



Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year!

HARMONY

The 2022-2023 school year will be one of rebirth and renewal. Since 2006, when we expanded our nursery school by adding kindergarten and 1st grade, we have purposefully built St. Raphael School traditions. Last year was amazing, and I am justifiably proud of what we accomplished together, but now it is time to bring back those traditions! Our specials, our small groups, our accent on science in the hands of our students, our family events, and our warm and welcoming environment-these are our traditions.

In May, we marked the 11th year anniversary of our school building. It still shines (thanks to a wonderful maintenance crew!), and in these 11 years, we have filled the building with happy, relaxed, engaged learners. That's how we are going into the 2022-2023 school year. With the emphasis on rigorous learning, cushioned with fun, we look forward to memory-making events, housed in a warm, safe extension of home. This will be a year to remember!

SRS will follow the guidelines from the Archdiocese of Washington, the CDC, and local government, but wherever we can, we will return to normal.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a safe environment where our students will flourish, our teachers will be able to practice their craft, and our parents will be proud to send their children. Our Catholic identity will permeate everything we do, and we will work tirelessly to move through the year together in HARMONY. Here's to a great year!

We are St. Raphael!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teri Dwyer".

St. Raphael School

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General School Information.....	3-4
Calendar.....	4
HSA Steering Committee.....	4
SRS Board of Directors.....	4
HSA Bylaws.....	5-9
Policy Handbook.....	10-36
Faculty and Staff.....	Appendix A
Computer /Network Use Policy.....	Appendix B

St. Raphael School

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD 20854

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor
Teri Dwyer, Principal

Phone: 301-762-2143
Fax: 301-762-4991
Website: www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Receptionist: 301-762-2143

School Office: 301-762-2143
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

School Nurse: 301-762-2143 x136
8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Reporting Absence: 301-762-2143 (Receptionist)
240-864-2536 (School Nurse)

Before 8:00 a.m. - receptionist@straphaels.org

After 8:00 a.m. - email or call 240-864-2536
(School Nurse) or 301-762-2143 (Receptionist)

St. Raphael Catholic Church: www.straphaels.org
Archdiocese of Washington: www.adw.org

School Hours

The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. in the church with a daily prayer service. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. at the front desk and 7:45 a.m. at church. The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. Students can be picked up in the following manner: at the classroom door (grades 2-5) and/or Trumpet Room (grades 6-8), in the carpool line or in front of Raphael House, if a “Walker”. A teacher will escort students who are designated as a “Walker” to the sidewalk in front of Raphael House for pick-up.

Inclement Weather Policy

During inclement weather, St. Raphael School will close when Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are closed. In the case of a delayed opening, St. Raphael School opens at 10:15 a.m. Before care will be available beginning at 8 a.m. Students should be dropped off at the front desk and sign in with the Receptionist, who will direct them to Before Care. (Please note that if there is a delayed opening on a scheduled half-day, St. Raphael School will open at 10:15 a.m.). In the event of an early closing, St. Raphael School will close at 1:00 p.m. Aftercare is not available in the event of an early closing. If SRS/SRNS is open and MCPS are not in session, please adhere to the Archdiocese of Washington announcements for school closings or delays.

Please check www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org for a complete listing of school closures and delays for information on Montgomery County Schools.

Calendar

Please login to the [school website](#) for the most up-to-date calendar information.

St. Raphael School HSA Steering Committee and School Board

HSA & School Board committee members and their contact information can be found on the [HSA & School Board webpage](#).

ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

I. NAME

The name of the association shall be the St. Raphael School Home and School Association also known as the HSA.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To acknowledge the role of the parents as the first and foremost educators of their children and to work in cooperation with the school administration to ensure quality education and formation of the children.
- B. To provide a forum for free and open exchange of ideas and concerns between the parents, teachers, and the school administration.
- C. To work in cooperation with the faculty for the welfare of the children.
- D. To use the talents of the parish community for quality education in the school.
- E. To coordinate major volunteer/fundraising/community activities on behalf of the school.

III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership Qualifications:

Membership shall consist of the parents/guardians of the children attending St. Raphael School; the principal and teachers of St. Raphael School; and the pastor of St. Raphael Church.

B. Privileges of Membership:

- 1. To approve the Slate of Officers presented by the Nominating Committee;
- 2. To present ideas, proposals and suggestions to the HSA;
- 3. To receive reports of the Steering Committee and/or other HSA Committees;

C. Term of Membership:

Membership for parents/guardians begins on the first day of school following payment of the tuition deposit and ends on the last day of school for that school year. Members must remain current with the financial obligations for tuition payments to enjoy all membership privileges in the HSA.

IV. MEETINGS

The Steering Committee will meet monthly during the school year. Meetings during the summer months may be determined by the President. Two times per year, a General Meeting will be held for all HSA members. Additionally, special meetings may be called by the Steering Committee as needed.

V. OFFICERS

A. Number and Titles:

The officers of the HSA shall consist of Past-President, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Activities/Events Chair.

B. Nominating/Election:

1. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a Slate consisting of one candidate for each office. The Slate shall be received by the members no later than 14 days prior to the meeting for the approval of the Slate.
2. Approval of the Slate shall be held in the month of May preceding the start of the next school year. Officers shall be elected by a majority of those members voting. Absentee ballots will be allowed.

C. Term of Office/Eligibility:

The officers shall serve for two years with the exception of the Vice-President, President, and Past-President which is a three-year term. The officers' terms are staggered with starting terms in odd and even numbered years to ensure an appropriate blend of new and returning officers. Their term of office shall begin within 30 days after approval of the slate.

All members in good standing are eligible for office and should express interest to the Principal and Nominating Committee. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

D. Duties:

1. **President** - Prepares agenda, chairs meetings, ensures all activities are completed, and appoints chair of various Standing Committees. The President shall be responsible for promoting the image of the HSA and is the designated representative to the community for the HSA. Assumes role of Past-President in 3rd year of term.
2. **Vice-President** - Assists the President as necessary throughout their term. In the absence of the President, this individual will chair the meetings and assist in the various duties of the Association.
3. **Secretary** - Takes meeting minutes, presents minutes at meetings and emails reminders before meeting if necessary and prepares thank you notes as needed.
4. **Treasurer** Obtains budget from the Principal. Maintains ledger, reports on cash flow at meetings.
5. **Activities/ Event Chair** - Enlist and oversee the Standing Committees appointed by the President and help in the planning of events and coordination of post-event reports.
6. **Past-President** - Serves to offer support and advice to the President. Serves as Chairman of the Nominating Committee to prepare the annual Slate of Officers. Assists with any necessary bylaw amendments.

E. Completing the Term of a Vacated Officer Position:

1. In the event the President resigns before the completion of a term, the Vice-President shall become the President of the HSA.

2. In the event the Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer resigns before the completion of a term, or the Vice-President assumes the Office of President, the remaining Officers and the Principal will appoint an individual to complete the term of the vacated position.

VI. STEERING COMMITTEE

A. Number and Titles:

The Steering Committee shall consist of the Past-President, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities/Events Chair, St. Raphael School Principal, Representative of the St. Raphael School Board of Directors, St. Raphael Nursery School Liaison and Class Representatives from each school grade of St. Raphael School.

The Steering Committee shall have responsibility for the HSA affairs.

B. Nominating/Appointment/Term of Office Procedures:

1. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a Slate consisting of one candidate for each Officer. The Slate shall be received by the members no later than 14 days prior to the meeting for the approval of the Slate will be held.
2. The St. Raphael School Board of Directors will designate an individual to serve as their Representative to the Steering Committee. The designated representative will be known as the Board Representative and may serve for no more than 2 consecutive years at which time the St. Raphael School Board of Directors will designate a new representative and will be responsible for filling of such position in the event of resignation or a vacated position.
3. After requesting all interested members submit their names and interest, Class Representatives and Nursery School Liaison will be appointed by the Principal with support and approval of the HSA Officers.

C. Class Representatives and Nursery School Liaison shall serve for two years with various grades starting terms in odd and even numbered years. Their term of office shall begin within 30 days after approval of the Slate. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

D. Duties:

1. **Board Representative** – serves as liaison between the School Board and the HSA.
2. **Class Representative** – acknowledges birth, death, milestones for represented grade, coordinates holiday sponsored family gifts, helps to solicit additional volunteers from individual classes, works with holiday gift baskets chair to collect donations from class
3. **Nursery School Liaison** – act as a liaison between the HSA and the St. Raphael Nursery School to ensure open communication, joint projects, coordination of overlapping of events and exchange of ideas.

