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## **Welcome parents, students and families!**

Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with the policies, rules and regulations of Assumption Catholic School. Your children are dear to us and all of our work and efforts are expended on their behalf. Please keep this handbook in a safe place and refer to it often. In this Family Handbook, the term parent refers not only to a student's natural or adopted parent, but to a student's non-parent legal guardian or to any person or agency authorized to act in place of parents.

All employees of ACS, volunteers, and parents are required to sign an Agreement Form stating that they have read the Family Handbook and agree to abide by and be legally bound by its provisions. Parents must also agree that their children will abide by the rules, regulations and policies of ACS. This signature form will be given to parents at Back-to-School night and must be signed and returned by **September 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The Family Handbook is subject to amendment, when deemed necessary, by the Assumption Catholic School administration. If changes are made to the Handbook, families will be notified promptly and the new information will be posted online. The ACS Family Handbook is also posted on the Assumption Catholic School website: [assumptioncatholicschool.net](http://assumptioncatholicschool.net). Further details regarding our operating policies can be requested through the ACS school office.

### **Philosophy Statement**

We strive to give all students in Pre-K through Grade 8 a firm foundation in the truths of the Catholic faith, with an appreciation for the traditions of our Ukrainian Rite, and with the moral and academic training necessary for "growing daily in wisdom, virtue and understanding."

- We believe that the ultimate goal of Catholic education is salvation in Jesus Christ.
- We believe that all our endeavors are to be directed to the greater glory of God, the honor of the Most Pure Virgin Mary and the spiritual good of our students.
- We believe in promoting faithfulness to the teaching magisterium of the Holy Catholic Church and in helping our students to grow spiritually through prayer and participation in the Sacraments.
- We believe in instilling our children with a deep conviction about the sanctity of every human life from the moment of conception until natural death.
- We believe in open communication, mutual support and cooperation between the family and school.
- We believe in offering a well-rounded curriculum, one that is conducive to the intellectual, physical, aesthetic and social development of each child.
- We believe in providing a strong foundation in basic academic skills for each student to build upon.
- We believe that the diverse intellectual needs of our students are best met by employing a variety of teaching methods and strategies.
- We believe that within a caring and supportive environment all students can be successful learners.
- We believe in the Catholic philosophy of education as expressed in the writings of the late Pope John Paul II.
- We believe that our good example will best guide students to lead lives distinguished by joy, generosity, responsibility, service, compassion and integrity.

### **School History**

Acting on Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky's wish to build parochial schools as a mainstay of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, plans for the construction of an elementary school were initiated by then pastor of Ukrainian Assumption Church, Monsignor Yaroslav Gabro. Upon his elevation to the episcopacy in 1960, his successor, Father Stephen Sulyk, undertook the completion of this important project.

In September of 1963, Ukrainian Catholic School of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School was officially opened. The operation of the school was entrusted to the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God. The school opened with two teachers: Sr. Josepha and Sr. Yosaphata. Sr. Josepha Kruchinsky, MSMG, was principal and taught at the school until 1994. Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, MSMG, became vice principal in 1985, taught until 2004, and continues to serve as assistant principal, school secretary and finance manager. Under their leadership, the foundation for a quality Catholic education with a focus on the Ukrainian Rite, language, and culture was established and continues to permeate the learning environment at our school. Members of this religious congregation, along with a dedicated lay faculty, continue to staff the school.

The parish plays a vital role in providing a spiritual and economical support system that upholds the existence of the school. Fr. Roman Dubitsky became our pastor in 1981. He replaced Fr. Stephen Sulyk who became the Archbishop of our Ukrainian Church. Reverend Roman Dubitsky retired in 2010 after almost 30 years of dedicated service. Father Ivan Turyk is currently the pastor of Assumption Parish. As school administrator, the pastor directs the school finances and sets policies in accordance with diocesan directives, and the ongoing needs of the school.

In 1994, the school completed its first self-study and was fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. That same year, Sr. Vladimyra Leskin, MSMG, succeeded Sr. Josepha, MSMG, as principal. She served in this capacity for seven years, overseeing the renovation of the school basement area into a library/media center and a science laboratory.

In 2001, Mrs. Melanie Lawrence, former teacher and lifelong parishioner, was appointed principal of the school. Through her efforts, a Pre-K program was added to the school in 2003. Each classroom was also equipped with internet connections, as well as computers, televisions, and DVD/VCRs. In 2006, the name of our school was officially shortened to Assumption Catholic School (ACS). The school was re-accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in 2007, and it was at this time that the School Advisory Board was established.

In the fall of 2007, Mr. Michael Szpyhulsky was appointed principal, which coincided with the initiation of our school website. He has worked diligently and used technology funding to update most of the classrooms with interactive Smart boards, document readers, laptop computers, streaming video and new software programs. In 2008, Mr. Szpyhulsky added Spanish classes to the world language curriculum for Grades 6, 7, & 8. In 2009, he implemented the Honeywell Instant Alert System, introduced the PowerSchool on-line grading system, and had new lighting installed throughout the school. Thanks to a benevolent parishioner, new windows were installed in 2010. During the spring of 2012, the computer infrastructure of the school was completely updated to include a new server, filtering appliance, battery-backup and most importantly, wireless connectivity throughout the entire school. Mr. Szpyhulsky was part of the process of ACS receiving their AdvancEd Certification.

In July of 2017, alumnus and teacher, Mrs. Lissette Shumny, was appointed principal of the school. She served as a teacher for over ten years and was the Supervisor of Language Arts Curriculum. Mrs. Shumny's focus on academic excellence and commitment to Catholic school education is evident in her planning. Her focus will be on professional development for teachers and on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for all students. Mrs. Shumny wants to ensure that the leaders of tomorrow are equipped with the spiritual and academic foundation they need to succeed.

### **Admission Policy**

Students entering kindergarten are assessed in the summer. Admission to kindergarten is contingent upon readiness as evidenced by test results. The Archdiocese requires that children entering Pre-K 4 must be four by October 31, and kindergarteners must be five years of age by October 31. It is a requirement that new students entering Grades 6-8 attend a pre-admission interview with the principal and a faculty member.

Assumption Catholic School does not make any distinction based on race, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability (if with reasonable accommodation the child's needs could be met). Registration for new students begins each year during Catholic Schools' Week, which occurs in the latter part of January. Every child currently attending our school should be re-registered for the following school year by the end of February. A non-refundable registration fee must accompany each registration.

For new students the following must be submitted at the time of registration:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Immunization Records
3. Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)
4. Current Physical Examination
5. Academic Records for transfer students
6. Registration Forms
7. Registration Fee

Priority for admission is given in the following order:

1. Students currently enrolled
2. Siblings of current or formerly enrolled students
3. Families who are active members of Ukrainian Assumption Church
4. Catholic Families of other parishes
5. Non-Catholic Families desiring a Catholic education for their children

A child cannot be considered officially registered until all the above requirements have been fulfilled. Students are admitted to Assumption Catholic School with the approval of the administration and faculty. A new parent orientation meeting takes place in mid August every year.

