

Holy Trinity Catholic School

*“Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them.
The kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
Matthew 19:14*



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Welcome to Holy Trinity Catholic School!

Our goal is to provide an education based on Christ’s teaching and the Catholic faith. We aim to not only focus on forming a solid moral character but to further academic excellence. Our Christian education is intended to make our faith living and active through the light of instruction. A Catholic school is the unique setting where our students can realize the ideals of Christian education in their everyday lives.

In partnership with all stakeholders, we will work together for the good of our children and school. Please read the Handbook thoroughly with your child. We know that rules are necessary so that our activities and relationships with other people will be orderly and comfortable and to ensure the safety of all concerned. We hope that the procedures in this handbook will facilitate good relationships among school personnel, parents, and children.

The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi governs our school by General Policies that apply to all schools within the Diocese. This handbook is a synopsis of the policies and procedures laid out to ensure the most efficient way to reach our goals. While this Handbook is an excellent outline of expectations, it is not intended to be all-inclusive. *The principal reserves the right to amend the handbook.* You will be notified of any changes to the school’s policies, procedures, or schedules in writing.

Through this partnership, we feel that this year will be one of spiritual and intellectual growth for all members of our school community. It is imperative that you support our school and our community in every word and through social media.

Yours in Christ,

The Administration, Faculty, and Staff of Holy Trinity Catholic School

Fr. Michael O’Connor

**Pastor, Our Lady of the
Gulf Parish**

Fr. Jacob Matthew Smith

Pastor, St. Clare

Fr. Anil Thomas, SVD

Pastor, St. Rose de Lima

Administration Information

Principal	Haleigh Cuevas	hcuevas@holytrinitycatholics.net
Administrative Assistant	Alexa Renz	arenz@holytrinitycatholics.net
Guidance Counselor	Jordyn Kapidzic	jkapidzic@holytrinitycatholics.net
Business Manager	Gail Barnes	gbarnes@holytrinitycatholics.net

Holy Trinity Mission Statement

Holy Trinity Catholic School is committed to
Teaching and modeling Catholic Christian morals and values
Creating a safe, caring, and respectful environment that
Supports academic excellence while fostering a love of learning.

Holy Trinity School Song

Chorus

Holy Trinity, Father, Spirit, Son
We come together here as one
To pray, to learn, and to grow
In the loving kindness that you know.

Come with us to work and play together
We are all a part of one big family,
In a school filled with joy, spirit, peace
Our love will grow, as you can see.

Repeat Chorus

Sharing God's love as a community
Each day we work to build a unity
Caring and loving others as we go
Just as Jesus taught us years ago.

Repeat Chorus

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic school community within the Diocese of Biloxi, a ministry of the Catholic Church, embracing the teachings and traditions of the past, accepting the challenges and opportunities of the present, and preparing for the demands of the future, provides an education based on Christ's teaching and Catholic values which focus on the formation of strong moral character, the furtherance of academic excellence, the inspiration to serve others, and the motivation to achieve God-given potential in the local and the world communities.

DIOCESAN VISION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic schools of the Diocese of Biloxi recognize themselves as integral to the mission of the church and as the responsibility of the entire church.

- God is the center, foundation, author, and source of all learning.
- Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are essential to the well-being of individuals and society.
- All persons have intrinsic value, and each person can contribute something of worth to society.
- Each person is responsible and accountable for choices and decisions made.
- Catholic schools are positioned as the heart of church life and, as such, share in the responsibility of being church to the world.
- High expectations lead to higher performance which in turn empowers the individual and strengthens society.
- Learning is a lifelong process essential to a productive and enriched life.
- It is each individual's responsibility to respect oneself as Christ teaches, respect others in a Christ-like manner, and respect one's school as a gift from God.
- The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Biloxi nurture personal growth, scholarship, life-long learning, and service.

Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman III
Bishop of Biloxi

Katherine Lingfelder
Assistant to the Superintendent

Mrs. Jennifer Broadus
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Leo Trahan
Director of Religious Education

NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

This handbook is designed to be a synopsis of the policies and procedures of this school and is not intended to be all-inclusive. General policies applicable to all schools within the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi as well as local school policies govern the school. These are available for your review in the school office. It is expected that the handbook, local policies, and general diocesan policies are consistent; however, conflicts could arise at certain times due to human error and/or amendments to various parts. To the extent that a conflict exists, general diocesan policies shall take precedence, followed by local school policies and, finally, this handbook.

The Handbook for Pastors, Principals, and School Advisory Councils, dated August 2013, delineates the roles of Pastors, Principals, School Advisory Councils, and Parent Teacher Organizations.

Principals' decisions are final, and appeal to the Diocesan School Advisory Council is for expulsion cases only.

No appeals of the principal's decisions can be made to the School Advisory Councils.

The principal reserves the right to amend the handbook.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The philosophy of Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School endeavors to provide a faith-based community that fosters spiritual enlightenment, intellectual growth, academic excellence, emotional development, and social adjustment. We believe it is of primary importance to promote high Christian standards and strive to empower students and parents to model Christ's values. We believe parents are the first and foremost educators of their children.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1962, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, assures that no one shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity of the school. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cr/and-justice-all-posters-guidance-and-translations>

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The function of a School Advisory Council is to provide a support mechanism to assist the principal in creating school policy. The School Advisory Council makes recommendations to the principal and pastor regarding policy. The principal and/or pastor may choose, for pastoral reasons, not to accept a recommendation of the School Advisory Council.

Like the parish council, the School Advisory Council only operates in formal sessions and serves in an advisory capacity.

Non-members who wish to address a council meeting shall submit their request in writing to the President not less than ten days prior to the scheduled meeting. The President and principal may limit the format and length of the individual's presentation.