E. Completing the Term of a Vacated Representative Position: In the event a Class Representative resigns before completion of a term, the Principal and President shall appoint a replacement representative.

VII. OTHER COMMITTEES

A. Steering Committees:

Chairpersons of the standing committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Steering Committee. The chairperson shall report to the Activities/Events Chair on the Steering Committee. The standing committees and their functions shall be:

1. **Opening Day Mass & Celebration:** Children are welcomed to school with Mass and scheduled fun activities. Held annually in August or September pending the school calendar.
2. **Hospitality:** Coordinate volunteers to bring baked goods or other refreshments to school activities including Opening Day Celebration, Back to School Night, Open Houses and HSA meetings.
3. **Back to School Night:** Coordinate refreshments with the hospitality committee for the parent meeting held annually at the beginning of school year
4. **Staff Appreciation Lunch:** Volunteers work with the SRNS Board to provide 6-7 lunches throughout the school year for SRS/SRNS teachers and staff. The lunch consists of entrees, salads, drinks, side dishes and desserts for approximately 50 staff members. Responsibilities include: lunch theme, coordinating food/beverage drop-off and set-up/clean-up.
5. **CYO Parent Volunteer:** Coordinate parish/school sports teams. Responsibilities include: organizing skills evaluation, recruiting team coaches, fundraising, distributing/collecting uniforms, and attending monthly meetings (Sept-Apr).
6. **Golf Classic:** Volunteers work on a wide range of tasks including website management, sponsorships and logistics for the tournament and reception. A bake sale is also organized following Sunday Masses prior to the tournament.
7. **Grandparents Day:** A day of celebration for grandparents or special family members. The date coincides with the Feast Day of St. Raphael. The day begins with Mass followed by a reception. Responsibilities include invitations, decorations, determining and purchasing food/ beverages and set-up and clean-up of reception. Held annually in September.
8. **Angels on the Run:** A Cherub Fun Run, 1 Mile and 5K race are held annually in the fall. Responsibilities include website management, obtaining sponsorships, registration, coordinating with the City of Rockville, and race day volunteer jobs.
9. **Family Fun Night:** Families come together for a fun evening at the school twice a year; SRNS hosts the fall event and HSA winter. The event coordinator is responsible for selecting a theme and planning and advertising the event.
10. **Open House:** A morning event that gives information about the school and allows prospective families to tour the campus. Responsibilities include coordinating with Marketing & Development representatives to provide refreshments and assist volunteers as needed. Held annually in October & January.
11. **Book Fair:** The Coordinator is responsible for working with Scholastic Books to set up a week-long book fair. Responsibilities include set-up and clean-up of book fair materials, organizing volunteers to work the sales register, collecting class “wish lists” from teachers, and following up with Scholastic to collect funds. Held twice annually (fall & spring).
12. **Thanksgiving Baskets:** The Coordinator works with the front office to solicit donations from families to purchase food/gift cards presented as “Thank you” baskets for maintenance staff.
13. **Catholic Schools Week:** The CSW Committee coordinates with the St. Raphael Nursery School Board to plan a staff dinner, write thank you notes to teachers, decorate the school hallways, provide refreshments to parents at drop-off and pick-up and send Catholic school items home with students. Held annually in January.
14. **School Musical:** Volunteers are needed to help with our spring school musical. Responsibilities include set construction and decoration, concession stand, ticket sales and other duties as needed.
15. **Girls Night Out:** Vendors are invited to purchase table space to sell their goods, blending the school with the community. The co-Chair’s responsibilities include advertising the event and soliciting vendors. Volunteers are responsible for room set up/clean-up and overseeing the St. Raphael Store table. Held annually in the spring.

16. **Online Auction:** School fundraising auction. Volunteers work on soliciting businesses to donate items for the auction. Other responsibilities include data entry and website management.
17. **Spring Soiree:** An evening out for adults and a great way to connect with other parents. Volunteer responsibilities include supporting the committee chair with set-up/clean-up of the venue, purchasing decor and/or food and beverages, selecting party theme and party location, sending invitations, and coordinating food, drinks, decorations, and activities. Held annually in the spring.
18. **Mother's Day/ May Crowning:** A celebration for mothers is combined with the May Crowning of Mary. The day begins with Mass and is followed by a breakfast reception in the Trumpet Room. Volunteers are responsible for invitations, breakfast menu, servers, event set-up/clean-up, and coordinating with the Principal on Mass. This event is a great opportunity for the Dads to get involved! Held annually in May.
19. **New Family Orientation/Pizza Party:** This event is for incoming new students and their families. Responsibilities include ordering pizza, organizing volunteers to bring desserts/salads, arranging room table set-up, communicating with the Buddy Family coordinator, and having entertainment for children. Held annually in the spring.
20. **Buddy Family Coordinator:** Pair existing families with incoming families to act as a big brother or sister to welcome the new families to SRS. The current families will meet their new family at the Orientation party, and the families will sit together for pizza.
21. **Father's Day Prayer Service:** A celebration of Fathers begins with morning prayer followed by a reception in the Trumpet Room. Responsibilities include sending out invitations, coordinating the set-up/clean-up, and purchasing food and servers. Held annually in June.
22. **Field Day:** This event marks the end of the school year. Students are put into groups and engage in various field games and activities..Responsibilities include designing and ordering Field Day shirts, communicating event schedule, purchasing necessary supplies, coordinating with PE teacher regarding parent and alumni volunteers set-up/clean-up, and working with teachers to determine teams/groups..

B. Special Committees:

Special committees may be created by the HSA President as the need arises. All special committees shall have a duration of no more than one year.

VIII. QUORUM

For committee meetings, a quorum shall be constituted whenever a majority of the committee members are present. For general membership meetings, a quorum shall be constituted whenever a majority of the Steering Committee is present plus at least 10 other persons from the Association.

IX. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose. The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting at least one month prior to the special meeting and so announced to the entire Membership.

X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

To govern processes and relationships within the Association in case not provided for in these bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

ST RAPHAEL SCHOOL

Philosophy

St. Raphael School is a co-educational parish school, providing students with a Catholic education rich in tradition enhanced by a 21st century classroom. Our academic standards and Catholic virtues provide students with the tools essential to lead lives of service to God and our community.

Being an integral part of the parish community, St. Raphael School offers a warm and welcoming environment enriched by the time and talents offered through our partnership with parents. Recognizing parents as the primary teachers in life, we welcome and value their ideas and interests.

Our parish priests, administration, faculty and staff are committed to supporting the mission of the school, and fostering the development of faith and reason in every child. St. Raphael School provides a challenging curriculum, focusing on each child's unique capabilities and talents. We provide a quality education and prepare all students for the rigorous academic demands of secondary school.

Our class size affords each child individualized attention, and the opportunity for differentiated learning. We instill a strong sense of self-confidence and spirituality in our students. The classroom environment is one of love, respect and compassion. Students attend Mass regularly at school and participate in daily prayer to instill the virtues necessary to lead a moral and purposeful life. Students participate in community outreach to further develop their understanding of service while helping those in need.

Knowing that Christ is the reason that this school exists, we acknowledge His presence in our daily life at school. He guides and encourages our teachers, and inspires our students to follow in His footsteps.

History

St. Raphael parish celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2006 with the opening of St. Raphael School. On June 13, 2006, St. Raphael School was dedicated. In May 2011, we moved into our new building and it was dedicated on October 6, 2011.

The parish has a long history of dedication to education. In 1969, St. Raphael's Nursery School opened. The Nursery School became an integral part of the parish in 1989. The Nursery School has flourished since its inception, and it is one of the largest Catholic early childhood programs in the area. In addition to the Nursery School, the parish provides religious education for students of registered parishioners every year.

Mission Statement

St. Raphael School, in conjunction with its parish and parents, provides our children an engaging and inspiring academic program infused with strong Christian morals and virtues. Our Catholic identity permeates each subject and daily activity in a warm and welcoming environment. Through faith and reason, our school community challenges students to lead lives of service while embracing the love of God and neighbor. We foster a strong sense of self-worth and build character in each of our students, enabling them to reach their full spiritual, intellectual and emotional potential in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Christ is the reason for this school.

He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes.