### **Tuition and Family Service Obligations**

Assumption Catholic School tuition is paid directly to Smart Tuition Management Services. Payments are usually due on the 10th or 20th of each month. The company keeps records of payment and monthly statements are issued to each family. Parents are expected to make prompt payments, as this is essential for the day-to-day operation of the school. There is an automatic \$60.00 monthly surcharge for delinquent payments. Further information about this program, tuition payment plans, a list of school service obligations, and other fees/assessments are included in the registration packet and on our website. **Failure to meet financial and/or service obligations will result in extra charges or assessments, non-issuance of final grades or report cards, and legal proceedings.**

**Return checks fee: Any checks made directly to the school which are returned for non-sufficient funds will be charged \$30.**

Delinquent Tuition:

- A. Unpaid tuition from previous school years prevents re-enrollment at ACS until a meeting is scheduled between parents and school and to ensure all financial obligations are met
- B. The school reserves the right to cancel the registration of any student whose family fails to meet tuition payments at any point during the school year.
- C. Each Marking Period, access to the PowerSchool program and the release of report cards will be denied to families whose tuition is delinquent.
- D. The school will not release any academic records or transcripts if tuition payments are not up to date. Likewise, no such student will be permitted to participate at graduation.
- E. Students may not be allowed to participate in school-sponsored activities (trips, clubs, sports, etc.) if tuition payments are not up to date.
- F. Prospective applicants owing tuition to a previously attended school will not be accepted for enrollment.

## Curriculum

The curriculum follows the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for elementary schools and includes the following academic subjects: Mathematics, Science, Language Arts (phonics, grammar, penmanship, reading, English, spelling, creative writing) and Social Studies. Weekly classes in Physical Education, Art, Music, Ukrainian Culture (grades PK-4), Spanish Language (grades 5-8), Library, and Computer enrich this program of studies. Accelerated Math classes are offered to grades fifth through seventh, as well as an Algebra I class for eighth grade. In order to be placed in either of these classes, student must have an A in their previous year's math class, have a Terra Nova Math average in the ninetieth percentile, an A/B+ on the advanced placement test (given in September) and have a teacher recommendation.

**Religious Education:** At Assumption Catholic School, religious education is offered daily at each grade level. It is directed toward the person in view of his/her eternal salvation, the good of society and his/her duties in life. The beauty of the Catholic Faith is woven into all subjects so that it becomes a way of life and not just a separate subject. By doing so, the child comes to realize that the principal activity of learning is knowledge of God. Children are introduced to both the Eastern and Western Catholic traditions through religious instruction and participation in various liturgical celebrations.

Students are required to participate in daily prayer, weekly Divine Liturgy, and monthly reception of the Sacrament of Penance. These weekly Masses do not substitute for Sunday Mass obligation. Parents are reminded of the need to assure regular weekend Mass attendance at their home parish. All are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities provided during the school year to practice charitable works, and to share their time and talents with others.

Every student, regardless of creed, is expected to participate in religion classes, prayers, retreats, conferences, and liturgical services scheduled throughout the year. Families must understand that Assumption Catholic School exists to educate students in a framework of Catholic truths and values.

Grades sixth through eighth are required to perform a certain amount of community service hours, which is part of their Religion grade. Community service refers to action taken to meet the needs of others and to better the community as a whole. Students and parents are notified of teacher requirements at Back-to-School Night.

## Grading and PowerSchool

Scholastic achievement for all subjects in Grades K to 8 is reported to parents. These subjects include Religion, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Computer, Music, Physical Education and World Language. ALL subjects are used to calculate grade averages for the Honor Roll. The first and third marking period report card is distributed to parents during a scheduled afternoon or evening conference with the teacher. The second and fourth marking period report card is sent home with the student. The Pre-K class has a separate grading system for academic growth and development.

PowerSchool is an on-line grade book where you can monitor your child's academic and attendance record throughout the marking period. Parents log onto their PowerSchool account to follow their child's/children's on-going performance in each subject. New parents will receive their passwords at the beginning of the school year. In order for returning students to receive log-in information, parent must send an email or note to the principal and it will be sent home within 48 hours.

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued to pre-kindergarten students two times each year: mid-year and end of year. The code for a Pre-Kindergarten report card is:

- M= Mastery
- P= Partial Mastery
- N=Non-Mastery

### KINDERGARTEN REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued to kindergarten students three times each year: second marking period, third marking period, fourth marking period. The code for a kindergarten report card is:

- C = Consistently Observed
- S = Sometimes Observed
- X = Practice and support needed
- N/A = Not assessed during this marking period

### GRADES 1-2 REPORT CARDS

- O = OUTSTANDING
- VG = VERY GOOD
- G = GOOD
- S = SATISFACTORY
- I = IMPROVEMENT NEEDED
- U = UNSATISFACTORY

### GRADES 3-8 REPORT CARDS

- |             |           |            |           |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| A+ = 97-100 | A = 93-96 | B+ = 89-92 | B = 85-88 |
| C+ = 80-84  | C = 75-79 | D = 70-74  | F = 0-69  |

All teachers will record grades for classes 1-8 using PowerSchool. Semesters and final grades are averaged electronically.

Exception: If a student is performing unsatisfactorily, the teacher will contact the student's parent. In grades 1-8 all student's progress report, in all subjects, are available each quarter via PowerSchool. (It is the parent's responsibility to know grades and teacher's comments can be reviewed through PowerSchool.) Grades can be reviewed daily by following the application procedures of PowerSchool. On Back to School Night, teachers will inform parents of the process that will involve papers, tests and communication method.

Occasionally, an acceptable academic performance for the beginning part of the marking period is followed by a poor performance for the latter. Under these circumstances a student may fail a subject for a marking period even though the midpoint of a marking period indicated satisfactory performance. Teachers are encouraged to notify parents. However, parents need to be reviewing their child/ren's grades before, during and at the closing of the marking period.

### Promotion and Retention

Promotion to the next grade at Assumption Catholic School is not to be taken for granted. In considering a child for promotion, the teacher evaluates the child's academic achievement demonstrated by the mastery of the required skills in those subject areas appropriate to the given grade. Achievement is viewed in relation to the child's overall development, ability, and personal growth. If a student does not demonstrate adequate academic achievement, as determined by the teacher and principal, a conference with parents will be scheduled as soon as it is apparent that there is a possibility of retention. Attendance can impact a student's promotion (see attendance policy). A plan for remediation may be implemented and goals set in order to establish criteria for the student's promotion. The Principal is ultimately responsible for the grade placement of students in the school and will make final decisions.

### Standardized Testing

Annually a Diocese of Metuchen chosen standardized achievement test is administered to children in grades 1-8 in the spring. Grades 5-8 take midterm exam and end of year final exam in all major subjects (5<sup>th</sup> grade only in Language Arts and Math). Specific details are given to the parents at "Back-to-School" night.

## **Graduation**

Eighth graders at ACS must complete all coursework, including service time, to be eligible to be promoted. Students graduate at a Divine Liturgy in June. A graduation fee is assessed and sent home in April. Graduates are well celebrated at ACS. Prior to graduation day, there is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade hosted party and an FSA sponsored trip. Then, after the graduation, the FSA prepares a breakfast at which several awards are presented. Participation in party, trip, and breakfast is a privilege and dependent upon a student's cooperative behavior all year long.

Please Note: Every High School has application deadline dates that are dictated by the high school, NOT ACS. In order to ensure timely delivery we need to know where your child is going (or narrowed down their choices) by mid to late October.