School Advisory Committee: President-Julie Timberlake, Secretary-Connie Roth

Members: John Shinn, Mary Ann Pucheu, Robbie Brewer.

PTO President: Julie Holmes

Honor Code

The primary purpose for attending school is to learn. All students have the right to learn. A safe and orderly climate must exist to allow all children to learn. Rules are established to facilitate an atmosphere where all students are rewarded for appropriate behavior or held accountable for unacceptable behavior. Disciplinary action will be taken with those students who exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning process.

OBJECTIVES AND COMMITMENTS

In the faith-based community we create at Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary; we encourage people to become the fully unique individuals they are destined to be. This belief involves acknowledging that we are not the primary educators of children but rather participants in a growth process that has begun before us and will continue after us.

By means of specific examples as set forth below, Holy Trinity is committed to helping children to attain:

Intellectual Development

- ◆By providing students with necessary successful educational experiences
- ◆By providing a positive environment where there is love
- ◆By providing an educational program with skills developed in sequential order
- ◆By instilling in each student an appreciation for the nature of knowledge and growth experiences
- ◆By encouraging greater professional growth among the faculty

Social Development

- ◆By stimulating a sincere, truthful relationship between their peers and their elders
- ◆By encouraging the students to respect the ideas and opinions of other people and to listen with an open mind
- ◆By implanting within each student respect for the rights of others
- ◆By instilling in students a sense of justice and respect for democratic principles and to realize the urgent need for social justice in the world

Physical Development

- ◆By providing a basic knowledge of human growth and development
- ◆By providing opportunities for physical development through organized and free play
- ◆By helping students recognize and develop special talents and interests
- ◆By cultivating respect for the human body and creating an awareness of the dangers of drugs in today's society

School Expectations

- ◆Respect others in a Christ-like manner
- ◆Respect your school as a gift from God
- ◆Provide a safe environment for learning for themselves and others
- ◆Be honest, responsible, and polite
- ◆Use time wisely

Personal Development

- ◆By motivating students to achieve self-discipline and self-expression
- ◆By instilling within the students the realization of their uniqueness and worth as individuals created in God's own image
- ◆By developing a sense of responsibility and leadership in each student
- ◆By helping students understand and accept responsibility for their choices and the resulting consequences
- ◆By developing within each student a positive attitude toward the world of work

Spiritual Development

- ◆By providing religious experiences and instructions which enable a child's faith to extend from home to school into society
- ◆By encouraging sound moral judgments
- ◆By nurturing within the school and community an atmosphere of faith, love, respect, and concern for others
- ◆By assisting faculty, parents, and children in understanding the teachings of the Church in the light of continuous renewal and growth

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

When no policy or procedure exists that specifically addresses a particular situation, a principal should proceed with a course of action based on other policies and procedures dealing with similar, related, or parallel situations and the mission, philosophy, objectives, and/or procedures of the school. The policies and procedures of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi will take precedence if there is a conflict in the policies of the school.

PROBATION POLICY

All new students are admitted on both academic and behavioral probation. If the administration determines that HTCS cannot meet the academic or behavioral needs of a student, a conference will be held between the parents/guardian and the administration, and a decision of withdrawal may be made.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

1. Notify the school office of the withdrawal date
2. Complete a withdrawal form
3. Return all text and library books
4. Settle all debts: tuition, cafeteria, after-care, library fees

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION POLICY

In the event of a natural disaster, disease outbreak or any other circumstances which, in the judgment of the school administration, make it infeasible, unsafe or otherwise imprudent to continue campus-based education, school shall resume as soon as practical via distance learning and/or other methods adopted and/or developed by the school administration and faculty. Due to continuing financial obligations relating to operational costs, including administrative, faculty, and staff salaries, there shall be no suspension, reduction or refund of tuition or applicable fees.

ADMISSIONS AGE POLICY

By state law, children entering Pre-K 3 must be 3 years old by September 1 of the year they are enrolled in school. Pre-K 4 students must be 4 years old by September 1, Kindergarten students must be 5 by September 1, and first-grade students must be 6 by September 1 of the year they are enrolled in school.

**Most of the items in this handbook also apply to preschool. Other items specific to these levels will be presented to parents in orientation.

ADMISSIONS

The principal will interview prospective parents and their child to ensure that the child's needs can be met by HTCS and will approve or deny the application accordingly.

Priority for admission will be given to those students who meet the following requirements:

1. Children of HTCS employees
2. Children who are siblings of students in attendance of HTCS
3. Children of registered parishioners of Our Lady of the Gulf, St. Rose de Lima, or St. Clare
4. Children who are Catholics who are not members of one of these 3 parishes
5. Children who are non-Catholic

All students entering Holy Trinity Catholic School must present the following information:

1. Completed registration form
2. Birth certificate
3. Mississippi Certificate of Immunization Compliance
4. Baptismal certificate, if Catholic
5. First Communion certificate, if Catholic
6. Social Security card
7. Transcript, if transferring from another school
8. Non-refundable registration fee
9. Current/previous grades
10. Current assessments and discipline

Screening and placement tests may be given to students entering HTCS. Students transferring from a home school program or non-accredited school must take a placement exam before being considered for admission.

The Diocese of Biloxi requires all students of Catholic schools to receive the immunizations mandated by the State of Mississippi for entry to school unless a student is entitled to a medical exemption. A medical exemption is allowed when a child has a medical condition that prevents the child from receiving a vaccine. No other exemptions will be allowed. The purpose of this policy is to fulfill Christ's commandment to "love one another" and uphold the sanctity of life by endeavoring to protect our students and families through immunization.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our school calendar is planned around the Diocesan and state guidelines and coordinated whenever possible with Our Lady Academy and St. Stanislaus school calendars. The calendar is available on our website at www.holytrinitycatholic.net.

