to the Upper School director.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM POLICY:**

1. Students will be excused from classes the day of the A.P. exam and are asked to advise the teachers of the classes they will miss. They are responsible for procuring assignments in advance and are expected to be prepared for classes the day following the exam. A teacher would have the right to negotiate a different schedule to make up work but the student should not expect this.
2. All A.P. classes will continue to be held after the A.P. exam has taken place and students may or may not be required to take a final exam in those classes.
3. Students may be out of uniform the day of the A.P. exam.

**ATTENDANCE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Any student involved in any extra-curricular activities must meet her academic needs by attending school regularly. **A student who misses any part of the school day on the day of an after school activity will not be allowed to participate in that activity that day.** In general, this policy will be enforced by the coach or director of each after school activity. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the dean of student life, or the director of competitive activities, if the absence affects a sporting event. Students with poor attendance or those who are experiencing academic or behavioral problems may be denied the right to participate. Students who miss after school activities due to academic testing will not be penalized. Students will not be excused from arriving late for school due to a previous night's event.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** In accordance with the regulations of the Department of Education and the Minnesota Mandatory Attendance Law, every student up to the age of 18 is required to attend all assigned class periods every day school is in session. Regular and on-time class attendance is essential to a student's success at Visitation. The faculty and administration believe that repeated absences and/or lateness can undermine the learning process for the student and are potentially disruptive to the school community. Excessive absences\*, regardless of cause, will impede learning and as a result, may adversely affect performance. Excessive absenteeism\* may result in lower academic achievement and may bring a student to the point where she can no longer satisfy course requirements for credit. Teachers are available to help students make up school work missed due to excused absences\*\*. It is impossible, however, to recreate valuable class experiences in tutoring. The school will work with a student and her family when there is an extenuating circumstance such as a medical situation that is the cause of extended absences.

The school's attendance policy is as follows:

1. All students are expected to be on time and attend all class periods every day school is in session.
2. A meeting with the student, parents, teachers and those concerned may be required if a student misses four or more days within a quarter or if a student accumulates excessive tardies to examine the situation and to develop a plan to address the problem. A student who has repeated issues related to poor attendance\* will face the Board of Conduct. Students who have an inordinate number of absences\* or tardies unrelated to medical issues may be unable to satisfy course requirements and may need to be removed from classes.
3. A student who is absent without an excused reason on three or more full or partial school days during the school year is considered truant and may face the Board of Conduct. The consequence is a drop in grades by one step. (e.g. B to B-) Unexcused absences\*\* accumulate for the duration of the class and/or school year. (e.g. for the duration of the subject: math, science, religion, etc.)

\* Defined as more than 10 days during the school year.

\*\* Minnesota State Law gives the following examples of excused absences: Illness, medical or mental health appointments,

religious holidays or family emergency. Absences specifically related to required school sponsored activities will also be excused. (e.g. field trips, retreats, etc.) Minnesota State Law gives the following examples of unexcused absences: lack of transportation, need for sleep, babysitting, mental health days, vacations, non-medical appointments, etc. For more information on dealing with family vacations, please see section on **EXTENDED ABSENCE REQUESTS** for entire policy. A student's absence will also be considered unexcused if attendance procedures are not followed. The school will decide when the absence is excused or unexcused.

### **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES – DAILY:**

- Parents **must** notify the school Attendance Office at 651-683-1732 before 8 a.m. if their child will not be in school.
- If parents fail to notify the school, they will be contacted. If contact cannot be made, the absence will be recorded as an unexcused absence.
- A note explaining the absence must be presented to the Attendance Office upon the students return to school. The note does not excuse the absence as the school determines whether the absence is excused or unexcused.
- Notes or calls from persons other than parents or legal guardians will not be accepted. Exceptions to this may occur in emergency cases.
- If a student forges a parent's signature on any note presented to the school, they will be referred to the dean of student life.
- When a student is absent for three or more days due to ILLNESS, a parent may request assignments.
- Parents must notify the Attendance Office whenever they will be out of town to inform the school who will be authorized to act as a legal guardian in the parents' absence.
- Students are tardy to school if they arrive after 8 a.m. Exceptions will be decided by the dean of student life.
- Any student that arrives after 8 a.m. must sign in with the Attendance Office. A note explaining the tardy must be presented to the attendance officer.
- Any student that leaves school before the conclusion of the school day must have written parental permission (calls will not be accepted) and must sign out at the Attendance Office.
- Students who fail to sign in and/or out will be referred to the dean of student life.
- Whenever possible, medical and or dental appointments should be scheduled outside of the school day. If this is not possible, the student must present a note written by parents prior to the appointment and must sign in and out at the Attendance Office.
- In the event of illness at school or emergency, student may be released from school by the nurse or dean of student life without written parental permission. Contact will be made with parent or guardian before a student is released.
- Students must be in school for the entire day in order to participate in after school activities.
- It is imperative that parents provide the school with current phone numbers (work, cell, home, emergency contact, etc.) so that the school is able to make contact in case of an illness or emergency.
- Students may not be absent for reasons other than medical or emergencies during exam weeks.

**EXTENDED ABSENCE REQUESTS:** The school **strongly discourages** families from taking vacations during school time or extending established school vacations. The benefits gained from daily class attendance and interactions with other students and teachers cannot be recovered. While homework can be made up, teachers are under no obligation to provide tutoring for students missing school for vacations nor are they responsible for having assignments or tests prepared before the student leaves. Students may not make-up final or semester exams missed due to vacations or other non-medical absences.

In the event that a student must be absent from school for 3 or more days for non-medical reasons, the following procedure must be followed in order to receive credit for work missed:

1. A parent must request the absence by contacting the dean of student life to give full details pertaining to the proposed absence **at least two weeks** prior to the planned absence.
2. The student must pick up the Extended Absence Form two weeks in advance from the dean of student life's office and circulate the form to all teachers apprising them of the length of absence, dates, etc. The teachers will sign the form and add his/her concerns.
3. The student must return the completed form to the dean of student life one week prior to the trip.
4. Previous quizzes, tests and assignments, must be completed before departure. All work assigned while gone must be completed by the due dates specified on the form. Students who fail to complete missed work by the deadline will lose credit for those assignments, tests, etc.

**These procedures must be followed if the student is to receive academic credit for time missed.**

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY—STATE TOURNAMENTS:**

If a Visitation team qualifies for a state tournament, then the school may make the decision to close school in order to allow students to attend the event and support their classmates. See complete information regarding state tournament participation in the **ATHLETIC POLICIES AND INFORMATION** section.

In order to reasonably support Saint Thomas Academy's participation in state tournaments while protecting the implementation of Visitation's academic program, Visitation has adopted the following procedures:

- Students in grades 9-11 may choose to attend one Saint Thomas Academy state tournament game with an excused absence and may use any unexcused absences they have remaining to attend the other games.
- Students in grade 12 may choose to attend two of the games with excused absences and may use any unexcused absences they have remaining to attend the other games.
- Students with siblings on one of the teams will be excused to attend those games.
- A note from a parent must be turned in to the Attendance Office by 8 a.m. on the day of the game giving permission for the student to attend the event. This policy only applies to students who are in good standing academically, behaviorally and in terms of attendance. Students who are struggling academically, who are on any type of probation or who have excess absences will not be excused to attend these events.

Parents and students also must understand the following:

- No transportation or supervision will be provided by the school to these events. Transportation and supervision will be up to the parents.
- Any homework due the day of the event must be handed in before the student leaves for the event or it will be considered late.
- Students are responsible for all work missed and will not be given extended time to make up work
- Classes will be in session during these games and instruction will be taking place in all classes.
- Students who call in sick on any of the tournament days will be required to provide a note from a doctor.

## **BOARD OF CONDUCT:**

The Board of Conduct is a school committee that meets to determine the consequences for a student's violation of Visitation School policies.

### **Upper School Board of Conduct Membership:**

1. Division director
2. One teacher
3. School counselor
4. A Sister from the Visitation Community

None of the members of the Board of Conduct shall be directly involved in the matter at issue, including as a witness or an internal investigator of the alleged violation. The dean of student life will be in attendance to present the facts of the violation. A student's homeroom teacher may also be present.

*See General Information section for complete Board of Conduct Policy*

**CLOSED CAMPUS:** Students may not leave campus during the school day, except for school related activities, doctor verified appointments, family funerals and emergencies. A written parental permission and a note from the Attendance Office or dean of student life giving permission to leave campus are also required. When permission is granted to leave campus, she must sign out when leaving and sign back in upon her return. If a student violates this policy, the dean of student life will call home and the student will be subject to disciplinary action. **Students may not drive to Saint Thomas Academy at any time during the school day.** (The Upper School does have open campus during the weeks of semester exams.)

## **COURSES AT SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY:**

If the schedule permits students to take courses at STA, the following rules apply:

1. All students wishing to take a class at Saint Thomas Academy must first see the director of Upper School. The guidance counselors and teachers at Visitation cannot give permission to students to take classes at STA.
2. The class is not offered at Visitation School.
3. A scheduling conflict involving a course required for graduation prevents the student from taking the course at Visitation.
4. There is space available in the course.

Students must comply with Saint Thomas Academy course requirements. No Visitation student is allowed to drive to Saint Thomas Academy for a course.

**DETENTION POLICY:** When a student breaks school discipline policies, detentions are given in keeping with the misconduct. The purpose for the detention policy is to teach respect for self and others and to acquire self-discipline. Some reasons for issuing detentions are disrespect, disruptive behavior, tardiness, uniform violations, not prepared for class, and not following directives for the good order of the school. Detention forms are filled out for every detention given, even if the detention is to be served with the teacher and not the detention person.

Once a student accumulates 4 detentions, the dean of student life will hold a conference with the student and a letter will be sent home to parents. If a student receives as many as 8 detentions, the parents and the student will be called in for a conference with the dean of student life and Upper School director to see what can be done to help the student correct her behavior. After this conference, if there is not a behavior change, the student may be asked to appear before the Board of Conduct.

Detentions must be served from 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. The date of the detention must be arranged by the person issuing the detention. Failure to appear will automatically double detention time. A second failure to appear will result in a 2 hour Saturday detention. Detentions will supersede extra-curricular meetings and practices.

**DISCIPLINARY PROBATION:** A student may be placed on disciplinary probation, at the discretion of the dean of student life, upper school director or as a result of a Board of Conduct hearing, for violations of the student code of conduct. Such violations may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Breaches of academic integrity/personal integrity policy;
2. Computer/Internet infraction;
3. Driving violation;
4. Excessive detentions;
5. Excessive tardiness;
6. Harassment/bullying/racism/improper electronic communication;
7. Off campus violation;
8. Senior prank;
9. Serious breach of conduct as determined by the dean of student life;
10. Violation of policy prohibiting alcohol and illegal drug use;
11. Theft or vandalism;
12. Unexcused absences;
13. Verbal, physical or emotional abuse (including improper electronic communication);
14. Violation of weapons policy; or
15. Violations of MSHSL Student Code of Conduct.

**DROP/ADD POLICY:** All course changes are subject to parental approval, teacher and counselor review and availability of courses. Once classes begin, the following course change procedure is followed:

1. The student discussed the schedule change with the teacher of the course, her homeroom advisor and the academic counselor.
2. The student requests a drop/add form from the academic counseling office.
3. The student receives signature of a parent or guardian, teacher(s), academic counselor and upper school director.
4. The student must obtain a new schedule from the registrar before attending the new class.