## **Honor Roll**

Academic Honors are recognized for students in grades 3-8. All subject averages are used to determine student honor roll status.

First Honors: An average from 93-100, with no grade below a 90

Second Honors: An average from 85-92, with no grade below a 82

Honorable Mention: Exemplary effort and attitude, nothing lower than a 75

## **Academic Competitions**

Each year, ACS is invited to several High School Academic Competitions. All students are selected using highest grade point averages, leadership skills, public speaking skills and behavior. Competition organizer will discuss the criteria with students.

## **Homework**

Students are expected to complete homework assignments, whether written, electronically, reading, studying, or otherwise, in a timely manner. Assignments, especially studying, are to be faithfully undertaken with a serious approach. Each student will purchase an assignment "Planner" book, through ACS, and use it daily. They are not permitted to return to the classroom after dismissal to retrieve forgotten books or materials unless they and a supervising parent have checked into the office for permission.

Consequences and notification of incomplete homework varies with grade levels. These age appropriate procedures are explained in individual classrooms during Back to School Night. Posting homework, projects and test schedules, should assist parents to become more directly involved in their child's education. It will foster communication between home and school. Classroom Teachers will explain to parents how to access the information. Homework is neither a reward nor a punishment. It is a supplement and reinforcement to help develop certain skills. Parents can help their children by arranging for a definite supervised homework study period. Parents should monitor proper hours for sleeping and supervision of TV/Netflix programs, Social Media and any other "screen time" activities.

A few suggestions in this area:

- Homework should be without distraction
- Do not do homework for your child, though you are encouraged to point out principles involved, give illustrations, etc.
- Do not confuse the student with methods not in use in the school
- Encourage your child to complete work neatly and carefully, then check the results; a teacher will not accept work that is done carelessly
- Teachers, for their part will post homework assignments for student reference.
- Homework is rarely done in school. All students should have assignment pads. Parents are encouraged to sign completed assignments. The teacher may require this.

A guideline for homework: Kindergarten = 10 minutes, Grade 1 = 20 minutes, Grades 2 = 30, Grade 3 = 40 minutes, Grade 4 = 50 minutes, Grades 5 = 60 minutes, Grades 6 = 70 minutes Grades 7 = 80 minutes, Grades 8 = 90 minutes

Please note these are guidelines are affected by each student's personal work style. Excessive time spent on homework indicates a child's work style problem that should be brought to the teacher's attention. Students are responsible for knowing their individual teachers' policies regarding homework. When a student is absent, in grades K-2, it is a parent's responsibility to consult with a teacher regarding make-ups when the student returns to school. In grades 3-8 it is the student's responsibility to consult with the teacher. Adequate time will be given to make-up missed assignments.

### Discipline Policy

It is recognized that parents send their children to ACS because of our high goals, standards, philosophy, and mission. One of the aims of a Catholic school education is to help students adopt and nurture virtues and traits that will mold them into responsible and contributing members of their school, family, church and society. One of the most important things we try to instill in each student is a respect for the dignity of all members of the school community.

The faculty and administration of Assumption Catholic School expect each student to comply with the following Code of Conduct:

- 1.) To practice Christian courtesy and charity toward all
- 2.) To cooperate fully with those entrusted with authority
- 3.) To be diligent in pursuing their studies
- 4.) To be accountable for their actions
- 5.) To abide by all established classroom and school rules

Parents have the primary obligation of correcting and disciplining their children at home. The school's function is to be an institution of learning, not disciplining. However, when students fail to respect the rights of others, or go against the rules and regulations of the school, it becomes imperative to discipline them to teach them the injustice of their actions. While all students are expected to abide by the discipline code, consequences will be determined on an individual basis, with fairness and Christian compassion. The following behaviors are deemed unacceptable:

- bias
- talking back
- lying
- profanity
- pushing
- violence
- slander
- hazing
- forgery
- stealing
- fighting
- littering
- gossiping
- vandalism
- graffiti
- retaliation
- pornography
- being defiant
- disorderly conduct
- name-calling
- making threats
- gum chewing
- cyber-bullying
- disrespect of property
- disrupting the class
- disturbing others
- racism
- talking out of turn
- violence
- using God's name in vain
- gestures
- shoving
- harassment, intimidation and bullying
- getting out of seat repeatedly
- illegal substances: drugs and alcohol
- disrespectful or inappropriate language
- disobeying authority
- inappropriate body contact, facial expressions and noises
- inappropriate use of technology i.e. sexting, social media, internet
- possession of non-school related items; i.e., iPods, electronic toys, weapons



Any student who engages in conduct, whether in or out of school, that interrupts the educational setting, is unbecoming of a student from a Catholic school, and/or is detrimental to the reputation of the school, may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Possible consequences for unacceptable behavior:

Verbal Warning	Parent/Faculty Conference
Loss of privileges	Out-of-school suspension**
Lunch detention	Behavior Contract/Counseling**
Written Warning*	Disciplinary probation**
Before school detention*	Provisionary status in school**
In-school suspension*	Expulsion from school**

Serious violations against the discipline policy will result in consultation with law enforcement agencies according to the Memorandum of Agreement for Catholic Schools between the Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey and Law Enforcement Officials. If deemed necessary, ACS reserves the right to search (and disable) anything found on school property, i.e. coats, backpacks, desks, cubbies, USBs, cell phones, etc., at any time. ACS administration is the final recourse in all disciplinary matters, and may at its discretion waive any or all disciplinary regulations for just cause.

### **Bullying Policy**

At ACS parents and teachers work together to share our Catholic faith with our children by helping them to realize that God loves them. Our God is a God of love, and there is no place at ACS for harassing, intimidating or bullying behavior. Each student, teacher, and administrator at ACS is unique, gifted, valued, and has the right to feel safe and accepted, and is an important part of our school community.

There are generally four types of bullying behaviors. These behaviors and some examples are identified below:

- Verbal** - Includes taunting, name-calling, malicious teasing or making threats (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001);
- Psychological** - Includes spreading rumors, purposefully excluding people from activities, breaking up friendships (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001);
- Physical** - Includes hitting, punching, shoving, spitting or taking personal belongings (U.S. Department of Justice, 2001); and
- Cyberbullying** - Includes using the Internet, mobile phone or other digital technologies to harm others. (DuPage County Anti-Bullying Model Policy and Best Practices, 2011).

The Assumption Catholic School Anti-Bullying Committee is comprised of:

Mrs. Seifert, School Nurse 732-826-8721

Mrs. Derevenska, Teacher [mdeverenska@assumptioncatholicsschool.net](mailto:mdeverenska@assumptioncatholicsschool.net)

Mrs. Vattelana, Teacher [dvattelana@assumptioncatholicsschool.net](mailto:dvattelana@assumptioncatholicsschool.net)

Mrs. Lawrence, Teacher [mlawrence@assumptioncatholicsschool.net](mailto:mlawrence@assumptioncatholicsschool.net)

Mrs. Shumny, Principal [lshumny@assumptioncatholicsschool.net](mailto:lshumny@assumptioncatholicsschool.net)

ACS has a strict No Bullying Policy. ACS's policy prohibits the harassment, intimidation and bullying on school property, school sponsored functions and school buses. This policy includes incidents that may have occurred off-campus and interfere with the academic school day (when it becomes known to the School administration).

