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SCHOOL HOURS

K through 8th Grades 7:45 AM to 2:35 PM
Half-days 7:45 AM to 12:30 PM

Students must be in the building by 7:45 AM or they will be marked tardy.
Homeroom will begin promptly at 7:50 AM.

Preschool 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Half-days 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

All students, including Preschool, may use the drop off line beginning at 7:30 AM. Students will be directed to the cafeteria and remain there until a staff member takes them to their classrooms.

Preschool students may also be walked directly to the classroom through the Preschool Door between 7:55 and 8:00 AM. After 8:00 AM preschool students must use the main school doors.

Kindergarten parents may walk their child to class only on the first day of school.

**NO CHILD IS TO BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE 7:30 AM.
SAINT LEO THE GREAT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENTS ARRIVING BEFORE 7:30 AM.**

ACADEMICS

Saint Leo the Great School makes every effort to maintain academic integrity where grades are concerned. Tests and reports will be returned in a timely manner, and beginning in grade three, students should keep an accurate record of their assignments and grades. Planning and record keeping is a life skill and should be encouraged by both parents and teachers. In the event that a mistake is made, the student is encouraged to address the issue with the teacher. Parents are always welcome to address academic issues with their child’s teacher if an issue has not been satisfactorily resolved. The Administration reserves the right to uphold, change, or edit all grades.

Homework:

Homework assignments are part of the general schooling process. They provide an opportunity for the student to:

- 1. Reinforce a lesson or concept.
- 2. Perform on an individualized basis.
- 3. Establish and develop solid work habits.

It is recommended that parents:

- 1. Encourage the student to put forth his/her best effort.
- 2. Help the student budget his/her time in relation to other student and/or family activities.
- 3. Be aware of any particular difficulties that should be brought to the attention of the teacher.

In general, overnight assignments will vary in length of time according to the subject and grade level of the individual student. Long-term individualized assignments and book reports will give students the opportunity to budget their time in relation to their routine assignments and activities. Homework is expected to be turned in on the day it is due. Parents will be notified if a child consistently fails to accomplish homework assignments.

Homework requests due to absence should be made only for students who are absent more than one day. Homework requests should be made before 9:00 AM. Call the school office with these requests. Books should be picked up in the school office between 3:00 – 3:30 PM.

Students are expected to spend *approximately* the following amount of time on homework:

Grade 1	15 – 20 minutes	Grade 5 - 6	60 minutes of written work and study
Grade 2 – 3	30 minutes	Grade 7 - 8	45 minutes of written work and 45 minutes of study
Grade 4	45 minutes		

In order to view your child's assignments, you can search our website. Homework will be posted each night on our website: www.saintleothegreatschool.com. There is a "Homework" link. Parents/Students will then be directed to each teacher's on-line site where they post homework assignments and classroom announcements. This makes it possible for both parents and students to view what is happening in the classroom. If there is an unscheduled school closure, students are responsible for continuing to check the homework site.

Each teacher has his/her own individual website. If a student has more than one teacher, each teacher's website must be opened individually. Teacher's plans can vary from day to day; **therefore, we ask each student to continue to use his/her assignment books.** If a student has a question about an assignment, which is posted online, he/she should check with his/her teacher.

Flex Program:

We know that children vary greatly in their ability levels. One of the approaches currently designed to address these differences is a multi-level teaching design for language arts. This instruction allows those students to engage in learning in small, heterogeneous groups, while at the same time benefiting from an intensive and individualized learning environment designed to address and enhance reading proficiency, including decoding, fluency, comprehension and/or writing.

A multi-age class presents students with many positive experiences. Students who work at their own level experience success and have a positive outlook about themselves and about school as teachers use instructional methods that are student centered and developmentally appropriate. Differences among students are seen as the norm. This understanding helps children learn tolerance and build positive social relationships.

Our multi-level program classroom is comprised of students in grades 2 and 3. The classroom is designed for age appropriate learning. Students will work at a rate and with material best suited for them. The goal of this flex-program is to meet the needs of all learners and enable participants to transition back into their appropriate grade level the following school year.

Selection for our Flex Program is based on teacher assessments, recommendations, and standardized test scores when available.

Scholastic Testing Program (Terra Nova's):

All children in grade 2-8 are tested in early spring. Results are given to the parents as soon as possible. Additionally, students in grades 2, 4 and 7 are given a Cognitive Skills Test.

Math Program:

All 7th grade students will be taking Pre-Algebra, and all 8th grade students will be introduced to Algebra I. These courses are designed to prepare students for the challenges of a high school Algebra I course.

Placement Criteria for Math (Grades, 6, 7 & 8):

Proper placement assures a better foundation for higher-level math classes, and has a positive impact on both self-esteem and grades. Presently, two learning levels are available.

- **General Math:** These classes provide more time on task to achieve a deeper understanding of concepts.
- **Accelerated Math:** These classes are available for the student with an innate ability to grasp concepts quickly. It is designed to move quickly through a challenging curriculum with limited individual assistance. On the 8th grade level this course is taught as a High School Algebra I course of study. The student is responsible for his/her work and should not require any additional remediation.

Placement in Accelerated Math classes will be based on a combination of the following criteria:

1. Terra Nova Scores (above 90 %)
2. Teacher Recommendation
3. Math Grades from previous year which must be 93 or above (A average in grades 4 & 5)
4. Above average Placement Test Score (varies according to grade)
5. Above average Cognitive Score

Please Note: A student may test into Accelerated Math at the 6th grade level; however, retention of concepts is not always attainable in subsequent grades. **It is more harmful developmentally to push children or tutor them to remain in a program.** An accelerated math student needs to have both ability in this subject and a focused work ethic. He/she should require minimal explanation and almost no re-teaching of any concept.

New Students:

New students in grades 6-8 are placed initially in the General Math course. If interested in the Accelerated Math course, the new student will be given a Math Placement test. The Math Placement test results, Report Cards, and the results of standardized tests taken at their previous schools will be used in determining class placement.

ACTIVITIES

In addition to our sports oriented activities, the following activities offer students an opportunity for participation and service:

School Ambassadors*	Newspaper	Math Club
Mock Trial***	Student Council**	Science Club
S.T.A.R. Program	Yearbook	Spring Play

Additional activities will be added as interests and opportunities arise.

* School Ambassadors represent the school at functions that require school tours. This program is open to 8th graders and requires an application and acceptance process.

**Students are elected for Student Council by the student body. Members hold leadership positions and are expected to promote the general welfare of the student body.

School Ambassadors and Student Council members are required to maintain acceptable discipline and academic records. Each student is responsible for maintaining academic standards and acceptable conduct levels at all times. If at any time during the school year a student falls below acceptable levels of academics or conduct, the Administration may remove or suspend the student from the organization. Additionally, applicants for these positions may have no more than 12 absences and/or tardies. Absences/tardies with a doctor’s notes will not be included in these numbers.

*** The Mock Trial club requires high academic grades, high standardized test scores in Language Arts, and teacher recommendation.

ALLERGY POLICY (LIFE-THREATENING)

In order to minimize the incidence of life-threatening allergic reactions, Saint Leo the Great School will maintain a system-wide procedure for addressing life-threatening allergic reactions and maintain an Emergency Health Care Plan (EHCP) for any student whose parent/guardian and physician have informed the school in writing that the student has a potentially life-threatening allergy.

Policy Procedures:

In order to minimize the incidence of life-threatening allergic reactions, Saint Leo the Great School will:

- Provide training and education for all employees.
- In conjunction with the student’s parent/guardian and primary care provider and/or allergist, maintain an Emergency Health Care Plan (EHCP) for any student identified with a potentially life-threatening allergy.
- Encourage parents to participate in the support and implementation of this policy.

