

2025-2026 Handbook



SAINT
JOHN PAUL II
~ Regional School ~

Experience, Empower, Excel



"The Future Starts Today..."

"Posterus satus hodie"

55 Warwick Road • Stratford, New Jersey

856-783-3088 • www.jp2rs.org

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

Introduction

Catholic schools serve a vital role in the Church's mission of providing young people with a strong formation in the Faith; they have a particular goal in helping Catholic children and young people grow in faithfulness and apostolic zeal. Saint John Paul II is open to all who wish to learn in a Catholic environment. By our works and example, we evangelize our students, their families, and the broader school community.

Since humankind is created in the image and likeness of God, all human activity is to image His likeness, and is to be undertaken in an honest and human way, always expressing the will of the Creator. Such activity includes work, sports, hobbies, social interactions and interpersonal relationships. Catholic schools, like all human activity in which the Church participates, should reflect the faith which the Church has received from her divine founder.

Catholic School Environment



As a community whose primary mission is the teaching of the Faith, Saint John Paul II maintains an environment that is true to the teachings of the Church, and it is important that parents/guardians understand this and accept this. By choosing a Catholic school, parents/guardians recognize that they are enrolling their children in a school environment that is shaped by the teachings of the Catholic church and governed according to those religious beliefs. Parents/guardians must accept that certain standards of behavior and comportment are expected, and agree to support these standards and the mission of the school.

If parents/guardians or students oppose Church teaching publicly, or in a way that disrupts or interferes with the Church's teaching mission, they will be engaged pastorally in an attempt to resolve the differences by explaining the Church's teaching and the reasons for the teaching, and kindly encouraging the parent or student to respect such teaching. Parents/guardians are advised that continued opposition may result in disenrollment of the student from the school.

Human Sexuality

The Catholic Church teaches, "By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity equally to the one and the other. Each of them, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept (his or her) sexual identity." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2393). St. John Paul II Regional School, strives to be welcoming, respectful, and sensitive to each student's unique needs, while always being clear about Church Teachings. Because the mission of a Catholic school is to form students in the Faith, we must always be true to the teachings of that Faith, even - indeed especially - when those teachings do not suit society's currently-popular views. Some accommodations to address particular needs may be advisable and possible, but a Catholic school cannot provide accommodations when doing so would in any way compromise the teachings of the Church, or introduce confusion about its teachings.

Use of School Logo and Colors

Use of St. John Paul II Regional School's school logo or any image of the school is prohibited without prior approval. Approved use of fonts, colors, and design may not deviate from the school's brand guidelines. The use of the school name on a non-school-sponsored website, social media page or any other written communication may not imply or state school approval (e.g., of products, services, events).



IMPORTANT NOTICE

The principal has the sole and absolute discretion to interpret and apply any and all of the rules and provisions stated in this handbook in the manner the principal believes to be correct. Nothing in this handbook shall limit the principal's authority to interpret and apply the rules.

Even though this handbook explains penalties that can be imposed for certain types of misconduct or prohibited behavior, you should be aware that the principal has the right and the authority to impose different or additional penalties and to impose penalties for offenses that are not specifically listed in this handbook if the principal concludes that the conduct or behavior is harmful to the good order and discipline of the school, its religious mission or its educational objectives. This includes disciplinary action for conduct that occurs on the school premises or at other locations. The penalties may include suspension and/or expulsion.

The principal reserves the right to amend this handbook and the school policies and procedures without prior notice. Every effort will be made to advise students and parents of such changes.

Our Mission

Saint John Paul II Regional School, is dedicated to Christian stewardship and academic excellence, empowers its diverse student body to achieve their academic potential in a faith based environment.

It is our aspiration that through the collaboration of Church, School, and Faculty, our students will lead successful lives rooted in Catholic Christian values and commitment to a better society.

St. John Paul II Regional School believes:

- Christian formation and the development of faith values are essential to spiritual growth.*
- The diversity in our school community enables our children to understand, appreciate, and respect cultural and religious differences.*
- Students must be nurtured to develop an active social conscience.*
- Students have the right to learn and interact with one another in a safe and protected environment.*
- Disciplinary policies applied fairly and consistently lead to self-awareness of social responsibility.*
- Students should be challenged physically to enhance cognitive development and to encourage long-term good health and well-being.*
- Our core curriculum must be grounded by real worked application of the principles of learning.*
- Ongoing assessment and updating of curriculum is essential to our students' academic success.*
- Each student should have the opportunity to learn in the fashion which facilitates achievement of personal academic success.*
- Effective communication among Administrators, Faculty members, students, and their parents or guardians, is the cornerstone upon which educational excellence is achieved.*



Administration

Pastor Rev. René Canales

Principal. Mrs. Helen Persing

Administrative Assistant Mrs. Dianette Delgado

St. John Paul II TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Office: 856-627-2222

School Office: 856-783-3088

Fax 856-783-9302

Nurse 856-784-8030

Extended Day 856-783-3088

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

As a vital part of St. John Paul II Regional School community, parents and guardians are expected to model Gospel values and support the mission of the school by conducting themselves with integrity and respect and cooperating with the principal, teachers, and staff in the implementation of the school program.

Parents are expected to:

- Uphold and support the Catholic identity, mission, and values of St. John Paul II Regional School.
- Encourage their child(ren) to live in accordance with Catholic values and virtues, including respect, honesty, compassion, and responsibility.
- Respect the religious formation offered at the school, even if not Catholic.
- Communicate respectfully and charitably with all faculty, staff, administrators, and other families.
- Express concerns or disagreements through appropriate channels (beginning with the teacher or school administration), avoiding gossip, public criticism, or confrontation.
- Use constructive dialogue when addressing school issues; inflammatory language, threats, or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Cooperate with the school in its efforts to develop students spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Ensure that their children abide by the policies contained in this handbook and to support the school in its delivery and administration of all programs and all aspects of student life.
- Attend parent meetings, conferences, and participate in school life as circumstances allow.
- Be truthful and timely in communication with school staff regarding attendance, academics, and other student matters.
- Follow all school safety procedures, including check-in/check-out protocols, parking guidelines, and visitor policies.
- Respect the physical boundaries and roles of faculty and staff - do not enter classrooms, offices, or staff spaces without permission.
- Never discipline another child on school property. Any concerns must be directed to the appropriate school personnel.
- Use contact lists, directories, and school communication tools only for school-related purposes. Do not use school resources to distribute political, commercial, or non-school-related materials.