Anyone who has been the victim of bullying needs to tell his/her parent, a teacher, or administrator.

In complying with the NJ State Bill of Rights Policy, the following Procedures shall be observed:

1. After student reports an incident to an adult, student **MUST** fill out a Harassment Intimidation Bullying (HIB) Incident Report Form. A meeting will be held with the Principal and the student.
2. Parents of student(s) involved will be contacted by the end of the day and notified of any investigation taking place by the ACS Principal.

3. A written report from the victim and the bully will be required by the school administration. Investigation notes and information will be gathered by the classroom teacher and the principal. The Anti-Bullying Committee will meet within 7 school days. A Parent/Student meeting with each family involved will be arranged by the school.
4. If the incident is determined by the ACS Anti-Bullying Committee to be a case of harassment, the bully will be required to make amends for his/her actions and accept appropriate consequences. Parents will be required to work on improving and changing the behavior of their child.
5. Formal written documentation will be kept on file in the School Office for the entire time the student (bully) remains in the school.
6. If at any time, the same behavior persists with the same victim or another victim, a second parent meeting will be held with the school administration.
7. Parents of the victim will be informed of their right to file a formal police report. Ongoing Professional counseling of the bully will be required as well as a formal notice from the private counselor that the bully is attending sessions. The bully will receive a two-day at-home suspension.
8. If the same behavior persists, the complaint will be handed over to the Perth Amboy Police Department. The bully will be expelled from the school.

In addition:

- Reprisal or retaliation toward the person who reports an act of harassing behavior is prohibited.
- Parents shall be informed each year that there is no place for harassment, intimidation or bullying at ACS.
- The School will administer the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Program (NJ CAP), as well as other quality programs to all children in K-8 when funding is available. ACS is committed to administering quality programs annually.

All forms of bullying are unacceptable and are disruptive of the educational process. Offenders shall be subject to appropriate staff intervention and administrative discipline.

ACS provides a system for students to use in the schools that will enable them to anonymously report to the administration incidents of: bullying, harassment, cyber-bullying, violence, threats, weapons possession, alcohol or drug related issues, hazing, discrimination, ethics violations such as cheating or plagiarism, or other harmful or inappropriate conduct.

In complying with this Policy, the following Procedures shall be observed:

- Stop!t is the mobile and web reporting tool selected by the Diocese of Metuchen and has been implemented since September 2018 at ACS. **Our Access Code is: LetsGoACS**

### **Conflict vs. Bullying**

Conflict is different than bullying. Not all disagreements and fights are bullying. Conflict is a normal part of human interaction and arises frequently in our day to day lives. Part of learning to be independent and grown up is learning how to deal with and respond appropriately to conflict at home, at school, and in your community. Recognizing the difference between conflict and bullying will help students, parents and teachers know how to respond.

**Conflict is:**

- A disagreement
- All parties have equal power to solve the problem
- All parties have an equal interest in the outcome
- All parties are of relatively equal size, age or status
- A conflict can be resolved by talking or working things out together or with help from an adult.

### **Bullying is:**

- Not a disagreement
- A repeated form of mistreatment where the victim cannot defend him/herself
- An imbalance of power - usually one person is either bigger or older than the other or has a higher social standing (is more popular) and uses this against the other person
- Usually involves repeated acts of harassment, harm or humiliation

### **Differences in Addressing Conflict and Bullying**

Conflict is an important part of growing up but bullying is not. Conflict teaches kids how to give and take, how to come to an agreement and how to solve problems. When it comes to conflict, it's good for kids to learn conflict resolution and resiliency skills. These skills promote listening and working together to come to an agreement or plan to move forward. Conflict resolution works based on the assumption that both people are in part responsible for the current problem and need to work it out. In this situation, both kids make compromises and the conflict is resolved.

Bullying is different. It is about the bully making a choice to intentionally hurt another person. There is nothing to work out. When bullying occurs, the bully is fully responsible for the situation. And the bully bears all the responsibility for change. Bullies usually do not negotiate with others. They want power and they blame others for their actions. Even if an adult can get them to apologize, bullies will often retaliate when no one else is around. As a result, it is crucial to recognize the difference between conflict and bullying.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

#### **Cheating**

To cheat is to give or receive assistance with an assignment, or during an exam, which is not authorized by the teacher. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Referring to class materials during a test without the teacher's permission
- Copying from another student's paper or allowing another student to copy from your paper
- Attempting to secure or securing a copy of a test before the test date
- Working together on an assignment without the teacher's approval
- Submitting for a grade an assignment that was completed by another person or giving an assignment to another student so that he or she can submit it as his or her own work
- Discussing answers during a test

#### **Plagiarism**

To plagiarize is to copy someone else's writing or ideas and to present them as your own. Types of plagiarism include:

- Copying word for word without giving credit to the author
- Paraphrasing without giving credit to the author
- Using language that is almost identical to the language of another author

The student will receive a zero for the assignment. Additionally, violations may disqualify the student from that marking period's honor roll, if applicable, or from receiving academic achievement awards.

### **Cell Phones/Electronic Devices**

Cell phones and other electronic devices, such as iPods, PDAs and video games, are **NOT** permitted in school by students, or used by them on the school grounds, or at any school-related function.

Parents of a student who walks home, takes the bus, or takes a taxi may fill out a request form and await approval from administration. The request forms are provided by the school office. All cell phones must be turned off and handed over to the office for the duration of the day.

The school reserves the right to confiscate any unauthorized electronic device from a student as a non-school related item. Strict disciplinary action will then result, in accordance with the severity of the violation, including retrieval of the electronic device from the principal's office by the parent.

### Computer/Internet Usage

All families are required to read and abide by the ACS Technology Acceptable Use Policy. Each family will sign an obligatory "Acceptable Use Agreement for Students" prior to their children's usage of the school's computers.

### Sexting

- Sexting is the production, possession or dissemination of sexual materials, including sexually suggestive text messages, nude/semi-nude photographs, or videos of themselves or others via cellular telephone or the internet by students on school property or at any school sponsored function. Sexting does not fuel committed, eternal love as God desires for us. It stands in opposition to God's plan for us, and for that reason it is wrong.
- Pornography consists in removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners, in order to display them deliberately to third parties. It offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other. It does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses all who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense. (CCC 2354)
- Creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law when they take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend; share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it is shared between children of the same age; or, possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave his/her permission for it to be created. Images covered under the law include, but are not limited to, naked pictures, photos of intimate body parts, including topless photos of girls, any sex act and any sexually suggestive image, which includes photos of a person in undergarments/underwear. If it is found that a child under the age of 18 is in possession of any of these, has been sending them or taking these types of photos, the police can record it as a crime and the offender may be prosecuted.