General School Procedures:

At all levels, the school nurse, in conjunction with the student's parent/guardian and the primary care provider/allergist, will prepare an Emergency Health Care Plan (EHCP) for any student with a life-threatening allergy. This EHCP will be updated annually and reviewed by the school nurse, the student's parent/guardian, and the primary care provider and/or the student's allergist. The EHCP will include the student's name, the allergen(s), the warning signs and symptoms, what to do in case of an emergency, and phone numbers of parents, doctors, and allergists. The EHCP will be available in the nurse's office and will accompany the student on any field trip.

Photographs of a student with life-threatening allergies (LTA) will be attached to the EHCP with permission of the parent/guardian. The school nurse will be responsible for notifying classroom teachers about the nature of the life-threatening allergies faced by students. This notification will include an explanation of the severity of the health threat, a description of the signs and symptoms to be aware of, and what allergen (food, materials, etc.) to avoid.

Information about the child's LTA will be distributed to designated staff members. Staff will be reminded that all medical information is confidential and shared on a need to know basis. Teachers are responsible for keeping an updated substitute folder containing their student's EHCPs.

EpiPens (belonging to the school and those prescribed to the students) will be stored in the nurse's office. At the beginning of each school year or upon assuming a staff position, all staff (including substitutes) will be informed by the school nurse of the locations of the EpiPens.

Employee Training and Education:

Initial employee training and education will include (but not be limited to):

1. A description/definition of severe allergies and a discussion of the most common food, medication, latex and stinging insect allergies.
2. The signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and the correct use of an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen).
3. Specific steps to follow in the event of an emergency. Medical response - Dial 911 - location of emergency EpiPen.

Classrooms:

Teachers must be familiar with the EHCP (Emergency Health Care Plan) for students in their classes and respond to emergencies as per the emergency protocol documented in the Emergency Health Care Plan. In the event of a suspected allergic reaction (where there is no known allergic history), the school nurse will be called and the school's Emergency Response Plan activated. Emergency medical services will be called immediately.

- Information will be kept about students' food allergies in the classroom in the substitute emergency folder, accessible by teachers, substitutes or other responsible adults.
- A parent or guardian of a student with food allergies is responsible for providing all food for his/her own child. Snacks will be kept in a separate snack box provided by the parent or guardian.
- Only school personnel may provide special occasion snacks for his/her classroom.
- Tables will be washed with soap and water following any food related events held in the classroom.
- Sharing or trading food in the class or cafeteria will be prohibited.
- Proper hand cleaning techniques will be taught and encouraged before and after the handling/consumption of food.

School Field Trips:

The school nurse will recommend to the Administration the appropriateness of each field trip with consideration of safety of the student with life-threatening allergies.

- Protocols for field trips will include timely notification to the nurse.
- Medications including an EpiPen and a copy of the student's Emergency Health Care Plan must accompany the student.
- A cell phone or other communication device must be available on the trip for emergency calls.
- In the absence of an accompanying parent/guardian or nurse, another trained individual will be assigned the task of watching out for the student's welfare and for handling an emergency. The adult carrying the EpiPen will be identified and introduced to the student as well as to the other chaperones.

Cafeteria:

- The Cafeteria Manager will have knowledge of school lunch menus, a la carte items, vending machines, recipes, food products and ingredients, food handling practices, cleaning, and sanitation practices.
- Life-threatening allergy free tables will be available where students are able to sit with their friends and classmates. These tables will be clearly identified and cleaned by staff.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Saint Leo's Athletic Association has been established to conduct and organize adult-supervised programs of sports and activities for Saint Leo the Great School. Its objective is to impart to our youth the ideals of honesty, loyalty, responsibility, courage, good sportsmanship, respect for authority, and to enrich their lives as they grow into happy, healthy, young adults. Its success is measured not by victories and records, but by the extent to which our athletes improve their skills and become better citizens.

The Athletic Association oversees basketball, baseball, softball, track and field, soccer, cross-country, cheerleading, volleyball, and tennis.

Requirements for Participation in Interscholastic Sports:

1. Physical examinations no more than 364 days prior to trying out for any sport.
2. Completion of:
 - a. SLG medical form not older than 364 days on file with the School Nurse
 - b. parental questionnaire
 - c. permission form
 - d. emergency information form
 - e. Parent Code of Conduct
3. The approval of school nurse.
4. Each student is responsible for maintaining academic standards and acceptable conduct levels at all times. If an athlete receives any disciplinary action, the Administration reserves the right to allow or deny participation in an extracurricular activity (e.g. practices and/or games).
5. A student must attend school for a period of 4 hours to participate in a competitive event on the same day. Certain exceptions, (e.g. funeral, doctor's appointment, etc.) can be made by the Administration if a student presents a note at least one day in advance requesting permission to participate. No one will be allowed to participate if an early dismissal is necessary due to an illness or injury.
6. A child must be able to participate in Physical Education class in order to be eligible to try-out and/or participate in any sport, regardless of a note from a physician indicating otherwise.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents/Guardians of students participating in a Saint Leo the Great School Sports Program are expected to adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. We will encourage, not pressure, our child to participate in sports.
2. We will remember that children participate to have fun and that the fame is for the children, not the adults.
3. We will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of our child or the safety of others. We will not have our child return to play unless we have written clearance from a physician.
4. We will respect the coaches and officials and their authority during games. We will not question, discuss, or

confront coaches or officials at the game field. We will wait 24 hours before confronting a coach and will take time to speak with the coach(es) at an agreed upon time and place.

5. We will refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol at all sporting events.
6. We will abide by these rules and guidelines so long as we are members of the Saint Leo the Great Church, Saint Leo the Great School, and Saint Leo the Great Athletic Association.

We also agree that if we fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, or participate in any other conduct that is counter to the goals and values set forth by the Saint Leo the Great Church, Saint Leo the Great School, and Saint Leo the Great Athletic Association (SLGAA), that our actions will be subject to review by the School Administration and the SLGAA, and may result in one or more of the following actions:

1. Verbal warning
2. Written warning
3. Parental game suspension with written documents of incident kept on file by the organization involved.

ATTENDANCE and LATE ARRIVALS

ALL K-8 GRADE STUDENTS MUST BE IN SCHOOL BY 7:45 AM.

Regular, on time attendance is essential to a student's success in school. Most subjects are taught in sequence, requiring the understanding of each concept in the order of its presentation. Being late to school or an individual class interrupts learning and reflects poor time management skills.

Additionally, Middle School students can be adversely affected by excessive absences and/or tardiness. Not only do high schools review these records for admission purposes, but participation in Student Council, School Ambassadors and other activities may be denied.

Absences:

An Instant Alert will be sent if your child is absent. Please call the office immediately if a mistake has been made.

A note must be presented upon the student's return. In the event of a prolonged illness, please contact the office and provide a doctor's note upon your child's return.

If a student is taken out of school to go on vacation while school is in session, the parent assumes the responsibility for work missed. The teacher is NOT responsible for work missed because of vacation absence. Written classwork will not be given to any child before leaving for vacation. Make-up work is to be done at home upon the child's return.

Any student absent from school may not participate in any after school activity (including sport practices or games on that day). Any special circumstance requires an Administrator's authorization. Please note: a student must be in school for 4 hours to receive credit for a full day of school.

All absences are part of the student's permanent record.

Late Policy:

When a student arrives after the 7:45 AM bell the student should report directly to the office with a note from home. The student will then receive a "late slip" which the student will present to his/her homeroom teacher.