Violation of the above expectations, including behavior or spoken or written communication, including via social media, by parents/guardians, or anyone acting on their behalf, incompatible with the educational and religious mission of the school, or that is determined to be violent, abusive, recalcitrant, excessively negative, or an attempt to intimidate or harass any member of the school community, will not be tolerated. If reasonable attempts to resolve the behavior are not successful, the parent may be excluded from the school grounds and school activities, or other actions may be taken including, but not limited to, disenrollment of the student.

CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Parents and guardians are required to submit all official court documents pertaining to custody arrangements, parenting time, educational rights, or restrictions. These documents must be: a) Current and certified by the court; and b) Submitted to the school office at the time of enrollment or immediately upon any change. Failure to provide appropriate documentation may result in the school treating both parents as having equal rights by default.

While we are committed to working with all families with professionalism, St. John Paul II Regional School cannot become involved in custody disputes. It is the responsibility of parents to manage custody conflicts privately and through the appropriate legal channels.

The school administration, faculty, and staff will follow the custody directives as outlined in the official documentation on file and are not permitted to provide statements or write letters on behalf of either party for use in legal proceedings, unless formally subpoenaed.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR PARENTS

The use of any school logo on social media or representation of a social media post or page as being an official communication of the school is prohibited.

Parents are prohibited from posting inappropriate comments on any school-managed social media. Inappropriate comments include obscenities, foul language, spam, personal attacks, bashing, bullying, intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, threats, insults, commercial solicitations, repetitive or fraudulent comments, comments irrelevant to the post under which they are written, comments which are morally objectionable, and comments which are otherwise inconsistent with Catholic teaching.

The school reserves the sole right to edit and/or remove any or all comments from a post.

As a Catholic community, St. John Paul II Regional School expects that parents will not use their personal means of communication including online and mobile-based communication tools of every type, kind, nature and description to criticize, demean, or publicly disparage the school, its administration, faculty, staff, or students, or to show discord or undermine the school's mission or Catholic identity.

If reasonable attempts to resolve violations of the school's social media policy are not successful, the parent may be excluded from the school grounds and school activities, or other action may be taken including, but not limited to, disenrollment of the student.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING BY PARENTS

Non-staff use of any type of camera or video or audio recording device, including cell phone cameras and microphones, on the school campus during the school day is prohibited without prior approval. A violation of this policy may result in the device being confiscated and will result in disciplinary action.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees are due on the dates specified in the enrollment agreement and/or invoice. Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that payments are made in full and on time.

TUITION DELINQUENCY

If an outstanding balance remains beyond the specified deadline, the student associated with the overdue account will lose the ability to participate in or attend all extracurricular activities or other school-sponsored events. An administrative hold may be placed on the student's account, which could, amongst other things, prevent access to student records, re-enrollment for subsequent academic periods, or the issuance of transcripts.

TUITION FOR EIGHTH GRADE AND OUTGOING TRANSFER STUDENTS

For students eligible for graduation, an outstanding tuition balance will result in the student being ineligible to participate in graduation ceremonies, including walking for graduation

NOTICE OF NON DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

St. John Paul II Regional School admits students of any race, color or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs and other school-administered programs.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Registration for Pre-K and other new students will be held in the Spring. Information will be provided on our website.

Children registering for PK4 must be 4 years of age by Sept 30.

Children registering for PK3 must be 3 years of age by Sept 30.

****All children admitted to any pre-kindergarten program must be able to use the toilet without assistance.****

Children registering for Kindergarten must be 5 years of age by Sept 30.

****Any child who will turn 5 years old after September 30, whose parent seeks enrollment in Kindergarten must be examined by a recognized professional (approved by the Diocesan Schools Office) to determine his/her readiness for Kindergarten. A copy of the examination must be forwarded to the Diocesan Superintendent who will make a judgement on the report. The principal must have a letter from the Superintendent of Schools indicating that the child may be accepted.****

Children registering for Grade 1 must be 6 years of age by Sept 30.

At the time of registration the following information is required:

1. Birth or baptismal certificate
2. Proof of immunization and physical exam
3. Non-refundable registration fee per child - \$125

Students entering grades 2 through 8 must present the above as well as health records and academic records that include the most recent report card and standardized testing. The Principal will also interview each new student and his/her parents.

TRANSFERING STUDENTS

- Students who request admission to a Catholic School must be developmentally, academically, behaviorally, and socially prepared to meet the demands of the grade for which admission is sought.
- Students seeking admission in grades 1-8 must show evidence of successful completion of the previous grade.
- The individual seeking admission of a child to a Catholic school must show identification and, if applicable, relevant documentation that he or she is the custodian of the child.
- A civil birth certificate, evidence of required immunizations, and any other health information as required by the state of New Jersey for school enrollment are required for admission in all Catholic Schools.
- Catholic students must provide a copy of the baptismal certificate and dates of the reception of the sacraments of First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation, if applicable.

TERMS OF ENROLLMENT

The decision regarding who is admitted to the Catholic school at any grade, including pre-kindergarten, shall rest within the sole discretion of the school.