Course additions may be made during the first six days of the course. Course withdrawals may be made anytime during the first *twelve days* of the academic year or semester for a semester course. *After the first twelve days, a request to drop a course is decided by director of Upper School in consultation with the academic advisor and the instructor. No transcript notation is made if the drop is made prior to the deadline. If a student withdraws from a course after the the deadline, a W is noted on the transcript.*

**FAILED CLASSES:** When a student who has received a grade of "F" remediates that class, the new grade will be added to the transcript to signify that the course has been passed but will not erase the failed grade.

**FIELD TRIPS:** It is the responsibility of the student to secure signatures from her respective teachers for the **Student Activity Release Form two weeks before** the field trip. Students with poor attendance or those who are experiencing academic or behavioral problems may be denied the right to participate.

**GRADING:** Letter grades are given each quarter and for semester exams. A semester grade, which is determined by the two quarter grades and semester exam, is awarded at the end of the semester. The grades of record, semester grades, are recorded on the transcript. Each quarter grade represents 40% of the semester grade, and the semester exam is worth 20% of the semester grade. There may be

some exceptions to this policy. In those cases, instructors will notify students of the composition of the semester grade in the course outline. **As a minimum students must receive a passing grade of D- for the semester in order to receive credit for any course.** Grades and student progress are reported through our student information system, PowerSchool. Parents and students have access throughout the school year to this information through password protected accounts. At the end of each reporting period, PowerSchool access is suspended to allow instructors uninterrupted time to prepare term grade information. Students earning a grade below a C- at mid-quarter will receive teacher comments through PowerSchool detailing needs for improvement in a course.

The following formula is used to determine the final grade:

$$\frac{2(\text{first qtr. gr.}) + 2(\text{second qtr. gr.}) + \text{semester exam grade}}{5} = \text{Semester Grade}$$

**Numerical Equivalents for Letter Grades:**

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Honors</u>	<u>A.P.</u>
A	4.0	4.4	4.8
A-	3.7	4.1	4.4
B+	3.3	3.6	4.0
B	3.0	3.3	3.6
B-	2.7	3.0	3.2
C+	2.3	2.5	2.8
C	2.0	2.2	2.4
C-	1.7	1.9	2.0
D+	1.3	1.4	1.6
D	1.0	1.1	1.2
D-	0.7	0.8	0.8
F	0.0	0.0	0.0

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Minimum Course Requirements for Graduation:

English	4 credits	Science	3 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	Social Studies	3 credits
Mathematics	through Algebra II	World Language	3 credits or through
Physical Education	1 credit	Level 3	
Health	1/2 credit	Electives	3 credits
Religion	4 credits		

All students must register for a minimum of five credit courses per year. One credit is given for courses that meet daily for two semesters. One half credit is given for courses that meet daily for one semester or on alternate days for two semesters. Transcripts and diplomas will not be released until all obligations to the school are fulfilled, e.g., tuition and fines paid, locks, athletic uniforms and all educational materials are returned.

**GUESTS:** Only potential students may be invited as guests to the upper school. Prior permission must be obtained from the director of enrollment or dean of student life. Students should introduce their visitors to their teachers and to the class at the beginning of each period.

**HOMEWORK:** The expectations of a college preparatory curriculum necessitate nightly homework. Although instruction time in the classroom is invaluable, the continuation of the learning process with homework completes the task, giving the student a sense of personal independence and accomplishment. Homework only be assigned or due on days that courses are scheduled to meet in the rotating schedule.

The time requirement will vary, depending on the student’s course load, the number of advanced or upper division courses she has chosen, and her level of motivation. Visitation students are expected to assume responsibility for this aspect of the learning process. The challenge presented by homework is a critical learning experience in itself and an invaluable preparation for the demands of college and life beyond. Our hope is to nurture and guide the student through this critical issue, instilling in her a sense of pride and purpose and the understanding that it is an integral part of her upper school education at Visitation.

**HONOR ROLL:** The High Honor Roll will be determined by achieving a GPA of a 3.90 or above and the Honor Roll by achieving a GPA from 3.50 to 3.89.

**INCOMPLETES:** If a student is given a grade of “I” for a marking period, she has **two weeks** to complete the work missed. If she fails to do so, she receives a failing grade on the work not completed. The failing grade for incomplete work will then be reflected in her quarter grade; it may or may not cause her to fail for the quarter.

**MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:** Make-up examinations will be administered in the library at 2:45 p.m. Teachers may require students to take make-up examinations at this time.

**MESSAGE BOARD:** A message board is located in the Heart, near the public telephone. Messages for Upper School students will be posted there at regular intervals. It is the students’ responsibility to check the message board. At the end of the school day, students are called to the Portress to receive unclaimed messages.

**POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION:** Minnesota’s Post-Secondary Enrollment Option program allows juniors and seniors to take courses at public or private post-secondary institutions in Minnesota for credit. Students who have exhausted Visitation’s course offerings are eligible to apply for this program. Courses offered through this program may not be substituted for courses that are part of Visitation’s Graduation Requirements. The PSEO program requires participating students to register with the commissioner of the Department for Children, Families and Learning. For more information and to access application forms, visit the Minnesota State Department of Education Website at: <http://www.education.state.mn.us> Approval for PSEO courses is given by the director of the Upper School.

**RETREAT POLICY:** Retreats are an integral part of the Visitation experience, helping our students to grow spiritually, socially, and emotionally. For these reasons, class retreats at Visitation are a required part of the four-year curriculum. **We ask that you please check with your daughter and the school calendar and do not schedule anything which will conflict with class retreats.** Students are excused from all after school activities on the afternoon of overnight retreats\*, but should let their advisors/coaches know as soon as possible that they will be missing. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entire retreat each year. Partial attendance will not count as a complete retreat experience. Those who miss retreat time for any reason will be expected to make-up the time in another way - either participation in a retreat at another time and place (i.e. TEC or parish retreats) or through community service. The make-up time will be arranged in consultation with the Campus Minister. If the date of a retreat is changed from when it was originally scheduled, this rule will not apply.

**SALESIAN VIRTUES PROGRAM:** Always mindful of our Salesian roots, Visitation has established a program, which introduces and integrates twelve Salesian virtues into the curriculum of the upper school. The virtues for the grades are as follows:

Honesty	Courage	Acceptance	Liberty of Spirit
Kindness	Patience	Simplicity	Interiority
Gentle Strength	Humility	Stewardship	Joyful Optimism

**SENIOR EXAM POLICY:**

1. Seniors with a “B” average may be excused from their second semester exam if the teacher so deems.
2. The last two quarter grades would be averaged 50/50 to calculate the last semester grade.
  - a. Each teacher will assign each quarter grade using their departmental scale.
  - b. The semester grade must be calculated from the chart provided by the guidance department to insure consistent grades from all teachers.
3. Each teacher has the freedom to develop her/his own interpretation of a “B” average. Some may require a “B” each quarter; others may choose to average the grade over two quarters to achieve a “B” average.
4. If a senior requests a second semester exam, even though she may be excused because of a “B” average, she may have the option to elect to take one to raise her grade.

**SENIOR PRIVILEGES:** Seniors are not required to attend study halls, but must stay in the school building. All seniors are to report to school by 8 a.m. Seniors on academic or disciplinary probation will have study hall privileges removed. Any senior who receives a mid-quarter report or a quarter grade of D+ or below will be required to attend study halls until the next grading period. A senior who receives an incomplete will be required to attend study hall until the incomplete is made up. The senior must have a note from the teacher indicating that the necessary work has been completed. The note should be given to the dean of student life who will excuse the student from study hall. Seniors **DO NOT** have open campus. When a senior study hall meets during the first or last scheduled period of the day and they have a study hall release form signed by their parents on file in the Attendance Office, the student does not need to be in school during that time. They must attend all other classes scheduled for that day and must they sign in or out in the Attendance



Office. Seniors are required to be in school for all study halls that occur during the middle of the day. Seniors will be required to attend study hall and will lose this release privileges for a period of time (minimum of four weeks) as determined by the dean of student life if they:

- Have excessive tardies/absences.
- Have excessive uniform violations (four or more).
- Leave campus during the school day without written parental permission.
- Skip a class or classes.
- Are on academic or disciplinary probation.

Seniors are expected to be in class at all times but may be released from class 10 minutes early on a test day. Any other release of students (i.e. when a substitute teacher has assigned a study for the period) must be approved by the administration before students may be excused.

**SENIOR PROJECTS:** In order to receive a diploma, seniors must complete a minimum of 48 hours of community service during the two weeks following senior exams in May and hand in their journals the Friday prior to graduation.

**SENIOR SPEECHES AT STA:** Juniors and seniors will be allowed to attend speeches at Saint Thomas Academy if:

1. A note is brought from a parent to the dean of student life one day in advance of the speech. (No phone calls will be accepted.)
2. The student attends all scheduled classes prior to the speech.
3. Student must be on time to the scheduled class following the speech.
4. The student is excused from 10:05 – 10:30 a.m. and must sign in and out at the Attendance Desk.
5. The student will not miss tests, quizzes, labs, special assemblies, or Mass.
6. The student does not drive to STA.
7. The student may use this privilege only two times.

Sophomores and freshmen will only be allowed to attend the Senior Speeches of family members. The school allows this privilege for junior and senior students only unless it involves the speech of a close relative. This privilege will be lost if the student fails to return to school on time.

### **SKIPPING:**

A. If a student skips a class or part of a class, (absence without teacher approval) she will be subject to the following consequences:

1. Conference with the dean of student life
2. 45 minute detention
3. Loss of senior privileges for a period of time as determined by the dean of student life
4. Zero for class skipped.
5. The student will not have a chance to make up work missed.
6. Skipped classes are unexcused and parents will be notified.

B. If a student skips a day of school, the following consequences will be imposed:

1. Conference with the dean of student life and notification of parents.
2. 2-hour Saturday detention.
3. Zero for all classes for the day.
4. The student will not have a chance to make up this work.
5. Loss of senior privileges for a period of time as determined by the dean of student life
6. Board of Conduct may be called.
7. Exclusion from all extra-curriculars for the day.
8. Skipped classes are unexcused

**SOCIAL FUNCTIONS:** The school recognizes the need for social activities for the students and the need for cooperation of students, parents and staff if these activities are to be successful. The conduct of the student and her guest is to be consistent with the policies and ideas of the school. To this end, the following policies and guidelines have been adopted for monitoring those activities and insuring their success:

**Student social activities which the school sponsors:**

1. Semi-formal dances for students in grades 10, 11, and 12.
2. Junior/Senior formal dance in the spring.
3. Spring function for freshmen and their guests.