**He is the model of its faculty
and the inspiration of its students.**

St. Raphael School Advisory Board

The St. Raphael School Board serves as an advisory board to the Pastor and Principal. The board meets throughout the academic year.

Accreditation

St. Raphael School operates within the Archdiocese of Washington education guidelines and the Maryland State

Department of Education guidelines and is accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (COGNIA). At this time, SRS/SRNS is only one of two schools in the state of Maryland to have its early learning through grade 8 program accredited.

Archdiocesan Guideline to Parent/Guardian Cooperation

St. Raphael Parents/Guardians and students agree not to publicly repudiate the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and will respect and support the unique identity that St. Raphael School derives from its Catholic faith. As the primary educators of their children, parents/guardians will not act in ways that contradict the Catholic nature of St. Raphael School. Parents/guardians shall cooperate fully with the school and the students shall participate in all required school programming, including instruction in the Catholic faith and attendance at Mass. As the primary educators of the students, parents/guardians agree to act in ways that promote the best interests of the church and school and will comply with the policies of the Archdiocese of Washington and St. Raphael School.

Parents as Partners

As partners in the educational process at St. Raphael School, we ask parents:

To set rules, times, and limits so that your child:

- Gets to bed early on school nights;
- Arrives at school on time and is picked up on time at the end of the day;
- Is dressed according to the school dress code;
- Completes assignments on time; and
- Eat lunch and a nutritious snack every day.

To actively participate in school activities such as Parent-Teacher Conferences;

To see that the student pays for any damage to school books or property due to carelessness or neglect on the part of the student;

To notify the school with a written note when the student has been absent or tardy;

To notify the school office of any changes of address or important phone numbers;

To meet all financial obligations to the school;

To inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety, and health;

To complete and return to school any requested information promptly;

To read school notes and newsletters and to show interest in the student's total education;

To support the religious and educational goals of the school;

To attend Mass and teach the Catholic faith by word and example;

To support and cooperate with the discipline policy of the school;

To treat teachers with respect and courtesy when discussing student problems.

Parent's Role in Education

We, at St. Raphael School, consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, it is your right and your duty to become the primary role models for the development of your child's life---physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Your choice of St. Raphael School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his/her life.

Good example is the strongest teacher. Your personal relationship with God, with each other, and with the Church community will affect the way your child relates to God and others. Ideals taught in school are not well rooted in the child unless these are nurtured by the example of good Catholic/Christian morality and by an honest personal relationship with God in your family life. Once you have chosen to enter into a partnership with us at St. Raphael School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years (K-8), your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty in order to develop his/her moral, intellectual, social, cultural and physical endowment. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest of challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his/her potential. It is vital that both parents and teachers remember that allowing oneself to be caught between the student and the other partner will never have positive results. To divide authority between school and home or within the home will only teach disrespect of all authority. If there is an incident at school, you as parents must make investigation of the complete story as your first step. Evidence of mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good mature behavior and relationships.

Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. However, sometimes in the process of maturation new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, it is boundaries and limits which provide a young person with both guidance and security.

It is essential that a child take responsibility for grades he/she has earned and be accountable for homework, long-term assignments, major tests, service projects, and all other assignments. This responsibility also extends to times of absence.

Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child to become the best person he/she is capable of becoming.

Home and School Association

St. Raphael School HSA works to support and enhance the educational ministry of the school. Development, parent education, and building community are goals of this organization.

Admission Policy

St. Raphael School gives admission preference to Catholic students who are participating members of St. Raphael parish, then to participating Catholics from other parishes, and space permitting, to all others. As a reflection of our commitment to serving families, our goal is to give admission preference to siblings.

Children with special needs will be admitted if, with reasonable accommodations on the part of the school, they can function in the school environment. Such children will be conditionally accepted and status will be reevaluated if the need arises. For new students, parents are required to fill out and submit an application form with a \$100.00 non-refundable application fee. Parents then will be contacted by the school to schedule a prospective parent interview (we will not be interviewing prospective students), 3 years of current report cards are to be submitted as well, and an admissions test may also be requested. Once an admission decision has been made, parents will be notified by letter. A tuition deposit of \$2,000.00 will be required at the time of acceptance to reserve a seat for your child. This deposit is also non-refundable. This payment will be applied towards the annual tuition due.

New students entering St. Raphael School after Kindergarten will be accepted on a probationary basis for a period of one year. Acceptance will be finalized at the end of the first academic year if St. Raphael's determines that the new student can meet St. Raphael's academic performance standards and behavioral conduct standards. This probationary period is in addition to St. Raphael's policies addressing promotion, retention and discipline discussed in this Handbook. For returning students, parents are asked to commit for the next school year prior to the St. Raphael School Open House, which is held in the fall. A tuition deposit of \$2,000.00 is required in early April to reserve a seat for your child for the upcoming school year. This deposit is non-refundable. This payment will be applied towards the annual tuition due.

Waiting List

Considering class size limitations, applications for enrollment in any grade may exceed available space. A waiting list will be established and reduced, as space becomes available on the basis of the general admission criteria. Students will be left on the waiting list for one academic year. Parents will need to participate in the registration process the following year in order to be considered for the following year's class.

Withdrawal

Parents are asked to notify the Principal, in writing, as soon as a decision is made to withdraw their child/children so that we may refer to our waiting list and accept new students.

Tuition

Tuition cost and payment dates may be found on the [tuition and financial aid webpage](#).

Tuition payment is the financial responsibility of the family or legal guardian of our students. For our budgeting purposes, it is important that tuition be paid on time. You may pay tuition in full to the school or pursuant to one of the tuition schedules available through TADS. As noted in the Admission Policy, a **non-refundable** deposit of \$2,000.00 is made at the time of acceptance for new students. For returning students, the first payment of \$2,000.00 is made when confirming re-enrollment in April of the preceding school year. There is an obligation to pay tuition for the entire school year. If your child leaves the school, tuition will not be refunded unless we are able to fill the place vacated. In that case, tuition will be prorated. In any case, one-fourth of the tuition is **nonrefundable**.

Tuition Assistance

The Archdiocese of Washington notes on its website that the ADW “works hard to keep Catholic education as affordable as possible. To assist families, several tuition assistance programs are available through the archdiocese and other private organizations.”

Additionally, St. Raphael Parish will also consider individual family needs and make tuition grants at the discretion of the pastor. All families requesting tuition assistance from the parish must complete the TADS financial aid application annually at www.tads.com. Please contact the school office for more information regarding tuition assistance.

Parent Participation

Parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate in many of the volunteer roles that are present in the school. Please be aware that all volunteers in the school are required to fulfill Archdiocese of Washington requirements including fingerprinting, participating in the Protecting God’s Children Program (aka VIRTUS training), and completing an archdiocese volunteer application.

General Information

School Hours

The school day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students should be dropped off at the church between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. each school day. Attendance will be taken at 8:00 a.m. Any student arriving after 8:00 a.m. will be marked tardy. Prayer will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. in the church. Student dismissal is at 3:00 p.m.

The school cannot be responsible for children BEFORE 7:30 a.m. or AFTER 3:15 p.m. on regular dismissal days. A student not picked up in a timely manner will be sent to Aftercare and the family assessed the fee.

School Office Hours and Contact Information

Receptionist 7:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Monday-Friday
Office 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

To Report Absences: 301-762-2143

**Before 8:00 a.m. receptionist@straphaels.org or

**After 8:00 a.m., email or call 301-762-2143 (Receptionist) or nurse@straphaels.org

Inclement Weather Policy

When there is inclement weather, St. Raphael School will close when Montgomery County Public Schools are closed. In the case of a delayed opening, St. Raphael School classes will begin at 10:15 a.m.. Students can be dropped off at the front desk with the Receptionist starting at 9:30 a.m. Students will gather in the Trumpet Room and proceed to their classrooms at 10:00 a.m. Classes will begin promptly at 10:15 a.m.. Before Care will be available to students beginning at 8 a.m., when there is a delayed opening. Upon arrival, students should be taken to the front desk and signed in with the Receptionist, who will then direct them to Before Care. Note: If there is a delayed opening on a scheduled half-day, St. Raphael School will still open at 10:15 a.m. unless we notify you. Should there be an early dismissal, St. Raphael School will close at 1 p.m., and aftercare and after-school events are also canceled. If Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session, please adhere to Archdiocese of Washington announcements for school closings, early dismissals, or delays.