CONTINUING ENROLLMENT AND RE-ENROLLMENT

Enrollment and re-enrollment at St. John Paul II Regional School are contingent upon the ongoing cooperation of both students and parents with the school's mission, policies, and expectations. As a Catholic school, we strive to create a learning environment root in Gospel, Catholic teachings, respect and academic excellence. To maintain this environment, continued enrollment is subjeet to the following conditions:

- Parents/guardians are expected to support the school's mission, uphold its policies in the Handbook and maintain respectful and collborative communication with faculty, staff and administration.
- Students and parents/guardians must demonstrate behavior consistent with the values and expectations of the school community, including respect for others, self-discipline, and adherence to the school's code of conduct.
- Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress. The school will work with families to support student growth, but significant or ongoing academic underperformance without evidence of improvement may jeopardize continued enrollment.
- If, at any point, the administration determines that a student's educational, behavioral, emotional, or social needs exceed the resources the school can reasonably provide, the school reserves the right to recommend or require withdrawal.
- Decisions regarding continued enrollment are made at the discretion of the administration and are final. Our priority is to ensure that every student in our care is in an environment in which they can flourish.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance has a strong influence on scholastic attainment. Frequent absences interrupt the progression of learning. In the Diocese of Camden students are permitted to be absent up to 10% of the school year provided the absences are excused. Our school year is 180 calendar days. Acceptable excuses for absences are personal illness, serious illness or death in the immediate family or legal responsibility to attend court. Elementary school students who have 18 or more absences from school are in danger of not being promoted to the next grade, which may require summer school. Excessive absence cases will be reviewed and decided by the Principal. A student will be recorded as present if the student attended school for 60% or more of the school day and absent if the student was not present in the school building. A student is considered absent if they are not in the building or on a school-related trip supervised by school personnel.

Family trips should coincide with school holidays. **The school is not obligated to prepare assignments in advance. The students will be expected to make up any missed work upon their return.**

The parent is required to give advance notice in writing to the school for any other required absence.

ABSENCES

When a child is absent, a parent must telephone the absence to the school's office telephone number (856) 783-3088 - before 9:00 AM. The parent must state the student's name, grade and reason for absence.

When the child returns to school, a **3x5 index card** must be sent in by the parent to the teacher confirming the days absent and reason for absence. If the child does not present an absent note, homeroom teacher will follow up with parent.

If a student is absent more than three consecutive days a doctor's note is also required.

Please note that unexcused absences are the responsibility of the student and the family. The school is not obligated to prepare advanced assignments, but the child will be able to make up the work missed within one week from his/her return.

APPOINTMENTS

Doctor appointments should be made after school hours; however, if it is necessary to take a child out during school time, please send a note to the principal and teacher with the request. The student is required to be signed out by a parent for an early dismissal. Your child must leave with a parent from the office

LATENESS

Promptness is required by all students. When a student is late it disrupts the orderliness of the class. Any student who arrives after **8:00** is considered late for school. Chronic lateness will be addressed as follows: Students are encouraged to be on time and will be limited to **24 late arrivals and may be required to make up the time during the summer.** Parents will be notified in writing.

BOOKS/EQUIPMENT

Each student is responsible for the proper care and return of all books and equipment received from the school. Any book or piece of equipment lost or damaged must be paid in full before replacement or the end of the school term.

Books are to be covered and clearly labeled. Consumable books are to be covered in clear contact paper. Book Socks are not permitted as they are damaging expensive books. Hardcover books are not to be covered in contact paper. Every student must carry his/her books to and from school in a book bag. **School bags on wheels are not permitted in the school; if you use a wheeled bag please lower the handle at the door. Please carry the bag inside.**

CHANGE OF INFORMATION / COMMUNITY CALL

The school office is to be notified immediately if there is any change of address, telephone number or emergency information. It is imperative that current, pertinent information be on file in the office.

We use a phone tree to communicate with our parents. It is of the utmost importance that we have the correct information to use for both emergency and non-emergency issues.

CONFERENCES/APPOINTMENTS

Formal parent/teacher conferences are held once a year in October. Schedules for these conferences will be sent home in advance.

In addition to these conferences, parents may request a conference with a teacher by calling the school office during school hours.

The school office is open from 8:00 AM to 3:15 PM, Monday through Friday. Any parent wishing to speak to a teacher or the principal may call the office to schedule an appointment

DISCIPLINE

- The discipline categories below do not cover every possible situation.
- The Principal has the right and the authority to administer different or additional consequences and to administer consequences for offenses that are not specifically listed in this handbook, when the Principal concludes that the conduct or behavior is harmful to the good order and discipline of the school, its religious mission, or its educational objectives.
- Conduct by students incompatible with the educational and religious mission of the school is grounds for disciplinary action, including, but not limited to the dismissal of the student.
- The administration reserves the right to discipline students for off-campus conduct, if that conduct is in any way associated with teachers, staff, or students of St. John Paul II Regional School, where the behavior is contrary to Catholic teachings, or could bring disrepute, embarrassment, or disruption to the school.
- Parents are expected to collaborate with and support school personnel in matters of discipline and comply with disciplinary action.
- The principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any and all regulations for just cause at his or her discretion.

Discipline in St. John Paul II Regional School is part of the teaching/learning process and the faculty considers it their responsibility to provide individual students with moral guidelines and leadership. The discipline code we have established will help each child to take responsibility for his/her own actions and contribute to the development of a healthy self-discipline which forms the basis of a strong moral character.

While it is not possible to list every type of conduct that may require correction, the following is a list of some of the behaviors that are not acceptable in a Catholic school...all of the students in grades K-8 are expected to follow the same procedures.

- **Bullying is unwanted, hurtful behavior that is done to another person on purpose and is repeated over time. The person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Bullying can happen in-person, online, or by phone, and can be done with words, actions, or gestures.** Please visit school website for Anti-Bullying Program.
- Proper uniform dress code. **Jewelry is prohibited** except for a watch. Girls are permitted to wear one pair of small post earrings on the ear lobe only. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. No new piercings should occur during the school year.
- Nail polish is not permitted. Make-up is not permitted.
- Uniform length must be right above the knee for the girls. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. **Shoes** must have non-marking soles. Boys & Girls may wear black leather shoes. **Socks** - crew socks may be worn with the fall and spring uniforms. Black socks must be worn with the girls' winter uniform. They may also wear black tights during the cold weather. Stockings are not permitted. Boys may wear white/black crew socks with the fall and spring uniforms. Dark colored or white socks may be worn with the winter uniform. Baseball caps or hats of any type are never to be worn in school.
- Tattoos, permanent or temporary are not permitted.
- Hair styled in an appropriate manner for a student in a Catholic school. Hair may not be bleached, colored, or dyed. (Principal determines appropriateness of hairstyle.)
- Prepared for class (textbooks, copybooks, pens, pencils, etc.)
- Homework satisfactorily completed.
- Hard copies of test/quizzes must be signed and returned.
- Care of school property (books covered and kept clean.)
- Chewing gum is not permitted in school.
- Obey school and classroom rules.