**Regulations concerning social activities sponsored by the school:**

1. No one will be admitted one-half hour past or after the set "lock out" time the starting time of the activity.
2. Once people leave the function, they will not be readmitted.
3. Official representatives of the school and parents must be present as chaperones throughout the entire scheduled time of the activity.
4. Students are expected to be courteous and well-mannered. School personnel will immediately notify parents if any student is suspected of alcohol, drug, or other chemical use. Indicators might include but are not limited to questionable physical demeanor, slurred speech or the detection of the scent of alcohol. Parents or guardians will be required to immediately pick-up the student from the event. Student use or possession of alcohol, drugs or any other chemicals will result in disciplinary action which will include a Board of Conduct hearing. (Please see **ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE POLICY**) Other misconduct shall also result in immediate disciplinary action.
5. Teachers shall be invited as guests unless designated as official school representatives.
6. A student is responsible for the conduct of her guest. The misconduct of guests will be grounds for informing the parents of the student and removal of the student and/or guest from the activity in accordance with these regulations.
7. The official school representatives and the chaperones may take action at such activity as is deemed in the best interest of the students and the school.
8. The head of school may approve school functions administered by the school staff, which are incidental to classroom, extra-curricular and approved club programs and are restricted in attendance to members of the organization involved, such as the drama club, athletic teams, or the choir. Parents' Association and school events where student social involvement is incidental, such as the father-daughter dance, mother-daughter brunch, retreats and the like shall not be deemed school sponsored student social functions for the purpose of these regulations. However, the students shall be expected to conduct themselves at such events in a manner consistent with these regulations and any misconduct may result in disciplinary action.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES/GROUPS:** Drama Club, Student Council, Mock Trial, Visitor (Student Newspaper), CHOOSE, Math Team, STAND, Leadership committee, Quiz Bowl, Debate, Speech, Voices for Justice, Equestrian Club, Robotics, Peer Mentors, Language Clubs and Yearbook Staff.

**STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS:** Alpine Skiing, Basketball, Cross Country Running, Nordic Skiing Racing, Golf, Hockey\*, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Lacrosse\*.

Students who plan to participate in athletic activities must have a physician's written statement granting permission, meet Minnesota State High School League eligibility requirements, and submit a completed Visitation Consent Form and Indemnity Agreement to the Athletic Office.

\* Cooperative with St. Paul Academy

**STUDENTS DRIVING STUDENTS:** In the past it has been the custom for some "big sisters" to drive their "little sisters" to social functions such as mixers and dances or older students driving younger students to sport practices, etc. While we support the interaction that occurs between the older and younger students, we want parents to recognize that the school does not have a policy requiring this, nor do we expect older students to drive younger ones. Parents should use their discretion in this matter and realize that the final decision rests with them.

**SUGGESTED PARENT GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Below are recommended guidelines for parents concerning off-campus activities:

- A two hour curfew after the end of a school activity.
- Knowledge of where the students will be before and after attending school related functions.
- Knowledge of all details of the activity.
- Home parties by invitation only.
- Adult supervision at all student home parties.
- No alcoholic beverages or other chemical use at student home parties.
- No hotel parties, cabin parties or co-ed sleepovers.

**TARDINESS:** A student is tardy to school when she is not in school by 8 a.m. Excused tardiness is determined by the school. Some examples of excused tardies are: late buses, school related activities, doctor verified illness, funerals, etc. Excessive tardiness to school (four times) within a quarter will be reported to the dean of student life, and a 45-minute detention will be assigned. A Saturday two hour detention is assigned at the sixth tardy, the dean of student life will hold a conference with the student, and a letter will be sent home. If the student's tardiness continues, a conference will be held with the student and parents resulting in a possible board of conduct. Tardiness to class or activities will be dealt with by the teacher or activity director according to his/her policy.

**TUTORING:** All full time teaching faculty are available for a minimum of 2 hours during the week and each teacher will post their tutoring schedule and are also available by appointment. Part time teachers are available for tutoring by appointment.

**UNIFORM REGULATIONS:** Students are to be in proper uniform daily from 8 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The only exceptions to this rule are: the school approved “Out of Uniform” days, field trip occasions when different attire is more appropriate, and on designated Friday Spirit Days when Spirit Dress is allowed. Spirit Dress allows students to wear a sweatshirt or t-shirt with the basic uniform. The sweatshirt or t-shirt must have the word “Visitation” on it.

**Basic Uniform:**

- Navy uniform skirt (neatly hemmed no more than 2” above the knee) and navy uniform pants purchased from Donald's. The navy uniform pants are to be purchased from Donald’s Department Store, 972 Payne Ave., St. Paul.
- White oxford button-down blouse (long or short sleeved), always tucked in. A white t-shirt or turtleneck may be added for warmth; however, the sleeves of the shirts may **NOT** show below the sleeves of the blouse.
- Undergarments with color or patterns may not show through the uniform blouse.
- Monogrammed navy uniform sweater vest or monogrammed navy uniform v-neck pullover sweater.
- Leg wear: white socks **above the ankle** (no logos), white knee highs or white tights.
- Shoes: solid dark brown shoes or loafers (ankle or below) in good condition with no more than 1 1/2” heels. **No clogs, tennis shoes or backless shoes are allowed. Shoelaces must be dark brown. No Slippers or moccasins may be worn as part of the uniform.**
- Sweaters must be purchased from the Peddler (school store) and may be worn for additional warmth. **Sweaters must be in good repair in order to be worn as part of the uniform.**
- Neither visible tattoos nor body piercing jewelry other than earrings are allowed anytime at school or school functions.
- **Students’ uniforms must be clean, neat, pressed, and of appropriate length. Students who are in violation of the uniform regulations will be required to remedy the situation immediately or be sent home. This especially pertains to the uniform skirt length. Students will also be given a 45 minute detention for uniform violations.**
- Physical Education uniforms are required for grades six through nine. Uniforms shall be purchased in the Peddler. The uniform consists of black unisex shorts and a red unisex t-shirt.

**Formal Uniform:**

- Skirt, white oxford blouse, white socks or tights, and sweater or vest are required.
- When designated by the dean of student life, the formal uniform will be worn for convocations, all school Masses or special events.
- The honor guard also requires white gloves and white tights.

**Out of Uniform Days:**

These days **exclude** ripped or torn clothing, cutoffs, short shorts (an inseam of atleast 3 inches) or tight-fitting pants (including leggings). Students’ shoulders and midriffs are to be covered. Students are to dress modestly and appropriately at all times.

**VIS/STA EXCHANGE POLICY:** Students who attend classes at STA are expected to be on time for all classes on both campuses. Therefore, students leave the preceding class five minute early. **Students are not to drive to STA.** When schedules conflict, students must check in with their STA teacher before 3:15 p.m. that day to receive assignments. When STA classes are canceled, exchange students must report to study hall.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

[Please refer to the General Information section for all-school information.](#)

**ACADEMIC/BEHAVIOR CONCERNS - Weekly Reports:** The Weekly Reports are a communication and advising tool available to students who demonstrate a need for extra support in academic and/or organizational skills. These reports are arranged through the MS Learning Specialist. Once in place, these reports go home on Thursday and are returned signed by parents on Friday.

## **ACADEMIC PROBATION:**

### **Mid-Trimester Probation:**

**Definition:** A student placed on academic probation at the middle of the trimester and notification will be sent to parents if his/her grades fall into any of the following categories:

- Student earns one or more “F” grades at mid-trimester, OR
- Student earns two or more grades below a “C-” at mid-trimester.

**Actions:** A student placed on academic probation at the middle of a trimester will receive support measures that may include, but not limited to the following at the discretion of the Middle School Director:

- Receive regular mailed reports in the course for which he/she has been deficient for the remainder of the trimester.
- Loss of eligibility to begin new sports or extracurricular activities during the second half of the trimester.

**Criteria for Probation Exit:** To be removed from academic probation that was started at mid-trimester, the student will be expected to earn grades at or above a “C-” in all enrolled classes by the end of the probationary trimester. If a student does not reach this goal, the academic probation will continue into the next enrolled trimester.

### **End of Trimester Probation:**

**Definition:** A student placed on academic probation at the end of the trimester and notification will be sent to parents if his/her grades fall into any of the following categories:

- Student was on academic probation the previous trimester and received a final grade below a C- in one or more classes, OR
- Student earns one or more “F” grades at the end of the trimester, OR
- Student earns two or more grades below a “C-” at the end of the trimester.

**Actions:** A student placed on academic probation at the end of a trimester will receive support measures that may include, but not limited to the following at the discretion of the Middle School Director:

- Receive regular mailed reports in the course for which he/she has been deficient for the next enrolled trimester
- Loss of eligibility to begin new sports or extracurricular activities in the next enrolled trimester
- Loss of eligibility for existing sports or extracurricular activities continuing in the next enrolled trimester

**Criteria for Probation Exit:** To be removed from academic probation that was started at end of a trimester, the student will be expected to earn grades at or above a “C-” in all enrolled classes by the end of the probationary trimester. If a student does not reach this goal, one or more of the following actions may be taken at the discretion of the Middle School Director:

- Continue of academic probation status to next enrolled trimester
- Mandatory summer tutoring and satisfactory completion of all course criteria before the next school year
- Initiation of a re-enrollment hold
- Consideration of a change in schools in conversations with parents/guardians

**ACADEMIC/BEHAVIOR REGARDING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** In order to instill a strong sense of responsibility and time management in Middle School students, a minimum standard of academic and behavioral performance will be required for students who participate in any school sponsored extra-curricular activities; including, but not limited to, the following: athletics, fine arts, and student government. Minimum standards will be defined as follows: all course grades maintained at a C- or above; student in good standing with regards to all school rules and regulations; no excessive tardies or absences; no pending disciplinary action. If a student is absent for one or more periods during the day, they may be excluded from their extra-curricular activities that day. **Note:** It is possible to have a student removed from an extra-curricular activity without being on Academic Probation.

**ATTENDANCE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Any student involved in any extra-curricular activities must meet her/his academic needs by attending school regularly. A student who misses any part of the school day on the day of an after school activity will not be allowed to participate in that activity that day. In general, this policy will be enforced by the coach or director of

each after school activity. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Middle School Director, or the athletic director, if the absence affects a sporting event. Students with poor attendance or those who are experiencing academic or behavioral problems may be denied the right to participate as participants or attendees. Students who miss after school activities for school-related reasons will not be penalized. Students will not be excused from arriving late for school due to a previous night's event.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** In accordance with the regulations of the Department of Education and the Minnesota Mandatory Attendance Law, every student up to the age of 18 is required to attend all assigned class periods every day school is in session. Regular and on-time class attendance is essential to a student's success at Visitation. The faculty and administration believe that repeated absences and/or lateness can undermine the learning process for the student and are potentially disruptive to the school community. Excessive absences\*, regardless of cause, will impede learning and as a result, may adversely affect performance. Excessive absenteeism\* may result in lower academic achievement and may bring a student to the point where she can no longer satisfy course requirements for credit. Teachers are available to help students make up school work missed due to excused absences\*\*. It is impossible, however, to recreate valuable class experiences in tutoring. The school will work with a student and her family when there is an extenuating circumstance such as a medical situation that is the cause of extended absences.

The school's attendance policy is as follows:

1. All students are expected to be on time and attend all class periods every day school is in session.
2. A meeting with the student, parents, teachers and those concerned may be required if a student misses six or more days within a trimester or if a student accumulates excessive tardies to examine the situation and to develop a plan to address the problem. A student who has repeated issues related to poor attendance\* may receive further consequences or face a Board of Conduct. Students who have an inordinate number of absences\* or tardies unrelated to medical issues may be unable to satisfy course requirements and may need to be removed from classes.
3. A student who is absent without an excused reason on three or more full or partial school days during the school year is considered truant and may face the Board of Conduct.

\* Defined as more than 10 days during the school year.