SCHOOL HOURS

School officially starts at 8:00 a.m. daily and will end at 3:00 p.m. daily.

BEFORE CARE:

Students who arrive between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. will be monitored by a designated teacher or staff member.

AFTERCARE:

Holy Trinity offers an After School Care Program from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The monthly fee is \$180 per child, \$250 for 2 children, and \$300 for 3 or more.

- Daily drop-in charge of \$12 for students that attend less than 5 days a month. After the 10th day of attendance, a monthly fee will be assessed.
- Also, a \$6.00 late fee will be assessed when children are not picked up on time. If a child is habitually picked up late or picked up after 5:45 p.m., a meeting will be held with the principal to discuss possible removal from aftercare.

If a child has not been picked up by 5:45 p.m., the school will make every attempt to contact those individuals listed on the emergency contact list. **If no contact is made after a reasonable time, for the welfare of the child, the principal will be contacted and the proper childcare authorities may be notified.**

TUITION AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND POLICY

Tuition is based upon the per-student cost of education and is reviewed annually. Needs Based Assistance is available for in-parish families from their home parish. In order to be considered for Needs-Based Assistance, a family shall apply each year by completing the appropriate form. Applications should be submitted via FACTS at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/signin/4J8R1>. It will be the responsibility of the families to complete the Active Catholic subsidy form with the pastor's signature to determine which tuition classification should be assigned to new families enrolling in Holy Trinity Catholic School.

If a family requests the family discount tuition rate, the applicant must have documented legal custody of the children, and the children must reside full-time with the applicant.

Tuition must be paid in one of the following ways:

1. In full by July 10
2. One half by July 10 and the balance by November 10
3. In 10 monthly payments beginning July 10
4. Tuition will not be prorated

The tuition account of a current student must be up to date in order to register that student for the next school year.

Children will not be allowed to return to school once tuition accounts are in arrears. If tuition payments are 2 months in arrears, your student may not be able to attend the first day of the following month. May's tuition must be paid in full by May 15th, or the student will not be allowed to return to school on May 16th.

REGISTRATION FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE: \$350.00

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE:

Before 2/21/23: \$300.00 per child. After 2/21/2023: \$350 per child

****Registration fees are due and payable at the time of enrollment to hold a place for your child in the class.**

TUITION RATES:

PreK-6th Grade Rates	One Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children
PreK 1& PreK 2 Program	\$6,650			
PreK 3 & PreK 4 Program	\$6,400			
K-6th Grades *(Active Catholics Rates)	\$5,300	\$8,900	\$12,300	\$15,600
K-6th Grades (Standard Rates)	\$6,400	\$10,800	\$15,100	\$19,100

800 Club-Every family is required to purchase or sell \$300 in tickets. Any unsold tickets will be automatically charged to your FACTS account. The due date of ticket sales is TBD.

*To be considered for the Active Catholic Rate, a church subsidy form must be submitted to your home parish office to be signed by the pastor.

Tuition payments require enrollment in the FACTS Management Tuition Payment Plan

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Kindergarten through 6th-grade BOYS:

Pants: Khaki pants or walking shorts (must be uniform Khaki color, no cargo or cell phone pockets), walking shorts may be worn as long as the child is warm. **Only** Kindergarten boys may wear elastic waist pants

Belt: Black or Brown

Shirts: Navy blue, short or long sleeve polo with the school logo purchased at Southern Printing. **Shirts must be tucked in at all times.**

Sweatshirts/Fleece: Gray fleece with school logo or navy sweatshirt with white logo purchased at Southern Printing

Socks: Solid black CREW socks. No color stripes or logos on the socks

Shoes: Solid black shoes. No lights, wheels, shocks, stripes, designs, etc. If you have any questions about a specific shoe, please bring it to the school office.

Kindergarten through 6th grade GIRLS:

Skirt/Skort/Shorts: Plaid-purchased at Southern Printing. **Must not measure more than two inches above the kneecap. Shorts are to be worn under the skirt at all times.**

Shirts: Navy blue short or long-sleeve polo with school logo purchased at Southern Printing. **Shirts must be tucked in at all times.**

Pants: Khaki long pants may be worn in extremely cold weather but not on mass days, must be uniform khaki color, with belt loops and worn with a black or brown belt. **They may be worn in cold weather ONLY NO STRETCH OR KNIT PANTS**

Tights/Leggins: During cold weather, girls may wear white, black, or navy tights

Socks: Solid black CREW or CUFF socks. No color stripes or logos on the socks

Hair Accessories: ONLY navy blue, gold, or white hair ribbons or barrettes may be worn

Shoes: Solid black shoes-no lights, wheels, shocks, stripes designs, etc. No no-show socks or anklets. If you have any questions about a specific shoe, please bring it to the school office.

Accessories: Only girls may wear earrings. Only stud earrings are acceptable for girls with pierced ears. One pair is permitted. Any other jewelry must be religious in nature. Any items considered inappropriate, incompatible with the uniform (i.e. distracting necklaces), or pose a safety hazard, (looped, rings, or long earrings) will not be allowed. Fad haircuts or distracting styles are not permitted. Girls may not wear false fingernails or makeup of any kind. Natural-colored nail polish is permitted.

Boys and girls may wear a silent watch, one religious necklace, and/or bracelet. Smartwatches are not permitted.

HAIR

Hair is to be clean and neatly combed at all times for both boys and girls. No fad or distracting hairstyles are permitted for boys or girls. Bangs must not be so long as to cover the eyes. There is to be no dyed, highlighted, or bleached hair. Shaved heads are not permitted. Boys' hair must be of moderate length. It must not cover the ear on the sides, and it must not touch the top of the collar in the back.