In complying with the Policy, the following procedures must be observed:

- All reported incidents of sexting shall be dealt with immediately.
- The school will take immediate measures to protect the victim and others involved in the incident.
- Report to the Diocese of Metuchen Diocesan Response Officer
- Report immediately to the Office of Schools, either the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent
- Report immediately to the local Police Department.
- Secure all cell phones, computers or other electronic devices that may contain or have disseminated sexual materials, including sexually suggestive text messages and nude or semi-nude photographs. Cell phones should be placed in Airplane mode to preserve the evidence.
- Secure all potential witnesses.
- Contact the parents of all students involved in the reported incident.
- Students involved in possession or transmission of inappropriate photos on their cell phones or

other electronic devices may face some or all of the listed consequences:

1. Temporary removal from the classroom;
2. In-school or out-of-school suspension;
3. Parent conference;
4. Deprivation of privileges;
5. Suspension from sports participation;
6. Removal from After-School programs;
7. Counseling;
8. Therapy;
9. Expulsion

#### **Uniform Requirements for Grades Pre-K through Eight**

All uniform items must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara (except Pre-K), located at: 2145 Route 35 Holmdel, NJ 07733 (732) 888-3885, or Online at [www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com).

#### **GIRLS: PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

- 1.) Attire with inappropriate characters, images or language is forbidden. Particularly anything which does not meet Christian-Catholic values and morals.
- 2.) dresses, skirts and shorts must be knee length
- 3.) flat shoes low-cut style with a maximum heel height of one inch, with tie, Velcro, or across-the-foot buckle closures. Sandals are not allowed.

#### **GIRLS: KINDERGARTEN through GRADE FOUR**

- 1.) plaid school jumper (knee length)
- 2.) white short or long sleeved rounded collar blouse; or a white short or long sleeved knit shirt with school logo; or solid white turtleneck
- 3.) navy crew cut cardigan sweater with school logo
- 4.) navy or gray knee-hi socks; or navy or gray leotards
- 5.) flat black shoes, low-cut style with a maximum heel height of one inch, with tie, Velcro, or across-the-foot buckle closures, "Vans" Style shoes acceptable

#### **GIRLS: GRADES FIVE through GRADE EIGHT**

- 1.) plaid kick-pleat skirt (knee length)
- 2.) white short/long sleeved oxford style blouse; or white short/long sleeved knit shirt with school logo
- 3.) navy pullover V-neck sweater or vest with school logo
- 4.) navy or gray knee-hi socks; or navy or gray leotards
- 5.) flat black shoes, low-cut style with a maximum heel height of one inch, with tie, Velcro, or across-the-foot buckle closures, "Vans" Style shoe is acceptable.

#### **BOYS: KINDERGARTEN through GRADE 8**

- 1.) navy twill uniform pants worn with a black, brown or navy belt (K&1 no belt)
- 2.) white short or long sleeved knit shirt with school logo; or a white short or long sleeved dress shirt worn with a navy tie
- 3.) navy/white trim V-neck pullover sweater or vest with school logo
- 4.) navy or black crew socks - NO WHITE SOCKS
- 5.) flat black shoes, low-cut style with a maximum heel height of one inch, with tie, Velcro, or across-the-foot buckle closures, "Vans" Style shoe is acceptable.

#### **BOYS: PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

- 1.) Attire with inappropriate characters, images or language is forbidden. Particularly anything which does not meet Christian-Catholic values and morals.

- 2.) shorts must be knee length
- 3.) flat shoes low-cut style with a maximum heel height of one inch, with tie, Velcro, or across-the-foot buckle closures. Sandals are not allowed.

### **OPTIONAL SCHOOL UNIFORM**

This uniform may be worn during September, October, April, May, and June:

- 1.) navy walking shorts with a belt
- 2.) white-knit short sleeved shirt with school logo
- 3.) white low-cut sneakers
- 4.) white crew socks

### **GYM DAY UNIFORM**

- 1.) gold t-shirt with school logo,
- 2.) gray sweat shirt with school logo
- 3.) gray sweat pants with school logo; or royal blue gym shorts with school logo, which may be only worn during September, October, April, May, and June
- 4.) fastened low-top sneakers (any color) with visible ankle socks
- 5.) no jewelry is permitted on gym day for health and safety reasons. Those who choose to wear jewelry on gym day will not be allowed to participate.

**Identifications:** Each article of clothing, all outerwear, school supplies, book bags, and accessories must be permanently marked with the student's full name and grade level. In case of loss, only those items, which are properly labeled, can be returned to their rightful owners.

**Uniform Exchange-Purchase Program:** The school accepts donations of previously worn uniform-related clothing and gym outfits that are in decent condition. These items are available for purchase or in exchange for an article of clothing that your child has outgrown. Please contact the school office for more details or to arrange for an appointment to see what clothing is available.

### **General Dress Code Guidelines/Violations**

Students are to maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance. Those who are not in compliance with the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Clothing:** It must be cleaned, pressed, and properly sized and fitted, with no rips or stains. It should at all times reflect Catholic rules of modesty. Shirts are to be tucked in neatly. Baseball style caps are not permitted in the building.

**Hair:** Natural Hair Only. Extreme hair styles such as spikes, Mohawks, shaved heads/scalp designs, overuse of gel in hairdos, long or straggly hair (i.e. covering the eyebrows), coloring or highlighting, excessive hair ornaments, extensions, hairpieces, or male facial hair, are never permitted.

**Nails:** They must be kept clean and short; no colored polish, tips, or artificial nails.

**Perfume, Cologne, and Cosmetics:** These are not to be worn to school or to any school-related activity, without special permission.

**Jewelry:** No jewelry is to be worn on gym day or on Ukrainian dance day by the dancers. On all other school days, the jewelry rule is "Simply One" which means, one chain (only Christian religious medals allowed), one watch, one bracelet, one ring, all simple in style. Only girls may wear earrings, one stud per ear. Hoop earrings are never allowed.

**No Uniform Day Guidelines:** Casual Dress Attire: Jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sport shirts and sneakers are acceptable. Refer to the General Dress Code Guidelines. No sleeveless styles allowed.

**Dress-Up Attire:** Girls are expected to wear a modest dress, a skirt and blouse, or a pants suit. Boys are expected to wear dress pants with a belt, and a dress shirt.

The following are NEVER allowed to be worn during the school day or at any school related function:

- \*untied shoes or sneakers
- \*sandals
- \*sheer, clingy or tight fitting tops or bottoms
- \*sleeveless or thin-strapped shirts or dresses or those with low-cut necklines or backs
- \*shorts and skirts that are an inch or more above the knee
- \*boots with a heel or higher than the shin/calf
- \*open-toe high heel or slip on shoes
- \*styles that show midribs or undergarments

Any other inappropriate clothing or personal items, particularly those with words, characters or images, etc. that may suggest or infer ANYTHING that does not meet Christian-Catholic values and morals are forbidden. This includes wearing clothing and/or other items with a personality's name or likeness on it who has been arrested, convicted, or even associated with illegal, immoral or objectionable activity. Temporary and permanent tattoos or body piercings are never allowed.

Students who do not adhere to these guidelines may be denied the privilege to participate in the next no uniform day. In addition, parents may be asked to bring in a proper set of clothing for their child or the student will be given clothing from the uniform exchange to wear for the remainder of the day.

### Family and School Communication

It is mandatory for every family to register on-line at Honeywell Instant Alert for Schools in order to receive important communications from ACS. Parents NEED to register using several means of communication in order to be reached at any time of day. Honeywell offers notifications via phone call, text, and e-mail.

Each September, a "Back-to-School" night is scheduled for each grade level. It is crucial that parents attend the mandatory "Back-to-School" night in order to become acquainted with their child's teacher, and their academic and behavioral expectations for the coming year. Recognizing the concern and dedication of your child's teachers should move you to work closely with them to further your child's academic growth.