\*\* Minnesota State Law gives the following examples of excused absences: illness, medical or mental health appointments, religious holidays or family emergency. Absences specifically related to required school sponsored activities will also be excused. (e.g. field trips, retreats, etc.) Minnesota State Law gives the following examples of unexcused absences: lack of transportation, need for sleep, babysitting, mental health days, vacations, non-medical appointments, etc. For more information on dealing with family vacations, please see section on EXTENDED ABSENCE REQUESTS for entire policy. A student's absence will also be considered unexcused if attendance procedures are not followed. The school will decide when the absence is excused or unexcused.

### **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES – DAILY:**

- Parents must notify the school Attendance Office at 651-683-1732 before 8 a.m. if their child will not be in school.
- If parents fail to notify the school, they will be contacted. If contact cannot be made, the absence will be recorded as an unexcused absence.
- A note explaining the absence must be presented to the Attendance Office upon the students return to school. The note does not excuse the absence as the school determines whether the absence is excused or unexcused.
- Notes or calls from persons other than parents or legal guardians will not be accepted. Exceptions to this may occur in emergency cases.
- If a student forges a parent's signature on any note presented to the school, they will be referred to the Middle School Director.
- When a student is absent for three or more days due to ILLNESS, a parent may request assignments.
- Parents must notify the Attendance Office whenever they will be out of town to inform the school who will be authorized to act as a legal guardian in the parents' absence.
- Students are tardy to school if they arrive after 8 a.m. Exceptions will be decided by the Middle School Director.
- Any student that arrives after 8 a.m. must sign in with the Attendance Office. A note explaining the tardy must be presented to the attendance officer.
- Any student that leaves school before the conclusion of the school day must have parental permission and must sign out at the Attendance Office.
- Students who fail to sign in and/or out will be referred to the Middle School Director.
- Whenever possible, medical and or dental appointments should be scheduled outside of the school day. If this is not possible, the student must present a note written by parents prior to the appointment and must sign in and out at the Attendance Office.
- Students must be in school for the entire day in order to participate in after school activities.

- It is imperative that parents provide the school with current phone numbers (work, cell, home, emergency contact, etc.) so that the school is able to make contact in case of an illness or emergency.

**EXTENDED ABSENCE REQUESTS:** The school strongly discourages families from taking vacations during school time or extending established school vacations. The benefits gained from daily class attendance and interactions with other students and teachers cannot be recovered. While homework can be made up, teachers are under no obligation to provide tutoring for students missing school for vacations nor are they responsible for having assignments or tests prepared before the student leaves. Students may not make-up final or semester exams missed due to vacations or other non-medical absences.

In the event that a student must be absent from school for 3 or more days for non-medical reasons, the following procedure must be followed in order to receive credit for work missed:

1. A parent must request the absence by contacting the Middle School Director to give full details pertaining to the proposed absence at least two weeks prior to the planned absence.
2. The student must meet with all teachers apprising them of the length of absence, dates, etc. and determine a plan for pre-work and post-work to be completed.
3. Previous quizzes, tests and assignments, must be completed before departure. All work assigned while gone must be completed by the due dates agreed upon by the teacher. Students who fail to complete missed work by the deadline will lose credit for those assignments, tests, etc.

These procedures must be followed if the student is to receive academic credit for time missed.

**ATTENDANCE AT AFTER SCHOOL/EVENING ACTIVITIES:** Any student involved in after school/evening activities must meet her/his academic needs by attending school regularly. A student who misses any part of the school day on the day of a dramatic performance, athletic, music or social event will not be allowed to participate in that event that day. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Middle School director.

**BOARD OF CONDUCT:** The Board of Conduct is a school committee that meets to determine the consequences for a student's violation of Visitation School policies.

- A. Middle School Board of Conduct membership: MS director, MS Faculty Member, school counselor, dean of student life
- B. Examples of student violations that may be referred to the Board of Conduct include disrespect, harassment, vandalism, verbal abuse, or other misconduct.

*See General Information section for complete Board of Conduct Policy*

**FAILED CLASSES:** A student may not be given credit for a course if they receive a final grade of "F" in two of three trimesters during the year. The student may have to repeat the course or demonstrate mastery of course material during the summer.

**GRADING:** Grades and student progress are reported through our student information system, PowerSchool. Parents are given password protected account information to access their student's grades. PowerSchool access is suspended for a brief time at the end of each trimester to allow instructors to prepare term grade reports. Mid-trimester reports are sent to parents of students with below average performance. See Academic Probation Section for details.

**HOMEWORK:** The purpose of homework in Middle School is to 1) give students an additional opportunity to think through the learnings of the day in a new context and after time spent on other activities. Additionally, over the course of three years in the Middle School, the homework philosophy and requirement increases in order to provide a strong foundation of time management and study skills to ensure a smooth transition to Visitation's Upper School program.

While time spent on homework will vary from student to student, based on learning style, learning needs, retention, work done in class, study habits, etc. Time spent will also vary from week to week and course to course. However, the following are time guidelines for what students should allot for homework each night to ensure they are able to complete work:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students should spend between 80-100 minutes on average each night on homework.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade students should spend between 100-120 minutes on average each night on homework.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students should spend between 120-140 minutes on average each night on homework.

If you find that your child is consistently spending less or more time than the guidelines indicate, please talk to your child to determine the areas or low/high homework, and contact the teacher(s) or the Middle School Director.

Visitation students are expected to assume responsibility for this aspect of the learning process. The challenge presented by homework is a critical learning experience in itself and an invaluable preparation for the demands of college and life beyond. Our hope is to nurture and guide the student through this critical issue, instilling in her a sense of pride and purpose and the understanding that it is an integral part of her upper school education at Visitation.

**HONESTY POLICY:** The primary goal of the honesty policy is to teach students the importance of honesty in all of their interactions. While incidents of dishonesty are uncommon, initial occurrences often can be minor, handled quickly, and then rarely repeated. The faculty wishes to involve parents in this critical area.

Acts which fall under the honesty policy are all dishonest acts, including lying, cheating (breaking teachers' rules involving tests, quizzes, homework, other assignments or evaluations), stealing (taking something that is not yours without the owner's specific permission), forgery (presenting a signature which is not written by the person named), plagiarism (presenting as your own, work which is not your own), and more subtle or indirect acts/statements designed to deceive or mislead. When a student violates the honesty policy:

1. The teacher involved will have a discussion with the student clarifying what occurred and how and why it was not honest. This should take place as soon as possible!
2. The incident will be written up briefly and submitted to the director who will be the record-keeper for such incidents.
3. If it is deemed to be a major violation, the first incident will be reported home. If minor, only steps one and two will take place. The student will write about the incident and submit it to the teacher for approval. The student will take it to the director. A copy will be made and the student will take the statement home to be signed and returned to the director the following day. In many cases, the director will check with the parents after it is returned. If it does not come back promptly, the director will call home.
4. If the dishonesty relates to a quiz, test, or assignment, that assignment or test will receive an "F". Makeup opportunity may be provided at the teacher's discretion. Credit to be assigned also is at the teacher's discretion.
5. Should the student dispute the teacher's version of the incident or be unable to write a satisfactory statement, the teacher will call the parents and explain exactly what happened in lieu of the child's statement. This will be written up and turned in to the director by the teacher and kept with the student's behavior record.
6. A parent conference will be called if a third incident occurs. The director and other faculty needed will attend.
7. A parent may always request a conference. We intend to inform parents of all incidents unless the offense is minor and the student's reaction is completely satisfactory. Problems with major assignments, tests, or offenses deemed "major" by the teacher and director will be reported home.

**INCOMPLETES:** If a student is given a grade of an "I" at the end of a trimester, he/she has two weeks to complete the work missed. After that time, any incomplete work will receive a score of zero. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Middle School director.

**LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY:** The length of the school day is 8 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Middle School students may be in the heart area after 7:30 a.m., but are not to enter the Middle School wing until 7:45 a.m.
- Middle School students may remain in the Middle School wing to be picked up between 3:00 and 3:15 p.m. After 3:15 p.m., all students should leave the Middle School and be picked up at the Heart entrance or go to the library until their school sponsored activity begins. Any student not participating in an after-school activity must be picked up by 3:15 p.m. Middle School students working directly with a faculty/staff member may remain in the Middle School wing before 7:45 a.m. and after 3:15 p.m.

**PARENT CONFERENCES:** Parent conference will be held in October and student-led conferences will be held in March. We encourage open communication between parents and the school when concern arises regarding the academic or social growth of the student. Please call the teachers during the school day. They will return calls during free periods or after school. Any parent should feel free to call for additional conferences should they feel there is a need.

**TARDINESS:** A student is tardy to school when she/he is not in school by 8 a.m. Excused tardiness is determined by the school. Some examples of excused tardies are: late buses, school related activities, doctor verified illness, funerals, etc. Excessive tardiness to school (more than 6 in a trimester) may result in a meeting with the student and parents and/or other actions as determined by the Middle School Director.

**UNIFORM REGULATIONS:** We feel that a person's self-respect is expressed by his/her personal appearance. Students are to be in proper uniform daily from 8 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The school asks for parents' cooperation in seeing that uniforms are cleaned and pressed and of appropriate length. The only exceptions to this rule are the school approved out of uniform days, field trip occasions when different attire is more appropriate, and on designated Friday Spirit Days when Spirit Dress is allowed (see below for details).

#### **Girls– Grades 6-8**

##### **Basic Uniform:**

- Navy uniform skirt (hemmed no more than 2" above the knee.) Girls uniform (skirts and pants) are purchased through Donald's Department Store, 972 Payne Avenue, St. Paul.
- White oxford button-down shirt (long or short sleeved), always neatly tucked in the skirt (no printed or colored t-shirts may be worn underneath the blouse, but a white t-shirt is permitted). For additional warmth, a white turtleneck may be worn with the sweater in addition to or instead of the oxford shirt.
- The approved Visitation Middle School sweatshirt may be worn in place of the pullover sweater or vest.
- Sweaters must be purchased from the Peddler (school Store) and may be worn for additional warmth. Sweaters must be in good repair in order to be worn as part of the uniform.
- Navy uniform pants may be worn instead of the uniform skirt.
- Leg wear: white socks (no logos, above the ankle), white knee highs or white tights.
- Shoes: solid color dark brown shoes (ankle or below) shoes with laces must have brown laces. Shoes must be in good condition, with no more than 1 1/2" heel (sandals, tennis shoes, platform shoes, backless shoes, clogs, slippers, moccasins, crocs are not acceptable).
- Physical Education uniforms are required for grades six through nine. Uniforms shall be purchased in the Peddler. The uniform consists of black unisex shorts and a red unisex t-shirt.

**Formal Uniform:** The formal uniform will consist of the uniform above, with the addition of:

- Monogrammed navy uniform pullover sweater or vest,
- White knee-highs or white, opaque tights.
- No turtlenecks are permitted on formal uniform days.
- If a student is not in formal uniform she will lose the privilege of dressing down during the next out of uniform day.

#### **Boys - Grade 6**

##### **Basic Uniform:**

- White oxford or polo shirt (long or short sleeved) always tucked in. No printed or color t-shirts may be worn underneath, but a white t-shirt is permitted.
- Navy trousers with a brown belt.
- Shoes: solid color dark brown shoes (ankle or below) tied with brown shoelaces in good condition, (sandals, tennis shoes, crocs and clogs are not acceptable).
- For warmth, the addition of the Visitation monogrammed navy uniform pullover sweater, vest, or the Visitation Middle School sweatshirt purchased from the Peddler is permitted
- Hair will be neatly groomed; length will not be ragged, un-kempt or extreme.
- Physical Education uniforms are required for grades six through nine. Uniforms shall be purchased in the Peddler. The uniform consists of black unisex shorts and a red unisex t-shirt.