The overall determination of the dress and grooming code resides with the principal and the faculty.

Students who disobey these rules will be dealt with according to the policies outlined by the teachers at the Back-to-School Night in September.

Students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible individuals on the way to and from school, during school hours and in all activities and programs supervised by the school, including field trips, athletic games, assemblies, dances, etc.

Most students are willing to cooperate with their instructors and exhibit maturity and self-control according to their chronological development. Occasionally, students violate classroom or school regulations. When this occurs, the teacher has the right, responsibility and the authority to inform and/or discipline the offender. Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, the teacher may use one or more of the options open to her/him such as reprimanding the student, discussing the situation with him/her and the parents, after-school detention. And if needed, conference with teacher, principal and parent.

CARE OF PROPERTY

We consider any defacement or destruction of property to be a serious offense. Students must pay for all damage to property. Deliberate destruction or vandalism will result in suspension. Covers are required on all books and all students must have book bags. Parents are responsible for replacing any textbooks or library book destroyed, damaged or lost by the student.

****If the principal receives a report from a student, teacher, staff member, or parent indicating that a student is in possession of a weapon or made a threat of harm, including threats of violence, the principal may inform the local police in accordance with the school's Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement. The principal may also determine that a psychological or psychiatric evaluation from a

licensed professional is necessary. The student will be excluded from the school environment and all extracurricular activities until a) all police activity has been completed, and b) the parents arrange for the student to be interviewed by a licensed mental health professional if necessary, and c) the parents present a letter from the mental health professional to the school indicating that the student is not a threat to harm himself/herself or others. In addition, the student who was in possession of a weapon or made a threat will receive disciplinary action, which may include suspension, or expulsion.****

DETENTIONS

The Administration, faculty and school staff reserves the right to issue a detention for a violation of the Discipline Policy, and school regulation/policy or classroom rules. A notice of detention will be sent home from a student's teacher.

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Disrespect to a teacher or other authority figure | - Defacing books, desks, walls, restrooms, gym |
| - Stealing | - Disregard for the safety of self or others |
| - Possession of immoral literature or pictures | - Excessive number of detentions |
| - Leaving class or the building without permission | - Use of racial slurs |
| - Disrespect or misuse of school or church property | |

A written notice will be sent home in advance of the detention period for parental notification and signature. Parents assume responsibility for transportation when their child is serving a detention.

SUSPENSION

Suspension from school may occur for repeated infractions listed under detentions, however, the principal has the authority to issue a suspension for behavior that is harmful to the good order of the school.

A student who is suspended will not be readmitted to school until a conference with parent & principal is held and remedial measures are in place.

- When a student's actions constitute a major disciplinary infraction and are contrary to the good order of the school community, a student may be suspended from school and school activities. An in-school or out-of-school suspension may be warranted given the severity of the infraction.
- Suspension may be for anywhere from 1-5 days, depending on the severity of the infraction and student's disciplinary history.
- If, in the judgement of the school principal, the student's action warrants removal from the school community for a period of time, either through an in-school or out-of-school suspension, the parents or guardians are to be notified. This includes a conference between principal and parents followed by a letter confirming the school's intent.
- Following suspension, parents or guardians are to be interviewed by the appropriate school official. Students removed from the school community cannot be readmitted until the parental interview takes place.
- Parents are to sign a formal agreement in which they signify their understanding of the problem and agree to assume responsibility for the student's future behavior.

EXPULSION

- Expulsion of a student may occur for extremely grave infractions of school regulations; for continued undesirable conduct detrimental to the moral or physical safety of other students; or for continued and malicious disobedience to or disrespect for duly authorized authority.
- Once expelled, a student may not be re-admitted to the school during the current school year.

DRESS CODE

All children in Grades K-8 are required to wear the school uniform beginning with the first day of school. Children in pre-school must wear the Pre-K T-shirt uniform.

GIRLS K-5

Tunic and white blouse.

Prescott cardigan (*optional*)

Black Knee socks

Girls can wear Black or Charcoal Grey pants from

Flynn and O'Hara Uniform Company

Short or long sleeve monogrammed knit shirt White or Prescott.

**Shoes - Black oxford shoes that tie or
black shoes with strap or velcro.**

GIRLS 6-8

Kilt

Girls can also wear Black or Charcoal Grey pants from

Flynn and O'Hara Uniform Company

Short or long sleeve monogrammed knit shirt White or Prescott

Sweater or Vest (*optional*)

Black knee socks *however beginning September 2026,*

all girls in grades 6-8 must wear black tights.

For the 2025-26 the tights are optional but we encourage the girls to wear them.

NO STOCKINGS!

Shoes - Black, oxford shoes that tie or

black shoes with strap or velcro.

**about mid-October until mid-May, girls must wear school blazer with white collard dress shirt that buttons down the front. Shirt must be tucked in, school tie optional.*

BOYS K-8

Black or Charcoal Grey pants from

Flynn and O'Hara Uniform Company

(so they are all uniform)

Short or long sleeve monogrammed knit shirt White or Prescott

V-neck sweater or vest (*optional*)

Belt - Black

Socks - Dark or white crew socks

(plain, no insignia or advertising, i.e. Nike)

Shoes - soft soles permitted.

**about mid-October until mid-May, boys in grades 6-8 must wear school blazer with white dress shirt and school tie. Shirt must be tucked in.*

FALL & SUMMER UNIFORM

Regular uniform may be worn by all students in Grades K-8

Black or Charcoal Grey walking shorts with monogrammed knit shirt White or Prescott.