STANDARD SCHOOL UNIFORM WINTER GUIDELINES

Girls: During the winter, girls may wear white or navy tights under their skirts.

Boys and Girls: During the winter, boys and girls may only wear white t-shirts that do not extend past the length of the shirt sleeve. **No long-sleeved shirts may be worn under the short-sleeved shirts. Only school fleece and sweatshirts can be worn while inside the school building.**

MASS UNIFORM

PK3 & PK4:

Students will wear their normal school uniform

Kindergarten through 6th grade boys:

Boys wear standard uniform but **MUST** wear long pants unless otherwise announced

Kindergarten through 6th grade girls:

Girls wear standard uniforms but **MUST** wear skirts or skorts-**no shorts.**

DRESS DOWN/SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS

Occasionally throughout the year, the children are allowed to dress down for certain events. On these scheduled days, children may wear their school spirit shirt with uniform bottom and solid black tennis shoes unless otherwise described by the administration.

FREE DRESS DAYS

On the occasion where a student has free dress, the following guidelines must be met:

- No leggings
- No spaghetti strap or open shoulder shirts
- Shorts, skirts and dresses must be fingertip length or longer

UNIFORM REMINDERS

- Students need to have all clothing properly labeled.
- Uniforms must be kept neat and presentable at all times. This includes shirts, bottoms, and shoes.
- Students must wear the prescribed uniform at all times.
- The uniform policies will be strictly enforced. This includes hair, socks, shoes, belts, length of skirts, etc.
- **After the 3rd uniform notice, a student will be given a conduct referral.**

The condition of our student's uniforms reflects on the school. The public will judge our school by the student's looks and behavior well before they see our faith and academics.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCE AND TARDINESS

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCE-Excused absences may result from illness, death in the immediate family, or circumstances discussed with the principal and the teacher. In all cases of excused absences, the teacher will assist the student in making up class work and tests missed. Upon returning to school, the student must bring a note from home stating the reason for the absence.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE-Any absences that are not medical, non-emergency and/or not cleared and approved by the principal. In all cases of unexcused absences, the teacher is not obligated to assist the child in making up missed work/tests.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE POLICY-Parents are asked to call the school office between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. on the day of the student's absence. If an absence is not reported, the school may call the parent at home or work. Upon returning to school, the student is requested to bring a note from home to the school office stating the reason for the absence.

TARDINESS-The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. Any student arriving at school after 8:00 a.m. will be considered tardy. Late arrivals are a problem and cause class disruptions, as well as, cause students to miss academic work. **Upon the 5th tardy, a conference may be required with the principal.** On the days we have school Mass, any student arriving after their class has gone to church must be brought to the church by the parent.

EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY-The student must bring a note from home when it is necessary to leave school early for medical appointments or other important reasons. This note should be given to the homeroom teacher, who in turn sends it to the school office. No teacher or teacher aide is to release a student to a parent or visitor. Parents and/or visitors wishing to check out a student or return a student to school must be cleared by the office by signing the student in/out. The secretary or principal will get the student from the classroom or return the student to the classroom.

Early dismissals should only be for emergencies. Early dismissals cause class disruptions and missed work. Teachers are not allowed to stop teaching to get assignments together for children being dismissed early. Students will be responsible for gathering their own assignments they miss for leaving early. No additional time will be allotted to turn in assignments missed due to early dismissals.

MAKE-UP WORK

Teachers will provide make-up work for students who are absent. Parents or students are responsible for requesting make-up work upon returning to school. Students will be expected to complete all missed tests within the number of days absent. (Ex. one day absent =one day to make up tests and missed assignments) The exception is that tests scheduled for Friday must be made up on Monday or on the day the child returns to school.

BELIEF STATEMENT

Holy Trinity Catholic School has formulated a discipline plan based on a statement of beliefs that will allow students to learn and teachers to teach, keeping in mind always that our school provides our students with a strong foundation in the Catholic faith and Christian values.

The belief statement of Holy Trinity Catholic School states that a school should:

- Provide a strong well-rounded education based on Catholic faith, philosophy, and gospel values.
- Provide a clean, safe, and peace-filled environment with caring, kindness, and trust.
- Encourage a goal of lifelong learning.
- Provide information, opportunity, and knowledge needed for success, both academically and socially.
- Develop individual thinking, responsibility, independence, and cooperation.
- Provide instruction that is challenging and relevant.
- Elicit a respect for self, authority, and others.
- Attempt to meet an individual's needs through varied instructional approaches.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The primary purpose of attending school is to learn. All students have the right to learn. A safe and orderly climate must exist to allow all children to learn. Rules are established to facilitate an atmosphere where all students are rewarded for appropriate behavior or held accountable for unacceptable behavior. Disciplinary action will be taken against those students who exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning process.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- Respect others in a Christ-like manner
- Respect your school as a gift from God
- Students should be able to learn in a safe environment
- Students are expected to be polite
- Students are expected to be responsible
- Students are expected to use time wisely

CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS:

- **Be Kind**
- **Be Safe**
- **Be Responsible**
- **Be Respectful**

DISCIPLINE PLAN

In order to protect a student and/or the learning environment of the school, it is necessary to establish a discipline plan. The following plan will be in effect for administering appropriate consequences for disruptive behavior.

Disruptive behavior is defined as conduct that is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate with the students, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school-related activity. This also includes any unacceptable behavior not covered by other laws related to violence, or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles, or at school-related activities. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated and will be subject to strict disciplinary action.

Communication to parents regarding student misbehavior is accomplished through the following system of written categories, which graduate in severity based on the behavioral infraction.