**Formal Uniform:** The formal uniform will consist of the uniform above, with the addition of:

- Long sleeved white oxford button-down shirt
- Solid navy blue tie or red Visitation crest tie
- Monogrammed navy uniform pullover sweater or vest
- If a student is not in formal uniform he/she will lose the privilege of dressing down during the next out of uniform day.

##### **Spirit Dress**

- Visitation top (t-shirt, sweatshirt, pullover, jersey, etc.) may be worn. All uniform policies still apply, but a Visitation top may be worn over the existing uniform.

##### **Out of Uniform**

- Out of uniform days exclude ripped or torn clothing of any kind. Slippers, sandals and any footwear with a loose heel are not allowed on out of uniform days. Students' shoulders and midriffs are to be covered up. Students choosing to wear tighter



legwear such as leggings, yoga pants, jeggings, or any other tight-fitting clothing on legs must have something on top of these items that completely and permanently cover their front and backside. Shorts may be worn over them; however, shorts must not be tight-fitting and need to completely cover student's backside. A long shirt may be worn to cover up tight-fitting pants, but it must not be tight-fitting itself, and must cover the student's entire front and back side on its own (without needing to be pulled down). Temporary cover-ups like a sweatshirt tied to a waist are not acceptable. All non-legged items such as skirts, dresses or shorts, worn must be at least two inches above the center of the knee or longer and must not be tight-fitting.

- We expect students to dress appropriately at all times. When a student does not abide by the out of uniform guidelines, the student will lose the next out of uniform day privilege and will wear the normal uniform on that day in addition, at the discretion of the Middle School Director, a student may not be able to attend class until appropriate clothing is obtained.

# MONTESSORI & LOWER SCHOOL

[Please refer to the General Information section for all-school information.](#)

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL:**

Montessori	8 - 11 a.m.
Montessori	11:50 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
Kindergarten	8 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
Grades 1-5	8 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

The Extended Day program is for students who cannot be picked-up by 3 p.m. Lower School students should not arrive before 7:45 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

- Students are expected to attend all classes and school functions unless sickness prevents them from attending school. Parents are asked to call the school Attendance Office at 651-683-1732 before 8 a.m. if their child will be absent that day. If the student is not in school and notification has not been received by that time, parents may be called. Students in grades Montessori-Grade 5 who arrive late (after 8 a.m.) report first to the Attendance Office with a note from parent/guardian.
- Doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled outside of school time if possible.
- If a student must attend an appointment for a portion of the school day, a written note must be brought to the attendance office before the start of the school day so the student can receive a pass to be excused from class at the appropriate time. While Visitation staff will accommodate whenever possible, the school cannot guarantee student notification of an appointment if notes or calls are received after the start of the school day.
- When leaving and returning during the day, a note is required and the student signs in and out in the Attendance Office. All notes go to the Attendance Office before the school day begins.
- In case of illness or emergency during the day, permission to leave must be granted by the nurse, Attendance Office, or director. It is imperative that parents provide the school with current phone numbers (work, home, legal guardian) should their child need to be excused due to illness or emergency.

**BOARD OF CONDUCT:** A serious breach of conduct as determined by the director may result in a Board of Conduct meeting. The Board of Conduct will determine the consequence of the offense(s). A possible outcome of a Board of Conduct meeting may be suspension or expulsion.

- A. Lower School Board of Conduct membership: Director, LS Faculty Member, dean of student life
- B. Examples of student violations that may be referred to the Board of Conduct include disrespect, harassment, vandalism, verbal abuse, or other misconduct.

*See General Information section for complete Board of Conduct Policy*

**BIRTHDAYS:** Invitations for birthday parties planned for outside of school should be taken care of through the mail. In consideration of student health-related concerns, Visitation Lower School has begun a "Healthy Celebration" program. Students should refrain from bringing food treats for birthday celebrations.

## **CAR POOL ARRIVALS:**

**Grades K-5:** Drop off students curbside at the Heart Entrance or Middle School Circle. **10 minute parking in the ELC marked spaces is reserved for Montessori and Child car families only.**

**Montessori:** Children should be brought into the classroom at 8 a.m. or 11:50 a.m. and picked up in the classroom at 11 a.m. or 2:40 p.m. **Parents must park in the lot at all times.**

**NO** parking is allowed at any time along the parking lot curb or in reserved Merrie Market spaces.

## **CAR POOL PICK-UPS:**

11 a.m. - AM Montessori. Please use the 10 minute parking spaces by the Early Learning Center. Do **NOT** park in the reserved Merrie Market space.

2:40 p.m. dismissal - Buses will pick up all students at the Fine Arts entrance area. All Lower School car pools will pick up students at 2:40 p.m. at the circle drive.

**DISCIPLINE:** In keeping with the school’s philosophy, Visitation will strive to inspire and nurture students who behave in a manner that reflects a commitment to honesty, respect for others, and respect for self. Every effort will be made to work with students who make errors of judgment and find themselves in breach of good conduct.

**HOMEWORK:** The approximate time needed for completion of homework increases as a student progresses from grade 1 through grade 5. Because the greatest motivating factor for students is the interest and concern of their parents, we encourage the children to discuss their work and projects at home.

**PARENT CONFERENCES:** Parent conferences will be held two times a year in November and March. Final reports will be mailed to parents at the end of the school year. We encourage open communication between parents and school, please call teachers during the school day and leave a message. They will return calls during free periods, after school, or in the evening.

**PLANNED ABSENCES:** We do not encourage vacations outside the scheduled school breaks. In the event that you choose to take school time, **know that we will not send work home until the student returns.** The student will then be expected to do the written work with parental guidance. Teachers will not be required to assist with the work.

**UNIFORM REGULATIONS (Montessori & Lower School):** Visitation feels that personal appearance is an expression of a person’s self- respect. Students are to be at school in proper uniform daily from 8 a.m. – 2:40 p.m. The only exceptions to this rule are: the school approved “Out of Uniform days, field trip occasions when different attire is more appropriate, and on designated “Friday Spirit Days” when Spirit Dress is allowed. Spirit Dress allows students to wear a sweatshirt or t-shirt with the basic uniform. The sweatshirt or t-shirt must have “Visitation” on it.

CLOTHING, FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES, SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE STUDENT’S NAME, ESPECIALLY SWEATERS, HATS, MITTENS, SHOES, BOOTS, JACKETS, AND SNOWSUITS.

**Girls (Montessori through Grade 2):**

- Blue uniform jumper.
- White long sleeved turtleneck.
- White blouse (long/short sleeved).
- Navy or white legwear (anklets, knee highs, or tights).
- **Dark** brown in class (ankle or below) or loafers with no more than 1” heel (sandals, tennis shoes, platform shoes, backless shoes, Uggs, TOMS, or clogs are not acceptable).
- Tennis shoes **REQUIRED** for Phy-Ed class **only**.
- Optional: navy cardigan (monogrammed) or Lower School sweatshirt.
- Dark blue “bike” shorts or similar shorts are **REQUIRED** with uniform.

**Boys (Montessori through Grade 2):**

- Navy trousers or shorts (Donald’s).
- White knit shirt (long/short sleeved) (Donald’s). Must be neatly tucked into pants at all times.
- **REQUIRED** navy blue V-neck sweater vest (monogrammed) or navy blue V-neck long sleeved pullover sweater - navy or white socks.
- **Dark** brown or navy shoes in class (ankle or below). No clogs, TOMS, or sandals, etc.
- Tennis shoes **REQUIRED** for Phy-Ed class **only**.
- Optional: Lower School sweatshirt, navy V-neck sweater vest (monogrammed).

**Girls (Grades 3-5):**

- Navy uniform skirt hemmed no more than 2” above the knee.
- Uniform pants may be worn instead of the uniform skirt. Flannel or sweat pants may not be worn during the school day.
- White button-down shirt (long/short sleeved). Must be neatly tucked into skirt at all times.
- Navy V-neck sweater vest (monogrammed) is required for assemblies, Mass and other formal functions.
- Optional: Lower School sweatshirt. For extra warmth a white turtleneck may be worn under the blouse and sweater or sweatshirt.
- Leg wear: white socks, knee highs or tights.
- **Dark** brown shoes in class (ankle high or below) or loafers with no more than 1” heel (sandals, tennis shoes, platform shoes, backless shoes Uggs, TOMS, or clogs are not acceptable).
- Tennis shoes **REQUIRED** for Phy-Ed class **only**.
- Dark blue “bike” shorts are required to be worn under uniform skirt. Uniform pants are optional for cold weather days.

**Boys (Grades 3-5):**

- Navy trousers or shorts (Donald's).
- White knit shirt (long/short sleeved) (Donald's) Must be neatly tucked into pants at all times.
- Navy or white socks.
- Navy blue V-neck sweater vest (monogrammed) or a navy V-neck long sleeved pullover sweater.
- **Dark** brown shoe in class (ankle high or below) or loafers (sandals, tennis shoes, TOMS or clogs are not acceptable).
- Tennis shoes REQUIRED for Phy-Ed class **only**.
- Formal uniform: long sleeved white oxford shirt with the Visitation tie and sweater or vest (monogrammed).

# EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

**EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS:** The Extended Day Program offers the children a safe, creative, quality experience which is both complimentary to and supportive of the values of the school. The program is administered by the school with all program staff employed directly by Visitation.

Children in Montessori through Grade 6 are eligible for the program. They take part in a wide variety of activities for group and individual play including arts and crafts, music, manipulative and constructive toys, and creative dramatics. Outdoor exercise is also stressed. A quiet space for homework is provided after school. The staff to child ratio ranges from 1:7 - 1:10, depending on the environment, activity and group personality.

The Extended Day offers several options:

**Montessori Extended Day:**

- Session 1: 7 - 11:50 a.m. (Serving afternoon Montessori students.)
- Session 2: 11 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (Serving morning Montessori students.)
- Session 3: 2:40 - 6 p.m. (Serving morning and afternoon Montessori students.)
- No-school Long Days: 7 a.m. -6 p.m. (Full day care when school is not in session.)

**School-Aged Extended Day (K-6):**

- After school Extended: 2:40 - 6 p.m.
- No-school Long Days: 7 a.m. -6 p.m. (Full day care when school is not in session.)

Information on any of these programs may be obtained by calling 651-683-1751.

# VISITATION ATHLETIC POLICIES AND INFORMATION

**Athletic Director: Elisa Ryan-Manny**

Phone: 651-683-1717

Email: [ermanny@vischool.org](mailto:ermanny@vischool.org)

**Department Fax: 651-454-7144**

**School Web Site: [www.visitation.net](http://www.visitation.net)**

**Administrative Assistant: Tracie Gaertner**

Phone: 651-683-1768

Email: [tgaertner@vischool.org](mailto:tgaertner@vischool.org)

**Tri Metro Conference Web Site: [www.trimetro.org](http://www.trimetro.org)**

## **Convent of the Visitation School MISSION STATEMENT 2016-2017**

Convent of the Visitation School provides an excellent education within a Catholic environment permeated by Salesian Spirituality.