Check [WTOP's listing of school closures and delays](#) pertaining to Montgomery County schools. You may also watch for alerts on the homepage of our website. [Sign up for Alert MCPS](#) to receive text messages or emails about school closings, delays, and early dismissals.

School Visitors

Visitors are asked to sign-in with the Receptionist and obtain a name tag. At the end of the visit, visitors will need to sign-out and return their name tag to the front desk..

Contacting Teachers

St. Raphael School welcomes communication from parents. In the interest of the children, we would prefer the teachers not leave the classroom to receive phone calls.

If you wish to contact the teachers during the school day, please leave a message on the teacher's voicemail or with the Receptionist, who will make every effort to deliver the message to the teacher in a timely manner.

Teachers may also be contacted via email. Email addresses for teachers are [firstinitiallastname@straphaels.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@straphaels.org) (for example, tdwyer@straphaels.org). Teachers will, most likely, be unable to check or respond to emails during school hours.

Attendance

Regular attendance has a marked influence upon scholastic achievement. In accordance with Maryland law, parents are responsible for their child's attendance and punctuality. If a student is consistently absent or tardy, the administration has the right to consider retention for the following academic year.

Absences

The Archdiocese of Washington mandates that children receive 180 days of instruction each school year.

When a student is absent from school, a parent or guardian must contact the receptionist or school nurse by phone or email by 10:00 a.m. each day of the absence. If the office does not receive a call, a parent or guardian will be contacted. This policy is for the protection of St. Raphael students. A written statement giving a reason for the absence or tardiness must be brought to the student's teacher upon the student's return and be signed by a parent or guardian. In addition, and in accordance with Maryland State Law, if a student is absent for 3 consecutive days, a note from a doctor must be brought to the student's teacher upon the student's return. Absences are considered "excused" according to ADW Policy 3535.

Archdiocesan School Attendance

The following are valid reasons for excused absences from school (if properly documented by the student's parent or guardian upon the student's return to school):

1. Illness of the student (after three days of illness, medical documentation that indicates that the student can return to school);
2. Death in the student's immediate family;
3. A necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding;
4. Lawful suspension or exclusion from school by chief administrative officer.
5. Temporary closing of facilities or suspension of classes due to severe weather, official activities, holidays, malfunctioning equipment, unsafe or unsanitary conditions, or other conditions requiring closing or suspension of classes; and
6. Other absence(s) approved in advance by the Principal upon the written request of a parent or guardian. Sufficient notice should be given to the school to provide expected student work to be completed while absent. Failure to provide sufficient time may result in an unexcused absence.

Any absence that does not fall into one of the above categories, or is not properly documented by the student's parent/guardian, is an unexcused absence.

A parent may call the school office before 9:30 a.m. to arrange for homework assignments when a student is absent for three or more days due to illness. Homework assignments may be picked up at the front desk between 3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. on school days.

The school calendar provides for extended weekends throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times so as to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process. Should an unexcused absence seem imperative, the parents' must consult with the Principal and present a reason for the absence in writing. The administration has the right to consider retention for the following academic year for unexcused absences. Teachers are not required to provide make-up work or missed homework assignments except for excused

absences. Assignments given in anticipation of an unexcused absence are at the discretion of the teacher.

Absence During the School Day

Students needing medical appointments during school hours require a written note by the parent to be delivered to the student's teacher upon arrival on the day of the absence or at the time of departure. Parents are required to sign out their child at the front desk. If the child returns to school during the same school day, he/she must be signed back into school with the Receptionist.

Academic Information

As St. Raphael School grows and develops, the policies may change to reflect that growth and development.

Curriculum

We adhere to the Archdiocesan curriculum guidelines and the State of Maryland guidelines for teaching all secular subject areas.

St. Raphael School offers students opportunities for growth in the following major subjects:

Religion

The following are part of the religion curriculum: instruction on Catholic doctrine and tradition, Bible study, Social Justice, Preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Students attend Mass once a week with the parish and participate in daily prayer. We participate in the ADW standard religious curriculum review.

Language Arts

Reading, English, spelling, vocabulary, composition, library skills, appreciation of literature, and modern language (Spanish will be taught in Grades K - 8).

Student Language Arts averages, standardized test scores (where applicable), and teacher recommendations based on observations of student skills, effort, and ability determine placement. All reading groups will complete the grade-level curriculum. Each group may work at a different pace or be given different homework assignments or enrichment/support as needed. Reading placements are intended to be fluid. If warranted based on the established criteria, placements may change throughout the year.

Reading

Word recognition, fluency and vocabulary development, comprehension and literacy response and analysis.

Writing

Process, applications (different types of writing and their characteristics) and English language conventions.

Listening and Speaking

Skills, strategies, and applications.

Mathematics

Mathematic skills, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra I, number sense, computations, geometry, measurement and problem solving. Student math averages, standardized test scores (where applicable) and teacher recommendation based on observations of student skills, effort, and ability determine placement. All math groups will complete the grade level curriculum. Each group may work at a different pace or be given different homework assignments, or enrichment/ support as needed. Math placement is intended to be fluid. If warranted, based on the established criteria, placement may change throughout the year.

Physical Education

Maintain and develop fitness. Develop skills for sport and recreation. Use movement for self-expression, enjoyment, challenge, social interaction and lifelong physical activity. Exhibit a positive attitude toward physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle. Work on Presidential Fitness standards.

Social Studies

History, civics and government, geography, economics, individuals, Maryland history, current events and society and culture.

Science

General sciences and laboratory experiences, the nature of science and technology, scientific thinking, physical setting, living environment, mathematical world and common themes.

Handwriting

Students in Grades 3 through 8 will be expected to submit all handwritten work in cursive.

Fine Arts

Music, Studio Art, and Band.

Computer Literacy

Word Processing, Database, Spread Sheets, Web Design, and Integration with Curricular Subjects.

Report Cards

The Archdiocese of Washington has two report cards: one for Kindergarten through Grade 3 and one for students in Grades 4 - 8.

Distribution of Report Cards

Report cards will be distributed at the end of each semester for students in Kindergarten. Students in Grades 1 through 8 will receive report cards quarterly.

The first report card is distributed at the Parent/Guardian Conference in November for students in Grades 1 through 8. Kindergarten teachers will have conferences with parents or guardians in November but will not distribute a formal report card at that time. For students in Grades 1 through 8, report cards are distributed by the Principal for the second and third quarters and mailed for the fourth quarter.

Report cards may be withheld if there are outstanding financial obligations. Report cards will not be distributed before the assigned date. If a student leaves school prior to report card distribution, the parent or guardian may give the teacher a self-addressed stamped envelope, and the report card can be mailed on the given day.

Grading Policy

The achievement mark (final average) is based upon mastery of material covered in class throughout the marking period, such as class work, homework, quizzes, tests, unit tests, comprehensive examinations, and special projects.

For Kindergarten through Third Grade report cards, symbols indicating the level of mastery of readiness skills are reported.

For students in Grades 4 through 8, the following St. Raphael School Policy will be followed:

1. tests (50% of quarterly average);
2. quizzes (35% of quarterly average);
3. comprehensive unit examinations (averaged as two test grades);
4. homework (15% of quarterly average);

It is important that the parent/guardian access their login to participate via Rediker and check their child's progress regularly. If directions are needed, please contact the school office.

Progress Reports

The reporting system of the Archdiocese of Washington is divided into four quarters. Progress reports for students in K through 8th grade will be sent to parents and guardians during each marking period upon the teacher's discretion. Commendations and recommendations are available on Rediker. In order to remain aware of each child's progress, or lack thereof, the parent/guardian should track via Rediker on a regular basis throughout each quarter.

Honor Roll/Principal's List

In our middle school, students with A's in every subject: Religion, Math, English, Literature, Social Studies and Science, and E's in Art, Music, PE, and Spanish will receive the Principal's List award.

Middle school students with A's and B's in subject areas (Religion, Math, English, Literature, Social Studies, and Science) and G's or E's in Art, Music, Spanish, and PE will receive the Honor Roll award.

National Junior Honor Society

The St. Raphael Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society was established in 2014. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote worthy leadership and citizenship, and encourage the character development in students of St. Raphael School.

This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NJHS National Constitution. Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Citizenship, and Character.

Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the seventh or eighth grade class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at St. Raphael School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council, which consists of six faculty members appointed by the Principal. The chapter adviser shall be the seventh, non-voting member of the Faculty Council.

