



**ST. MARIA GORETTI
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

FAMILY HANDBOOK

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

**St. Maria Goretti Catholic School
5405 Flad Ave.
Madison, WI 53711**

**Phone: 608-271-7551
E-mail: info@stmariagoretti.org
Website: www.stmariagoretti.org**

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

*In our own time, believing families are of primary
importance as centers of living, radiant faith.
(CCC #1656)*

Welcome to St. Maria Goretti Catholic School! In choosing SMG, you have demonstrated a commitment to the values and philosophy of a Catholic education.

This family handbook reflects the policies of SMG School for the 2020-2021 school year. Please read the document carefully. This agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of SMG during this school year.

The faculty and staff of your school look forward to working with you to promote academic excellence and spiritual development in the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

God's blessings to you and your family.

Elizabeth Adams-Young
Principal

II. PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our parish family is called to grow in faith and love. We desire to be in union with Jesus Christ and one another. We will accomplish this mission through worship and prayer, education and evangelization in our community and world. With St. Maria Goretti as our patron, we strive to follow her life of forgiveness and holiness. May we pursue this mission faithfully, encouraging others to join us in discipleship for the Lord.

ST. MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The faculty and staff of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School share in the teaching ministry of our parish, to bring Christ's message to our students.

- We believe that every child is a unique creation of God, worthy of the opportunity to develop to his/her fullest potential in a safe and caring environment.
- We will provide our students with prayer and worship experiences, high academic standards, service opportunities and guidance and support toward healthy personal growth.
- We recognize and value the partnership that parents and teachers have in the successful education of all students.

As members of the St. Maria Goretti Catholic School Community, we embrace these responsibilities of our teaching ministry.

SCHOOL MOTTO:

Living In Faith

Growing In Character

Loving Each Other

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

"St. Maria Goretti Catholic School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs."

St. Maria Goretti School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The following criteria have been set for the consideration of admission of students to St. Maria Goretti Catholic School.

- ✚ Children are considered for admission without regard to race, gender, national or ethnic origin.
- ✚ A child must be age five (5) by September 1 to enter Kindergarten and age six (6) by September 1 to enter First Grade.
- ✚ The following are the priorities for admission of Active, Registered students to SMG:
 1. K-8 Students enrolled at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School at the conclusion of the previous academic year.
 2. Siblings of K-8 students currently enrolled at SMG or whose siblings are graduated alumni.
 3. Children of parish and diocesan employees who are employed by SMG parish or the Madison Diocese for at least one calendar year.
 4. Siblings of previous K-8 students (who have not graduated) at SMG.
 5. Children of parent(s) who have attended St. Maria Goretti Catholic School.
 6. Children of families who are Active Parish Families.
 7. Position on a **Waiting List**.
 8. Children of families who are active parish families in a Catholic Parish that does not have a Catholic school.
 9. Consideration is given to all other applicants.
- ✚ Commitment to the principles of St. Maria Goretti Catholic Parish & School, as expressed in the Parish and School Mission Statements.
- ✚ Previous school records, including references to academic performance, school attendance and conduct.
- ✚ Openings in a particular class.
- ✚ Non-parishioners shall pay 100% of all educational costs.
- ✚ The number of K-8 students in each section per grade level is limited to 25 students. St. Maria Goretti Catholic School is not always able to meet the exceptional education needs of all students.
- ✚ Up-to-date immunization records for all students must be completed and returned to the school office within the first 30 days of attendance.
- ✚ No child shall be denied admission to St. Maria Goretti Catholic School for financial reasons alone. *Applications for Financial Aid* forms are available in the parish office. Please contact

the SMG principal for more information. *[All information pertaining to financial assistance will be sent from and turned in to the Parish Business Manager to maintain confidentiality.]*

- ✚ When making decisions on student admissions, all aforementioned procedures and policies are considered, in addition to information and/or input from a student-applicant's family, SMG faculty, SMG School administration and/or St. Maria Goretti Parish administration.
- ✚ If a student leaves SMG to attend another school, s/he is considered withdrawn from enrollment. If a student returns to SMG, s/he is placed according to current enrollment procedures. At no time are families able to reserve a child's placement.

An **Active Parish Family** is defined as follows:

1. **Church Activities** includes being a registered member of St. Maria Goretti Parish, and having/using the church envelope. To be a registered parish member, at least one parent/guardian must be a practicing Catholic. An active parish family participates in the worship opportunities of the parish. (Sunday liturgy, liturgical seasons, prayer services, Lenten Mission, lector, commentator, choir, ushering, and communion ministers).
2. **Parish School/Religious Education Activities** includes room parent(s), field trip chaperones, sports coach, assisting with pageants and skits, and classroom activities. Teaching or assisting with the Religious Education or Youth Ministry Programs.
3. **Parish Commissions and Parish Life Activities** include the completion of the "Time & Talent" survey, which indicates where an individual may be best-suited to serve the St. Maria Goretti Parish community. Volunteer activities include serving on commissions, councils, or committees, parish festival, fish fries, spaghetti dinners, pancake breakfasts, food donations, St. Paul meal programs and the like.

A **Waiting List** is maintained for all grade levels as required and will be used for placement of students from the time of the lists annual review until the following January 15th.

- Qualified applicants will be placed on a Waiting List after the registration process is complete.
- The Waiting List will be reviewed and regenerated annually, after the registration process is complete based on the validation of criteria from our admissions policy.
- Priority placement on the Waiting List is determined in accordance with the priorities for admission of registered students, with special circumstances to be reviewed.
- Applications received after the completion of the registration process will be placed at the end of the Waiting List.
- Parents and Guardians of children on the Waiting List shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of current address, phone numbers, and other identifying information.
- The school will make contact annually with everyone on our waiting list.
- If a family is offered enrollment, and declines the opportunity, that child will be dropped to the bottom of the Waiting List, or be removed based on the request of the family.

All families are expected to meet volunteer requirements. These opportunities will be offered the week of online registration under Volunteer Opportunities.