All tardies become part of a student's permanent record unless due to a late bus. Tardiness due to documented medical appointments is part of the student's permanent record. A doctor's note must be presented at the time of the student's arrival.

We urge you to use the bus service. This will ensure that your child will be on time. Tardiness due to the late arrival of a school bus is the only tardiness which will be automatically excused.

Leaving School Early:

Children who must be excused from school early must bring a note from their parents stating the time to be excused and the reason for leaving early. To minimize interruption of the school day, a note should be brought to the office in the morning and the student will be given an early dismissal pass to give to his/her teacher. At the appropriate time, the student will be dismissed from class and sent to the office. **Students will not be called from class after 2:00 PM unless it is an emergency.** A parent or other designated adult should report to the office to sign out the child. Parents are not permitted to go to the classroom.

If someone other than a parent will be picking up the child, a note giving permission is necessary. The Administration may require identification. No student will be released before the regular dismissal time unaccompanied by a parent/guardian or designee.

Students will not be released from class after 2:00 PM unless it is an emergency. These requirements are for the safety of the children.

Students are not permitted to make plans on their own during the school day, which involve changes to the dismissal procedures.

BASIC SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (BSIP)

All children are assessed in achievement through the use of Terra Nova testing beginning in the second grade. The State Department of Education identifies specific minimum levels of proficiency (MLP) in reading, writing and math for grades 3-8. Saint Leo the Great School has established its MLPs for K-1 via teacher recommendation. These MLPs are used to identify those students eligible to participate in the BSIP. The Basic Skills teacher, Principal and Vice Principal are responsible for identifying all eligible students.

CALENDAR

At the beginning of every month, a calendar of events will be accessible on our web site www.saintleothegreatschool.com. Please visit this site frequently, as it will inform you of early dismissals, meetings, holidays, report card distribution, etc. A yearly calendar of all school holidays will be posted in the beginning of the school year to help you in making plans for family vacations. Adjustments to this calendar are sometimes unavoidable. All changes will be made as early as possible.

CHILD STUDY TEAM REFERRAL POLICY

What are Child Study Team Services?

New Jersey Title 18A, Chapter 46, Special Education law requires each school to identify all educationally handicapped children eligible for special education between the ages of 3 and 21.

Identifying handicapped children and deeming them eligible is the legal responsibility of the Child Study Team. The Child Study Team (CST) consists of a School Psychologist, a Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant, a School Social Worker and a Speech/Language Specialist. These specialists are provided to students at Saint Leo the Great School through Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC).

How does a child come to be referred to the Child Study Team?

In our school, a child who is exhibiting signs of educational difficulty is referred by the classroom teacher to the Vice Principal. If it appears that more intensive evaluation is needed or that total special education planning is required to help the child to function, the Vice Principal will refer the child to the MOESC Child Study Team. This will be in consultation with the student's parents, the teacher, and counselor where applicable. Programs available to students in special education include pull-out basic skills (see Basic Skills Improvement Program), resource with in-class support, resource with paraprofessionals, and speech/language services.

CLASSROOM PARTIES/FOOD ALLERGIES

Many children have life-threatening allergic reactions to food and/or other substances. In an effort to minimize risk and to

provide all of our students with a safe environment, **students may not bring food into the classrooms or cafeteria for sharing purposes**. All teachers will be responsible for arranging snacks for any classroom celebration that may occur, including holidays and at the end of the school year.

A birthday will be celebrated in the following manner: the Birthday boy or girl will have his/her birthday announced over the PA system, dress down on the day he/she is celebrating the birthday (weekends/summers may choose), be given a coupon for a free desert from the school cafeteria, and excused from doing any homework on that day. Private party invitations may *not* be handed out in school unless every child in the entire grade is to receive one. If you participate in the school directory you are entitled to the information shared by other parents, otherwise, the school cannot provide personal information without permission. Please contact the classroom parent for further information.

DISCIPLINE

Saint Leo the Great School has an obligation to teach responsible and cooperative behavior that considers the rights of others and develops self-discipline. If used in an effective manner, it assists children with developing productive behavior patterns, emotional growth, and a positive self-image. We also want to preserve a positive self-image in the process by letting our students know that making mistakes is normal and acceptable, and we think they are capable of learning and making use of these opportunities to develop acceptable social behaviors.

The rules of the school are both straightforward and far-reaching:

- Take care of yourself.
- Take care of each other.
- Take care of our school.

Caring for the emotional and physical well-being of our students means using discipline as one tool to create a safe, structured, and predictable learning environment so they may feel cared for, capable, and connected. It is important that a child sees school and home as a team, working in his/her best interest.

The following system of consequences has been developed to modify, inhibit, or change behaviors, which interfere with the well-being of our students and the learning process.

Demerits:

A system of demerits is enforced at Saint Leo the Great School. Students may receive demerits for the following reasons:

1. Chewing gum in school.
2. Eating or taking food or drink outside of the cafeteria.
3. Improper behavior in common areas (cafeteria, playground, AAC).
4. Purposeful disregard for property.
5. Lateness to class.
6. Failure to pick up after oneself in the classroom/cafeteria.
7. Inappropriate language.
8. Inappropriate or unkind behavior toward another student.
9. Hair not neat and combed. *
10. Being out of uniform. Students are expected to look clean and neat (i.e. shirts tucked in, proper skirt length).**

*Extreme hair (color or style) will not be allowed. It will be up to the Administration to determine the appropriateness of the hairstyle. Girls may not wear their hair in a manner that covers their eyes. Boys' hair must be above the collar, ears, and eyebrows.

Only girls may wear earrings. One stud earring, located in the ear lobes, will be permitted. Only clear nail polish may be worn. The Administration reserves the right to judge the appropriateness of any student's hairstyle, dress, shoes, use of make-up, and/or jewelry. **We deal with fads as they arise.** If a child is not in proper uniform, demerits will be issued.

****Boys:** A dark, solid color leather or web belt must be worn with pants. Shirt must be tucked-in and only the top button may be open.

****Girls:** Khaki plaid kilt must be no more than 3 inches above the knee. Only the top button of the shirt may be open.

Any teacher may send a student to the office for demerits. Demerits will be recorded. The student will bring the demerit home to be signed and must be returned to the office the following day.

Five (5) demerits within the same trimester may result in a detention.

Discipline Referral Forms:

Saint Leo the Great School uses Referral Form notices for serious discipline problems including, but not restricted to: disrespect, disruption of class, fighting, cheating on a test, cutting class, harassment, intimidation, bullying, lateness to class causing delays or disruption, continued disobedience, use of profanity, destruction of property, and bringing disgrace or embarrassment upon the name of Saint Leo the Great School. Discipline Referral Forms will be addressed by the Administration. Detentions and/or suspensions will be issued in accordance with the severity of the offense.

Grounds for Dismissal:

Serious offenses such as, but not limited to, theft, assault, cheating, harassment, intimidation, bullying, setting off a fire alarm, or willful destruction of property may be grounds for dismissal. Any student found in possession of or using alcohol or drugs, on school grounds, on a school sponsored activity or while in their school uniform off school grounds may be subject to expulsion.

If a student is found in possession of a weapon, legal authorities will be called and the student will be subject to immediate expulsion.

DRESS CODE

All students in grades K through 8 must be in full dress code upon entrance to school each day. The dress code is in effect from September through June. Uniforms may be purchased through Flynn & O'Hara www.flynnohara.com.

Preschool:

Boys and Girls are not required to wear a uniform. They should wear safe, comfortable, closed-toe shoes at all times and clothing that allows for tumbling and playtime. An extra set of clothing should be kept in a zip-lock bag (with child's name on the outside) in the classroom.