The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate's Form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Forms, faculty evaluations, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.
- e. Additional steps such as essay's, external recommendations or interviews can be included here as components of the local selection process.

Criteria for Selection of Candidates:

1. All students must meet the prerequisite grade point average- grades from middle school years only.
2. All students should demonstrate outstanding performance in all five criteria of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.
3. Leadership: A student exercises leadership when he or she:
 - Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
 - Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit

- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
 - Is able to delegate responsibilities
 - Inspires positive behavior in others
 - Demonstrates academic initiative
 - Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility
 - Conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
 - Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities.
 - Is dependable in any responsibility accepted
4. Service: The student who serves:
- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, and is willing to make sacrifices to offer assistance
 - Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
 - Enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
 - Does committee and staff work without complaint
 - Participates in some activity outside of school, for example: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.
 - Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students
 - Mentors in the community or students at other schools
5. Citizenship: The student who demonstrates citizenship:
- Understands the importance of civic engagement
 - Has a high regard for freedom and justice; respects the US form of government (representative democracy); and respects the law for all citizens at the local, state and federal levels
 - Demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, or school clubs
6. Character: The student of character:
- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability, etc.)
 - Cooperates by complying with school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct
 - Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
 - Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability
 - Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others
 - Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility

Teacher Conferences

Conferences for Kindergarten students will be held in November and April. Conferences will be held in November for Grades 1 through 8. A teacher or parent/guardian may request a conference at any time.

Student Records

St. Raphael School adheres to the Buckley Amendment (Family Education Rights and Privacy) regarding access to student records. St. Raphael School abides by the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, St. Raphael School will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be

no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

Students requesting records, transcripts, or recommendations must make the request at least ten (10) school days in advance to the School Office. All forms should be submitted to the St. Raphael School Office for distribution. Completed forms will be sent directly to the schools via U.S. Mail. No records will be sent to transferring schools of students whose financial commitment is in arrears.

Promotion Policy and Retention Policy

Advancement to the next grade at St. Raphael School is based on a student's daily performance, test results, recommendations of teachers, and the student's ability to complete work successfully on a more advanced level.

Promotion to the next grade depends on successful completion in all subject areas. The Administration may recommend the repetition of a grade, tutoring, or summer school classes as a requirement for promotion when, after conferences with teachers and parents, it is believed that such action will better prepare the student academically or emotionally for the next grade.

Students may also be transferred to the next grade. A student who is transferred to another grade may not be allowed to continue as a student at St. Raphael.

Academic Probation

A student whose academic performance indicates serious deficiencies may be placed on academic probation. The probationary period normally will last for one quarter, but that time may be lengthened or lessened by the Principal. The Principal and faculty will conduct a review of the standard in question after the given period.

Homework

Formal home study is assigned to help students become self-reliant and self-directed. Assignments are designed to reinforce daily lessons, supplement and enrich class work, and prepare for specific lessons through various experiences.

Since each student has different capabilities and interests, it would be difficult to denote the specific amount of time spent on an assignment. If a problem arises, the teacher should be contacted.

With the capability for remote learning, if a student is absent for an extended time, he or she may log in to the classroom via Webex. If they are not feeling up to participating, parents may contact teachers before or after school to make arrangements to pick up work. Ideally, assignments would be picked up at the receptionist's desk between 3:00 p.m. - 3:30. Students may work through a friend as well.

Students will be allowed one day for each day of absence due to illness to complete the missed work. For example, a student absent three days should be given three school days to complete the missed work.

Computer/Network Use Policy

The St. Raphael School Computer/Network Use Policy, is provided for your review and signature during the annual student enrollment process.

St. Raphael School continues our student investment in our technology program. In providing our middle school students with quality equipment, we have established a technology protection plan. This plan requires a payment of \$250.00 to insure the device which is collected at time of distribution to the student. A stylus pen is also issued to each middle school student. If the pen is damaged or lost, there will be a minimal cost to replace it.

Technology and Internet Usage

Student Responsibilities When using any Technology Equipment, All Students:

- Shall use all Technology Equipment, including, but not limited to computers, networking systems, Internet, mobile devices, tablets, hosted or cloud-based environments, communication devices, cell phones, email, social networking sites, calculators, DVD players, and cameras (“Technology Equipment”) with care and respect, whether at school, at home, or elsewhere.
- Shall not type, send or otherwise use any inappropriate or offensive words, or display, send, or otherwise use inappropriate or offensive images, sounds or messages from or on Technology Equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, creating, publishing, displaying or in any way disseminating any information or files that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing or damaging to another’s reputation.
- Shall not violate any local, state or federal laws.
- Shall not engage in cyber-bullying behavior.
- Shall not use the device to capture photos, video, audio or other media involving other students, faculty or staff without explicit permission from the subjects of the media.
- Shall never use the technology in bathrooms or locker rooms.
- Shall not impersonate others or hack or otherwise seek unauthorized access to any restricted information or account.
- Shall immediately report to a teacher or supervising staff member any inappropriate material or misuse of Technology Equipment of which the student becomes aware.
- Shall not engage in any behavior otherwise prohibited by school disciplinary standards.

Schools may supply students with Technology Equipment owned or leased by the school for instructional use. Schools may also permit students to use their own Technology Equipment during class as directed by their teachers as part of a “BYOD” (Bring Your Own Device) initiative. When using Technology Equipment supplied by the School, or Technology Equipment permitted under a BYOD initiative, all students:

- Shall not reconfigure any school hardware, software, or network settings.
- When on school grounds, shall access only school supplied WIFI or other networks provided by the school. Under no circumstances may students use Technology Equipment to access the Internet through 3G or 4G connections or any other means not specifically provided by the school.
- Shall not attempt to bypass or otherwise evade any content filters or security measures in place on the Technology Equipment.
- Shall not intentionally receive or send any viruses, worms, Trojan Horses, or any other kind of malware.

- Shall not install, download, upload, or otherwise transfer any software, files, or other data onto Technology Equipment supplied by the school without first obtaining the teacher's permission.
- Shall not use any school Technology Equipment to create, store, transfer or use software or electronic content in a manner which violates the rights of the holder of copyright in the software or the content; and shall not plagiarize works found on the Internet or elsewhere.
- Shall only use the Internet for school-related projects and shall visit only the sites assigned by the teacher.
- Shall not take photographs or record audio or video unless directed by the teacher for instructional purposes.
- Shall be solely responsible for the physical security and care of their Technology Equipment. The school does not assume responsibility for damages, lost or stolen devices.
- Shall ensure that their Technology Equipment is fully charged at the beginning of the school day.
- Shall promptly comply with a teacher's request to shut down, close, put away, or hand over any Technology Equipment.
- Shall not play any games on Technology Equipment except as directed by the student's teacher for instructional use.
- Shall not give out, post, or otherwise distribute personal information such as social security numbers, birthdays, credit card or bank account information, photographs, home addresses, telephone numbers, parents' work addresses or telephone numbers or the name and location of the school.

All students understand and acknowledge:

- Student use of cell phones, Apple watches, tablets, laptops, and other portable electronic devices during school hours is strictly prohibited, except in the case of a medical emergency or as otherwise directed by the student's teacher for instructional use.
- Schools may require that Technology Equipment used in a BYOD program must meet certain compatibility requirements, use certain security measures, and include certain hardware, software, or applications, which may include applications that grant the school control over the content on the Technology Equipment.
- The use of equipment is a privilege, not a right. As such, any violation of this policy may result in permanent revocation of their technology privileges and other disciplinary action may be taken at the sole discretion of the principal.
- Use of all Technology Equipment may be monitored. There is no expectation of privacy for any information stored on any Technology Equipment used on school grounds, including any information or files stored in students' personal accounts (such as social media or file-sharing accounts) that are accessible via such Technology Equipment. The school reserves the right to access a student's computer files or any other Technology Equipment when required for the maintenance of the school's Technology Equipment, in emergencies, in the course of investigation of possible wrongdoing or a disciplinary infraction, or at the discretion of the Principal. If a student refuses to grant the school full access to his or her Technology Equipment for such a purpose – for instance, by withholding a password – the school may treat that refusal as an admission of wrongdoing.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

- Parents/guardians shall be responsible for reading and reviewing the terms listed above with their child.
- Parents/guardians shall be responsible for any damages, claims and expenses resulting from their child's use of the school's Technology Equipment.
- Parents/guardians shall be responsible for damages, claims (including theft) and expenses of all personally owned Technology Equipment used in any BYOD program.
- Parents/guardians acknowledge that any failure to honor the terms of this agreement may result in disciplinary action determined at the discretion of the Principal, any or all of the student's technology privileges being revoked, and/or the reporting of such infraction to the appropriate authorities.
- Parents/guardians acknowledge that violation of any policy provision may result in confiscating equipment until retrieved by such parent/guardian.
- Parents/guardians acknowledge that they have read and reviewed the terms of acceptable technology use with the student listed below, and both parent and student understand and agree to abide by those terms.