SCHOOL TUITION – 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

TUITION-K through 8th GRADE

One child:	\$ 4,651
Two children:	\$ 9,053
Three children:	\$13,062
Four children:	\$13,357
Five Children:	\$14,010
Six Children:	\$14,484

Please note the following:

- \$200 deposit per student is due when a student's enrollment is confirmed and will be credited to total tuition amount per student.
- For monthly payments, the tuition deposit is subtracted from the total annual tuition per students, then the remaining balance is divided into 9 monthly payments reflected below.

Options for paying tuition for the 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

1. Paid in full by **September 15, 2020**.
2. First semester tuition (1/2 of the total) is due by **September 15, 2020**
3. Second semester tuition (1/2 of the total) is due by **January 15, 2021**.
4. Monthly payments for tuition are due by the **15th of each month**
September- May.

Please be aware that all school records will be held in the school office and final report cards will not be distributed until all financial obligations have been met.

NON-PARISHIONER TUITION - \$5,821

Financial aid is available to qualifying parish families. Applications for financial aid must be received on or before July 15 (for the first semester or for both semesters), and on or before January 15th (for the second semester only). Families, who qualify, will be awarded aid by July 31st and January 31st, based on the family's need and the availability of funds.

IV. SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

TRANSFER STUDENTS

All students transferring into St. Maria Goretti Catholic School are admitted on a probationary status. Probationary status recognizes that the adjustment to a new situation can be difficult, and that special effort may be necessary to succeed. The student will be evaluated on an ongoing basis for academic and behavioral progress.

ARRIVAL

School begins at 7:40 a.m., with the tardy bell ringing at 7:47 a.m. It is necessary that students be regular and punctual in attendance. A child is considered tardy if he/she is not in the classroom by 7:47 a.m. There will be no supervision prior to 7:25 a.m. For this reason children are not to come to school early.

DISMISSAL

No child will be permitted to leave the grounds with another child or adult without written permission from his/her parents.

We request all K-8 parents who choose to pick up their child to wait outside the school entrance. Early Childhood parents may enter the building. Teachers in grades K-4 will escort their children to exit the school building. 5th-8th grade students will be dismissed out the middle school doors and proceed to the playground.

After five times of late pick-up, a reminder letter will be sent home, along with follow up from the principal. Parents are expected to be here at dismissal time and leave in a timely manner.

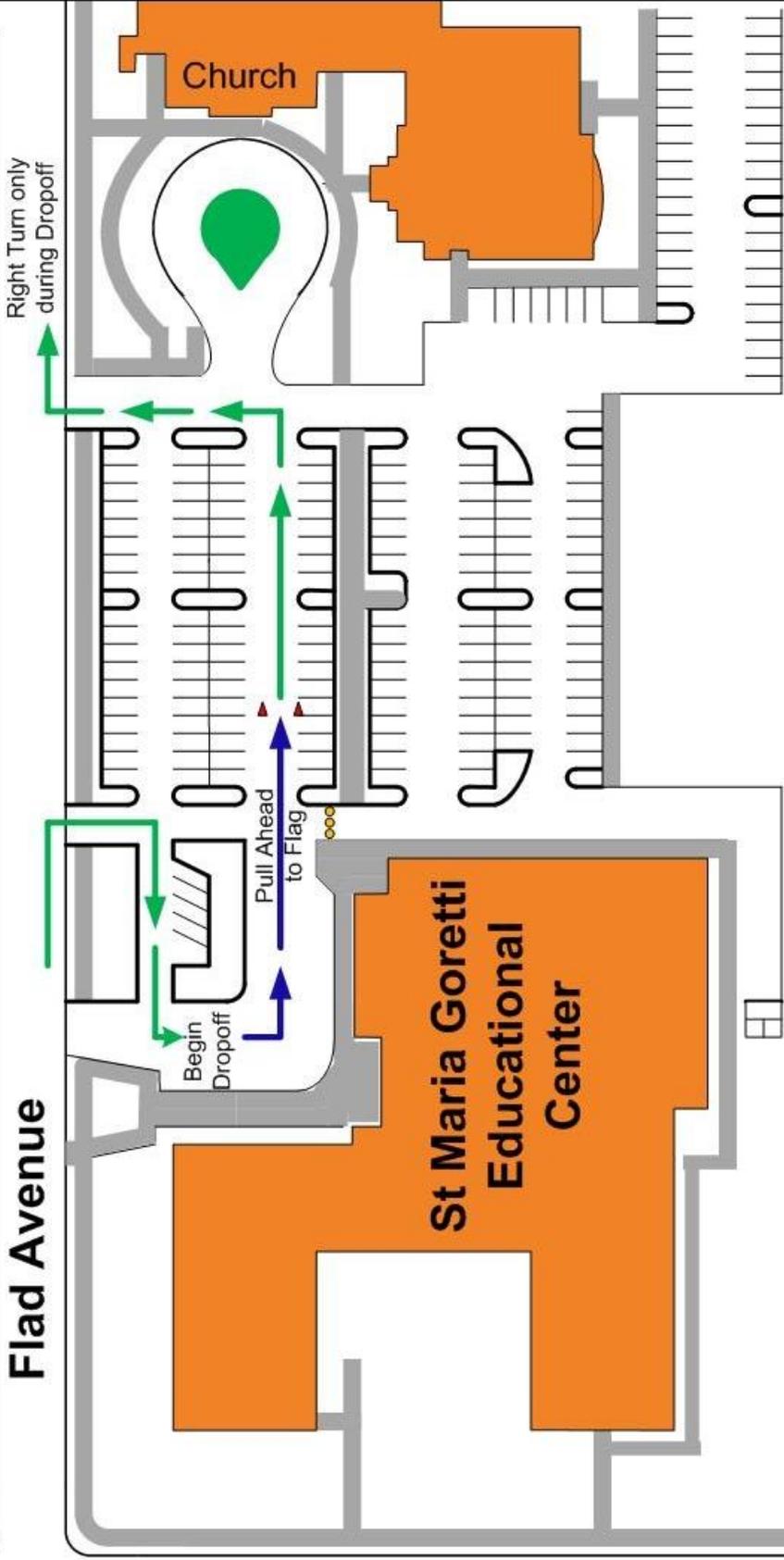
To provide for the safety of our children, please adhere to the following guidelines when picking up children:

- There is no parking along curb outside the school office
- K-4 children will remain with their teachers until they see their parents
- Parents are responsible for the after-school supervision of their children
- Drivers should keep the traffic moving whenever possible
- Only Handicapped individuals may park in the Handicapped lanes
- At no time should pets be brought for pick up or drop off
- There is no supervision after school after 2:40

Also, please note the crossing guard hours as follows:

	Mon.-Fri. a.m.	Mon.-Fri. p.m.
Gilbert Rd/Flad Ave	7:15-8:30	2:40-3:55

Morning Dropoff



St. Maria Goretti Discipline Policy

General School Statement of Discipline:

We believe that SMG is committed to excellence in its school programs and also considers discipline an essential part of the whole educational process to fully form a Christ-centered child. Within this context the Gospel values of respect, responsibility and right relationships are expected and developed. In order to provide each student with the opportunity to fully develop his or her potential, the Administration and Faculty of SMG Catholic School believes:

- The ultimate goal of both the home and the school, in regard to discipline, is to guide the children into habits of self-discipline. Good behavior begins in the home and habits of good conduct are to be carried over into the school setting.
- To experience a strong sense of belonging, each student must feel capable of completing tasks in a manner that meets the standards of the school. Students must communicate in a respectful manner with teachers and classmates.
- High standards of discipline are necessary for providing an atmosphere conducive to learning.
- Consequences of behavior, rather than punishment, will be the norm of disciplinary actions.
- Parents will be informed of student behaviors that are not conducive to a successful learning atmosphere or are disrespectful of others.

Procedures

Our school discipline policy exists in order for parents, students and teachers to work together more effectively as a team. In order to accomplish this, we have set forth the following procedures and guidelines to be followed:

Teachers will:

1. Formulate and discuss classroom and school rules.
2. Remind students of the rules as the need occurs.
3. Enforce all school and classroom rules in a consistent manner.
4. Issue warnings, and/or give detentions etc. as needed
5. Contact parents, as necessary, either through written note, email or phone.
6. Contact the principal with any concerns about individual students.

Students will:

1. Help formulate and understand the meaning of all classroom and school rules.
2. Follow classroom and school rules everyday
3. Be responsible for their own actions and accept consequences without arguing.
4. Present the true circumstances of events to both parents and teachers.

Parents will follow these steps:

1. Review the child's behavior on a consistent and regular basis.
2. Encourage the child to follow the school rules and regulations.
3. Contact the teacher by written note or email to discuss any student concerns.
4. If a conference is necessary always email or call the teacher ahead of time.
5. Contact the principal or assistant principal, if communication has not resolved the concern.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In a spirit of cooperation, we expect that all students of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School will:

- Show respect for all members of the school community.
- Respect the property of others.
- Use appropriate language.
- Follow the uniform policy.
- Complete classroom work.
- Follow playground guidelines.
- Follow the school attendance/tardy laws of the State of Wisconsin.
- Show care for all school materials.
- Show care for all school facilities.
- Know that St. Maria Goretti is drug-free, weapon-free and harassment-free.
- Keep personal electronic devices at home or in a backpack during the school day. Comply with the Technology Acceptance Usage policy.
- Be present for all required activities unless officially excused by the administration.
- Not give unauthorized assistance on tests, quizzes or assignments.
- Stay on grounds during the school day.
- Demonstrate good behavior when engaged in all school-sponsored extra-curricular activities.

Although the school is not responsible for off campus behavior, if the results of that behavior affect the workings of the school day, the administration may determine that consequences would be justified.

SMG Faculty and Administration reserve the right to deem certain behavior inappropriate and impose appropriate consequences for such behavior.

Social media has been an integral part of student's lives but when negative interaction affects the workings of the school day, we expect parent support in resolving the issues.

If the Code of Conduct is broken, consequences could include the following: detention, conferences with parents/principal, individual contracts to improve behavior, suspension, or expulsion.

Harassment

Harassment includes any type of bullying. Bullying is a repeated abuse of power by an individual or group who deliberately targets others for physical, psychological or emotional abuse. Examples of bullying behaviors include, but are not limited to: a pattern of intimidation, threats, menacing taunts, teasing, spreading rumors, cyber-bullying, texting, social networking, picking-on or isolating others by gender, other psychological abuse. Bullying can also include physical contact aimed at provoking a defensive or aggressive response.

The Diocese of Madison's board of Education has developed a policy that we implement here at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School regarding sexual harassment (DBA 4200). "All persons involved in educational programs are entitled to a working and learning environment free from all forms of discrimination including sexual harassment or intimidation. No educational employee, volunteer, or student shall be subjected to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other sexual conduct, verbal, visual, or physical."

Suspension and Expulsion Policy

Suspension is for a serious offense against the code of conduct policies of the school community. An in-house suspension may be served by students if determined by administration.

Actions resulting in suspension include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any form of harassment
- Gross defiance
- Disrespect toward staff, students, volunteers or property
- Preventing a teacher from teaching
- Continually upsetting the order in the classrooms or the school in general
- Any action that could result in expulsion as identified below

Expulsion is an extreme measure and will be used only on very rare occasions and if all efforts to correct the negative behavior have failed. A student may be expelled for repeatedly refusing or neglecting to obey the school rules.

Actions resulting in expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any form of harassment
- Striking or assaulting any school employee
- Gross defiance
- Battery and/or attack
- Exhibiting, using or threatening to use, any weapons on or near the school premises
- Use or possession of any controlled substance

Search and Seizure

The school retains the right to search a student's locker or have a student empty purses, book bags or pockets when a reasonable cause exists. Any searches will be conducted by an administrator in the presence of another adult. Parents may be notified if a search has been conducted.

UNIFORM POLICY-Regulations

Uniforms are available from Land's End and also SMG Gorettiwear is available year round in the school office.

Uniform re-sale closet is available all year long during school hours.

Land's Ends website is www.landsend.com. Please refer to our school identification number when making purchases. That ID# is: 9001-0852-3. You can click on the Land's End widget right on the front page of the school website.

--VISIBLE CLOTHING MUST BE UNIFORM CLOTHING, OR THE CHILD WILL BE ASKED TO CHANGE. (ie.-CAMISOLES OR T-SHIRTS UNDER TOPS MUST NOT BE SEEN).