A solid home and school partnership is vital. All concerns should first be directed to the attention of the classroom teacher. Only after these attempts fail to resolve issues should the administration be contacted.

ACS will communicate weekly, or as needed, with all parents via a Principal's newsletter and our school website. All correspondence will be sent home with the oldest or only child of each family on each Thursday of the school year. The monthly menu and calendar of events will also be sent home and available on-line at the ACS website. Parents are expected to review the contents.

When money of any kind is sent to the school, it must be enclosed in a separate envelope and properly identified with the student's name/grade, the amount enclosed, and purpose of payment on the face of the envelope. Each monetary payment should be in its own individual envelope. All checks, unless indicated otherwise, should be made payable to: Assumption Catholic School (ACS). The exception is any checks written for the cafeteria food service company.

A yearly school calendar is distributed to each family. This calendar notes vacation days, early dismissals, teacher professional days, Family & School Association meetings and other regularly scheduled activities for the coming school year. In addition to the yearly calendar, a monthly calendar

and monthly lunch menu are sent home in the school communication folder at the beginning of each month; these may also be viewed on-line at the school website.

### **Family and School Association (FSA)**

The Family & School Association is an integral component of the school. The officers of the Association, under the direction of the principal and pastor, hold regularly scheduled meetings for all families to discuss school fund-raising activities, needs and events. All families of Assumption Catholic School are expected to attend these meetings in order to keep abreast of the latest FSA information. The FSA Board members may express parent questions and concerns to the principal, but have no bearing on school policy or the governance of Assumption Catholic School.

Those parents who attend every meeting will have their name entered in a tuition raffle at the end of the school year. The dates for FSA meetings are published in the school calendar at the beginning of each school year.

The purpose of the Family & School Association is to contribute to the financial support of the school. Since its inception in 1963, the FSA has been of great assistance to the school through various fund-raising projects. With your help, much can be accomplished for the spiritual, physical and cultural growth of our children. FSA members and school personnel are not allowed, without prior permission from the administration, to represent the school, request donations, make purchases for the school, or use the school logo on personal websites or social media.

### **Photo Release Information**

Assumption Catholic School uses media, website, and yearbook to promote its name and image. Parents are asked to notify us immediately if they wish their child/children's image NOT be used by ACS.

### **Daily School Schedule**

School doors officially open at 8:15 a.m. Children may begin gathering outside on the school playground at 8:00 a.m. Any child arriving at school prior to this time will be sent to the Before Care Program. Before and After Care information and forms are sent home at the beginning of each school year.

7:15-8:15	Extended Care: Before-Care
8:10	Teacher arrival
8:15	Doors Open - Students assemble in auditorium
8:20	Tardy Bell- Prayers & Pledge of Allegiance
8:25	Classes Begin
9:30-10:30	Staggered snack times
11:30	First lunch period
12:15	Second lunch period
2:45	PK dismissal
2:50	K-4 dismissal
2:55	5-8 dismissal
3:00-6:00	Extended Care: After-Care

It is against the law to leave children unsupervised. Students should not be dropped off at school prior to 8 a.m. Also, after dismissal time, any child who has not been picked up by 3:10 p.m. will be sent to the After Care Program and charged accordingly. Likewise, those students who participate in after school activities are to be picked up promptly, or they too will be placed in the After-Care. Note: On shortened school days, early dismissal is from 12:20 p.m. to 12:25 p.m.

### **Extended Care**

In an effort to respond to the needs of parents and students, the school offers two extended-day programs: the Before School Program and the After School Program. Before School Program is available



to parents from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. It will not be held on delayed opening days. It is open to all students. The After School Program serves school families with children in Pre K through Grade 8 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM does not operate on emergency closing days. Specific fees are charged for the use of both programs. Late fees are incurred when payments are past due or when children are picked up past 6:00 p.m. All families using the program must have on file an Emergency Information Form. They are available on the school website and should be kept updated throughout the year, as needed. All children must be signed out by an individual specifically named on the Pick-Up Authorization Form. Children will not be released to anyone not authorized in writing by parents. If a parent/guardian needs to reach either extended day program, they can call 732-826-8721. Information on pickup location is sent home the first week of school.

### **Parking**

Parents must observe all traffic regulations in the school zone. Please do not double-park, block the school bus zones or driveways, or park in the handicap spaces without a handicap tag/plate. Cooperation is imperative in this matter to ensure the safety of students.

### **Visitors**

All visitors and non-school personnel are required to enter the building on Meredith Street and go directly to the office. There is absolutely no admittance through the kitchen doors. Visitors will sign in and state their purpose. If visitor is allowed in the building they will have a visible sticker labeled Visitor and have their name on it. Once the school day has begun, no one, without the express permission of the administration, is allowed to enter the classrooms. This is to ensure the safety of our students and faculty, and to prevent any unnecessary learning disruptions. Parents who need to drop off any item for their child must leave it at the school office. School personnel will then deliver items to the classroom.

### **Attendance and Tardiness Policy**

Regular attendance and punctuality is expected of all students. The tardy bell rings at 8:20 a.m. at which time the playground entrance is closed. Any child arriving after this time must report to the school office to obtain a late slip. Chronic tardiness may merit disciplinary action, i.e. lunch/recess detention and a phone call home.

When your child is absent, please call the school office by 8:15 a.m. to leave a message (732-826-8721) reporting the absence. As per state law, upon return of the child to school, he or she must have a written excuse from the parent stating the date and reason for absence. An absence of three consecutive days or longer due to illness requires a doctor's note. Family vacations during the school year are strongly discouraged.

New Jersey statute requires schools to be open for educational purposes for 180 days between July 1 and June 30. A ninety percent (90%) attendance rate is also required by the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum. Therefore a pupil must be in attendance for 162 or more school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the attendance requirements of the instructional program of the grade/course to which he/she is assigned. According to NJ State Law, absences can NOT exceed **18 days**.

Requests for early dismissals during the regular school day are also discouraged. If a valid reason exists for an early departure, a written request must be sent with the child the morning of the early departure day. This note must state the reason, the exact time of pick-up, and the name of the person who will sign the child out from the school office.

### **Emergency School Closings, Delayed Openings and Early Dismissal**

The school administration is authorized to close the school for a day, delay its opening, or declare an early dismissal, because of hazardous weather or other extraordinary circumstances which might endanger the health or safety of pupils and school employees. Notification of an emergency school

closing or delayed opening due to inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions will be announced in the following manner:

1. REMIND will notify each registered family.
2. Log onto [www.assumptioncatholicsschool.net](http://www.assumptioncatholicsschool.net) and check the ACS News Flash.
3. Check your REMIND app for announcement of school closing.

*Note: In the case of inclement weather it is your obligation to check one of the above listings before dropping your child off at school.*

The Assumption Catholic School delayed opening time is 10:15 a.m.

Please Note: 4 Emergency Days are incorporated into the calendar. Additional Emergency days will be made up starting with the Friday of Easter Break week, two days will be made up using Thursday and Friday, three days will be made up adding Wednesday. Additional days will be made up using the school's discretion.