Each student's parent/guardian must review the Technology and Internet Usage Agreement with the student and sign and return the Agreement during the first week of each school year.

Technology Concerns

- Blogs: Engagement in online blogs such as, but not limited to, MySpace.com, Xanga, Friendster, Facebook, **Instagram, Snapchat, etc. may result in disciplinary actions if the content of the student's blog includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students or the parish.
- Cell Phones: If a student needs a cell phone after school due to walking home from school, entering a house where no one is home, or attending sports practices or games, he/she should bring the cell phone to the Receptionist upon arrival in the morning, and turn the cell phone to the off position for the day. The cell phone may be picked up by the student at dismissal. At no time should a cell phone be in a student's possession during the day. Items taken away from students will be returned to the parent(s)/guardian(s) on the last day of the school year.
- Sexting: Students involved in possessing or transmitting inappropriate photos on their cell phones or other electronic devices face suspension and/or expulsion.
- Texting: Students should at no time be involved in texting during the school day. Students involved in texting at school face detention, suspension and/or expulsion.
- Virtual Reality Sites: Virtual Reality Sites such as, but not limited to, www.there.com and www.secondlife.com pose a developmental and moral risk to a student's life. Parents are cautioned to be aware of the online sites visited by their children, knowing that often predators are not living in a neighborhood but within the home via a computer.

Library

The school library is a valuable resource for all of our students. It is important, therefore, that our materials be kept current and complete. Please support our efforts by responding in a timely manner to any overdue notices sent home periodically with students requesting the return of overdue books. After inventory, bills for missing books will be sent to parents. Students will not be able to check out books until payment for missing or lost books are received in the school office.

Recess

All students are expected to go out for recess. Students will not be allowed to stay inside for recess without a written excuse signed by a doctor. Please do not ask that your child remain indoors during recess. If your child is too sick to go outdoors, he or she should remain home.

Outdoor recess will only be canceled if the temperature outside is below 32 degrees or if there is severe weather. Students should come to school dressed appropriately for outdoor recess during winter.

Field Trips

- Field trips are designed to correlate with teaching units and to achieve curricular goals.
- A field trip is a privilege, not a right.
- All grades do not always have the same number of field trips.
- Field trips are permissible for all grades when advanced planning, location, and the experience ensure a successful learning opportunity.
- Individual teachers, in consultation with the administration, reserve the right to restrict or deny student participation on any field trip due to, but not limited to, poor academic performance and/or poor conduct.
- A written official permission slip, signed by a parent or guardian, is required before a child will be permitted to attend a field trip activity. Verbal permission cannot be accepted due to liability concerns. A telephone call will not be accepted in lieu of the proper field trip permission slip.
- Parents may refuse to permit their child from participating in a field trip by stating so on the proper form. Children who do not attend the field trip will report to the office for an in-school study day or remain home with a parent and be marked absent for the day.
- Students who are participating in the field trip must ride the bus to and from the field trip with their class. Students who do not ride the bus but who arrive by other means at the field trip location may not participate in the field trip and will be counted absent for the day. Parents who are not “official” chaperones may not drive their car to a field trip destination with the plan of accompanying the class on the field trip. Our risk management insurance company insures “official” chaperones, and participation by unofficial chaperones jeopardizes the protection of the students and all other “official” adults on the field trip.
- Parents who chaperone a field trip may not bring preschool or school-age siblings on the field trip.
- All chaperones must be 25 years of age or older. Space is limited, and preference will be given to parents and guardians. Student cell phones are not allowed on field trips.
- Uniforms are worn on field trips unless otherwise stated.

Lunch Program

Students either bring a lunch from home or participate in the school hot lunch program (details provided separately). Student lunches brought from home should be labeled clearly with the student's name on the outside of the lunch container and should include a drink. *If preferred, students may purchase milk at an additional cost (details provided separately). We encourage our students to eat a healthy lunch. We request that parents do not include glass bottles, soda, or excessive amounts of candy/sweets in lunches brought from home. The school discourages parents/guardians from bringing lunches to school from carry-out restaurants. In addition, we request that food containing nuts and/or nut products not be sent to school (See our Nut Aware Policy).

Students may bring an appropriate nutritious snack to school each day.

***Milk program has been temporarily suspended due to delivery issues related to the Pandemic.**

Uniforms and Dress Code

St. Raphael School uniforms are comfortable, promote school spirit, and allow students to take pride in their appearance. The school's uniform providers are [Flynn O'Hara](#) and [Lands' End](#) (our school number: 900120254). Many uniform pieces may be purchased from either vendor. The jumper, tights, middle-school plaid skirt, and middle-school tie are available only at Flynn O'Hara. The P.E. uniform, green sweater, green sweatshirt, and middle-school blazer must be purchased through Lands' End. Note that the white ankle-length leggings are not carried by either vendor, so parents may purchase at the merchant of their choice. All uniforms should be clean and pressed with all buttons attached and hem intact. Shirts should remain buttoned and shirttails tucked in while a student is on campus. Students may wear their Scout uniforms on meeting days.

All students must be in approved uniform attire every day unless otherwise announced. If there is a time when the approved uniform cannot be worn, a note from the parent/guardian must be written to the Principal. Students who are out of uniform without this excuse will be sent to the office and the parent will be contacted to bring in the appropriate clothing. If your questions cannot be answered by the following information, feel free to contact [Lara Roach](#) with any additional questions or concerns.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are encouraged to wear their P.E. uniform on a daily basis.

Grades 1-5

Grades 1 and 2 have P.E. once a week and must wear their P.E. uniform. Grades 3-5 have P.E. four times a week. There are two designated P.E. uniform days assigned by class. The daily attire is worn the remaining three days.

Grades 6-8

Formal dress uniform is mandatory every Monday, all Holy Days, and designated special occasions. Grades 6-8 have P.E. four times a week. There are two designated P.E. uniform days assigned by class.

****Guidelines for boys' and girls' uniforms, all grades, for P.E. and optional attire are located on the school website in the Campus Life section under the Parent Resources tab.**

Hairstyles

Hairstyles for both boys and girls are to be kept at a reasonable length. No extreme haircuts or hairstyles (including dyed/colored hair, spiked hair, mohawks, shaved patterns, colored extensions and clip-on hair) are permitted for either boys or girls. Boys are to be clean-shaven at all times. Girls may wear a hair ribbon, bow or barrette.

Accessories

Hats, jackets, non-uniform sweaters and sweatshirts, and other outer garments are stored for the day upon arrival at school. Students may wear modest jewelry. Girls may wear modest pierced earrings (one pair only), but no other pierced jewelry on girls and no pierced jewelry on boys is allowed. No nail polish (except clear), make-up, self-tanning products or tanning beds are allowed.

Out-of-Uniform Guidelines:

On Tag Days, non-uniform days, students must wear appropriate clothing. Students will be asked to call home for a change of clothes if the administration or faculty deems that the clothing is suggestive or inappropriate.

Appropriate attire for non-uniform days includes:

- jeans, tennis shoes, short socks, shorts (no shorter than three inches above the knee), skirts (no shorter than three inches above the knee), skorts, sweatshirts, jogging suits, dresses, slacks,
- nail polish,
- jewelry, hoop earrings, large earrings,
- crocs shoes

Students may not wear:

- flip-flop sandals, open back shoes
- tank tops
- T-shirts with inappropriate writing
- tennis shoes which convert to roller skates
- biker shorts
- pajama pants
- make-up
- low cut blouses/tops clothing that is extremely tight
- hats

No nail polish (except clear), make-up, self-tanning products or tanning beds are allowed.

**** Good Rule: If you think you should not wear it...you shouldn't!**

Shoes

Plain brown shoes are required and can be worn with white or green socks, tights or white ankle-length leggings for girls and white socks for boys. Boys may wear black socks on dress days with long gray pants or brown/khaki socks with long khaki pants. No athletic shoes are allowed for students in Grades 1 through 8 except on the days designated for Physical Education for each class.