Kindergarten:

Boys:

Khaki long pants or shorts (elastic waist)
Long- or short-sleeved navy golf shirt (no logos)
White, tan or any dark color socks
Navy V-neck cardigan (optional)
Maroon fleece with or without SLG logo (Optional)

Girls:

Khaki jumper, skort, (Lands' End or Kohl's' uniform skorts are allowed), long pants (elastic waist)
Long- or short-sleeved navy golf shirt (no logos) or Peter Pan collar long or short-sleeve shirt may be worn with the jumper
White or navy knee-hi, ankle, crew socks or tights
Navy crewneck cardigan (optional)
Maroon fleece with or without SLG logo (Optional)

Boys & Girls Shoes: Any safe, comfortable, and closed toe style, including sneakers is acceptable.

Grade 1-8 Boys Uniform:

Khaki long pants
 Leather or web belts: dark, solid color must be worn with pants
 Maroon or white long- or short-sleeved golf shirt
 Solid colored ankle or crew socks in white, maroon, or black
 Maroon fleece with or without SLG logo (Optional)

Grades 1-4 Girls Uniform:

Maroon/khaki plaid drop waist jumper with white blouse or turtleneck (no logos)
 Khaki pants with golf shirt or white turtle neck (no logos)
 Leather or web belts: dark, solid color must be worn with pants
 White, maroon knee-hi, ankle or crew socks, tights
 Maroon fleece with or without SLG logo (Optional)

Grades 5-8 Girls Uniform:

Maroon/khaki plaid wrap around kilt (no more than 3 inches above the knee)
 Khaki pants
 Leather or web belts: dark, solid color must be worn with pants
 Maroon or white long-sleeved or short-sleeved golf shirt (with logo)
 White, maroon, black knee-hi, ankle or crew socks, tights
 Maroon fleece with or without SLG logo (Optional)

Grades 1-4 Boys and Girls Summer Uniforms (optional):

Khaki skort or khaki shorts (Girls), Khaki shorts (Boys)
 Leather or web belts: dark, solid color must be worn with shorts
 Long- or short-sleeved golf shirt maroon or white
 Maroon or white Knee-hi, ankle or crew socks (Girls)
 Solid colored ankle or crew socks in white, maroon, or black (Boys)
 Sneakers: white or black only (Optional with skort or shorts)

The School sweatshirts and Pawprint socks sold in the SLG Lions Den are authorized parts of the uniform for all grades and can be worn throughout the year.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE THEIR NAMES ON THE INSIDE OF THEIR CLOTHING.

Boys Uniform Shoes: Bucks, Loafers, Mocs (Merrill Jungle or other brands with the same style), Boat Shoes or Oxfords
**Shoes must be solid brown or black in color. No prints, sparkles or sequins on shoes are permitted.*

Girls Uniform Shoes: Bucks, Loafers, Mary Janes (Black), Boat shoes or Oxfords
**Shoes must be solid brown or black in color. No prints, sparkles or sequins on shoes are permitted.*

Eighth grade may wear Tasman UGGS if worn properly.

Hair Length, Earrings, Make-up, Nail Polish, Skirt length:

- The school expects students to be clean and neat at all times. Boy's haircuts – hair must be short and combed. Specifically - not on the collar and not covering the ears or eyebrows. Girls may not wear their hair in a manner that covers their eyes. (Please see the Discipline section on page 10.)
- Only girls may wear earrings and they must be studs (only in the lobes). Only one earring per ear is permitted.
- Only clear nail polish is allowed.
- No eye make-up is allowed. (All grades)
- School skirts may not be shorter than 3 inches above the knees.

Grades K-8 Physical Education Uniform:

Black, knee-length, mesh gym shorts with or without SLG logo (as seen at Flynn O'Hara)
Maroon t-shirt with SLG logo (long or short sleeve)
Solid black sweatpants with or without SLG logo (not tight or legging type pants)
Solid colored ankle or crew socks in white or black
Sneakers: white or black only – Must be tied
Maroon Fleece (Optional)

Students in grades K-5 may wear gym uniforms to school on their gym day unless directed to do otherwise.

Dress Down Day Attire:

On days when students do not have to wear school uniforms the following dress code is still in effect:

Girls:

Pants, Capri's, knee length shorts, or jeans (no faded or torn jeans, spandex pants, stretch pants, or jogging outfits are allowed).
Skirts (length must follow uniform guidelines).
Shirts must have sleeves and no bare midriiffs. Casual shirts with printed sayings other than brand logos are not permitted.
Shoes (heels of moderate height for middle school) or sneakers (clean and in good condition) are permitted.
Make-up and jewelry are allowed for grades 6-8, but should be minimal.

Boys:

Pants, shorts, or jeans are permitted (no jeans that are faded, torn, or in disrepair may be worn).
Sleeved Shirts: Tees, dress shirts, or golf shirts are permitted. Shirts should be appropriate for school. Shirts with printed sayings other than brand logos are not permitted.
Shoes or sneakers (clean and in good condition) are permitted.

If a student is dressed inappropriately for school on a Dress Down Day, the student's parents/guardians will be called to bring proper attire to school for their child.

ELECTRONICS

Mobile (cellular) phones and other communication devices may not be used during the school day. In addition, because of potential disturbances in the school day, iPod/MP3 players, portable video games, or any other recreational electronic devices are also not allowed to be used in school. These devices must be kept in the student's locker or backpack during school and not on his/her person. **These items must be kept turned off from the time they enter the school building at the beginning of the day until they leave the school premises for dismissal, unless permitted by the classroom teacher.** Laser pointers are not allowed in school or on the bus at any time.

If a student is caught or it comes to our attention that a student is using his/her electronic device or cell phone, including text messaging, or if the cell phone rings during class, then the cell phone or device will be confiscated. The parent must pick up the device in the school office. Second offense requires that a parent pick up the device after 24 hours; third and subsequent offenses will result in a \$25 fine.

Parents should not call or text students during the school day. Please contact the school directly if you need to be in touch with your child.

The school will not be responsible for the security of these items. Any lost electronics are the responsibility of the respective student and parents.

A student is never allowed to take pictures or video in the building without specific permission from a teacher or administrator. **Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the Administration.**

FIELD TRIPS

Teachers will choose all field trips for their classes. Such trips are used to initiate or climax a unit of study and should be very beneficial and relevant. Prior to a scheduled trip, a permission slip is sent home with the child for the parent's signature. This slip MUST be returned before a student leaves on the field trip. **Please note, there will be no reimbursement of class trip monies due to student absence or disciplinary action such as suspension.** These trips are enrichment for the daily program, and each student should take part in this phase of the educational program. All trips are well chaperoned and safety precautions are taken.

Field trips, although off-site, are an extension of the school classroom. All student rules and regulations still apply. Articles that are prohibited in school are also prohibited on class trips. The respective teacher will choose the chaperones for the class trip. Parents are asked not to follow or meet the students at the trip site. Arrangements are made in advance, and occupancy and seating is often limited.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB)

Saint Leo the Great School expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity and demonstrated capabilities, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities and the care of school facilities and equipment, consistent with the code of student conduct.

Saint Leo the Great School prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of a student. Saint Leo the Great School has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards; harassment, intimidation or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Saint Leo the Great School establishes that "harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication***, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is:

- a) reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or
- b) by any other distinguishing characteristic; and that
- c) takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; and that
- d) a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; or
- e) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
- f) creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

*** *"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.*

Saint Leo the Great School believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the parents and other community representatives, school administrators, school employees, school volunteers and

students of Saint Leo the Great School, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for Saint Leo the Great property on the part of students, staff, and community members.