- Category 1: Minor Conduct Incident Referral (Infraction form - written notice of behavior warning) sent home to parent for signature as notification for behaviors that are disruptive, disrespectful, or defiant. However, three (3) Conduct Incident Referrals within a 4-week period will result in a possible after-school detention. Parent conferences are required with a teacher if after-school detention is assigned.
- Category 2: Office Behavior Referral - may be given by teacher after three (3) after-school detentions within a nine (9) week period as it may be considered chronic if the behavior is repetitive, also may also be possible for more serious behavioral infractions that are considered habitual or in violation of school conduct/safety code. A student receiving two (2) Category 2 referrals to be considered habitual (repetitive behavior) within a 9-week period will receive an in-school suspension and required parent conference with the principal. Decisions will be made in each situation to ensure appropriate consequences.
- Category 3: Office Discipline Referral are most severe and may result in an in-school suspension/intervention, meeting with the principal and/or Pastor, school suspension or expulsion.

AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION

- A student will attend detention as assigned on the closest day available to the incident
- The detention form must be signed by the parent
- A student must be picked up promptly at 4:00 p.m. and signed out by an authorized adult
- Any child not picked up by 4:00 p.m. will be sent to aftercare and charged accordingly
- Any student who fails to appear for his/her scheduled detention may be subject to additional disciplinary action

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION/INTERVENTION

Students may be assigned to an In-school Suspension/Intervention in lieu of suspension from school. Students will follow the regular school hours during the assigned day. Students will be counted as present for the day, will be required to complete any missed schoolwork for credit, and will complete all work assigned by the principal. It is the student's responsibility to complete all classwork assignments and to return them to the teacher upon return to class.

EXPULSION

The principal has the primary responsibility for the regulation of student behavior and is authorized to create and enforce rules of conduct for all students. When no policy exists that specifically addresses a particular situation, the principal will proceed with a course of action that upholds the mission, objectives, and commitments of the school.

The principal may suspend or expel a student for conduct which threatens the safety of the student or others, or which is seriously disruptive of normal activities of the school. If such an event occurs, the principal will remove and isolate the student from class, contact the parents, and contact the local police department if the principal deems it necessary.

The following offenses that occur at school, school functions, in school uniform, or while on field trips may result in immediate suspension or expulsion:

- Possession of any weapon: knife, sharp instrument, explosive, firearm, or any type of object which may be used as a weapon and is dangerous to oneself or others
- Fighting or violence of any kind
- Possession of any controlled substance including but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or inhalants
- Use of threats or abusive language toward a student, teacher, staff member, or administration
- Sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting

*Sharp instruments include altered mechanical pencils, pens, paper clips, or any other altered device that may be used to inflict injury. We suggest that parents discuss with their children that they are subject to disciplinary action if they alter any school supplies into any type of weapon.

These disciplinary actions are guidelines that will be followed under ordinary circumstances. The principal makes the final decision for any disciplinary action taken.

GRIEVANCES

The ordinary procedure for grievance resolution is to discuss the problem with the person involved at the earliest possible opportunity.

Procedures for Problem Solving

1. Speak to the appropriate teacher about any concern(s).
2. If the problem is not resolved, call or email the principal.

If the resolution of concern cannot be made in this manner, **Diocesan General Policy, Governance #9, found in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi Handbook of Catholic School Policy** and in the back of this handbook details the current appeals procedure.

Decisions of principals are final and the appeals to the Diocesan School Advisory Council are for cases of expulsion only. No appeals of the principal's decision can be made to the School Advisory Council.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication is the lifeblood and heartbeat of every relationship, every family, and every community. It is the aim of Holy Trinity Catholic School to have a clear understanding and cooperation between home and school. In working toward this aim, the Administration and staff will:

- Be committed to good communication with the home
- Be open and honest
- Listen attentively and sensitively to parents/students
- Be present and available to parents and students

General Communications:

Communications will be sent to parents/guardians as necessary. Teachers are to communicate with all parents at least once each week. They are to keep a log of these communications.

PTO messages, and any other important messages from the office, will be sent via S.I.S. Messenger, newsletter, email, etc. as the occasion requires.

Holy Trinity Catholic School maintains a website at www.holytrinitybsl.org. Information sent home will also be on the website as soon as time allows.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

If a parent has a concern about a teacher's action or needs clarification about a classroom situation, the parent should discuss the matter first with the teacher and together decide the most effective way to handle the situation.

After the teacher/parent discussion, if the parent feels dissatisfied with the outcome, the parent needs to contact the principal and set up an appointment. The principal can choose to have the teacher, and if necessary, the student present.

If the parent is reluctant to discuss the situation with a teacher alone, the parent may ask the principal to be present at the conference. The same holds for the teacher. If the teacher is reluctant to discuss the situation with a parent alone, the teacher may ask the principal to be present at the conference.

Parent/Principal Conferences:

If a parent has a concern about the principal's action or needs clarification of an administrative decision, the parent should discuss the matter with the principal.

The principal is available from 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for scheduled appointments. If another time is needed, it can be scheduled. Please call before coming to make sure the principal is available.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY

A student who has successfully completed the course of study for each grade is eligible for promotion. Criteria for successful completion must include maturity, ability, and skills to handle the next grade.

The following guidelines will determine recommendations for student retention:

- Parent conferences will be held to discuss academic and behavioral issues that may arise. All efforts will be made to identify and intervene as early as possible, to assist any student in danger of retention.
- No student shall be promoted to the next grade if they miss more than 20 days of the school year except upon the recommendation of the principal.
- If a student fails two or more major academic subjects, the student will not be promoted to the next grade. The major academic subjects include religion, reading, English, math, science, and social studies.
- If a student fails one major subject he/she will be required to have 30 hours of remediation by a certified teacher in the summer prior to beginning the next school year.
- 1st-grade students must pass Reading in order to be promoted to the next grade.
- The classroom teacher will not promote any student unless he/she has successfully completed the required coursework as set, demonstrates mastery of required skills, and demonstrates a maturity level.
- The teacher and principal will consult with parents to fully explain the reason for the recommendation for retention.
- The final decision to retain or promote an individual student will be made after a meeting of the teacher, parent, and principal with the interest of the child as primary importance. When there is disagreement, the principal, after consultation with the teacher(s), will make the final decision.