--SHOES: If students choose to wear exposed shoes (ie-flip-flops, sandals), they must stay off the wood chips for safety purposes. They also risk injury. We recommend students wear shoes that are safe on the playground.

--Acceptable sock, legging, and tights colors are: (SOLIDS ONLY), White, Red, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Tan, Black, Gray. These are uniform colors. This applies to boys and girls.

--We know that white and black plain socks are available for purchase. We do understand that purchasing the red, gray, light and dark blue socks are more difficult to find unless they have a small logo on them. In order for the boys to have the choice of all uniform colors, we will accept the socks with a small company logo (i.e.-small Nike

swoosh or small Adidas triangle, etc..) but no words or large patterns, stripes or figures. The logo needs to be **very small**...and not take up the majority of the sock.

--Skirt and Short length must be approx. two inches above knee.

--We encourage families to plan ahead and use SCRIP to purchase uniforms. This helps in two ways: the school will receive a percentage of each purchase (17% - Lands End) and each family can receive a tuition credit based on the amount of SCRIP that is purchased.

--If you have questions or if purchasing uniforms will be cost prohibitive for your family, please feel free to contact the school office. (271-7551)

Uniform Non-Compliance

First Offense: Written Notice sent home.

Second Offense: Phone call to parent-change of clothes.

Third Offense: Your child will be issued clothes from the used uniform sale to change into.

PE Clothing Policy

ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR TENNIS SHOES TO P.E.

No shoes that leave black marks on the gym floor will be allowed.

Physical Education clothes are limited to P.E.

Grades K-4 do not change clothes for P.E. Must bring tennis shoes.

Grades 5-8 change into appropriate shorts and t-shirts

***PE Shorts should be mid thigh length-not shorter.

***Loose fitting tops (ie tshirts) with appropriate wording.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The attendance record is a legal document and remains in the students permanent record.

For your child's protection, please contact the school office by either a phone call or email at 271-7551 (by 8:30a.m.) if your child will not be in school that day. We need to account for all absences. Please contact school with the reason your child is not in attendance.

APPOINTMENTS

Please avoid scheduling dental or doctor appointments during the school day. However, should such an appointment be necessary, you will need to provide a note from the doctor, dentist, etc. Students who are away from school for an appointment for 3 ½ hours or more, will be counted as absent for ½ day. Your child MUST be signed in and/or out of the building by the parent/guardian. Sign in/out sheets are in the school office.

We will follow the State of Wisconsin attendance laws and permit 10 days of excused absences. (ie-sick or vacation). After that, all absences are inexcused unless we have a note from the doctor.

If you email the students attendance, please email the teacher, and Beth or Maria in the office.

In cases when students are tardy more than 5 times per academic quarter, the following actions will take place:

- The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive an email and/or call from the SMG principal as a reminder to assist with tending to attendance issues.
- After 5 tardies, you will receive a call from the principal to develop solution.
- After 6 tardies, a meeting with the principal will be scheduled, and further action taken.
- Further action will be taken if tardiness continues.
- Excessive absence (40) days or the equivalent of 40 days including tardies, can be cause for a student to be retained in the current grade for another year.

VACATIONS

We encourage families to plan vacations at times that coincide with the school vacation schedule. Please inform the principal of circumstances necessitating a vacation during school days. Also, parents are to inform the school office if they will be out-of-town and their child remains in the care of another adult. Please leave names, addresses and phone numbers of the adults responsible for the care of your child. We also request emergency contact information. Please see policy on homework for planned absences.

RED ALERT-EMERGENCY CLOSING

When morning weather conditions are such that the school might be closed, you will receive a phone call or email from our FACTS system. If the Madison Public Schools are closed, St. Maria Goretti Catholic School will also be closed. However, St. Maria Goretti does reserve the right to make its own decision about closing. If severe weather

conditions develop during the day, listen to the radio and television for announcements. Parents may pick up their children early after contacting the school office.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Security cameras have been installed inside and outside of the building. This is to help us maintain a safe environment.

A Safety Manual with specific procedures is located in the school office. A review of all procedures is conducted annually. The following security measures are currently in place at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School:

- Established drop off and dismissal traffic patterns are in effect.
- Doors are locked 24 hours a day.
- A FIRE EVACUATION PLAN specific to each classroom location is posted by the exit.
- Tornado, fire drill, bomb threat and other types of building evacuation procedures in place with specific codes. A mutual agreement exists between Orchard Ridge School and St. Maria Goretti Catholic School to share each other's facilities in the event of an emergency.
- Procedures are in place in the event of a playground emergency.
- Four adults supervise the noon recess. Two staff members supervise at other recesses.
- Protective Behaviors are taught throughout the school year and are reviewed periodically throughout the year.
- Teachers and staff are instructed on implementation of safety procedures.
- Students are always supervised.
- Field Trips always have one teacher and additional chaperones.
- We have established a visitor sign-in and sign-out procedures in the office.

CUSTODY ISSUES

In the event of a divorce or separation it is assumed by the school that each parent has been awarded equal rights in regard to access to their children. If there are special circumstances such as sole custody, limited access or restraining orders, copies of these court documents must be on file in the school office. The school needs full disclosure of the custodial agreement, or students will be allowed to go with either parent.

Legal documents such as report cards or standardized testing will be sent to both households.

LUNCH PROGRAM

An in-house hot lunch program is available for students in grades K-8. Menus are posted on the Hot Lunch page of the school website under Parent Information. Lunch is offered every day that school is in session for a full day. Lunch includes a choice of five nutritional components: dairy, grains, meat or meat alternate, fruits, and vegetables.

Cost

The cost of a *complete reimbursable student meal* is **\$3.05**. St Maria Goretti School follows the National School Lunch Program Meal Requirements. Extra milk for hot lunch and cold lunch students is available at a cost of \$0.40.

<http://dpi.wi.gov/nutrition>

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/child-nutrition-programs>

Lunch Accounts

Student lunch participation and account balances are tracked via FACTS family portal. Accounts are updated daily to show charges. Accounts with outstanding balances of negative \$50 or greater will receive reminder e-mails each week. Please refer to our “Unpaid Meal Charge Policy” below. Payments to lunch accounts can be made by using the FACTS family portal system.