Students are expected to behave in a way that creates a supportive learning environment. Saint Leo the Great School believes that the best discipline is self-imposed, and that it is the responsibility of staff to use instances of violations of the code of student conduct as opportunities for helping students learn to assume and accept responsibility for their behavior and the consequences of their behavior. Staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent student conduct problems and foster students' abilities to grow in self-discipline.

The following factors, at a minimum, shall be given consideration by school administrators in the implementation of appropriate consequences and remedial measures for each act of harassment, intimidation or bullying by students. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that are graded according to the severity of the offenses, consider the developmental ages of the student offenders and students' histories of inappropriate behaviors.

Factors for Determining Consequences

- Age, developmental and maturity levels of the parties involved and their relationship to the school
- Degrees of harm
- Surrounding circumstances
- Nature and severity of the behaviors
- Incidences of past or continuing patterns of behavior
- Relationships between the parties involved
- Context in which the alleged incidents occurred

Examples of Consequences and Remedial Measures

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student who commits one or more acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying may range from remedial behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion of students. Consequences for a student who commits an act of HIB shall be varied and graded according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance. Remedial measures shall be designed to correct the problem behavior; prevent another occurrence of the problem; protect and provide support for the victim of the act; and take corrective action for documented systemic problems related to harassment, intimidation or bullying. The consequences and remedial measures may include, but are not limited to, the examples listed below:

Examples of Consequences

- Admonishment
- Temporary removal from the classroom
- Deprivation of privileges – including, but not limited to, extracurricular activities, field trips and sports
- Classroom or administrative detention
- Referral to disciplinarian
- In-school suspension during the school week
- After-school programs
- Out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term)
- Reports to law enforcement or other legal action
- Expulsion
- Bans from providing services, participating in school-district-sponsored programs or being in school buildings or on school grounds

Examples of Remedial Measures

- Restitution and restoration
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience
- Supportive student interventions
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation, including, but not limited to, a referral to the Child Study Team, as appropriate
- Behavioral management plan, with benchmarks that are closely monitored
- Assignment of leadership responsibilities (e.g., hallway or bus monitor)
- Involvement of school “disciplinarian”
- Student counseling
- Parent conferences
- Alternative placements (e.g., alternative education programs)
- Student treatment
- Student therapy

Saint Leo the Great School prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student who falsely accuses another as a means of harassment, intimidation or bullying could range from remedial behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Illness:

Students must be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, before returning to school. If your child was sent home from school with a fever or they have a fever during the night, please do not send them to school the next morning or they will be sent home.

Students should remain home until they have been without any episode of vomiting or diarrhea for a full 24 hours before returning to school. If your child was sent home from school due to vomiting and/or diarrhea or had any episodes during the night, please do not send them to school the next morning or they will be sent home.

If your child has a cold, please consider their symptoms before sending them to school. If they have a persistent cough and/or a lot of drainage from their nose that is causing them discomfort or making it difficult to concentrate, it is best to keep them home for their own benefit as well as preventing the spread of germs to other students in the class.

If your child complains of a sore throat with a headache, stomachache, swollen glands, a rash and/or fever, please have their pediatrician rule out a strep infection to avoid spreading this illness to other students. If your child tests positive for strep, please let the school nurse know.

Please notify the School Nurse if your child develops a communicable disease, has head lice, requires hospitalization, or receives any immunization or boosters during the school year. A note of admission from a physician is required after absence due to certain contagious diseases. If you have any questions, please contact the School Nurse.

Medications:

The School Nurse should be informed if your child is receiving medication or any special therapy. All medications taken in school must be accompanied by a written order from the doctor stating:

- The diagnosis
- Name of medication
- Dosage and frequency of dosage **AND** a request in writing by the parents or guardian of the student that the School Nurse administer the medication

A new physician’s order must be resubmitted every school year.

Medications must be kept in the Health Office in the original pharmacy container. This includes medication such as aspirin, vitamins, cough or throat drops and all over-the-counter prescriptions. There will be no exceptions. This is for your child's protection. The only self-administered medications allowed are asthma inhalers, however, a doctor's prescription and parent's written permission must be given to the School Nurse.

Physical Form:

A School Physical is required for admission to Preschool, Kindergarten, new admission to any grade and participation in any school sports team. The Physical Form must be completely filled out by the physician and signed by both the physician and the parent.

NJ State Law requires the School Nurse to return any incomplete Physical Form to the parent to be completed. Incomplete Physical Forms may result in your child not being able to attend school.

Health Tests:

Over the course of the school year, the following tests are conducted by the School Nurse: Eye and Hearing Screening – at designated grade levels; Height, Weight and Blood Pressure checks on each grade level; Scoliosis Check for 6th and 8th grades only – with parental notification. All screenings are required as per NJ State Law. Immunization requirements are determined by the Health Department of the State of New Jersey.

Lavatories:

The bathrooms are open for students' use throughout the entire school day. Students are responsible for keeping them neat and orderly. Bathrooms are not social gathering places; therefore, teachers may send one student at a time to use the facility (middle school). This system will help ensure that all students are treating our lavatories properly.

Medical Appointments:

Whenever possible, please avoid dental or doctor appointments for your child during class time. However, should such an arrangement be necessary, your child will only be permitted to leave the building by presenting a written request from you or the doctor.

If someone other than a parent will be picking up the child, a note giving permission is necessary. The Administration may require identification. No student will be released before the regular dismissal time unaccompanied by a parent/guardian or designee.

Students will not be released from class after 2:00 PM without a note or unless it is an emergency. These requirements are for the safety of the children.

LOCKERS (6-8TH GRADES ONLY)

All lockers and locks are property of Saint Leo the Great School, and as such, the school reserves the right to open, inspect or restrict the use of lockers at any time. Lockers are assigned each September in the vicinity of the student's homeroom. The lockers should be kept locked at all times. Students are cautioned against telling their combinations to each other. Each student is responsible for keeping the locker clean both inside and outside. Students are cautioned not to keep money or valuables in their locker. Students should turn in such items to the office for safekeeping.

LOST AND FOUND

Students are responsible for all their books and belongings. Everything should be labeled with the student's name. Lost and found items will be held in the cafeteria for a reasonable length of time but will be discarded prior to Christmas and Easter vacations. Students are urged not to bring valuable items or excessive amounts of money to school. Parents are welcome in the cafeteria at 2:45 PM to look for lost items.

LOST BOOKS

Text books and additional educational materials are issued to each child at the beginning of the school year. These items

are to be properly taken care of until they are returned at the school year's end. (See *Textbooks* on page 23.) A replacement fee is required for any item that is lost or damaged during this time. A new item will be issued after the replacement fee has been paid. If textbooks or other items are found at a later date the school will refund the money.

LUNCH

Lunch is served in the cafeteria. When students report to the cafeteria for the first time, they will be instructed by the lunchroom coordinator as to where to sit and the proper procedures to follow.

Saint Leo's Cafeteria is a cash free environment and will not accept cash for purchases. Each family is highly encouraged to create a *Family Lunch Account* so that your child will be able to "purchase" items in the cafeteria.

There are two easy ways to create a ***Family Lunch Account***:

1. **PayPal: Saint Leo the Great Money on Account Replenishment**
The online option is easily accessed on the School website under the "Lunch" tab. Follow the prompts and submit payment using your PayPal account. There is a one time registration fee of \$12 per family for this service.
2. **Check: A monthly amount in your family's name sent directly to School**
If using the monthly check option, you may send your check to School (payable to Saint Leo the Great) with your child, drop it off, or mail payment clearly marked Attn: Cafeteria.