Black dress shoes are to be worn with the walking shorts

Belts must be worn (black)

Plain White/Black crew socks

GYM UNIFORM

FALL AND SUMMER: Prescott gym shirt and black mesh shorts

WINTER: Prescott gym shirt or Grey sweat shirt and sweat pants

All gym wear must be purchased from: Sandoval Graphics & Printing (*Hi-Nella*).

Students are not permitted to wear yoga pants.

Only tied athletic sneakers may be worn with the gym suits on scheduled gym days. Sneakers may have colored trim. Plain white crew socks.

The gym uniform is worn to school the day of Physical Education class.

We ask parents to cooperate with these policies by checking that each child is in full uniform when leaving home. As the children grow, provisions should be made for each child to have a uniform that fits comfortably.

It is the parent's responsibility to see that hair is neatly groomed and clean. Hairstyles should be in keeping with the school uniform. Boys' hair should be above the collar in a well-groomed fashion. Hair should not cover eyebrows and or eyes and should be pushed back off face. Shaving hair to the skin, designs and ponytails are unacceptable, as is any variation of a mohawk. Boys are not permitted to have side burns below their ears. Boys are not permitted to have colored hair or buns. **If it is absolutely necessary for a student to wear hair in what is an unacceptable style to us, a written note by the person requiring this will be needed before the school will give permission.**

Boys who have pierced ears may not wear earrings during the school day. (PK-8)

Girls' hair should be neat and kept away from the eyes. Headbands, barrettes, scrunchies, and ribbons should be small and in keeping with the uniform colors. Frosted, dyed, bleached or colored hair is considered inappropriate and not permitted for the elementary school student.

Girls may wear post type earrings. Multiple earrings are not permitted. Make-up is not permitted. Girls may only wear clear nail polish.

Chronic disregard for the Uniform Dress Code will lead to disciplinary action.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

St. John Paul II Regional School has an Extended Day Program which is designed to meet the needs of working parents and to allow students the opportunity to work, play and improve academic skills through individualized attention.

Any student of St. John Paul II Regional School may participate on a daily, weekly or occasional basis, however, you must register before you attend.

Hours:	Before school	6:30 AM to 7:40 AM	\$8.00 first hour
		7:40 AM to 8:00 AM	\$10.00 after 7:40 AM
	After school		
	Regular school days	2:50 PM to 6:00 PM	
	Half school days	1:00 PM to 6:00 PM	

Forms are available through the School Office to register for the Before/After School Program. The rate schedule is printed on the registration form.

Extended Day Telephone Number: 856-783-3088

FIELD TRIPS

Periodically, a teacher may plan to take classes on outings during the school day. These trips are a learning experience which simultaneously provide enjoyment. In order to participate in a field trip, the child must bring in a standard "Parent Permission Form for Field Trip Participation" signed by the parent/guardian. A phone call is not permitted. Each teacher has the right to withhold a student from going on a trip because of lack of respect for his/her classmates or for school rules*. The student who does not participate in a class trip **MUST** stay home from school that day. The teacher is responsible to assign him/her with work assignments for the day.

** Following all field trips, students are to return to class until dismissal.*

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletic Programs

In order to participate in any extra-curricular programs, students must qualify academically and fulfill the regulations set up by the administration. Academic qualification means that the student must maintain satisfactory or better grades in all major subjects, conduct and effort. To be eligible for athletics, a grade of "C" - "77" or better is required for all subjects.

Under ordinary circumstances, one's participation in athletic or extra-curricular events is contingent on participation in regularly scheduled classroom and school activities that day. Therefore, absence from school eliminates participation in such events unless there are exceptional circumstances as determined by the administration. Generally speaking, students sent home because of illness are not permitted to participate in extra curricular or athletic events that day or evening.

Guidelines for Athletics are available on our school website.

FIRE DRILLS / LOCK DOWN DRILLS

New Jersey Law requires two drills per month in each school. The purpose of these drills is to evacuate the school in the safest and shortest time possible. The drills simulate emergency conditions and last approximately five minutes.

Lock down drills are practiced in order to allow the students to be prepared for crisis situations that may occur in the Stratford area.

NON CATHOLIC STUDENTS

The purpose of St. John Paul II Regional School is to educate the whole person. Any student, though not Catholic, who has chosen to attend St. John Paul II Regional School, must follow the curriculum and be educated in an environment of Catholic tradition. Therefore, all students will participate in all religion classes and have the same academic requirements.

OUTSIDE PROMOTIONS/SOLICITATIONS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Outside promotions and/or solicitations, and all political activity, are prohibited on the school grounds or in any electronic forum related to school activities.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

St. John Paul II Regional School relies heavily on the active support it receives from parents who volunteer precious time and talents to the various school programs. We appreciate all that you do for our children. A sign-up list will be handed out on *"Back to School Night"* by the Parent Teacher Association. All volunteers must be fingerprinted and attend a Child Abuse Prevention Presentation.

Any adult who wishes to volunteer with St. John Paul II Regional School in any capacity must sign the disclosure and authorization form and give consent to the Diocese of Camden to conduct a background check. All adult volunteers must complete the Universal Fingerprint Form by IdentGo and be fingerprinted by the New Jersey State Police. Adults cannot have any contact with students in this school until the Principal or Safe Environment Coordinator (SEC) has received a copy of their clearance letter from the Office of Child and Youth Protection. In addition, the Diocese of Camden requires all adults in regular contact with minors to complete a safe environment training session called VIRTUS Protecting God's Children (PGC). Adult volunteers are required to attend a PGC session within 60 days of initial contact with students. If a volunteer misses this deadline for whatever reason, the adult will not be allowed to volunteer until the PGC requirement is completed.

Volunteers are vital to our school community and cleared volunteers serve at the principal's discretion. All volunteers must agree to uphold and support St. John Paul II Regional School's Catholic identity, mission and values, and adhere to our parent conduct requirements. Violating conduct requirements or safe environment requirements may result in dismissal from volunteer activities temporarily or permanently.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of an emergency, each student is required to have on file in the school office the following information which is taken at time of registration:

- parent or guardian name
- complete current address
- cell phone numbers
- home and work phone numbers
- emergency phone number of relative or friend
- physician's name and phone number
- medical alert information

If any of this information changes during the course of the year, please notify the school office immediately to keep our records current.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

School is cancelled only in case of extreme emergency such as poor weather, equipment failure and public crisis. Families will be notified by email, phone call and/or text.