The Visitation Sisters, faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees, with the support of parents and students, are committed to:

The spiritual, academic, emotional, physical, social, and cultural development of each student from infancy to adulthood.

Co-education through sixth grade. Single-sex education for young women in grades seven through twelve.

The formation of students in faith, worship, and moral and social responsibility.

A supportive learning environment, a challenging academic program, and a college preparatory curriculum.

Student development through the arts, athletics, and co-curricular activities.

Holistic growth through the promotion of leadership, self-confidence, social interaction, and personal fulfillment.

Respect for one another and appreciation of human diversity.

With God's help and the wisdom born of a long history, Visitation moves into the future realizing its motto,

*"Non Scholae, Sed Vitae," "Not for School, but for Life."*

# ATHLETICS TABLE OF CONTENTS

- VISITATION ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY ..... 43
- GENERAL OBJECTIVES ..... 43
- VISITATION SPORTSMANSHIP CODE FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS ..... 43
- ATHLETIC AWARDS ..... 43
  - THE ATHENA AWARD:..... 43
  - THE EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS AWARD ..... 44
  - THE FINK MEMORIAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD ..... 44
  - THE SPANIER AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN ATHLETICS ..... 44
- CONFERENCE AFFILIATION..... 44
- SUMMARY OF SPORT OFFERINGS ..... 45
- GENERAL ATHLETIC POLICIES ..... 45
  - ADDING ..... 45
  - ADDRESSING ATHLETIC CONCERNS ..... 45
  - ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION BY A NON-VISITATION STUDENT ..... 45
  - CAMPS AND CLINICS ..... 45
  - CAPTAINS..... 46
  - CAPTAINS’ PARENTS ..... 46
  - EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STATE EVENTS ..... 46
  - ELIGIBILITY ..... 47
  - FEES PER SPORT ..... 47
  - FUND RAISING ..... 47
  - GUIDELINES FOR POST-SEASON CELEBRATIONS..... 47
  - LETTERING STANDARDS ..... 47
  - MEDICAL POLICY ..... 47
  - OVERNIGHT TRIPS..... 48
  - PEP RALLIES ..... 48
  - PLAYING TIME..... 48
  - PRE-SEASON PARENT/STUDENT-ATHLETE/COACH MEETINGS..... 48
  - STUDENT DRIVING ..... 48
  - TEAM SIZE..... 48
  - TRAINER/TRAINING ROOM/FITNESS CENTER ..... 48
  - UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT ..... 48
  - INDIVIDUAL SPORT INFORMATION ..... 49

## **VISITATION ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The Convent of the Visitation School's philosophy statement affirms that learning is, in the words of our school motto, "*Non Scholae, Sed Vitae: Not for School, but for Life.*" We believe that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total Visitation educational program and reflects our philosophy as much as any other.

Interscholastic sports not only enrich a young person's educational experience, but they create an opportunity to learn skills and values beyond the school's regular curriculum. Participation in athletics will not only improve motor skills and develop physical fitness, but student-athletes will also learn self-discipline and build self-confidence. The realization of group ideas, the ability to think as an individual and as a member of a group, sportsmanship and fairness, respect for others, and the desire and effort to succeed and excel are just some of the values we emphasize in our program. It is the ultimate aim of our athletic program to teach and develop these skills and values among **all** of our participants.

Although our first priority is the attainment of the aforementioned educational objectives, winning, involving the spirit of competition is an immediate objective in all athletic contests. The desire to win can and should be used to stimulate the achievement of the ultimate objectives.

Finally, we believe that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student-athlete herself. In her play and in her conduct, each participant is representing all of these groups. It is only by helping a student-athlete to clearly understand our objectives and by carefully directing her in appropriate, well-planned learning situations that she will achieve these goals. This is our challenge and our responsibility.

## **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

- To develop an understanding of our athletic philosophy and the value of athletics within our total educational program.
- To develop in each student-athlete improved motor skills and overall health and physical fitness.
- To emphasize each individual's growth in self-discipline, emotional maturity and self-confidence.
- To develop the ability to think as an individual and as a member of a group.
- To develop an understanding of the role of the individual in the implementation of team goals.
- To develop the desire and commitment to participate, succeed and excel through positive athletic competition.
- To provide instruction in the essential rules of the game and the value of conforming to these rules.
- To encourage respect for the rights of others and for authority.
- To emphasize the principles of fairness in all of our interactions with others.
- To promote student leadership and an appreciation of the democratic process.
- To provide opportunities for developing a strong sense of school spirit among students, coaches, faculty and parents.
- To provide opportunities for positive, enjoyable and safe experiences for all participants.

## **VISITATION SPORTSMANSHIP CODE FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS**

- Respect shall be shown for the opponent at all times. At home contests, our opponents are our guests.
- Respect shall be shown for the officials at all times.
- The rules of the game shall be known, understood and appreciated in spirit, as well the letter of the rule.
- Self-control shall be maintained at all times.
- Skill in performance should be recognized and appreciated, regardless of affiliation.
- Winning should be accompanied by graciousness, and losing should be accompanied by dignity.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

### **THE ATHENA AWARD:**

The St. Paul Area Athena Awards program was initiated in 1995 to honor outstanding female student-athletes. Each year, one student-athlete from every St. Paul area public and private high school is selected to receive this award. Each award recipient is invited to a banquet and awards ceremony honoring her accomplishments. The Athena Awards Committee has only one standard for schools participating in the Athena Awards program: "Send us your best senior female athlete." Starting from that base, each school has developed its own selection process and standards.

Any senior student-athlete in good academic and behavioral standing is eligible for consideration. A committee potentially composed of members of the administration, faculty and staff will review nominations and make a final selection. Seniors may submit their own name for consideration, or they may be nominated by a coach or other interested party. Nominated student-athletes will be asked to submit an athletic resume to the selection committee, and the committee may also solicit information from other sources as needed. The Athena selection will be made in late March, with the winner announced as soon thereafter as possible.

**THE EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS AWARD:**

First presented in 1985, the award for excellence in athletics is given to the student-athlete who achieves the highest level of success in athletics during a single academic year. The level of success is primarily based on regular season, section, and state competition. In addition, evaluation by her peers; coaches; school administrators; and section, metro and state selection committees is included in determining the level of success.

To be a candidate for this award, the student must be a varsity student-athlete who has lettered in at least two sports during the current school year and is in good academic and disciplinary standing. Varsity coaches will submit written nominations for this award no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. A committee comprised of members of the administration, faculty, and staff will evaluate each nominee and reach a decision no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>. If an athlete other than a senior is involved in a spring sport and does well in section and state competition, the committee may choose to honor that student-athlete with a co-excellence in athletics award. The presentation of this second award would take place in early September of the next school year.

**THE FINK MEMORIAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:**

This award was created in 2004 by Jeffrey Fink as a tribute to the memory of his dearly departed parents, Bernard and Dolores Fink. The lessons and fulfillment that athletics imparted onto Jeff were magnified by his parents' love and support. In that spirit, this award was designed to honor those Visitation student-athletes who have best absorbed the educational objectives that athletics provide. Two student-athletes will each receive an award and a one-year scholarship of \$1,500.

To be eligible for this award, candidates must be graduating seniors who are enrolling as full-time students in an accredited two-or four-year post-secondary educational program. Candidates must have received a varsity letter or a participation certificate from a fully recognized Visitation School athletic team during their senior year. Each candidate must submit an essay which describes, with real life examples whenever possible, the lessons that the candidate learned specifically through her participation in athletics at Visitation. The essay must be submitted to the office of the Head of School by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

A selection committee comprised of Coach Fink, a member of the school administration, and several past parents will review all submissions. The committee will evaluate each entry using mostly subjective criteria. Consideration will be given to the candidate's GPA, her participation and accomplishments within athletics and how well her essay describes the lessons she learned. Special consideration will be given to those candidates showing progressive improvement. The committee will make its selections by the Monday prior to the spring awards convocation.

**THE SPANIER AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN ATHLETICS:**

This award is given in memory of Sandy Spanier, Visitation athletic trainer, who passed away during childbirth in August of 2000. In her almost ten years of service to Visitation, Sandy touched the lives of many coaches and student-athletes. She was a positive force in our lives: a caregiver, cheerleader, counselor, and mentor.

To be a candidate for this award, the student must be a senior in good academic and disciplinary standing and a three-year participant in at least two Visitation sports.

The award recipient must exhibit, to an outstanding degree, the following characteristics: consistent effort, a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, team spirit, dedication, a strong work ethic, and the ability to be coached.

Varsity coaches will submit written nominations for this award no later than April 1 of the year in question. A committee potentially comprised of members of the administration, faculty, staff and alumni will evaluate each nominee and reach a decision no later than April 30.

**CONFERENCE AFFILIATION**

Visitation is a member of the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) for all Middle School teams and the Tri Metro Conference (TMC) for all Upper School teams. In addition, Visitation is a member of Region 3AA of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

**Tri Metro Conference Schools:** Academy of Holy Angels, Brooklyn Center High School, Columbia Heights High School, Concordia Academy, DeLaSalle High School, Fridley High School, Saint Agnes High School, St. Anthony High School, St. Croix Lutheran High School, and Visitation School



## SUMMARY OF SPORT OFFERINGS:

<u>FALL</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>
Cross Country Running (7-12)	V/JV	Alpine Skiing (7-12)	V/JV	Golf (7-12)	V/JV
*Soccer (7-12)	V/JV/C	*Basketball (7-12)	V/JV/C	Lacrosse (7-12)	V/JV/C
Swimming/Diving (7-12)	V/JV	Middle School Basketball	8/7/5-6	*Softball (7-12)	V/JV/C
Tennis (7-12)	V/JV/B	Boys Basketball	5-6	Middle School Softball	8/7/5-6
*Volleyball (7-12)	V/JV/C	Hockey (7-12)	V/JV	Boys Baseball	5-6
Middle School Soccer	7-8	Nordic Skiing (7-12)	V/JV	Track (7-12)	V/JV
Middle School Volleyball	8/7/5-6	Grade School Swimming/Diving	K-8		
Boys and Girls Co-ed Soccer	5-6				

\*7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to try out for all Upper School sports teams. If the student-athlete does not make an Upper School team, she is still eligible to participate at the Middle School level.

## GENERAL ATHLETIC POLICIES:

**The Competitive Activities Director has primary supervisory responsibility for all aspects of the Athletic Department.**

**ADDING a New Sport, Adding Another Level to an Existing Sport, or Adding Another Team to an Existing Level:** A new sport is one that is currently not sponsored by Visitation. Another level means adding a JV, or C Squad, for example. Another team means adding a second C Squad, or a second 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, etc.

Some of the following criteria will be used when considering the addition of any of the above:

- Level of interest
- Cost and effect on budgets of other sports
- Facilities
- Effect on participation levels of other sports
- Administrative costs
- MSHSL and conference sponsorship
- Ability to develop a competitive schedule

If a group of student-athletes and/or parents is interested in having the school sponsor a new sport, the following format will be used:

Step 1: Inform the school in writing of the group's interest. The school will review the group's request using the aforementioned criteria, and decide whether or not to grant permission for the group to move on to Step 2.

Step 2: If the school has given its permission, the group may organize a "club" team. The team shall be formed independent of sponsorship or assistance from the school. The club will be entirely responsible for all aspects of the running of its program, including hiring a coach, to securing practice and game facilities, establishing insurance, etc. **Note:** The players must be comprised entirely of Visitation students if it is the intention of the club to be eventually sponsored by the school.