### **Emergency Early Dismissals**

In the case of an emergency closing occurring at some point while school is in session, the following procedures will be adhered to:

1. REMIND will notify each registered family. Our website and voicemail will also provide information.
2. In the event the parents or the parent's emergency contact cannot be reached, the child will not be dismissed until contact has been made.
3. Notification of an early dismissal may also be found at the websites listed previously under Emergency School closings.

### **Transportation**

If you live in a school district that offers busing to their students, and is within twenty miles of Assumption Catholic School, you may be entitled to busing or to a substantial transportation reimbursement. The state of New Jersey mandates that the home school district must provide the same transportation services to non-public school students as to public school students. The school office provides a B-6T form to be filled out and returned to ACS. It is then forwarded to the transportation department of the home district for determination of eligibility. PLEASE NOTE: Students who reside in a district which provides transportation for public school students will be eligible for either busing or aid in lieu of transportation (Currently \$1000).

The Woodbridge Board of Education currently provides busing to ACS. All arrangements for transportation are made by each town's office. The bus company assumes the responsibility of transporting the student between home and school. Therefore, when a parent wishes a student to depart from school other than by bus, written permission to this effect must be sent to school with the child. To ensure safety, students must be seated at all times when the bus is in motion. Students are expected to follow the instructions of the bus driver and to behave responsibly. Instances of serious or reoccurring infractions are grounds for disciplinary action, including possible suspension or termination of bus privileges, at the discretion of the Principal and/or Bus Company.

Parents who allow their children to walk home from school must provide a written statement that includes the address their child will be walking to and the name of the responsible adult caretaker who will ensure they have arrived safely each day. It is imperative that the school office be notified if the child is absent.

If your child will be involved in a car pool or other type of transportation with another family from our school, both parties giving permission for this arrangement must submit a written statement.

### **Student Emergency Forms**

School emergency forms are distributed to every family (given to the oldest child) the first week of

school. These forms must be completed and returned **within 5 days** of the first day of school. It is imperative for a school to have this information. If the student does not bring in the form the parent will be contacted and the student will not be allowed to return to class until this form is submitted. Only those persons listed on the emergency contact form will be allowed to pick up the child from school. All other persons need written authorization from the parents or guardians and must present a photo ID for the student to be released to them.

It is extremely important that written notification of changes in home, work, or cell phone number, as well as any other changes to emergency contact information that may occur be forwarded to the school office immediately.

### **Student Custody and Guardianship**

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to provide the school administration with a true and correct copy of the legal document (court-certified papers, or custody section of the divorce decree) when a change in custody status/arrangements occurs. This information will help the school to determine when, if ever, the child can be released to the non-custodial parent. ACS abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, we will provide the non-custodial parent access to academic records and other school information regarding his or her child.

### **Health Services**

Nursing services are provided by The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (with parent permission) on a part-time basis. The school nurse is usually present at ACS two days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Students may receive emergency nursing services for any illness or injury that occurs during the school day. Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 annually receive the following nursing services: hearing and vision screening, height and weight assessment. Those in Grades 5 & 7 have a scoliosis screening and are tested for vision. All new students in K-8 are screened unless records indicate that it was done at their previous school. Pre-K students are excluded from receiving nursing services. When the nurse is not on duty, students who are in need of health services will be sent to the school office.

Parents will be notified if the gravity of the illness or injury warrants further medical attention or if the child is not well enough to stay in school. Accident reports are filled out whenever a student is seriously hurt. Parents will always be notified of any injury involving the head. A head injury fact sheet will be sent home. The illness or injury emergency procedure is as follows: 1. School contacts the parent. 2. If a parent cannot be reached, the school will then contact the designated persons listed on the student's emergency form. 3. If necessary, Emergency Medical Services will be contacted to transport the child to the local hospital. 4. A faculty member will remain with the child until a parent arrives.

Under NJ State Law, any students exhibiting the following conditions will not be allowed at school until the condition has remedied itself: temperature of 100 degrees or greater, vomiting, diarrhea, pink eye, rashes, or an earache. Those with rashes or contagious diseases need a doctor's note to return to school. A child must be fever free or have no vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.

### **Medication Policy**

Any student who is required to take medication during the regular school hours must comply with the following school regulations:

1. All medicine, including over the counter medications, must be turned into the office at the start of the school day.
2. All medicine **MUST** be in its original packaging/bottles.
3. Any student who is required to take prescribed medication during school hours must have a statement written on a prescription pad from the family physician that identifies the type, dosage, time interval, purpose and side effects of the medication. Written permission by the parent must also accompany the medication.

4. Non-prescription drugs will not be administered unless written permission is received from your physician that identifies the type, dosage, time interval, purpose and side effects of the medication. Written permission by the parent must also accompany the medication. This includes such preparations as cough drops, lozenges, cold tablets, cough medications and aspirin. These medications may never be self-administered, carried on one's person, or left in the student's backpack.
5. Prescription medication must be given to the school office in the prescription container, which is properly labeled by the pharmacist or physician. This includes student EPI-pens as well.
6. Under certain circumstances (i.e., a life-threatening illness or condition), students will be permitted to self-administer medication. The parent must first meet with the nurse and school administration to discuss in detail the need for the medication. Both the parent and the student's physician must complete and sign an "Authorization for Self-Administration of Medication in School" form.

### **Health Records and Immunization Requirements**

State law requires a physical and dental examination for all new students. These need to be updated every three years thereafter. State law also mandates that students who choose to participate in extra-curricular sports that are inter-scholastic must have a yearly physical to obtain medical clearance from their doctor. Parents must also sign a sports related Concussion and Head Injury Fact Acknowledgement Form. Without a properly signed medical clearance form they will not be allowed to participate.

No child will be admitted to school without proper proof that the child has been immunized. State law requires the following immunizations for enrollment to school and the student will be excluded if these immunizations are not met:

#### **DTP-Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis vaccine**

- 1.) minimum of four doses, with one dose being after the fourth birthday

#### **Polio virus vaccine**

- 1.) minimum of three doses, with one dose after the fourth birthday (usually four doses)

#### **MMR-Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine**

- 1.) two doses of MMR- the first is given after the 1st birthday, the second after the 4th birthday

#### **Hib-Haemophilus influenza type B vaccine**

- 1.) at least one dose, but usually a series of three shots, prior to entering Pre-K

#### **Hep B-Hepatitis B vaccine**

- 1.) three doses are required to enter Kindergarten and for students entering 6th grade

#### **Varicella vaccine**

- 1.) one dose after 1st Birthday
- 2.) proof (a note from a medical doctor) that the child has already had the disease

#### **In addition, the following are required for Pre-K:**

- 1.) One dose PCV on or after 1st Birthday
- 2.) Flu vaccine - given between September 1st and Dec. 31st of the school year

#### **Lastly, the following are required for Grade 6 students, born on or after January 1, 1997:**

- 1.) Tdap Booster - One dose after age 11
- 2.) Meningitis vaccine - One dose
  - Chicken Pox immunization is required for admittance to a Catholic school in the Diocese of Metuchen. [NJAC 8:57-4.4(b) allows religious and affiliated schools to grant or withhold enrollment to non-immunized students without challenge by a secular health authority.]
  - A student shall not be required to have any immunizations which are medically contraindicated.
    - A written statement must be provided by the child's physician (M.D. or D.O.), who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States. The statement must declare that the required vaccine is injurious to the child's health or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child.