Unpaid Meal Charge Policy

USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016 requires all School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating federal school meal programs to have a written Unpaid Meal Charge Policy. The SMG Unpaid Meal Charge Policy is to provide children with adequate nutrition to focus in school, to minimize stigmatization of children with meal charges and to maintain the financial integrity of the program. SMG will communicate privately with families about a child’s outstanding balance with payment reminders directly and discreetly to adults in the household. While working with families to obtain payment, SMG will continue serving the student(s) reimbursable meals, the student will not be allowed to take the extra “a la carte” option.

The SMG Unpaid Meal Charge Policy will be communicated at the beginning of each school year, at registration to all families and staff members responsible for collecting payment, notifying families of low/negative balances and enforcing the policy. The policy will be available on the school website under Hot Lunch and in the Family Handbook. SMG will review and revise the policy as needed annually.

Families with a negative balance of \$50 or more will receive a reminder email with the student’s balance due. If the family balance reaches a negative \$100, the principal will be contacting the parents requesting payment immediately or to set up a payment plan. At this time, if payment/payment plan is not made, your child will be required to bring a

cold lunch until arrangements have been made. Payments to lunch accounts can be made by using the FACTS family portal system.

Food service funds will not be used to cover costs related to uncollectible debts. Funds remaining in the graduating/transferring student's lunch account will be transferred to younger sibling(s), applied to school tuition, youth ministry or any other programs that the family chooses. If there is nowhere to transfer the money, SMG will make three attempts to contact the family via email, phone or mail to issue a refund. If SMG is not able to issue a refund, it will be turned over to Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) as unclaimed property. If you have questions, please contact the Lunch Billing Coordinator, Cynthia Johnson (608)268-2980 or email at lunch@stmariagoretti.org.

St. Maria Goretti School offers free and reduced lunches to students who qualify, based on USDA regulations. Students may qualify for free or reduced rates based on direct certification through the State database; if this is the case, you will receive a notice of your child's eligibility. Families are also encouraged to submit a written application for free or reduced rates, based on family size and income, at any time during the school year. The application and instructions are available at the school office, kitchen office or on the school website. SMG will accept transfer student's eligibility from a previous school with appropriate documentation. If you have questions, please contact the Food Manager, Nohora Reyna, (608)268-2980 or email at nohora.lopez@stmariagoretti.org.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Free and Reduced

St. Maria Goretti School offers free and reduced lunches to students who qualify based on USDA regulations. Students may qualify for free or reduced rates based on direct certification through the State database; if this is the case, you will receive a notice of your child's eligibility. Families are also encouraged to submit a written application for free or reduced rates, based on family size and income. The application and instructions are available at the school office, kitchen office or on the school website under Hot Lunch program. Reduced lunches cost \$0.40 per meal.

LUNCHTIME PLAYGROUND – RECESS

We have paid supervisors on our playground during the lunchtime recess. Each supervisor will have Virtus training and a thorough Background Check.

While we realize that there are certain times when the weather is too inclement for anyone to be outside (in which case indoor lunch and recess periods are scheduled for all) please bear the following in mind when preparing your children for school:

Please prepare your child for cold weather. Areas of the body vulnerable to exposure to the cold should be covered (i.e. head, neck, hands, feet, etc.). The following rules apply:

--Snowpants/boots required for all students for snow mounds.

--K-5-boots and snowpants on any area.

--Middle School-boots on the snow covered grass and snow.

When is it TOO COLD for children to be outside? Plan to send your children outside each day. We will make the decision for outside recess each day depending on the weather before the beginning of each recess time.

If students are too ill to go outside for recess, they should remain at home unless we have a doctor's excuse.

PLAYGROUND RULES These rules apply before, during and after school.

- No throwing of woodchips.
- No walking up the slide.
- One person at a time on the slide or on a swing.
- No tackling.
- Snow or ice may not be handled or kicked. Students can build forts and snowmen but snowballs or ice in their hands with the possibility of having it thrown or kicked will not be tolerated.
- Space Web: No standing on top ropes
No sitting or standing on red support bars
- X-Wave: (K-5) Maximum 9 students seated
(6-8) Maximum 6 students total
- Students must receive the supervisor's permission to enter the school building during recess time. They must check back with supervisor upon returning.
- The students will be advised in school when they should remain on the paved areas due to muddy conditions.
- All students should adhere to playground boundaries. Neighbors yards are not allowed.
- All children should stop playing and return equipment to bins when the bell rings and line up in the proper place.

Students who show disrespect for the supervisor or who refuse to comply with the rules will lose playground privileges. Disagreements among students, which cannot be mediated on the playground, will also be brought to the attention of their teachers or principals.

Parents should review basic safety precautions with their children. All students should remain in sight. Remember to caution your children that our play area is accessible to the street. Boundaries are necessary for their protection from cars and undesirable strangers.

HEALTH

A student needs to be symptom free for 24 hours before they can return to school.

(I.E. Fevers, vomiting, diarrhea). Also, if a student is put on an anti-biotic, they must be on the medicine for 24 hours before returning to school.

In case of a lice outbreak, please treat your child and keep them home for 24 hours. Re-check for nits each day for 10-15 days.

No student is allowed to leave the school building because of illness without first reporting to the school office. Students need to be signed out by a parent.

The following are the minimum required immunizations for each grade level. Even though your child meets these minimum requirements, he or she may be in need of booster doses.

2020-2021 School Year

Grade	Number of Doses				
Pre K	4 DTP/DTaP/DT	3 Polio	1 MMR	3 Hep B	1 Var
K-8	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	4 Polio	2 MMR	3 Hep B	1 Var

Please note:

- Student immunization record forms must be turned into the school office by the first day of school
- MMR vaccines must have been received on or after the first birthday
- If your child received the third dose of DTP/DT/Td and polio after the fourth birthday, further doses of these vaccines may be recommended, but are not required
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for students entering Kindergarten, and 6th grade.
- 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine) for students in 6th grade.

VAR means Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. Chickenpox disease history is also acceptable.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Invitations for home parties must be mailed out, not distributed in school.

There is no decorating of cubbies for birthdays.

All students are invited to share a birthday treat with their classmates and teachers on their special day. Please bring something easy to distribute.