GRADE ADVANCEMENT

In the event that a parent requests that a student be advanced in grade level, the following procedure will guide the principal in making his/her decision.

- The principal will review the latest standardized test data and report card data relative to the student's achievement and performance.
- The principal will meet with the current grade level teacher(s) and the potential higher grade level teacher(s) to discuss the wisdom of such a decision.
- At the parents' expense, a battery of tests may be required to be administered by a child psychologist to determine
 - a. That the child is socially and emotionally mature enough to be advanced one grade level.
 - b. That the child has an Intelligence Quotient of at least 140 as measured by a reliable test instrument.
 - c. That it is in the best interest of the child to advance one grade level.
- If all of the above items indicate that the child should be advanced by one grade, the principal may act to advance the child to the next grade level at the most appropriate time in the school year.

GRADING POLICY

The following grading scale is used in Grades 1 – 6:

93 – 100	=	A
90 – 92	=	A-
85 – 89	=	B
80 – 84	=	B-
75 – 79	=	C
70 – 74	=	D
69 – Below	=	F

HONOR ROLL

Honor roll certificates are distributed to 2nd – 6th-grade students for quarterly, semester, and yearly honors.

PRINCIPAL'S HONORS: A student with all A's (90 - 100) in all academic subjects, including Religion, and E's in nonacademic subjects.

ALPHA HONORS: A student with all A's and B's (85 or higher) in all academic subjects, including Religion, and a minimum of G's in nonacademic subjects.

BETA HONORS: A student with a B or higher (80 or higher) in all their academic subjects, including Religion, and a minimum of G's in nonacademic subjects.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be printed for each student between report card distributions. This is intended as a communication of general evaluation of progress which may result in a conference with the teacher. Progress reports must be signed and returned within 2 days.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are mailed via FACTS three times a year for grades K – 6 at the end of each grading period. The final report card will be printed and sent home with each child on the last day of school. Report cards will not be distributed and FACTS access will be denied to students whose families have outstanding debts to the school.

*****Any student suspended during the grading period is ineligible for any honor roll recognition.**

HOMEWORK

Homework is given on a regular basis to all students in grades K – 6. Homework is assigned for the purpose of reinforcement of lessons taught in school. The amount of time needed to complete assignments should be appropriate to the age of the student. Students are encouraged to do homework on their own with minimum assistance from parents. However, parents do play a large role in affording the students the opportunity to drill facts, read aloud, review for tests, etc.

It is the responsibility of the student to get their assignments and to see that necessary materials, books, etc. are taken home to complete homework. If a child checks out early from school, it is their responsibility to find out their homework and have it completed upon their return. No additional time will be given for assignments missed due to early check outs.

TESTING

Each student in grades 2 -6 takes a national standardized test each spring. The results are given to parents in a special report written for parents.

Screening and placement tests may be given to students entering Holy Trinity Catholic School. Students transferring from a home school program or a non-accredited school must take a placement exam before being considered for admission.

TEXTBOOKS

Student's textbooks are obtained through state and school funds. Parents agree to assume responsibility for these books. The parents must pay for books that are lost or damaged.

ENRICHMENT GRADING

Conduct/Non Academic Area Rubric

E—Excellent: Student does what is asked of him or her. The student has made the extra effort to go beyond the criteria, respects others, and follows classroom and school rules and procedures.

G—Good: Student understands the material. The student does what is expected but may need redirection at times.

S – Satisfactory: Student does what is asked of him or her most of the time and follows classroom and school rules and procedures. Students may or may not have received a conduct referral during the grading period.

N – Needs Improvement: Student sometimes does what is asked of him or her and has to be redirected quite often. The student has trouble following classroom and school rules and procedures or has received two or more conduct referrals during the grading period.

U – Unsatisfactory: The student rarely does what is asked of him or her and requires constant direction. Student has difficulty following classroom and school rules.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

Holy Trinity Catholic School has a central library/media center. The library collection is continually updated and expanded and is maintained by a licensed librarian. Although the students visit the library on a weekly basis, they are encouraged to join and use their local public library. Students are responsible for lost or damaged books.

CAFETERIA

Holy Trinity has a fully operating cafeteria via FACTS. Breakfast and hot lunch may be purchased through the FACTS account only and must be paid on a monthly basis.

CAFETERIA COST

Hot lunch and milk	\$4.00
Milk only	.50
Breakfast	\$3.00
Extra entrée	\$2.00
Extra fruit/vegetable	.50
Juice	.50

Students who do not wish to buy lunch may bring his/her own lunch from home. They may not bring soft drinks, gum, or candy to school. Fast food may not be brought to school in the original packaging. Milk may be purchased separately. **All lunch boxes must be clearly labeled.**

CAFETERIA RULES

Keeping the cafeteria clean and attractive is respecting personnel as well as school property. To instill pride in our cafeteria we will observe the following:

1. Conversation in the cafeteria is to be in a normal tone of voice.
2. Students are to observe good manners while eating.
3. Cafeteria lines are to be orderly.
4. Courtesy must be shown to cafeteria workers and parent volunteers.
5. Lunch litter is to be deposited in the trash cans.
6. Trays and utensils are to be returned to the receiving area after scraping the trays.
7. Students are to leave the table and floor around their places in a clean condition for others and should clean up any food or drink they spill.