While creating an account is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that each family create a *Family Lunch Account* that has a minimum balance of ten dollars per student. This amount is an *emergency fund*, equal to approximately two (2) days of lunches per student, to cover those times when lunch is lost or left behind, or circumstances prevent you from preparing a lunch from home. The account system will automatically send an e-mail when your account falls below the required amount. Funds in a *Family Lunch Account*, whether through PayPal or check, can be carried over from year to year, student to student, or if requested, can be refunded at the end of the year. However, if a *Family Lunch Account* is closed and subsequently re-opened, a registration fee of \$12.00 will be incurred.

Bag Lunch Orders

Parents have the ability to pre-order lunch for their child via the school web site. All pre-ordered lunches are packaged with the child's name on the bag. A Bag Lunch order will be paid for immediately through your PayPal account. Please note that money you have added to your *Family Lunch Account* cannot be used for a Bag Lunch Order.

Students in grades 5-8 should know what items they wish to purchase. This will help the line move more rapidly. A monthly menu of lunches is posted on our school web site.

A few important rules to remember while in the cafeteria:

- Students must be seated at a table while eating lunch. There should be no standing or walking about while eating.
- No loud talking or shouting. Students are expected to behave as if they are in a public restaurant or dining room.
- Good manners and proper etiquette are encouraged.
- Tables are to be cleaned before students can be dismissed.
- Students are expected to follow all instructions given by the lunchroom coordinators in charge.
- Students are not to carry food or drink outside the cafeteria.

Parents are requested to NOT drop off special lunches to their children during the day. Classes will not be interrupted to make unnecessary announcements. Anyone who forgets his/her lunch will be allowed to charge his/her lunch for that day. We ask parents to discuss with their children the refined behaviors that are involved when lunch is eaten in a cafeteria. The same conduct and manners are expected of the children when having lunch in the cafeteria as when eating in their homes.

PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Instant Alert System:

The Honeywell Instant Alert System allows us to contact parents with general or emergency information via both E-mail and phone. It is the responsibility of the parents to register their contact information and preferences. High Alert messages (e.g., school closings) should be sent to all emergency numbers and contacts. Please ensure that your contact information is updated and current.

Custody Situations:

In the event of a divorce or custody situation, please be sure that the office has a notarized copy of the custody papers on file. We will do our best to work with both parties providing there is joint custody. However, our first responsibility is to the custodial parent and all computerized information will have the custodial parent's address. If there is a unique situation, please contact the Principal to work out an arrangement.

Emergency Notification Card:

An Emergency Notification Card for each student must be completed, on both sides, each year by parents and will contain information about the child's physician and telephone numbers of the person(s) to contact should an emergency arise during school hours. If any of this information changes during the course of the school year, please contact the school office to update the records with the changes. Any change of address or telephone number during the year should be reported promptly to the office. Be certain that we have a second number to be used when the home cannot be reached. Also, please update the School Nurse on any changes that occur on emergency form contacts.

PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES and REPORTS

Report cards will be given three times during the school year. **All tuition and fees must be paid to receive a report card.** In addition, progress reports will be sent home three (3) times per year for grades K-2. Parent Portal access will be available for grades 3-8 throughout the year for parents to monitor their child's grades. Parent-teacher conferences will be held during the year following progress reports. Parent-teacher conferences for our Preschool students will occur mid-year and progress reports will be sent home in January and June.

If the need for an additional conference should arise, please contact your child's teacher to set up an appointment. Occasionally, the teacher may request a conference with parents on a matter considered urgent and important. Usually, these direct meetings are more satisfying than conversations held over the phone. It is only through the closely coordinated efforts of the home and the school that the goals of education can truly be achieved.

Parents should never call a teacher at his or her home to discuss school matters. No one is permitted near the classrooms while school is in session. Teachers will be required to direct parents who come to the classrooms during school time to the office. Important messages, lunches and any other materials brought in by the parent will be taken for students through the school office.

PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

In compliance with the 2002 New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Act, the Community of Saint Leo the Great School will be kept informed of the school's IPM plan and the use (if any) of pesticides through communication using letters and notices. The IPM Coordinator will maintain the product label and material data sheet, when available, of each pesticide that may be used on school property. The label and data sheet is available for review by a parent, guardian, faculty or staff member of the Saint Leo the Great School Community. The IPM Coordinator is also available to parents, guardians, faculty and staff members for information and comment. The IPM policies and procedures are available in the Administrative Office.

PM CARE

This program is available to 4-year preschool through 5th grade students Monday through Friday. Our PM Care program is committed to providing our students with a safe, structured, learning environment under the direction of a loving and dedicated staff. PM Care provides children with a variety of activities. Invoices are sent out by the 5th business day of the

next month and must be paid by the 15th day of that month. If you are in arrears you will not be allowed to utilize the PM Care program.

See the school website for specific information regarding PM Care and for a list of current rates for the PM Care program.

PRESCHOOL

The Saint Leo the Great Preschool has 3- and 4-year old programs. The classes are conducted by a certified teacher and a paraprofessional. Cognitive and language skills, social skills, math readiness, music and rhythm, fine and gross motor skills, and spatial awareness are optimized daily. The curriculum includes Thematic Units, Free Choice Play, Library, Group Activity, Large Circle Activity, Outside Play, Show & Tell, and Religion.

Parents are responsible for providing an appropriate snack and lunch for their child. A pre-ordered bag lunch can be purchased via our website. Please let us know if your child has any allergies. Extended care is available from 1:00-2:40 PM for our students in the 4 year old preschool program.

PTA

Both the home and the school are interested in the welfare of the child, so cooperation between these two entities will develop a better understanding for the other's perspectives, needs, and concerns. To achieve this result, Parent-Teacher Associations have been founded. Every Parish associated with a Catholic school is required to have a PTA, which is a member of the Trenton Diocesan Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. Volunteer opportunities are introduced at Parent Night in September. Many different opportunities are available for parents to share their talents.

RELIGION

The teaching of Christ, both in theory and practice, permeates all aspects of a Catholic school and is the heart of its curriculum. It is difficult, however, for a child to understand the importance of religious practice as taught in school if this is not cherished and practiced at home. The mystery of God's loving relationship as our Father is best revealed in the family environment marked by daily prayer and observance of the sacraments.

Programs exist to help parents prepare their children for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. The school assists parents in providing an atmosphere where Religion is a way of life. We also have a program of Family Life, which is mandated by the Bishop. The program consists of practical and concrete ways of living the Christian life in everyday situations, including those of sexuality.

Every document of the teaching Church recognizes parents as the persons responsible for initiating and sustaining the child in his/her relationship with God. We consider it our privilege as a faculty and staff to assist parents in this duty.

Aside from the daily process of developing, among students, faculty, parents, and Parish, a Christian-Faith community, and teaching the doctrines, scriptures and traditions of the Church, the children have the opportunity to participate in seasonal liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Parents should ensure that children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently in their local Parishes.

SAFETY AND WELFARE

The safety of each and every student is of paramount concern to everyone in the school community. As a safety measure, school halls must be kept reasonably clear. Littering, loitering and running in the halls at any time is forbidden. The school doors will be locked from the outside at 7:45 AM until dismissal at 2:35 PM. This is to ensure the safety of all in the school. Parents and other visitors must stop at the foyer window and explain the reason for any visit before gaining entrance to the school. The office staff will be able to identify visitors via a TV monitor. Once inside, all visitors must report to the office to sign in. Visitors will receive a "Visitor's Pass." In addition, all faculty and staff will be wearing identification tags. The children in our school have been instructed that if they see an adult walking around the school, without identification, to immediately inform their teacher or another adult. After dismissal, the doors will again be locked.