We strongly encourage you to provide a healthy snack for birthday treats, instead of a sweet, sugary treat.

Guidelines for Snacks brought into School:

Moderate portion

No meals

Simple to serve

All utensils provided – if necessary

Suggestions for healthy snacks:

- **Fruit**
- **fruit smoothies**
- **cheese and crackers**
- **bagels and cream cheese**
- **yogurt**
- **popcorn**
- **pretzels**
- **fruit leathers**
- **granola bars**
- **FRUIT based popsicles**
- **100% juice, water or sparkling water**
- **yogurt parfait bar**
- **sliced apples and dip**
- **healthy muffins or breakfast breads**
- **graham crackers**
- **fruit skewers /salad**
- **chips and salsa**
- **healthy trail mix (dried fruits, cereal, pretzels)**
- **mini rice cakes**
- **chocolate milk**
- **roasted pumpkin seeds**
- **frozen banana popsicles (rolled in yogurt, then granola)**
- **chocolate covered strawberries**

Teachers will work individually with families that have students with peanut allergies to set up a safe procedure for classroom snacks.

Food prepared in our lunch program is always peanut free. We require students with peanut allergies to sit at the “peanut free” table at lunchtime so they are not near any cold lunches that other students bring from home.

CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

At St. Maria Goretti Catholic School, we provide an educational experience that is both comprehensive in meeting the Madison Diocesan standards and expectations.

Consideration is given for the uniqueness of each student’s learning ability. SMG is

fully accredited by the WRISA, (Wisconsin Religious Independent School Assoc), which requires our ongoing review and updating of curriculum consistent with standards set by the Madison Diocese.

Complete copies of curriculum are available in school office.

Curriculums are reviewed on a rotating basis. Updated materials are purchased after each curriculum review if needed.

2016-2017	Science, Art
2017-2018	Religion
2018-2019	Language Arts
2019-2020	Self Study
2020-2021	Math and Technology/Visiting team for Accrediation
2021-2022	Social Studies, Spanish
2022-2023	Science, Music, PE
2023-2024	Art, Religion
2024-2025	Language Arts
2025-2026	Self Study

MASS ATTENDANCE AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The students of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School (Grades 1-8) shall have the opportunity to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass twice weekly. Grades 1-8 attend on Friday, grades 1-4 attend on Tuesday, and grades 5-8 attend on Thursday. Class attendance may change periodically. We encourage you to join with us in fostering devotion in our children from their earliest years. Kindergarten students will attend Mass on special occasions. All students attending SMG will participate in religion classes and attend Mass.

If you want to sit with your child at Mass, please meet in the vestibule before Mass so the teachers know where your child will be seated.

As a Catholic school family we value and promote our opportunities to develop a personal and communal prayer life through prayer and scripture in the classroom.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The SMG Administration, teachers and support staff firmly believe that working together with parents is the most successful way to support all of our students and especially those with any kind of special need. If it is determined that an SMG student has a special need to become a successful student, we will follow the procedures below to work together to support the student:

- The parent and/or teacher identifies a concern that impedes a student’s progress in the classroom.
- The parent and teacher work together to implement strategies to support the student with the identified concern. These strategies may involve the student and our SMG Counselor, Reading Specialist, or SMG Learning Resource Teachers working together.
- The teacher may recommend further evaluation outside of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School if the implemented strategies have not been successful. This evaluation process may begin with the student’s pediatrician or with the Madison Metropolitan School District.
- If the continued evaluation is with the pediatrician, the parent/s will take the lead on working with the pediatrician or another professional that is recommended. A communication system between parent-teacher and outside professional should be set up to address the needs of the student. SMG teachers are more than willing to work with outside professionals to support their students.
- If the continued evaluation is with the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), the teacher will take the lead in organizing the appropriate intervention. The following MMSD programs are available to our students:
 - Student Service Intervention Team (SSIT) Meeting:
The SSIT meeting will consist of the parents, teacher and an MMSD teacher. After gathering all student information, the outcome of this SSIT meeting is to determine the course of action to address the needs of the student. If further evaluation is to take place, the MMSD teacher will come to SMG to observe and evaluate the student. A final meeting to report the findings of the observation and evaluation will be held with the parent/s, teacher and MMSD teacher.
 - Title I Reading and Math Instruction:
First of all, students need to qualify by having an address that is in the boundary of a Title I MMSD school. If students qualify by address and their teacher feels that the Title I services would be a good support, the student will have a short evaluation to see if they qualify for the Title I services. An MMSD teacher will come to SMG to work with students for Title I services. SMG teachers will contact parents for permission before any Title I evaluation or service begins.
 - ELL Screening:

SMG students who speak English and another language in their home may be given the ACCESS evaluation. This evaluation is administered by our SMG Learning Resource Teacher. The results of this evaluation help determine if there are any areas of the English language where the student needs extra support. Parents will be notified before their student takes this evaluation.

- **Speech Articulation:**

If there is a concern for speech articulation, the SMG teacher or SMG Learning Resource teacher will give the student a speech inventory to determine if there is a need to pursue an evaluation by the MMSD speech teacher. If an SMG student is found to qualify for speech intervention, and MMSD speech teacher will come to SMG to work with the student. Parents will be notified before any of this process begins.

- **Private Tutoring:** Sometimes it is decided by the teacher and parent that private tutoring would be a good support for the student.
 - SMG does allow private tutors to come into our building during the school day. However, SMG teachers need to refer students for private tutoring during the school day. And, the parent needs to submit a request for this tutoring to the principal in writing or email for approval.
 - Private tutoring after school hours is scheduled by the parent.
 - SMG teachers are willing to coordinate with the tutor to support their student.

GRADING

Students in grades 1-8 receive a report card at the end of each academic quarter. Art, Music, PE, and Computer classes will be graded on effort each quarter. Achievement grades for these classes will only be given at semester.

Students in kindergarten receive semester report cards (January and June).