Electronics

Because of the distraction caused by cell phones, students are not permitted to have cell phones while on the school campus. In the case of an emergency and a child needs to get in touch with a parent, he or she may use the phone in the school office. In the case of an extraordinary circumstance, including, but not limited to, a medical emergency, permission may be sought from

the Principal for a student to possess a cell phone on campus. Under such circumstances, the cell phone must be turned off throughout the school day and turned into the receptionist and picked up at 3 p.m. Other electronic equipment including portable music players and Apple watches should be left at home.

Health/Safety

Health Program Records

Each student has a confidential health file. The file holds the student's Immunization Record and Health Inventory in the Immunization Policy Acknowledgement Form (ADW Form 3). The State of Maryland Department of Health and the Archdiocese of Washington require this form. All kindergarteners and new students enrolled in St. Raphael are required to have a physical within one year of the start of school and must have the Immunization Policy Acknowledgement form completed and signed by both parent/guardian and the health care provider prior to the start of the new school year. Students will only be permitted to start school if all the forms are completed, students, and students have received all required immunizations.

While returning SRS students are not required to have new health forms each year, it is in your child's best interest to notify the school nurse of any changes in your child's health /medication status and to update his/her health file as needed. It is important that the school nurse and your child's teacher be aware of any special health concerns and/or developmental problems to help ensure that your child receives the best learning experience. The information should be updated by the parent/guardian and health care provider.

It is strongly recommended that a new Immunization Policy Acknowledgement (ADW Form 3) be completed by parent/guardian and health provider for all students entering middle school. All incoming 7th grade students must provide an updated immunization record showing that he/she has received the required T-dap and Meningococcal vaccines.

Medication

Medication will only be given at school if the **Student Medication Authorization Form (ADW Form 8)** is completed by both parent/guardian and health care provider. The form is required for all prescription and all non-prescription medications. All medication must have appropriate expiration dates for the current school year. The parent/guardian will be notified by the school nurse of any medication that is due to expire. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to replace medication prior to the expiration date..

The first day's dosage of any new medication must be given at home before it can be given at school. All prescription medication must be brought to the health room by parent/guardian and must come to school with the pharmacist's label attached. All non-prescription medication must be brought to the health room by parent/guardian and must be in the original sealed container with the manufacturer's label. Parent/guardian should label medication brought to school with the student's first and last name. Pharmacy labels and Physician medication samples should contain the following information:

- Student Name
- Name of Drug
- Dose

- Route
- Frequency
- Prescriber's Name and Number

***Any medication that can be administered by parent/guardian before and/or after school hours, should be administered at home.**

The school nurse or trained staff will administer first aid for minor cases and will notify the parents immediately should anything serious occur. In the event your child should get sick during the school day, he/she will be sent to the school nurse who will notify you or someone you have designated as an emergency contact. Once contacted, please arrange to pick-up your child as soon as possible. Please do not send your child to school ill. Fever is an indication that your child has a virus or other infection. A fever is considered a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. However, your child may need to stay home with a temperature that is lower if there are other symptoms present that may prohibit him/her from participating fully in school. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without requiring fever reducing medication, prior to returning to school. If your child has been experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea, he/she must be tolerating food and fluids with no vomiting and/or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

***It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to update the Health Emergency Information for each child annually in TADS. It is the school policy that the parent/guardian should call/email the nurse or the front desk by 10 am if his/her child will be absent from school.**

Asthma Policy

Parents must notify the school nurse if their child has a diagnosis of Asthma or Reactive Airway Disease. It is a requirement of the ADW that any student who may need to use an inhaler while in school, must have the **Inhaled Medication Authorization Form (ADW Form 9)** completed by parent/guardian and health care provider. Children may self-carry/ self-administer emergency medication only if it is approved by the doctor and the nurse, who agree that the child is mature enough and able to properly administer the medication independently. Otherwise, all inhaler medication will be maintained in the health room and administered or supervised by the school nurse. The school nurse recommends that a spacer be provided by the parent/guardian for use when administering medication from a metered dose inhaler, especially for younger children. The parent/guardian should label his/her child's inhaler and spacer with the child's first and last name.

Allergy Policy

Parents must notify the school of their child's allergies, especially life-threatening allergies that may require the use of an EpiPen (i.e., food, insects, medications, etc.). It is a requirement of the ADW, that the **Allergy Agreement and Action Plan (ADW Form 6)** be completed by the parent/guardian and health care provider. Students with life threatening allergies are required to have two EpiPens at school. Medication will be maintained in the health room. In addition, the school nurse requires that the parent/guardian complete the **Family Food Allergy Health History Form**. Emergency medication and required documentation must be brought to school prior to the first day of school.

All school health forms are available on the school website. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

Nut Aware Policy

St. Raphael, consistent with the general population, is seeing an increased number of children with severe nut allergies, including potentially life-threatening anaphylactic reactions. Complete avoidance of the allergen is the only way to prevent these children from having an allergic reaction. We ask that you do not send in any food containing nuts and/or nut products (oils, flours, butters). This applies to all food coming into the school building, including lunches, snacks, and special-occasion foods. St. Raphael School will continue to allow “home baked treats” to come to school for class celebrations, but we do ask that these also are completely free of nuts and/or nut flours, oils, and butters and the ingredients used, not processed in a facility or on equipment that processes nuts. While we strive to be nut free, we realize that it is impossible to eliminate all risk, as some foods may contain trace amounts of the allergen due to processing in facilities or on equipment that also processes the allergen. With that in mind, we ask that the parents of children with food allergies approve the “home baked” snack for their child and/or provide an alternative “safe snack.” We realize that this may cause some inconvenience, but we feel that the health of our children with these severe reactions must be a priority. In addition, we have a “**No Sharing Food Policy**” and we request that parents reinforce this policy with their children, especially those with food allergies.

***When there is a question of safety with food, a student will be given an alternative safe snack to eat.**

In the spirit of being more inclusive, we suggest you visit www.snacksafely.com (updated monthly) for a listing of safe alternative food options that everyone can enjoy.

After Care

St. Raphael School offers families an opportunity to register for our after school childcare program. After Care is offered from the end of the school day at 3:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. (After Care is also available on scheduled early dismissal days.) It is expected that all parents will be prompt in picking up their child/children at 6:00 p.m. A conference with the Principal is required for late pickup. For cost, and additional information, contact the school office.

Gifts

Students should not exchange individual gifts at school. This gesture only creates hurt feelings among other students. Invitations for slumber parties or birthday parties should be sent to the homes of students unless an invitation is being given to every student in the entire grade. In the same vein, when planning sleepovers and slumber parties for only a few children, please do not send luggage to school.

Parties

Students are permitted class parties each year: Halloween, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, and Easter. Room parents may assist the classroom teacher with these parties. Crafts may not be designed around food.

Birthday Observances

Students in all grades may bring a simple birthday snack to school to share with their classmates. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance. Regarding appropriate birthday treats, please review the Nut Aware policy contained in the Handbook.

Discipline

Conduct

In accordance with the stated philosophy of the school, which emphasizes deep respect for one another, each student will be considerate of the rights of others in all interactions. All students are expected to cooperate with the spirit and policies of the school which are designed to foster mature development and personal responsibility. This requires courtesy in all personal relationships, promptness in fulfilling obligations, concern for the environment, and many other factors which the students' sense of appropriateness will indicate to them.

Items such as, but not limited to, questionable books and pictures, white-out, Sharpie markers, knives, guns, matches, cigarettes, radios, toys, trading cards, pagers, cell phones (except under extraordinary circumstances), laser lights, palm pilots, CDs, iPods or other mp3 players, cameras, silly bands or other fads that may be distracting in an educational setting, or anything that will detract from a learning situation are not allowed at school at any time. The Principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises. The school administration, in accordance with state laws, will determine the appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken concerning inappropriate conduct or the presence of objectionable items in the school.

Threats

In the event of any actual or perceived threat of violence or other inappropriate/illegal behavior, St. Raphael School reserves its right to take any and all actions it deems necessary for the health and safety of its school community, including the individual(s) making the threat. These actions may include contacting law enforcement offices, mental health professionals and/or any other outside experts as the school official(s) deems necessary. A student who makes a threat of violence may be required to remain off school property until a mental health professional certifies that the student is not a danger to him/herself or others, or may be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.