TRANSPORTATION

Any changes to daily transportation must be submitted in writing to the office by 2:00 PM. All changes must be **signed** and **dated** by the child's **parent or legal guardian**. Emails will be accepted from a legal guardian email address only.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Parents are advised to familiarize themselves with the traffic flow pattern for the morning drop-off and afternoon pickup. Parents must approach the school from Beach Blvd. up the road next to the community center. Cars are not to park in the left lane as it will be utilized for moving traffic for before-care drop-off and pick up. To help expedite the pickup process, **please place a sign with your student's name and grade** in a visible area. **For the safety of all children, please do not get out of your car in the car line. Those dropping off and picking up in the car line are prohibited from using cell phones. This is for the safety of our children, teachers, and parents.**

Car Riders: All PK1 and PK2 parents will enter from Beach Blvd up the road next to the Community Center. Follow the signs into the crab fest grounds to park near the Preschool Building by the sidewalk to park. All PK1 and PK2 students will be walked to the back (left) entrance of the Preschool Building. Please exit to 2nd Street and follow the one-way traffic when exiting the parking area

All PK3 – 6th grade students must be dropped off and picked up through the carline.

***All siblings will arrive and be dismissed according to the youngest sibling.**

***At all times, please follow the directions of the duty teachers/traffic guards. Ensure that all students are properly secured in the vehicle with a seat belt/car seat before exiting the car rider line.**

***For safety, please do not use cell phones while dropping off or picking up students in car line.**

Walkers: All walkers must receive permission from the principal and enter through the main entrance on S 2nd Street. An adult must come into the building to sign in the walker.

When there are changes in how your child/children will be transported from school, you may call this information into the office before 2:00 p.m. If there is a change of who will be transporting your child, you may also call this into the office, if the new person is on your checkout list. If not on the list, you must send the information in writing by a note or email.

Our traffic flow pattern was devised in conjunction with the Bay St. Louis Police Department in order to ensure the safety of your children. According to the police, it is illegal and a safety hazard to drop your children off on Second Street.

Local merchants have requested that parents not park in the spots designated for their businesses.

Walker students will enter and leave through the front entrance or the back gate by OLA. Walkers mean those children who leave Holy Trinity campus to be picked up from the OLA/SSC campuses or walk home. Please complete the transportation form if your child will be a walker or needs to wait in the foyer with walkers to be picked up. **Any student, other than those walking to OLA or SSC who are not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be sent to After Care and charged accordingly.**

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are encouraged and must be educational. The principal must approve both the initial planning and final implementation of each field trip. Specific information and a parent signature form will be sent home prior to any field trip. No child is allowed on a field trip without the proper signed permission form.

If a child has been assigned an in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension, part of the consequence is the loss of field trip privileges.

All students *will* ride the bus to the field trip destination but may be signed out by their parent at the end of the field trip. Only a parent of a child or an authorized person on file at the school will be permitted to sign a child out from a field trip.

In the event that the bus is not available, the school depends on parent-volunteer drivers for field trips. Specific procedures are in place for the safe transport of the children, and it is imperative that these procedures be followed and all insurance information is on file with the office.

If a child requires medication during a field trip, it must be submitted to the front office, along with detailed instructions, at least two days prior to the field trip to allow the teacher time to plan and organize for its distribution on the day of the field trip.

INVITATIONS

A student is permitted to bring invitations to non-school events only if every child in his/her class is invited. A boy is allowed to invite only the boys in his class, and a girl may invite only the girls.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Holy Trinity Catholic School is considered a family. We work very hard to provide the highest level of academics and to form intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. The education of a child is a partnership between parents and the school. If, in the opinion of the school administration, that partnership is irreparably broken, parents may be required to withdraw their child(ren) from our Catholic school. This conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical behavior, social media activities, internet posts and interaction with local and national media.

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers must be given, and sign that they have received, the Policy of the Diocese of Biloxi Regarding Complaints of the Abuse of Minors before they are allowed to do any work with Holy Trinity Catholic School students. All regular volunteers must sign and submit a background check release form and complete the Safe Environment Program.

Your personal gifts and talents are always needed in the school. The school volunteer never replaces the faculty, or staff, but rather offers supplementary service, which can be beneficial to the school.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a great way to become involved. Each family is automatically a member, and families are encouraged to attend the meetings and become an active partner.

The best method is to work through the PTO Room Mother/Dad for classroom work, through the Cafeteria Manager for Cafeteria work, or through the office for any other volunteer work.

The primary purpose of the PTO is to assist the principal in providing additional school activities and events for the enrichment of the educational process and to raise funds to support the school. A close working relationship must exist between the principal and the PTO President. Active involvement of the school staff and parents is a major part of a successful PTO.

To ensure that the PTO works effectively towards the goals of the school:

- The principal is the final authority on all PTO activities.
- The principal controls the spending of all funds collected by the PTO.
- All funds raised by the PTO are school operating funds and may be used at the principal's and pastor's discretion.
- All PTO funds must run through the school budget.

The PTO serves at the will of the pastors and principal as a method of involving parents in school activities.

VISITORS

All visitors must report to the school office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. All visitors must enter through the Second Street entrance and check in at the office.

CAMPUS SECURITY

All exterior doors remain locked. Upon arrival, sign in at the office to receive a visitor's pass.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

The administration may search pupils, their belongings, or their lockers or desks, if the administration has reasonable belief that contraband, illegal substances or objects, or stolen property are being concealed or that a violation of a school rule related to the maintenance of discipline has been committed.

DAMAGE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

The parents of a child who carelessly or deliberately destroys or damages the property of the school or another individual will be obligated to pay the full amount for repairs or replacement.