If school must be canceled during the day, the parent and/or emergency contact will be notified. No student will be permitted to leave until proper transportation and supervision at home can be insured.

PARKING LOT

For the safety of the children, please follow the guidelines below when dropping off and picking up your child:

MORNING DROP OFF:

7:40 AM Students (Grades K -8) may arrive and enter the building through the athletic door.

ENTER THE PARKING LOT USING THE WARWICK ROAD ENTRANCE... ***Do not park in the fire zone.*** Make a Right and drive along the Church and Rectory sidewalks. The children may be dropped off near the main entrance. **The students will go to their homerooms.** Do not block the flow of traffic by stopping and exit the parking lot using the Warwick Road Entrance.

AFTERNOON PICK UP:

ENTER THE PARKING LOT USING THE WARWICK ROAD ENTRANCE... ***Do not park in the fire zone.*** Exit the parking lot using Warwick Road Exit. Parents of students in Grades 5-8 may park in lot by the Church. Parents of students in Grades K-4 may park in the Vassar Avenue lot. Older students with younger siblings will be dismissed to the Vassar Avenue lot, or the church lot depending on grade level. Students will be brought to you by a teacher.

While the bus is loading, parents are asked to remain in their cars until the bus has left the property.

The gates on Vassar Avenue will be closed in the afternoon. Anyone picking up a child must enter the Warwick Avenue entrance.

Please be patient and take the time to be cautious for the safety of the children. Please do not call the office for dismissal instructions for individual students. No student will ever be left unattended outside.

PARENT / GUARDIAN PICK UP OF STUDENTS

- The custodial parent may also give permission in writing for any child(ren) to walk home from school, provided that the oldest child is at least 12 years old.
- Students may not be picked up on school grounds by a taxi or ride sharing service.
- Anytime a parent alters the method (mode of transportation, time, or responsible party) in which the student will leave school, the parent must inform the school in writing of the departure change, or there must be a written record of the change.
- School staff must ask for and receive proper identification before releasing a student to a designated person other than the custodial parent. Proper identification means, for example, a driver's license or other photo identification.
- The school will release the student when the parent or designated person has arrived at the school office to transport the student. In the case of an early release, the parent or designated person will sign the school's early release document before the child is released from the school.
- A student may not be released to an older sibling unless specifically authorized to do so by the custodial parent(s).

If children are not picked up by 3:00 PM, they will be sent to the Extended Day Program and a fee will be charged. Children are never permitted to sit in the foyer unattended. Parents will be charged \$10.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A gym instructor directs the Physical Education Program for all the students in grades Pre-K through 8. Physical Education is a requirement and no child may be excused unless the school nurse has received a note justifying the child's absence from these classes. There is a **required** gym uniform and all students must wear sneakers that can be tied for the gym classes. Any student not in regulation uniform will not participate in gym class. Any student habitually forgetting his/her gym apparel will be graded accordingly.

PLAYGROUND

Students are expected to follow the rules for the playground at all times.

The playground is supervised at lunch time by staff. Children are to respect the authority of those who supervise the playground.

The playground is not supervised after school.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed four times during the year at the end of each marking period. The purpose of the report cards is to inform the parents about the academic and social development of the child. Parents are urged to review the report card carefully and contact the teacher if there are any questions concerning the report. Parents can review grades through Ren Web.

Letter grades and their equivalents, as approved by the Diocese of Camden, are as follows:

A+ 97-100	B 85-88	D+ 74-76
A 93-96	C+ 81-84	D 70-73
B+ 89-92	C 77-80	F Below 70

Any child who receives an F in the final marking period must be tutored during the summer by a certified tutor. Twelve hours of tutoring are required.

Honor Roll grades 6th - 7th - 8th
ALL MAJOR SUBJECTS

Principal List
93 and above

1st Honors
89 and above

2nd Honors
85 and above

Honor roll students may not have NI or U in special subjects and or conduct.

BUS CONDUCT

Students are expected to observe the rules set by the bus company to insure the safety of all. The following rules should be obeyed:

- Use only assigned bus
- Orderly behavior at bus stops
- Remain seated and facing front while on the bus.
- Talk quietly
- Keep head and arms inside bus
- Do not litter or throw anything out of windows
- Obey bus driver and safeties
- Do not use improper language

Infractions of the rules will be brought to the immediate attention of the parent. Repeated refusal to conform with the transportation regulations might result in the loss of the child's right to transportation.

Application for transportation **must be made** each year by the date in March set by the school districts.

PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY

A cumulative passing average in the major subjects is the basic requirement for promotion to the next grade. Decisions concerning repeating a grade is the final responsibility of the Principal in consultation with the teacher. If a student, based on unsatisfactory performance during the first semester, is being considered for retention, the parent will be notified in writing by the end of the second marking period. A parent conference will be scheduled to discuss the weaknesses of the student and to outline a plan for student improvement.

- Students must receive a final grade of 70% in all subjects to be promoted to the next grade. Those students who fail a course at the end of the year must remediate the failure over the summer at their own expense.
- A student with two failures at the end of the school year may be considered for retention based on other academic and developmental factors. If a student has more than two failures at the end of the school year the school may dismiss the student.
- In order for a student to be promoted to the next grade, courses must be remediated through an accredited summer school or by a certified tutor approved by the school. The tutor or the instructor may not be the student's teacher from the failed course. The student is required to provide proof of successful completion of the remediated course to the school immediately upon completion. Students will receive the lowest passing grade (70%) as a final grade on the report card after successful completion of the remediated course.
- Eight-grade students who would be dismissed under this policy will be permitted to attend summer school to remove the failures and be able to receive a diploma after receiving a passing grade.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The official school calendar is issued by the Office of Superintendent of Schools with the approval of the Bishop. The calendar meets or exceeds the 180 days required by the State of New Jersey for public schools. A yearly calendar published by the school is given to parents in September. Any changes to the calendar will be communicated in writing by the principal.