Step 3: At the end of the club's second season, representatives of the club may apply to become a school sponsored team by scheduling a meeting with the Director of Competitive Activities and presenting a report that summary-zes the club's first two years. The Director of Competitive Activities will then consult with the Head of School and will inform the club of the school's decision within one month.

**ADDRESSING ATHLETIC CONCERNS:** No conflict between a parent, student-athlete, official or coach should be addressed before, during or immediately following a game. The game site, practice field, lobby or locker room is not an appropriate place to handle conflict. Coaches are not to meet or deal with conflict at these times or places. Conflicts are better resolved after a 24 hour cooling down period. Except under extraordinary circumstances, the player should be the first person to address concerns with a coach. If the player's concerns are not resolved at this first step, than parents may wish to talk with the coach. If the situation is still not resolved, then parents may schedule a meeting with the coach and the Director of Competitive Activities to discuss the situation.

**ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION BY A NON-VISITATION STUDENT:** Only student-athletes who are full-time students at Visitation may be members of a Visitation team.

**CAMPS AND CLINICS:** Individual coaches or parents may sponsor and organize sports-related camps or clinics. The Athletic Department will provide assistance in distributing information and securing facilities. The basic facilities use and rental guidelines established by the Business Office and Athletic Department will apply.

**CAPTAINS:** Student-athletes are eligible to be a team captain if they are in good academic and disciplinary standing and if they have received fewer than two MSHSL rules violation sanctions. All captain sign the “Convent of the Visitation School Leadership Contract” as an indication that they understand that higher recognition demands higher expectations. Captains are invited to the annual Tri Metro Conference Leadership Workshop. Visitation also offers annual leadership training for all student leaders and schedules this in-house. Through our general leadership program in the Upper School, we work to meet the “Portrait of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Visitation Learner” goals, which state the following:

*Formed by a Salesian education that intentionally creates opportunities for leadership, the Visitation Learner:*

- Possesses an internal moral compass allowing for courageous decision-making
- Has the confidence, determination and resilience to face life challenges
- Promotes the common good through individual and group actions

Protocol for selecting captains: Coaches will follow a process that emphasizes that the captain selectees must embody the leadership qualities mentioned above. The selection of captains will include a hybrid approach that includes both student-athlete input and the coaching staff’s perspective. The selection of captains will be a topic covered in the annual training/information session conducted for coaches by the Director of Competitive Activities and others.

**Duties common to all captains include the following:**

1. Assisting and supporting the coaching staff
2. Planning team events such as “bonding” nights, Senior Night, Appreciation Night, the post-season celebration, etc.
3. Conducting captains’ practice, keeping the following rules in mind:
  - Participation by any student-athletes is optional and will not be used to determine membership on a team.
  - Fall, Winter and Spring Captains’ Practices may be held prior to the start of season. Team Captains must check available dates and make arrangements with the Athletic Department. They are also responsible for organizing these practices and must have a parent present at all times.

**CAPTAINS’ PARENTS:** Traditionally, the parents of team captains play a significant role in the management of each sport. While each sport is different, the following list shows duties common to most of the teams that captains’ parents have performed:

- Organize volunteers for ticket taking and concessions duties
- Organize volunteers for game-day roles for Swim/Dive, Soccer, Volleyball and Lacrosse (including scoreboard keeping, ball shagging, penalty box duties, line judging, lane timing, etc.)
- Help in organizing game-day snacks
- Help the coach develop email lists to improve coach-parent communication
- Assist the coach in planning the post-season celebration (see “Guidelines For Post-Season Celebrations”)

Captains’ parents should not feel obligated to provide extra financial support for the team or team events.

**EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STATE EVENTS:** If a Visitation student-athlete or team is competing in a state event during the time school is in session, the following conditions\* will apply to students wishing to attend the event:

- The event will be considered school-sponsored and therefore an excused absence.
- All non-varsity team members and other students wishing to attend as spectators must have a parent or guardian fill out and return the “Athletic Event Release” form. The form will be due no later than 8:30a.m. on the day of the event.
- At the discretion of the administration, the entire student body may be dismissed for some state events.
- There will be no early dismissal for fans for subsection or section events.

\*Please note that the school reserves the right to modify these conditions at any time.

**Middle School** classes will be held as usual.

**Upper School:** If an individual qualifies for a state tournament, classes will be held as usual. If a team qualifies for a state tournament, classes that conflict with the event time and transportation time to the event will be canceled, and student-athletes who bring in the required signed parent permission form will be allowed to leave school and attend the event. (A team state tournament appearance is defined as any appearance by a Visitation team as a result of winning a section championship.) Student-athletes will be expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with Visitation values.

Please note:

- The school reserves the right to modify these conditions at any time. For example, this policy will not apply during exam week, or when student-athletes are taking special tests such as the PSAT or when student-athletes are on a class retreat.
- This policy applies only to MSHSL events held in the Twin Cities area.

- Participation by a Visitation student-athlete in a state tournament event is considered a school-sponsored, excused absence.
- Classes will not be canceled for a team state tournament when the tournament venue does not accommodate large audiences.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All student-athletes wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics must be in good standing academically and behaviorally. At the discretion of the division directors or Dean of the Upper School, a student-athlete having academic or behavioral difficulty may be suspended from competition until her performance improves. Student-athletes must also have a valid and current physical on file in the Nurse's office that specifically clears the student-athlete for athletic competition. Student-athletes participating in a school sponsored activity must read and sign a MSHSL eligibility form, health form, Visitation Consent form and Indemnity Agreement, and equipment form, which must be on file in the Athletic Department prior to the first official practice.

**FEES PER SPORT:**

- K-8 sports: \$149
- 7-12 sports: \$201
- Alpine Skiing: cost of-a season pass at the determined practice location in addition to the sport fee
- Hockey: \$659

**FUND RAISING:** The Athletic Department, as well as individual teams, may from time to time fundraise. Approval must be obtained from the Athletic Department and the Advancement Office before any fund raising project is undertaken. The money raised will be deposited in the appropriate restricted account. Restricted account spending must be approved by the Director of Competitive Activities.

**GUIDELINES FOR POST-SEASON CELEBRATIONS:** In keeping with the Salesian virtue of Simplicity, the Athletic Department strongly urges sports teams to limit the cost per person for post-season celebrations to \$20 or less. Some ways to accomplish this include the following:

- Hold post-season celebrations on-campus or at a team member's house.
- Make the occasion pot luck, or
- Limit the celebration to a beverage and cake.

**LETTERING STANDARDS:** Letters are awarded for varsity participation. While the requirements for lettering vary somewhat from sport to sport, all sports include the following minimum criteria:

- Good practice habits
- Knowledge of and compliance with team, conference and MSHSL rules
- Sportsmanship
- Regular attendance
- Good academic and disciplinary standing

See individual sport information for more detail.

**MEDICAL POLICY:** In the event that a student-athlete sees a physician for major surgery, serious illness or injury, or if a coach or the athletic trainer requires a student-athlete to see a physician, Visitation requires that the attending physician certify in writing the student-athlete's readiness to return to competition. It is the sole responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her parents to ensure that the written certification is provided to the Athletic Department. A staff member at Visitation may not contact a physician's office to ask for the certification or for an oral confirmation of ability to participate.

Whenever a student-athlete receives treatment from a physician, Visitation strongly recommends that the parents discuss with the physician the student-athlete's athletic activities to ensure that the health condition and treatment, including any medication, does not compromise the student-athlete's ability to participate safely in after-school athletics. It is the responsibility of the parents to promptly notify the Athletic Department if a student-athlete's medical condition changes during the course of a season in a way that compromises or limits the student-athlete's ability to participate safely in athletics.

All student-athletes wishing to participate in MSHSL level Alpine Ski, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Hockey or Lacrosse will be required to take the ImpACT Concussion Test once every two years before they are allowed to participate in those sports at Visitation. The cost of the baseline test will be covered-by the Athletic Department only on the dates advertised and managed by the athletic trainer. Any post-concussion testing cost will remain the responsibility of the student-athlete's parent. Should an injury of this nature occur to a student-athlete, school officials will inform the parents immediately. The Athletic Department views the ImpACT Concussion Test as only one tool in the process of determining whether or not a student-athlete is fit to resume competition. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each family to see a doctor of their choosing if an injury like this occurs and determine if the results of the ImpACT test will be utilized in making a decision about a return to competition.

## **OVERNIGHT TRIPS:**

### **State Tournaments**

The Athletic Department will pay for pre-approved transportation, lodging and competition expenses for the coaches, varsity team members and managers. Non-varsity team members, parents and other spectators will be responsible for making their own arrangements and paying their own way. The coaches are responsible for varsity team members and managers ONLY. Parents are responsible for any other student attending the competition.

### **Non-State Events (Invitationals, Training Weekends, Etc.)**

Generally, no sport budget includes money for overnight trips. Therefore, coaches must make a budget request prior to the start of the school year for funding of an overnight trip. In addition to obtaining funding and planning the event, coaches must arrange for chaperones (1 adult per 10 student-athletes), and secure written parental permission for all student participants.

**PEP RALLIES:** Pep Rallies may be held during the school day when a Visitation student-athlete or team qualifies for a state tournament. The Dean of Student Life and the Director of the Upper School will determine, based on the daily schedule, whether a pep rally is possible and, if so, the date, time and location. The Student Council will work with the Director of Competitive Activities, the school administration and the coaching staff on the planning and execution of the pep rally. All Upper School students will attend the pep rally and Middle School students will be allowed to attend at the discretion of the Middle School Director.

**PLAYING TIME:** There is no guarantee of playing time at the varsity level. At the junior varsity level and below, all participants who are eligible, follow team policies and attend practice regularly will participate in every game. The amount of actual playing time for each participant is at the discretion of the coach.

**PRE-SEASON PARENT/STUDENT-ATHLETE/COACH MEETINGS:** Parents and student-athletes will be encouraged to attend pre-season meetings at which, among other things, the responsibilities of captains, coaches, student-athletes, and parents will be discussed; team policies, processes and expectations will be outlined; communication protocols will be established; and obligations regarding the sharing of concerns will be addressed by the coaches and the Director of Competitive Activities.

**STUDENT DRIVING:** All student-athletes fill out a Visitation Consent form and Indemnity Agreement that identifies the types of transportation that will be used during the season. This may include student-athletes' driving to practices and games. No student-athlete for whom the coach is responsible for, however, may ever drive to an overnight event (state or non-state). No student-athlete may ever drive a coach's vehicle or one the school owns or has rented.

**TEAM SIZE:** There is a "no cut" policy for Middle School teams. If enrollment on a specific team becomes too large, the participants will be divided and a second team created. The two teams will be divided as equally as possible in grades five through seven, while in eighth grade an "A" team and a "B" team will be created.

For high school teams, the Athletic Department will maximize the number of participants at all levels, but especially at the freshman level. However, in order to maintain an effective program, some "cuts" may be necessary at the varsity, junior varsity, B squad, and/or freshman levels. \*There is a no cut policy for fall season, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student athletes.

**TRAINER/TRAINING ROOM/FITNESS CENTER:** The athletic trainer is on duty from approximately 2:45-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday during the sports seasons. The trainer is in charge of and responsible for the training room and fitness center. One day a week, a physician may be on hand to meet with the trainer and any student-athlete. This is a free and voluntary service, but any parents who do not want their child examined by the visiting physician may inform the trainer of their wishes.

**UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:** Student-athletes are responsible for uniforms and equipment issued to them. Uniforms and equipment must be turned in to the coach within one week of the final contest. After that time, any outstanding uniform or equipment item must be turned in to the Athletic Department, with the student's name visible on the uniform or bag. Lost, damaged, or stolen articles must be paid for by the student-athlete. An student-athlete may not try out for any further athletic teams nor take semester exams until all uniform and/or equipment items issued to her are accounted for.

## **INDIVIDUAL SPORT INFORMATION:**

### **ALPINE SKIING:**

Season Dates: November–February

Other Expenses:

- Optional team accessory

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: 10-12 skiers
- Junior Varsity: 12–14 skiers

Practice: 2 or 3 times per week at Buck Hill

Meets:

- Non-conference races
- Section and state competition

Lettering:

- Student-athletes must earn a minimum of 3 conference points (placing 8<sup>th</sup> or better in one conference race or a combination of places to earn 3 points)
- Subject to coach's discretion

### **BASKETBALL:**

#### **Upper School**

Season Dates: November–March

Other Expenses:

- Optional team apparel

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: 8–10
- Junior Varsity: 8–12
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 10–12

Practice:

- Normally, M–F, 3:15 – 5:30 p.m., Sat morning, 9–11 a.m.

Games:

- Varsity: Between twenty and twenty-six contests, potentially including conference and non-conference games, and/or tournaments, plus playoffs
- Junior Varsity: Between twelve to sixteen contests, potentially including conference and non-conference games, invitationals and/or tournaments
- C Squad: Between twelve to sixteen contests, potentially including conference and non-conference games, invitationals and/or tournaments

Lettering:

- Determined by guidelines presented by the Head Coach
- Coach's discretion

#### **Middle School**

Season Dates: November–March

Other Expenses:

- Optional team accessory

Levels:

- 5/6 boys, 5/6 girls, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- No-cut policy

Practice:

- 5/6 boys and girls: potentially two to three times per week, including weekends
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams: Potentially five times per week, including weekends

Games:

- Potentially eight to ten Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) games, plus one or two invitational tournaments

### **BASEBALL:**

Season Dates: March–May

Other Expenses:

- Cap (\$15), socks (\$5)
- Optional team accessory

Levels:

- Boys 5/6
- No-cut policy

Practices:

- Potentially three to four times per week

Games:

- Potentially eight to ten Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) games

**CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING:**

Season Dates: August–November

Other Expenses:

- Running shoes (\$50-\$100)
- Optional team accessory
- Overnight Duluth Trip: \$40-\$60

Practice:

- M – F: 3:15–5:30 p.m.

Meets:

- Eight to ten conference and invitational meets, including meets in Princeton and Duluth

**GOLF:**

Season Dates: March–June

Other Expenses:

- Purchase team shirt every other year
- Optional team accessory (sweatshirt or other team apparel)

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: 8 members
- JV: approximately 12 members

Practice:

- Daily: 3:15-5 p.m.

**HOCKEY:**

Season Dates: October–February

Other Expenses:

- Home and away socks for Varsity (approx. \$24)
- One pair of socks for JV (approx. \$12)
- Possible expenses for overnight invitational tournament games
- Optional team accessory

Levels:

- Varsity and Junior Varsity

Team Size: 17 players on each team

**LACROSSE:**

Season Dates: March–June

Other Expenses:

- Optional team accessory
- Lacrosse (stick) \$60+
- Goggles \$60 - \$65
- Mouth guard
- Cleats

- Section and state tournament

Lettering:

- Be at all practices and meets (no unexcused absences).
- Compete in 90% of the varsity meets.
- At the coach’s discretion, a senior in good standing who has completed a previous year of cross country may be considered for a letter without meeting any of the above criteria.

Matches:

- Potentially 10–15 conference and non-conference \*(may go as late as 7 p.m.)
- Section and state competition

Lettering:

- No more than five missed practices
- Must play in at least half of team matches
- Individual score must be used in team score at least twice
- Coach’s discretion

Practice:

- Mon.-Sat: \*Times will vary based on availability of ice at Drake Arena

Games:

- Up to 24 conference and non-conference, plus playoffs

Lettering: Two ways to earn letter:

- Appears in at least 50% of varsity games
- Participant, who in coach’s view, makes significant contribution to the program

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: Potentially 18
- Junior Varsity: Potentially 18

Practice: Varsity, Junior Varsity: M–F, 4-6 p.m.

Games: Potentially 10-15, including playoffs

Lettering Policy:

- Play in at least one third of all varsity minutes
- Be a graduating senior who has been with the team for at least two years
- Coach’s special consideration

### **NORDIC SKIING:**

Season Dates: November–February

Other Expenses:

- Appropriate clothing, specifically ski gloves
- Water bottle holder
- Waxing materials
- Optional team accessory

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: 7–10
- Junior Varsity: 7-10

Normal Practice Days/Times:

- M-F, 3:15-5:15 p.m.
- 3-4 practices a week over the holiday break

### **SOCCER:**

#### **Upper School**

Season Dates: August–November

Other Expenses:

- Optional team accessory
- Varsity Fee: \$160 for socks, soft cover program, special occasion snacks, play-off t-shirt give away, and out of town trip
- JV Fee: \$50 for socks, soft cover program, and special occasion snack

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity, JV, and B Squad – up to 22 players each

#### **Middle School**

Season Dates: August–November

Other Expenses:

- Shin guards (\$10-\$15), socks (\$15)
- Optional team accessory (sweatshirt or other team apparel)

### **SOFTBALL:**

#### **Upper School**

Season Dates: March–June

Other Expenses:

- Socks, cap, and long-sleeve or ¾ sleeve shirt (\$20-\$30)
- Optional team accessory

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: 12-15 players
- Junior Varsity and B Squad: 12–20 players each

#### **Middle School**

Season Dates: March–May

Other Expenses:

- Cap (\$15), socks (\$5)
- Optional team accessory

Meets:

- Potentially 10 – 15 conference and non-conference
- Section and state tournament

Lettering Policy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year skiers must show significant improvement
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year skiers must rank in the top twelve on the team
- 3<sup>rd</sup> + year skiers must rank in the top seven
- Seniors who have been on the team 3 + years
- All skiers must demonstrate specific skills appropriate to the number of years they have been skiing. In addition, coach's discretion may be used to award letters or choose not to award letters based on a student's effort and sportsmanship.

Practices:

- Varsity, Junior Varsity: M – F, 3:15 – 5:30 p.m., normally at Visitation

- B Squad: M – F, 3:15 – 5 p.m., normally at Kensington

Games:

- Varsity: Potentially 16 games, plus play-offs

- JV, B Squad: Potentially 10–16 games

Lettering:

- Seniors who have played all four years
- Players who play at least 20 halves of varsity soccer during the season
- Coach's discretion

Levels:

- Coed 5/6, Girls 7/8

- No-cut policy

Practices: Potentially three to four times per week

Games: Potentially eight to ten Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) games, usually on weekends

Practice:

- Varsity, Junior Varsity: M–F, 3:15–5:30 p.m.

- B Squad: M – F, 3:15–5 p.m., at Mendakota Softball Fields

Games:

- Varsity: 20, plus play offs

- Junior Varsity and B Squad: 14-18

Lettering:

- All varsity players who show enthusiasm, actively participate in practices, and support their teammates during games will letter.

Levels:

- Girls 5/6, Girls 7, Girls 8

- No-cut policy

Practices: Potentially three to four times per week

Games: Potentially eight to ten Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) games

### **SWIM/DIVE:**

#### **Upper School**

Season Dates: August–November

Other Expenses:

- Swimsuit (\$40-\$60)
- Optional team accessory
- Fergus Falls Overnight Trip: \$50-\$75

Practice:

- Swimmers: Five to six times per week at STA, 3:15–5:30 p.m., plus optional morning weight lifting
- Divers: two to three times per week in the evening at the Grove

#### **Grade School**

Season Dates: January–April

Other Expenses:

- Swimsuit (\$20-\$60)
- Optional team accessory

### **TENNIS:**

Season Dates: August–October

Other Expenses:

- Tennis racquet
- Team tennis outfit
- Optional team accessory

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity: 14
- Junior Varsity: 14
- Developmental Program

### **TRACK AND FIELD:**

Season Dates: March–June

Other Expenses:

- Optional team accessory
- Practice: M–F 3:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Meets:

- Approximately fourteen conference and non-conference meets, including several on Saturdays
- Section and state competition.

Lettering:

- Be at all practices and meets (no unexcused absences).
- Exhibit a willingness to compete.
- Have an attitude that is beneficial to the team.

Meets:

- Seven to ten meets, plus two or three Saturday invitational meets, including an overnight trip to Fergus Falls
- Sections and State

Lettering: All four criteria must be met.

- Attend 90% of the practices. Three lates equal one absence. A late is defined by getting to practice after warm-up has started.
- Competing on the section team.
- Accumulating 40 points in varsity events.
- Demonstrate to the coaching staff and team that being a member of this team is a meaningful activity and a learning experience.
- \*Any member on the team for three seasons who has met criteria 1 and 4 may be eligible to letter.

Levels:

- One team: K–8
- No-cut policy

Practice: TBD

Meets: Two or three invitational meets plus the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) City-wide Championships

Practice:

- Varsity: M–F, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- JV: M–F, 3:15-5 p.m.
- Developmental Program: Twice per week

Matches:

- Varsity: Twelve to fifteen conference and non-conference matches plus one invitational tournament plus section and state competition
- Junior Varsity: Eight to ten

Lettering:

- Attend all practices (unless excused for legitimate reasons)
- Play in at least 50% of varsity matches

- Be an integral part of the **varsity** team. This is accomplished by fulfilling one of the following criteria:
  - Place in the top six in any individual event at the TMC Championships or Subsection 13 meet.
  - Be a member of a relay team that places in the top four at the TMC Championships or the top two at the Subsection 13 meet
  - Meet the performance standards as outlined by the coaching staff at the beginning of the season.
  - At the coach's discretion, a senior in good standing who has completed a previous year of track and field may be considered for a letter without meeting any of the above criteria.



## **VOLLEYBALL:**

### **Upper School**

Season Dates: August–November

Other Expenses:

- Kneepads (\$10-\$20), black spandex shorts (\$10)
- Other expenses for team events: Senior Night, Parents' Night
- Optional team accessory

Levels and Optimal Team Size:

- Varsity and Junior Varsity: 12 players each
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 15

Practice:

- Varsity/Junior Varsity: M-F, 4-6 p.m.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: M–F, 3:15-5 p.m.

Matches:

- Varsity: Potentially thirteen dual matches, and three tournaments, plus playoffs
- Junior Varsity: Potentially thirteen dual matches and one or two invitational away tournaments
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ten to potentially thirteen dual matches and one or two invitational away tournaments

Lettering:

- All varsity players in good standing receive a letter.

### **Middle School**

Season Dates: August–October

Other Expenses:

- Kneepads (\$10-\$20)
- Optional team accessory

Levels:

- Two 5/6 girls teams, one 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, one 8<sup>th</sup> grade team
- No-cut policy

Practice:

- Potentially five times per week including weekends

Games:

- Potentially eight to ten Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) games plus one or two invitational tournaments