The student will also be subject to disciplinary consequences.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL POLICIES

State law requirements mandate certain immunizations for students at certain grade levels. A compliance form may be obtained from the Hancock County Health Department or your personal physician. Immunizations are required for DPT, polio, red measles, whooping cough, and Rubella for students entering Kindergarten. Students entering PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten need a new compliance form at the start of every school year.

In the event that a child becomes ill or injured at school, parents will be notified. If they cannot be reached, the persons listed as emergency contacts for the child will be called.

Serious injury or illness may require an ambulance. At the discretion of the administration, 911 may be called.

If your child has any food allergies, we must have a statement from your physician before we can eliminate or replace any food item on the student's breakfast or lunch tray.

Each student who is enrolled at Holy Trinity Catholic School is automatically insured with the payment of his/her registration fee. During the first week or so of school, students will bring home a brochure from the insurance carrier describing the coverage. Should your child be involved in an accident or injury, please pick up the necessary claim forms from the school office. The insurance carrier also offers a 24 hour plan, which is purchased additionally at the parent's option. The parent will deal directly with the carrier, NOT the school.

A child may not attend Holy Trinity Catholic School with any of the following symptoms:
Fever, Undiagnosed rash, vomiting, diarrhea, inflamed eyes, and head lice.

MEDICATION

Students are not allowed to have any medications, prescriptions, or non-prescription, in their possession at school.

A medical release form must be completed and signed by the parents for medicine to be administered at school.

MEDICATION (Continued)

The following requirements must be met for a prescription or non-prescription medicine to be administered at school:

1. The medication must be in the original container and provided by the parent.
2. Prescription medication must carry a prescription label with the child's name, drug identity, dosage, name of doctor, and prescription date.
3. The prescription must be current, no longer than 2 weeks old for an antibiotic, or one-year-old for other medications.
4. A note dated and signed by the parent must accompany the medication. It must include the child's name, dosage amount, specific dosing times, and any other necessary instructions.
5. Refrigeration is available.
6. Medications must be administered by the office staff.
7. Liquid medication requires a measuring device to be sent by the parent.

ASBESTOS NOTICE

Materials containing or suspected of containing asbestos were identified in our school in 1982. In compliance with the requirements of the AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act), Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School has completed the required inspections and has developed a specified manual. A copy of the required documentation has been filed with the State of Mississippi and is available for review in the school office. This notice is in compliance with 40cfr 763.93 (G)(4).

INAPPROPRIATE OBJECTS ON CAMPUS

Small laser, penlight computer pointers, or similar laser lights, fireworks, water guns, inappropriate magazines, trading cards, electronic games, iPod, iPad, MP3 players, Nooks, Kindles, Smart Watches, and other similar distracting objects that serve no purpose at school must not be brought on campus. Bringing such objects on campus could result in corrective action including suspension and/or dismissal. In addition, any objects in question are subject to confiscation by the school. The school is not responsible for the loss of, damage to, or theft of such objects.

CELL PHONE USE

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones to school. No cell phone will be allowed in a classroom or on field trips at any time. If a student needs a cell phone for safety reasons (**the student is walking home or will be picked up by someone other than a parent**), the phone must be brought to the office every morning and picked up at the end of the day. **Cell phone use is prohibited on the school campus at any time.**

If a student has a cell phone in their possession during the school day, they will face the following consequences as outlined in the recently adopted Cellular Phone Policy in the Handbook of Catholic School Policies. Please read the following policy:

CELL PHONE USE (Continued)

CELLULAR PHONE POLICY – Governance No. 40 - Approved May 2015

“Diocesan schools prohibit the use of all personal telecommunications phones, including cellular phones, by its students during the school day. Some restrictions also apply to faculty. In general, the normal school day is defined as starting in the morning hours and ending in the afternoon hours or earlier depending on the bell schedule. This policy may apply to field trips, retreats, and other activities at the discretion of the school administration.

Students shall be allowed to possess such phones as cellular phones, but the following conditions must be strictly adhered to:

1. Cellular phones may be used only before and after the school day as defined above.
2. Cellular phones must be locked in the student’s locker, or the acceptable policy designated by the principal.
3. Cellular phones must be in silent or off mode during school hours.
4. Students are banned from carrying cellular phones on their persons and/or in their clothing apparel. Cellular phones are not allowed in the student’s school bag, gym bag, purse, etc.
5. Diocesan schools are not responsible for the loss of, damage to, or theft of cellular phones brought on campus.

The following consequences will follow for any student violating the above conditions.

1. The first violation will result in a conduct detention. The cellular phone will be confiscated and turned into the office. It will be returned to the student after one (1) day from the infraction, provided that the student arrives in person to retrieve it.
2. A second violation will result in detention. The cellular phone will be confiscated and turned into the office. It will be returned to the parent/guardian of the student at the end of ten (10) consecutive days, provided the parent/guardian of the student arrives in person to retrieve it.
3. A third violation will result in a one (1) to three (3) day in-school suspension. The cellular phone will be confiscated and turned into the office. It will be returned to the parent/guardian of the student at the end of thirty (30) consecutive days. The student will lose the right to bring and possess a cellular phone on the school campus for the remainder of the school year. The parent/guardian will be informed that the next violation may result in the student being asked to withdraw.
4. A fourth violation may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the Diocesan school or be subjected to expulsion.

5. Any student attending Catholic schools may be subject to discipline if cellular or other electronic phones are used in any potentially harmful manner. This applies to any person in which the harm seeks to injure someone's reputation outside of the school environment. This can occur when the matter is brought on campus and interrupts the learning/teaching environment. A more severe discipline ladder than the one stated above may apply to these infractions."

Students are not allowed to have in their possession or wear any device that can be connected to the internet while on the school campus.