SCHOOL HOURS

3 yr. old Preschool	Full Day: Mon. - Fri.	8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
	Half Day: Mon. - Fri.	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
4 yr. old Preschool	Full Day: Mon. - Fri.	8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
	Half Day: Mon. - Fri.	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Kindergarten through Grade 8		8:00 AM - 2:50 PM
Half Day Schedule		8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Eighth Grade Students will NOT be permitted to participate in Graduation Exercises unless ALL obligations have been met by May 31st.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Most supplies required for use in the classroom are available through the School. Items are available for purchase Monday through Friday, 8:10 – 8:30 AM.

STUDENT HEALTH

Students are required to have all immunizations required for school attendance by the State of New Jersey. Medical exemptions are allowed with a written statement provided by the child's physician. 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. Medical exemptions are reviewed annually.

St. John Paul II Regional School will review requests of parents for religious exemptions from immunization if the parents submit a letter describing that their request is a matter of informed conscience for them. The pastor will make the final determination as to whether a religious exemption is warranted.

REMEDIAL SERVICES

ESL Services - Are provided by Camden County Educational Services Commission for students who are identified as English not being the primary language spoken at home.

Examination and Classification – Services of a Child Study Team, Learning Disabilities Consultant, Social Worker and School Psychologist, are available through Camden County Educational Services Commission for students who are recommended for testing and evaluation.

Comprehensive Education Classes - Remedial instruction is offered to qualifying students in the areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. An instructor from Camden County Educational Services teaches these classes in an on-site trailer during the school day. **Homebound Instruction** - Individual instruction may be provided in lieu of regular classroom instruction to a student who is unable to attend school because of illness or injury. Application must be made through St. John Paul II Regional School to the Camden County Educational Services Commission.

Special Education - St. John Paul II has special education classes. Primary, intermediate, and middle school are housed at St. John Paul II Regional School. Students are mainstreamed into the regular classes according to individual needs. Application for these classes is made through St. John Paul II Regional School.

Speech Classes - A Speech-Language Specialist is available from Camden County Educational Services Commission for students who are identified as needing Speech Related Services including language, articulation, voice and fluency.

Title I Remedial Services - Are available through the resident school district for children who do not meet the Minimum Levels of Proficiency on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The extent of these services varies each year based on available funding.

SAFETY

The safety of our children is our first priority. To assure this the Diocese of Camden and the Camden County Prosecutor's Office have entered into a Modified Agreement.

School officials and law enforcement officials need to cooperate and share information involving weapons, drugs, sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, hate crimes, bias-related acts, and significant acts of violence. It is a crime to have a weapon in or upon the school building or property. "It is understood and agreed that the commission of these types of offenses on school property, whether directed at students, school employees, or school property, not only undermines the educational environment, but can directly endanger the safety and well-being of members of the school community and thus requires an appropriate and decisive response." We have a zero tolerance policy regarding weapons. Police will be notified immediately and parents will be contacted.

Violence is defined as actual or threatened infliction of bodily harm that may occur both on or off school property, during school hours or at times other than the regular school day. Victims are not limited to members of the school community.

Hate Crime means any criminal offense where the person/s committing the offense acted with a purpose to intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race, color, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

Bias-Related Act means an act (not necessarily a criminal act) that is directed at a person, group of persons, private or public property that is motivated in whole or part by racial, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnic prejudice. Note that all hate crimes are also bias-related acts, but not all bias-related acts will constitute a hate crime.

In 2002, the United States conference of Catholic Bishops issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Bishop Joseph Galante has approved the Criminal History Background Check Policy. Every adult who has regular contact with minors will be fingerprinted. This applies not only to all employees but to volunteers as well.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Backpacks - Must not have wheels.
- Water Bottles - Teachers/Staff have the discretion to determine where the water bottle may sit. For example, some have the students place them on a table in the classroom.
- Items Not Permitted In School - Students personal devices. School will provide device to be used.
- Search of Property
 - To maintain a safe, orderly, and Christ-centered learning environment, St. John Paul II Regional School reserves the right to inspect and search student belongings, including but not limited to backpacks, lockers, desks, electronic devices, and personal items brought onto school property or to school-sponsored events.
 - As a private institution, St. John Paul II Regional School retains the authority to conduct such searches at any time, with or without prior notice, when there is reasonable cause or concern related to the health, safety, conduct, or well-being of the student or school community.
 - The school will notify parents if a significant issue arises from a search, or if disciplinary action is taken as a result.
 - By enrolling at St. John Paul II Regional School, students and parents acknowledge and accept the school's right to conduct such searches as part of its duty to protect and promote a safe and faithful school community.

CELL PHONE GUIDELINES

ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE PUT ON THE HOMEROOM TEACHER'S DESK WHEN ENTERING THE CLASSROOM. PHONE SHOULD BE TURNED OFF.

1. In the interest of safety, students should refrain from walking while using cellphones. Students are not permitted to be on their phones during the course of the school day.
2. Violation of the Cell Phone Policy may include the confiscation of the device and the restriction of future privileges.
3. If school officials have reasonable suspicion that this Policy or other relevant school policies are violated, cell phones may be searched in accordance with the law. Depending on the nature of the offense, it may be necessary for school officials to turn over the device to local law enforcement.
4. Students using the school WIFI are required to follow all regulations of our school technology policy.

UNACCEPTABLE USES

1. Non-staff use of any type of camera or video or audio recording device, including cameras and microphones integrated into cell phones or other personal devices, on the school campus during the school day, is strictly prohibited without the expressed signed permission of the school principal. A violation of this policy may result in the device being confiscated and will result in the disciplinary action including removal from the School.
2. Communication in any form that is abusive, threatening, demeaning, profane, or otherwise inappropriate for school.
3. Use of cell phone to engage in cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
4. Wearing headphones or playing music through a speaker in the hallways. This creates a safety risk.