K-2nd Grading Scale:

M	Meeting grade level expectations
D	Developing grade level expectations
N	Not meeting grade level expectations

3rd-4th Grading Scale:

1	Exceeding grade level expectations
2	Meeting grade level expectations
3	Developing grade level expectations
4	Not meeting grade level expectations

5th-8th Grading Scale:

A= 95	C=72
A-= 93	C-=70
B+= 91	D+= 68
B= 85	D= 62
B-+ 83	D-= 60
C== 81	F=0

Effort Code of Conduct Scale:

+	Exceeds expectations
=	Meets expectations
^	Progressing towards expectations
-	Needs Improvement

CONFERENCES

First semester conferences with all parents and teachers are scheduled after the first quarter. Second semester conferences may occur at teachers or parents request. Please contact the teacher to set up.

When an individual concern arises, the first step for the parent is to see the teacher or person most immediately involved. Usually the problem can be solved. If satisfaction is not reached, then parents are to see the principal who will help work out an acceptable solution.

HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned as a means to help students review, understand and enrich subject matter taught during class. Homework is an expectation for all grades K-8.

Time will vary with age of student. Please be aware that some classroom instruction during absences cannot be made up.

Students are to come to class prepared. Teachers and parents need to communicate if a student is having difficulty with homework.

Homework is automatically collected for sick children and left in the classroom. Parents who wish to get daily homework for an absent student should request the school office by 9:00 a.m. Assignments can be picked up at the school office at the time of dismissal or requested to go home with another student.

Parents should check with their child's teacher if he/she will be absent due to vacation. Teachers are not required to give homework in the anticipation for a vacation. However, the teacher could determine if there is work that could be completed prior or during the vacation.

BAND

The St. Maria Goretti Band program is provided through Overture Band (877-1313). Students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to participate. Introductory information will be sent home with all students in grades 4-8. Returning band students will receive sign-up materials during the summer. Please call Overture directly with questions pertaining to this program.

PETS

Please note that pets are not to be brought to school for any purpose; not for drop off or pick up, or for show and tell. They should remain in the car. There are many students who have severe allergies. Also, some people are very uncomfortable around animals.

APPOINTMENTS

The value of conferring with teachers/staff cannot be over-emphasized, but a teacher may not be interrupted during class except in an emergency. If you wish to confer with a teacher or with the principal, please make an appointment by calling the office during the school day and that person will return your call.

COMMUNICATION

All paper correspondence from the office and classroom will come home with your child each Friday, via the red Friday Folder. Tuition bills will be emailed to you. Hot lunch balances are available on the FACTS System. Calendars, menus and other sheets will be available on the school website for you.

You may return any paperwork, or bills through the Red Folder. All folders will be collected each morning and all necessary paperwork turned into the office. Please join us in making SMG a greener place and save a tree or two! Please note that the Friday Folder is not a forum for invitations and such.

The office sends out a weekly email with pertinent information.

All forgotten items must be dropped off at the school office. Student use of the telephone is limited to emergency situations only - no student has permission to call his/her parents for forgotten articles. Phone calls are limited to encourage responsibility with students. This includes homework, gym clothes, projects, books, musical instruments, rides home at dismissal time, making plans to visit friends, etc. The phone is not to be used to make play dates after school.

All calls should be made from the office-not the classroom or a cell phone.

IV TECHNOLOGY

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, music/game devices are not to be used at SMG during the day. Any electronic equipment used during the school day will be confiscated. Parents/guardians need to pick them up in the office. They will not be returned directly to the student. After second offense, device will be kept until the end of the school year.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND RIGHT TO PRIVACY

During the course of a school year, individual students and student groups are occasionally videotaped and/or photographed in the classroom situations, during fine arts performances, and on field trips etc.

The resulting photo and/or video may be used in a variety of ways to promote the school, to instruct students or staff members, or to orient new parents, staff, and students. The final product could also take a variety of forms: photo displays, slide presentations, newspaper articles, pamphlets, video programs, school yearbook, school website and social media.

No last names of students will be used on any of these websites. A last initial may be used for information posted on the SMG website and Teacher Page in the event there are multiple children with the same first name.

Pursuant to the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act and State Statute 118.125(1)(d), any parent/guardian or eligible student (18 years of age or older) may inform the school of their desire that their child not be photographed or videotaped. If this is your desire, please send a letter indicating such to St. Maria Goretti School, Attention: The Principal.

VII ASSOCIATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

VIRTUS TRAINING/BACKGROUND CHECK

Any person that wants to work or volunteer with the children at SMG must show proof of completing the Protecting God's Children or the VIRTUS Program online. Here you will give the necessary information for a Background Check, read the necessary information, and agree to the policies of the Diocese of Madison about keeping all children safe.

Please do the following to assure yourself of compliance. Log into the Catholic Diocese of Madison (<https://madisondiocese.org/>) , go to the Safe Environment tab and then click on the VIRTUS Program Information. Follow the directions to complete the coursework. The whole process should take just under an hour.

Once you have successfully completed the VIRTUS program online your name will be added to the registry of all those in compliance. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

ATHLETICS

All students in grades 5-8 may participate in interscholastic sports as part of the Madison Area Independent Sports League. Regulations for participation in the Sports League are explained in the St. Maria Goretti Athletic Handbook available from the SMG Athletic Association or on the school website.

The Athletic Board of the Home and School Association provides personnel and equipment required for participation in the Sports League. A nominal per sport participation fee is required.

Sports currently offered are:

Boys

Football (Flag)
Basketball
Track and Field
Volleyball
Cross Country

Girls

Volleyball
Basketball
Softball
Track and Field
Cross Country

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

St. Maria Goretti Catholic School boasts of an outstanding Home and School Association. Through this organization, parents and teachers work together to provide optimal conditions for true growth in Christian education. All parents are urged to become active members of the Home and School association and to participate in its activities.

**Please access our website for list of members.

Board members have a two year term, with the option of 2 more years.

ROOM PARENTS

Room Parent coordinators hold a position on the Home and School Board and organize all the other room parents. Each class is assigned two room parents to aid in implementing class, school, or Home & School Association projects. Requests go out annually in March for the following year.