We urge parents to discuss with their children the serious obligation to respect themselves and others in word and in action. In accordance with Diocesan norms, Saint Leo the Great School has formulated policies and procedures to ensure the psychological and physical safety of all its members, specifically its children. The school has developed these policies and procedures to prevent or to address violent acts coming from within the school, and for dealing with external acts of aggression to protect the school population.

In addition, respect is expected to be demonstrated toward all clergy and lay staff of Saint Leo the Great. Any violation of this policy will not be taken lightly.

Leaving Premises:

Students may not leave the school premises during school hours for any reason. There are no exceptions. Any student found off premises during school hours will be subject to disciplinary action.

Emergency Drills:

In addition to fire drills, several other emergency drills will be conducted throughout the year. These drills are precautionary in nature and are in accordance with our emergency procedures.

Emergency Communication & Pick Up:

Our first priority is to ensure all students are safe, accounted for, and under adult supervision. As soon as it is possible to do so, Saint Leo's will communicate information to parents and the community. This may be done through the Instant Alert system or school website.

Understand that emergency pickup procedures are different than routine pickup procedures. In the event you are notified to pick up your child at school or at another designated location please bring photo identification. Photo identification may be required to pick up your child. If you must send someone else to pick up your child, be sure it is someone who is listed on school records as an authorized individual and that they have proper photo identification. Your child will not be released to anyone who is not authorized or who cannot provide appropriate identification.

SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board, a board of delegated responsibility, gathers in the spirit of the Gospel to promote, sustain and ensure the ministry of quality Catholic education. This is accomplished by providing vision, leadership, and accountability in collaboration with Diocesan and local administrators. This is further achieved by making informed and deliberative decisions in designated areas and proposing recommendations in other areas. The Board has delegated responsibility for organization of the school except for those matters and decisions which are reserved to the Pastor and Principal.

SCHOOL FEE (NON REFUNDABLE)

The school fee includes:

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|---|---|
| 1. All texts and supplementary aids provided by the school. | 6. Insurance for each student. |
| 2. Any standardized tests administered throughout the year. | 7. Diocesan PTA dues. |
| 3. Audio-visual programs and materials. | 8. Athletic Association dues. |
| 4. Classroom periodicals. | 9. A school calendar for each family. |
| 5. Major materials in art and music. | 10. Computer /internet fees. |
| | 11. Science lab fee. |
| | 12. Miscellaneous – e.g., home notices, copy machine maintenance, toner, paper. |

Each child is responsible for the care of his/her own books. Any damage done to books is to be paid for by the child. At the end of each school year, report cards will not be given to students unless lost or damaged books are paid for in full.

Additional fees may apply for extra activities, such as class trips, graduation, or grade level events.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Vandalism to school property is a serious offense. Students are responsible for cleaning, repairing, or replacing any school property that they abuse and may be subject to disciplinary action. In addition to disciplinary action, any willful damage done to school property must be repaired or replaced at the expense of the offender. This also includes items such as textbooks, locks, and other school issued materials. Parental cooperation is needed in order to teach the children respect for school property, material furnishings, equipment and the building itself. This policy also pertains to buses.

SNOW DAYS and EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO EMERGENCIES

Delayed Opening/Early Release/School Closing:

In the event of a delayed opening, early release, or school closing due to inclement weather or emergency, the following procedures will be followed:

- Our school website (www.saintleothegreatschool.com) will include notification of delayed opening, early dismissal and/or emergency closing. Also, there will be a message left on the school phone system.
- A detailed Instant Alert will be sent to parents' emergency numbers. Please keep Honeywell contact information updated.

Please DO NOT call the Parish Center or School.

In September, all parents receive an emergency form that must be completed and returned to the school office. Please remember that during an emergency dismissal, it is difficult to get through on the phone lines to the school. You may not be able to change your child's/children's route home at the last minute. Sometimes, the buses leave before you have the opportunity to get through to the school. Please talk to your child regarding emergency plans so that they are aware of their route home. Our first concern is the safety of the children should an emergency arise.

Saint Leo the Great School has students that reside in multiple public school districts. The public school districts determine whether or not buses will run during inclement weather. Saint Leo's Administration must consider multiple school district busing schedules when determining whether to have a delayed opening, early release or school closing.

Many public school districts have delayed openings and busing schedules are determined by those districts. Therefore, if the local public school district is on a 90 minute delayed opening, students attending Saint Leo's from that district will be picked up 90 minutes later than normal scheduled time. Students who are late due to this type of bus delay are not marked tardy. Parents must listen to their respective local radio stations or contact their home districts to ascertain this information.

In certain cases of inclement weather, Saint Leo's will run a delayed opening schedule. **On delayed openings, students must not be dropped off at school earlier than the stated time.** In the event that a district's schedule (and therefore, its transportation) does not coincide with Saint Leo's schedule, it is the responsibility of the parents and student to make the necessary, realistic efforts for him/her to attend school.

In the event that a public school district is closed in which a student resides, but Saint Leo the Great School is open, it is the responsibility of parents to transport those students to and from school when there is no bus service.

STUDENT RECORDS

A cumulative record is maintained for each pupil from his/her entrance into school through eighth grade. Such records pertaining to the individual student may be used for the benefit, promotion or welfare of the student. All material is kept in a file and is forwarded to the high schools.

TELEPHONE CALLS

The school office phone may be used by children for emergency situations only. Parents are urged to avoid unnecessary calls to the school office. Any unusual circumstances, such as a parent not being home after school or a child going somewhere other than home, should be resolved with the child before the start of the school day. Last minute phone calls are discouraged. There can be no assurance that a child will receive any message arriving after 2:00 PM.

Please note that students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day.

TEXTBOOKS

Each student is responsible for all issued books and supplies, even if they are damaged, lost or stolen. If a book is damaged or lost, it must be paid for before another will be issued. When paid for, a new book will be issued. If the book is found later, the school will refund the money.

The following are textbook regulations:

- Every textbook should be covered and kept covered throughout the year to protect it from damage.
- The stamp inside every book is to be completed with the student's name and condition of the book immediately upon receiving the book.
- No writing or marking in textbooks is allowed at any time.
- To protect the book bindings, no papers, rulers, etc. should be placed inside the book.
- Torn pages should be mended immediately.
- Books should be kept dry.
- The habit of lending and borrowing books should be discouraged.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus Regulations for Pupils Riding School Buses:

Bus transportation is conditional on their good behavior and observance of the following rules and regulations. Any pupil who violates any of these will be reported to the Administration and may be removed from the bus either on a temporary or permanent basis.

1. The driver is in full charge of the bus and the pupils. Pupils shall obey the driver respectfully and promptly.
2. Pupils shall be on time; the bus cannot wait for those who are not on time.
3. Pupils shall occupy the space designated for them by the driver.
4. Pupils shall observe the following:
 - a. Stand on the sidewalk or side of the road, out of the roadway, while waiting for the bus.
 - b. Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic, when walking to and from the bus stop.
 - c. When a bus is in motion, students must not change seats or try to get on or off the bus.
 - d. Courtesy and respect must be shown to fellow passengers and the bus driver. Profanity on the bus will not be tolerated. Damage or vandalism to the bus should be reported to the bus driver or the Administration.
 - e. Smoking is forbidden on the bus at all times.
 - f. Safety requires that the students do not lean their heads or extend their hands out of the windows. Students may not throw items out of the window.
5. Pupils who must cross the road after exiting from the bus should pass in front of the bus and not behind it. The driver should see that the way is clear before the student is permitted to cross the road.
6. Should the conduct of a pupil on the bus endanger the lives or morals of other people and should the offending pupil fail to cease such conduct when requested by the bus driver to do so, with the permission of the Principal, the offender may be removed from the bus either on a temporary or permanent basis. This will be done only in extreme cases and a last resort to protect the safety of the other pupils.