ELECTRONICS

Students may not bring electronic equipment to school. These items are expensive and the school is not responsible if the item is lost or stolen.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The purpose of the Student Council is to provide students with experience in the procedures of a democratic government. The student council sponsors various activities during the school year. These activities support both the academic and the social dimensions of student life.

Student Council elections are held in June. A class representative is elected in September. The general election is held for the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. All members of the student body are encouraged to participate in student council sponsored activities.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS

Art - Weekly instruction is given to all children in Kindergarten through Eighth grade.

Music - Weekly instruction is given to all children in Kindergarten through Eighth grade.

Library/Media Classes - Weekly classes in Computer Literacy instruction is given to all children in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. Each classroom, Preschool through Eighth, is equipped with an instructional computer which is used to supplement the curriculum. All computers have internet access. All users of technology equipment and services at Saint John Paul II Regional School are required to sign the Acceptable Use Policy.

Spanish - Weekly instruction Grades K through Eighth.

Middle School Programs - will introduce our Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders to a variety of exploratory classes that are part of our academic program.

St. John Paul II Regional School is responding to the challenge of providing young adolescents with a well-balanced educational experience that will prepare them for the future. Our goal is to offer the students various opportunities for learning, to have the students accept responsibility for their own choices and actions, to prepare them to become thoughtful and productive citizens, and to reinforce the values, ideals and principles of our Catholic faith.

TESTING PROGRAM

STAR Testing is administered in Math and Language Arts, each September, January and May to students in Grades K-8 in the Diocese of Camden. The testing program measures student mastery of academic skills acquired in school and through educational experiences and personal reading. The results of the testing report students' strengths and weaknesses. It aids the teachers in selecting appropriate teaching materials and strategies for the students. The results are reported to the parents in May of each year. Teachers are available to help interpret testing results.

VISITS TO SCHOOL

Visits to school are encouraged; however, an appointment is needed to meet with a teacher or the principal.

Keep in mind that teachers are not permitted to leave classrooms while classes are in session - either to answer the phone or to confer with parents. Accordingly, **no one is permitted to go to a classroom without the permission of the principal.** Precious learning time must be safeguarded. If it is necessary to bring articles of clothing, lunches, etc., to the school during the day, these should be left in the School Office with the child's name and grade clearly visible on the item. This should occur on an emergency basis only.

All visitors are required to sign in and out and wear a Visitor's Badge while in the building.

St. John Paul II Regional School

2025-2026 School Year

TUITION POLICY / FINANCIAL MATTERS

Parents/guardians are obligated to pay tuition in order to obtain educational services for their children. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to maintain their financial commitments to the school. In the event of a financial hardship resulting in non-payment, you must contact the principal. The school may, but is not obligated to, send reminders or other notices regarding outstanding bills. Failure to make payments when due, or to make arrangements with the school for payment of delinquent obligations, may result in the termination of RenWeb or discontinuation of educational services to your child, possibly leading to disenrollment. In those cases where students are in the eighth grade, documents including transcripts and diplomas will not be provided if you have a delinquent balance with the school. All present year tuition must be paid in full before the last day of the school year or the student's placement for the upcoming school year will not be guaranteed. Unpaid bills may be referred to a collection agency. Costs associated with the collection will be added to the parent/guardian fees. For withdrawals on or responsibility for withdraw prior to June 30 after July 1, please see policy on next page.

Tuition payments are collected monthly through FACTS Tuition Management Services. Tuition is paid by automatic deduction from either your checking or savings account. FACTS will also accept payments using MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Please note there is a convenience fee charged to the credit card holder. Confidentiality of all account information is guaranteed.

Tuition may also be paid in full through FACTS Tuition only and payment is expected before July 15th for the next school year.

Tuition Assistance: Applications for tuition assistance must be done on-line only through FACTS. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee to FACTS to apply for assistance.

TUITION REFUND POLICY

Grades K-8 Refund Policy

In the event of a student leaving St. John Paul II during the year, prepaid tuition is refundable to the family or unpaid tuition is due to the school, according to the following schedule. There is no tuition responsibility for withdraw prior to August 1st for the upcoming school year. For withdraws on or after August 1st, please see policy below.

Withdraw / Transfer Prior to:	% Annual Tuition Refundable If paid in full	% Annual Tuition Owed
August 1	100%	0%
September 1	80%	20%
October 1	70%	30%
November 1	60%	40%
December 1	50%	50%
January 1	40%	60%
February 1	30%	70%
March 1	20%	80%
April 1	0%	100%

Grades K-8 Refund Policy

In the event a student enrolling at St. John Paul II Regional School during the year, tuition is due to the school, according to the following schedule:

Enrollment Prior to:	% Annual Tuition Owed
Up to September 15	100%
October 1	90%
November 1	80%
December 1	70%
January 1	60%
February 1	50%
March 1	40%
April 1	30%
May 1	20%

Pre-School Programs

In the event of a student leaving St. John Paul II during the year, prepaid tuition is refundable to the family or unpaid tuition is due to the school, according to the following schedule. There is no tuition responsibility for withdraw prior to August 1st for the upcoming school year. For withdraws on or after August 1st, please see policy below.

For late enrollees, please see K-8 partial year policy on the previous page.

Withdraw / Transfer Prior to:	% Annual Tuition Refundable If paid in full	% Annual Tuition Owed
August 1	100%	0%
September 1	80%	20%
October 1	70%	30%
November 1	60%	40%
December 1	50%	50%
January 1	40%	60%
February 1	30%	70%
March 1	20%	80%
April 1	0%	100%

Tuition Rates are determined by the Finance Committee based on information provided by the Diocesan Office. There is a Catholic and Non-Catholic tuition rate. The definition of each category is below.

Catholic: Parent/Guardian must be registered in a Catholic parish and the child must have a valid Baptismal certificate.

Non-Catholic: Religion other than Catholic. Greek Orthodox will be considered Non-Catholic. Children must still participate in Religion classes and participate in Liturgical events. Non-Catholic students participate in sacramental classes but are not eligible to make the sacrament.



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