- The exemption statement is valid for only one academic year from the date signed by the physician; it must be submitted to the principal prior to the child attending school. It will be reviewed annually.
- Catholic Schools will grant religious exemptions from immunization if the parents state that it is a matter of conscience for them. [See Appendix A.17)
  - Requests for religious exemptions which are not based on religious beliefs and practices shall be denied. The New Jersey legislation and regulations have never recognized nor permitted philosophical or moral objections as reasons for securing a religious exemption. Except for medical and religious exemptions, all children are expected to comply with the school immunization regulations.
  - A parent/guardian may request a religious exemption to the New Jersey mandatory immunization regulations by submitting a written statement to the school which explains how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student's exercise of religious tenets and practices. The pastor will make the final determination on the validity of the request.
  - The request for a religious exemption from immunization will be honored as long as the language mentions the specific religious belief (normally the conscience of the parent) in the letter.
  - Non-immunized students may be excluded from the school, for their own protection, if there is an epidemic situation. The exclusion will be based on the judgement of the principal.
  - Non-immunized students may be excluded from the school if there are concerns about the safety of the pregnancy of a teacher or health issues of staff members.

### **Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect**

New Jersey State law requires that any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child may have been subjected to abuse or neglect, must make a report to the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

### **First Penance and Holy Communion**

Children are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist during second grade. Reception of these Sacraments is scheduled at Ukrainian Assumption Church on the first Sunday in May for those students who are members of the parish.

Catholic students, who are not members of our parish, generally receive these Sacraments at the parish to which they belong. They are most welcome to make their First Penance and Holy Communion with their classmates at ACS, but they must first obtain written permission from the Pastor of their own church. This letter must be received by the first week in February. Any student who receives First Holy Communion in their parish, prior to ACS's Communion Day, can join their classmates on ACS's Communion Day.

Required attire for boys is a suit, white dress shirt, white tie, and black shoes. Required attire for girls is a modest, simple knee-length white dress with sleeves, white socks and white shoes. The girls' Holy Communion veils and the boys' white ties are ordered by the school to ensure uniformity. A fee is due in the early spring, which covers the following expenses: girls' Holy Communion veils, boys' boutonnieres, flowers for church decoration, individual Divine Liturgy prayer books, rosaries, and other Holy Communion remembrances. On First Holy Communion Day a family breakfast, prepared by Family & School Association and parents in grades 1 and 3, immediately follows the Divine Liturgy. Professional

photographs may be arranged for after the breakfast and requires a separate fee. More detailed information is routinely sent home in the spring.

### **Safety Drills**

The safety and welfare of students and staff are the primary concern of the school. Our school's Crisis Management Plan complies with both Diocesan policy and New Jersey Statute 18A:41-1. This law states that every school have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month within school hours. The objective of these drills is to ensure the safety of our children in case of an actual emergency. Fire equipment is inspected in accordance with state law requirements.

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

The school's Asbestos Management Plan is on file in the school office as required by the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). This document is available for examination upon request.

### **Food Services Program**

Families have the option of either purchasing lunch or having their children bring lunch from home. Menus and prices will be sent home each month and will also be available on the school website. Hot lunches are available at Assumption Catholic School on every full day of school. Snack and beverage items are available on full days. On early dismissal days children who attend the After Care program must bring their own lunch and snacks.

Snack and lunch money should be sealed in an envelope with the child's name, grade, amount enclosed, and purpose written on it. The food program is not in the position to extend credit to students, although parents may pay for their child's lunch ahead of time, on a weekly or monthly basis. A child without a lunch will be given a hot lunch from the cafeteria, the cost of which will be due the following day. No fast food lunches may be brought in by parents, i.e., McDonalds, Wendy's, Subway, Pizza Hut. We are NOT a peanut free school, and therefore due to possible allergic reactions, children are forbidden to share, sell, trade, or give away their food or drink to any other student. They are also not allowed to lend to or borrow money from other students in order to purchase any food or drink item.

**Note: Students should never carry large amounts of cash to school.**

### **Birthday Celebrations**

Birthdays are a special time for children. You may send a simple treat (i.e. munchkins, cupcakes, cookies, or goodie bags) with your child for their birthday to be shared with their classmates during snack time. These treats must be nut-free or they will not be distributed. Please be sure to coordinate this with your child's teacher. No birthday parties, of any kind, are allowed during the school day.

Gifts, Cards, and Invitations: Home birthday party or any other party invitations are not allowed to be exchanged or distributed at school unless every child in the class is included. The same holds true for cards and gifts. This will eliminate misunderstandings and hurt feelings that may occur due to exclusion.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Assumption Catholic School offers a wide range of extracurricular activities for student participation such as community service projects, bowling club (separate fee), student council, Ukrainian dance (separate fee), altar boys, Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, junior and senior drama, glee club, show choir, chimes, track & field (separate fee), /math club, science club. Information regarding the various extracurricular activities and permission forms are sent home to all eligible students by the group's moderator. Students are encouraged to participate, but participation is a privilege that may be withheld as part of a disciplinary action.

Participation in extracurricular activities is governed by all school rules. Those who choose to participate in interscholastic sports must have a current medical release form signed by their physician.

### **Exceptional Educational Needs**

Assumption Catholic School seeks to meet the needs of all their students. Parents of students who enter ACS with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) will meet with the teacher and principal to determine the accommodations needed.

When a teacher determines a serious academic need, for a student not previously classified, a meeting with the student's parents will be requested. At that meeting, the teacher may suggest more in depth testing, either privately or through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (the ESCNJ). Every effort will be made to meet the needs of the child at ACS.

In some cases, the teacher and administration may feel the child is in need of services ACS cannot provide and would be best served by another educational setting.

### **Junior Honor Society**

The ACS Junior Honor Society was introduced in the 2017-2018 school year. General information about the Junior Honor Society will be shared with students in September. Interested students must take the initiative and request an application from the moderator.

### **Field Trips**

The classroom teachers schedule field trips to nearby points of interest. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the grade level curriculum. Permission slips are sent home to inform the parent of the date, trip itinerary, chaperones, and the cost to each participant. These slips must be signed by the parent and returned in a timely manner, along with the cash fee required of each participant. The school administration reserves the right to deny the privilege of a field trip to a student, or to request parental supervision of the student while on the trip, if circumstances necessitate this action. A chaperone's help is greatly needed and appreciated. Only confirmed chaperones will be allowed to accompany students during a field trip.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOL HANDBOOK** The school administration reserves the right in writing to amend this parent/student handbook. Parents/guardians will be notified if changes are made.

***At Assumption Catholic School teachers, faculty and administration take pride in their commitment and dedication to each student both academically and spiritually.***

# Assumption Catholic School

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption

Assumption Catholic School  
Meredith and Jacques Streets  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
Phone - 732-826-8721  
Fax - 732-826-5013

## **ACS Family Handbook Agreement Form**

*I have read the Assumption Catholic School Family Handbook and agree to abide by all its provisions. I also agree that my child/children who is/are enrolled at Assumption Catholic School must abide by all its rules, regulations, and policies.*

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement**

*I have read and understand the Acceptable Use of Technology procedure as outlines in the Assumption Catholic School Family Handbook and agree to abide by all its provisions. I also agree that my child/children who is/are enrolled at Assumption Catholic School must abide by all its rules, regulations, and policies.*

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