Bus applications (B6T Forms) are given out to each student at the end of January. These forms must be filled out by the parent and returned promptly to the school office. In order for your child to receive busing for the following school year, these forms must reach the busing districts by March 1st. Parents will be notified of bus routes before the beginning of the new school year. Children are not permitted on the bus without a bus slip. Parents should instruct children on safety and courtesy while riding the bus. Children who cause serious problems on the bus will no longer have of the privilege of bus transportation. This is in keeping with the New Jersey State Law.

The school has no control over bus assignments or routes. Saint Leo the Great School is only a liaison between our students and the busing districts. Please contact your local Board of Education Transportation Department or your respective bus company regarding concerns about bus assignments or routes. The school office has the telephone numbers for the districts if needed.

We have been informed by school districts and bus companies that for Insurance purposes, children **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RIDE ON BUSES OTHER THAN THOSE FOR WHICH THEY HAVE PASSES. PLEASE DO NOT WRITE A NOTE REQUESTING THE CONTRARY.** We are not authorized to give permission to allow any student on a bus other than his/her own.

Car riders may be picked up only in the designated area. Parents picking up car riders must park in the school parking lot and meet the students in the cafeteria.

If your child's transportation changes for the day, a note **MUST BE SENT** to his/her teacher indicating this change.

TUITION

Active Parishioner Tuition Discount:

As a Catholic School family, your attendance and faithful participation at Sunday Mass is expected. For those families who attend Mass regularly at Saint Leo the Great and contribute using either the weekly envelopes or ParishPay, an Active Parishioner Tuition Discount is available. A weekly minimum donation of \$10.00 per child is strongly suggested in order to qualify for this Active Parishioner rate.

Tuition Collection Policy:

Saint Leo the Great School believes that tuition payments are an investment in your child's education and the formation of their religious foundation. The Saint Leo the Great Parish Finance Office has the responsibility for recommending to the Pastor and Principal policies concerning the amount of tuition, the manner of payment, and, in general, the development of this tuition policy. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Saint Leo the Great Parish Finance Office to ensure that adequate financial resources are available for the school and that enrollment is as available and affordable as possible to all families.

Fees:

- Initial Fees are those such as Registration and School Fee paid directly to the school. These fees are due in full at the time of registration. The purpose of the Registration Fee is to secure your child(ren)'s place in our school. These fees are non-refundable.
- No student is allowed to attend class until this fee is paid in full.
- The payment of Tuition allows your child to receive an education at Saint Leo the Great School. We place a high value on the instruction that we provide therefore fees are in place in an attempt to cover the costs of this education.

Tuition Payments:

There are three methods of payment for the annual tuition.

- **Full Payment.** Under this plan the entire amount of tuition is paid on or before July 1st. This payment is made directly to the school office and not through SMART Tuition Management.
- **Monthly Payments.** Under this plan the entire amount of tuition is paid monthly (10 equal payments) through the SMART Tuition Management Plan. This plan is an automatic payment plan made through your checking or statement savings account. Those under this plan authorize SMART to deduct through their financial institution automatic monthly payments. Payment plans must begin no later than July 10th. SMART charges an annual enrollment fee of \$45.00. Saint Leo the Great School does not reap any financial benefit from SMART.
- **One Time Credit Card Payment.** Under this plan the entire amount of tuition is paid through the SMART Tuition Management Plan. This plan is an automatic payment made through your credit card. Those under this plan authorize SMART to deduct a one-time credit card payment. Payment plans must begin no later than July 10th. SMART charges an annual enrollment fee of \$45.00. Saint Leo the Great School does not reap any financial benefit from SMART.

Late Registration

- Families registering after August 1st are expected to fulfill their tuition obligation according to the tuition policy

stated above.

- Tuition for students registering on or after the first day of school is prorated over the number of school days they will attend according to a formula established by the Administration.

Late Payments

It is the responsibility of each school family to keep the Administration informed of their need to make any changes to their preferred tuition payment plan or adjustments in the amount of tuition paid. Without such information, the following policy will apply when tuition payments are received late. Late payments are subject to \$100 non-refundable late Fee. Outstanding balances over 15 days are subject to an interest fee calculated at 18% per annum.

Full Payment

- Parents that elect this option must pay the school the full annual tuition no later than July 1st or enroll with SMART. Tuition refunds for the later withdrawal of the student under this plan are subject to our Tuition Refund Policy.

Monthly Payments

- School families who choose the monthly payment plan and miss a monthly payment due to insufficient funds are assessed a \$25.00 missed payment fee by SMART as well as incurring a fee from their own financial institution. The missed payment is reattempted by SMART within 20 days. Two missed consecutive attempts by SMART are considered grounds for dismissal from Saint Leo the Great School. Repeated, even not consecutive, missed payments are considered grounds for dismissal from Saint Leo the Great School. Any fees incurred due to insufficient funds or bounced checks are payable to SMART and not Saint Leo the Great.

Delinquent Payment

Payments are considered delinquent when they are more than five days in arrears. When this occurs, a reminder is sent by the finance office (email or phone call). Failure to respond within an additional five days may result in the student(s) being asked not to report to school until the tuition, after care charges, or fees are brought up-to-date. Additionally, Saint Leo the Great reserves the right to use collection agencies and other legal means to collect unpaid tuitions. No school records will be forwarded to any educational institution if there is an outstanding balance.

Non-Admission Due To Tuition Payment Delinquency

- The Administration will inform any school family failing to pay their tuition according to their agreement with the school or who have been unwilling to make suitable alternative arrangements with the school that their children are not allowed admittance or re-admittance to Saint Leo the Great School. Once financial restitution is made, re-admittance under these circumstances is conditional. A deadline for student's timely enrollment for the first day of school is August 1st.

Delinquent Tuition from Previous Years

- Any unpaid tuition from previous years prevents re-enrollment in Saint Leo the Great School. Under these criteria a parent must pay *all* previous outstanding fees prior to enrollment and said parent is automatically placed on probation for one school year due to financial difficulty.

Any student delinquent in payments of any type will not receive report cards, transcripts, letters of recommendation, or be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies from Saint Leo the Great School.

Non-payment of tuition and fees may result in the following action: Account will sent to a collection agency including all collection costs, agency fees, attorney fees and court costs, in addition to all amounts owed. Non-payment or a default judgment against your account may be reported to a credit bureau and reflected in your credit report.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition assistance is available through the Diocese of Trenton. Prospective parents should make any requests for such assistance at the time of registration. Should funds become available we will judge each request based on information provided and other data obtained by the Administration. For the sake of your family's security, peace of mind, and for the general financial stability of our school, we encourage parents or guardians to contact the Principal or the Financial Office (732-747-5466) immediately to discuss your situation if your family is experiencing a financial difficulty.

Tuition Refund

- All fees are non-refundable. This includes Registration Fees, School Fees, and any fees paid for setting up tuition payments.
- If a student is enrolled at Saint Leo's on the 1st of the month, no tuition will be refunded for that month or any previous month of the school year. No exceptions will be made to this policy. This schedule applies to all students including those who may be requested to withdraw or who withdraw to avoid expulsion.
- A student is considered enrolled until a signed Student Withdrawal Form is received by the school and all associated fees are made current.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents play a vital role in the day-to-day implementation of school services through volunteer service. For the safety of our students, anyone working with the children (even volunteering) must be fingerprinted and complete the VIRTUS Training Program. If a parent is interested in volunteering, please contact the school office.