PARENT/GUARDIAN MEDICATION CONSENT FORM

(Please type or print)

Full name of child to be medicated: _____

Name of drug and dosage: _____

Hour(s) medication to be given: _____ Number of days: _____

Name of Student's Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Reason for medication: _____

Name of person(s) authorized to give medication during school hours _____

(to be completed by school principal or designated office staff)

My child has permission to self-administer the medication, but I request school staff monitor or assist my child when he/she administers medication on the following basis:

(indicate if not applicable)

I hereby give permission to the above named person(s) to give the medication(s) to my child according to the directions stated above the further authorize them to contact the child's physician, if necessary. I agree to hold the school, its employees and agents who are acting within the scope of their duties harmless in any and all claims arising from the administration of medication at school.

I agree to notify the school in writing at the termination of this request or when any changes in the above order is necessary.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Address

Home Phone

Work Phone

Before the school or an agent thereof will administer a prescription drug(s) or medication(s), a PHYSICIAN ORDER FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION shall be completed and returned to the school principal. This completed form shall be accompanied by the PARENT/GUARDIAN MEDICATION CONSENT FORM.

This form (Parent/Guardian Medication Consent) must also be completed for the administration of non-prescription (over-the-counter) drug(s) or medication(s), which do not require the Physician Order.

PHYSICIAN'S ORDER FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION
(Please print or type)

Date: _____

Re: Administration of Medication to: _____

Dear Dr. _____:

Pursuant to the request of _____, the parent/guardian of _____, the following individual(s) has/have been identified to administer medication to the above referenced student in the school setting:

In order to proceed with the administration of the medication you have prescribed, and to ensure that you retain the power to direct, supervise, decide, inspect and oversee the administration of this medication, please complete to following form. Direct and address this information to the individual(s) identified above.

Please note that your signature on this document attests to your willingness and intent to direct, supervise, decide, inspect, and oversee the administration of the medication by the non-medically trained designees specified on this form, and that you will accept direct communications from them regarding the administration of the medication. We urge that all instructions be stated in a clear, concise form.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have questions.

School Principal or other school designee

TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN

To: _____
(Person designated to administer medication)

Name of Student: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

School: _____

Physician's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Diagnosis: _____

Medication/dose/route/frequency/duration _____

Medication/dose/route/frequency/duration _____

Check One: Short term _____ Long term _____

PRN (as the situation demands) Medications: _____

Medication/ dose/route/frequency/duration: _____

Medication/dose/route/frequency/duration: _____

If a PRN medication, the condition, the conditions under which medication is to be given are as follows:

Check One: Short term _____ Long term _____

The Specific conditions under which contact should be made with me in relation to the condition or reaction of the student receiving the medication are as follows:

Physician's Signature

ADDENDUM TO FAMILY HANDBOOK DUE TO COVID-19

ARRIVAL

- When students arrive they are to go immediately to the door assigned for their grade level, have their temperature taken and walk to their homeroom.
- Students will not be allowed to linger on the playground.

DISMISSAL

- For K-4 parents should wait in their cars until they see the teachers bring the students out. Come to pick up your child and return to your car. Do not linger on the playground.
- 5-8 will be dismissed from their assigned door and will walk to the car to meet you.
- No one is allowed on the playground structure after school.

PE CLOTHING

- Grades 5-8 will not be changing in to their regular PE clothing. They will stay in their uniform. Tennis shoes should be worn on the day of PE class. Most days they will be going outside.
- If PE is held in the gym masks will be worn.
- If PE is outside masks may be required depending on the activity scheduled.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- If you attending Face to Face please contact the school office if your child is not able to attend by 8:30.
- If you are an Extension Learner you must email Beth Wilson by 8:30 every day to take attendance.

VACATIONS

- If you have been on vacation or are planning on vacationing we ask that you consider all of the SMG families and self-quarantine before your return to school.

SCHOOL SECURITY

- All recesses will be supervised by school staff only.
- Field trips will not be planned until further notice.
- Visitors will be limited to the school office. Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer provided.

LUNCH

- Lunch will be eaten in the classroom.
- There are times that classes will eat their lunch outside.
- Hot lunch will be provided but with a scaled down menu.
- SMG staff will supervise lunch and lunch recess.
- Students will be assigned a playground area for their homeroom only.
- Students with peanut allergies or any other food allergy will remain at their desks in the classroom for lunch

HEALTH

- If a child has a fever of 100 degrees or over they must be fever free for 72 hours without a fever reducer.
- If a student was told they were exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19:
 1. Let the school know that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
 2. Follow the exclusions and/or restrictions including quarantine requirements and return to school guidelines.
 3. If you do not develop symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) or a fever greater than 100.0 F, you can return to school after 14 days.
 4. If you develop symptoms during quarantine, immediately isolate yourself and follow the return to school guidelines outlined below.
- Symptomatic students (regardless of confirmed COVID-19 test) can come out of isolation after **all three of these things have happened.**
 1. You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fever) **AND**
 2. Other symptoms have improved (for example your cough and shortness of breath have improved) **AND**
 3. At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
 4. Students with symptoms but determined by a doctor of a Non-COVID illness may return to school following 72 hours of no temperature or clearance from a doctor.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- Only individually wrapped prepackaged treats will be allowed. It must be something that the student can bring in themselves. Parents will not be allowed into the classroom.
- Consider non-food items as birthday treats.
- Always check with your teacher before planning any celebration.
- Check to see if that snack is peanut- free.

MASS

- Children will not be attending Mass during the first three weeks of school. When Masses are planned at a later time there will only a few classes attending. They will be socially distancing.
- Receiving Holy Communion will be optional.

TUTORS/ TITLE 1/TITLE II/SPEECH

- Services provided by the Public Schools will be done virtually.
- Private tutoring will not be allowed in the building.

CONFERENCES/OPEN HOUSE

- Conferences and Open House will done using our technology for meetings. They will not be done face to face.
- More information will follow.

BAND

- Band will not be provided in the building.
- Overture Band will be contacting families individually to discuss possibilities.

ATHLETICS

- Currently there are no interscholastic sports being scheduled.

***St. Maria Goretti Catholic School, in order to help facilitate and maintain a continuity of learning for students who have chosen Extension Learning, are ill or are quarantined at home, will be using livestream technology. Livestreaming allows a video and audio feed of the actual classroom to be transmitted over the internet to be viewed and heard by students who stay at home. This means that the images and voices of your child(ren) may appear in the livestream feed from his/her teacher on any day that the child(ren) is present at school.