Off-Campus Conduct

The administration of St. Raphael School reserves the right to discipline its students for off-campus behavior that is not in line with behavior expectations of its students during the course of the school day. This off campus behavior includes, but is not limited to, cyber-bullying.

Cheating

No student shall give or receive unauthorized assistance or consult inappropriate sources during a test or while completing an assignment. In cases of suspected cheating, disciplinary action will be taken up to and including expulsion.

Detention

Detention may be issued for a breach of classroom and/or school rules. Any staff member of St. Raphael School may issue a detention. Parents are given written notification of the

detention. The day, date, and time of the detention are at the discretion of the Teacher. Detention takes precedence over appointments, practices, lessons, ball games, etc.

Suspension

Students who are given an in-school suspension will be required to report to school each day and work with a substitute teacher (making the parents subject to a fee for the substitute). Students who receive an out-of-school suspension will not be allowed on campus during the time of their suspension. Students must complete all class work and tests from the days of suspension but failing grades will be recorded for this work.

Expulsion

Expulsion is an extremely serious matter. Students who pose a threat to themselves or to others may be expelled from St. Raphael School. Students who have been expelled will not be allowed to return to the school without prior permission from the Principal.

Archdiocesan Catholic School Counseling Services

In the event of an emergency or crisis, the Archdiocese of Washington may send a team of school counseling professionals to St. Raphael School. One-time, initial counseling services may be rendered to students by school or archdiocesan counseling staff in the event of a crisis or emergency.

Prevention Programming - bullying, harassment, and intimidation

As a Catholic school, St. Raphael School believes and teaches that each of us is called to love our neighbor and to treat them with respect. St. Raphael School is committed to providing a physically safe and emotionally secure learning environment that is free from bullying, harassment, and intimidation in any form, including cyberbullying. Bullying, harassment, and intimidation of any member of the school community is prohibited. All reports of bullying, harassment, and intimidation will be treated seriously. The principal's review and investigation of a credible allegation will be done in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. The reprisal or retaliation against anyone who reports acts of bullying, harassment, and intimidation is strictly prohibited. All reports of reprisal or retaliation will be treated seriously. The principal's review and investigation of a credible allegation will be done in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner.

St. Raphael School is part of the teaching ministry of the Roman Catholic Church. Through education, we seek to prepare each student to proclaim the Good News and to transform oneself and society with God's help. We integrate religious truth and values within our daily lives, and we are committed to a Christian educational environment conducive to spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of each student. As part of our commitment, we promote learning and the prevention of all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that might impede the learning process. As a school community, we will take the necessary steps to create a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and we will endeavor to provide all students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

St. Raphael School will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior, including any form of bullying, cyberbullying or retaliation in our school buildings, on school grounds, or during school related activities. All reports and complaints of bullying and retaliation will be

promptly investigated, and the administration will take prompt action to address such behavior and restore a sense of safety for all.

If needed, the [Bullying Reporting Form](#) should be submitted to the school counselor and administrator.

Parent/Guardian Cooperation

Parents/Guardians and students understand and acknowledge the Roman Catholic religion of St. Raphael School. Parents/Guardians and students agree not to publicly repudiate the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and will respect and support the unique identity that St. Raphael School derives from its Catholic faith. As the primary educators of their children, parents/guardians will not act in ways that contradict the Catholic nature of St. Raphael School. Parents/Guardians shall cooperate fully with the school and the students shall participate in all required school programming, including instruction in the Catholic faith and attendance at Mass. As the primary educators of the students, parents/guardians agree to act in ways that promote the best interests of the church and school and will comply with the policies of the Archdiocese of Washington and St. Raphael School.

Drugs and Alcohol

Students who possess or are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at school or at any school function face suspension and/or expulsion.

Search and Seizure

In accordance with Archdiocesan Policy, the administration and authorized staff of the school reserve the right to conduct reasonable searches of students, visitors, and areas under their control (desks, personal belongings, lockers, etc.) in cases of suspected violation of school policies (e.g., drugs, weapons, alcohol, tobacco, stealing).

Compliance with Government & Archdiocesan Requirements

Archdiocese of Washington: Child Protection Policy

St. Raphael School complies with the requirements of the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Policy. A full explanation of this policy can be found at www.ADW.org.

Archdiocesan Admissions & Non-Discrimination Policy

The Archdiocese's Admissions & Non-Discrimination Policy can be found on the website of the Catholic School can be found on the website of the Catholic Schools Office of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington at <https://adwcatholicschools.org/non-discriminationpolicy/>

Child Abuse Laws

St. Raphael School abides by the Child Abuse laws of the State of Maryland. These laws mandate that all cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect be reported to Child Protective Services.

School Property

We value our school property and expect that our students will not damage or destroy any school or personal property. The Principal reserves the right to issue a fine or replacement fee for any damage.

Transfer of Students

Notice of withdrawal of a student should be made by the parent in writing to the Principal in advance of the withdrawal date. This enables the school to prepare necessary information and settle accounts. No student records will be forwarded to another school until all accounts have been settled. (See previous section on Student Records for transcript information.)

Office Records

Parents/Guardians should update TADS or notify the School Office in writing of any change of address, home telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, business phone numbers, and/or phone numbers of emergency contacts. This will guarantee that office records are accurate, complete, and up-to-date.

Telephone

The telephones in the school are for business purposes only. For this reason, children will not be allowed to use the telephone unless there is an emergency. After school plans should be made with your children before they leave home each morning. Children will not be allowed to phone home for forgotten articles or books.

Student Directory

Within the first month of the school year, a Student Directory listing students' and parents' names, addresses, home telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses is available via the school website. The Student Directory should be used to acquaint parents with the names of their children(s) classmates and parents. This directory should not be used for other purposes.

Outreach Projects

St. Raphael School will organize various community outreach projects for each grade. A parent coordinator will be assigned to each class and oversee the organization and participation of each project.

Emergency Drills

The school conducts monthly fire drills following the directions of the Montgomery County Fire Department. The school also periodically conducts other types of emergency drills.

Crisis Plan

St. Raphael School has implemented a "crisis plan" in case of a lockdown emergency. All teachers and staff are aware of the procedure to follow to keep your children safe. In the event of such an emergency, circumstances permitting, the building will be evacuated and students will be moved to one of two secure designated locations:

- St. Raphael Church
- Off Campus – across the street at Ritchie Park Elementary School.

Lost and Found

Any items found in the school building or on the school grounds should be given to the front desk receptionist to be placed in the Lost and Found basket. Items placed in the Lost and Found remain there for 30 days. After 30 days, items are donated to charity.

Right to Amend

St. Raphael School reserves the right to amend this Handbook. Notice of amendments will be posted on the school website.

APPENDIX A

Faculty and Staff

Position	Name & Contact Information
Principal	Teri Dwyer 301-762-2143 x121 tdwyer@straphaels.org
Kindergarten	Francine Krivka 301-762-2143 fkrivka@straphaels.org
	Terri de Raet 301-762-2143 tderaet@straphaels.org
1 st Grade	Catherine Williams 301-762-2143 cwilliams@straphaels.org
	Lindsay Howley 301-762-2143 lhowley@straphaels.org
2 nd Grade	Kasey Trees 301-762-2143 x180 ktrees@straphaels.org
	Maureen Everling 301-762-2143 meverling@straphaels.org
3 rd Grade	Alicia Madlala 301-762-2143 x181 amadlala@straphaels.org
	Kelly Kimmel 301-762-2143 kkimmel@straphaels.org

Position	Name & Contact Information
4th Grade	Michelle Roche 301-762-2143 x182 mroche@straphaels.org
5th Grade	Megan Heitzmann 301-762-2143 mheitzmann@straphaels.org
6th Grade	Melissa Kelly 301-762-2143 x174 mkelly@straphaels.org
7th Grade	Thomas Pullano 301-762-2143 x151 tpullano@straphaels.org
8th Grade	Molly Bugge 301-762-2143 x 176 mbugge@straphaels.org
School Secretary	Gerri Stoner 301-762-2143x122 gstoner@straphaels.org
Administrative Assistant	Julie Cress 301-762-2143 x158 jcress@straphaels.org
Administrative Assistant	Lara Roach 301-762-2143 x116 lroach@straphaels.org
Receptionist	Rosa Lombardo 301-762-2143 receptionist@straphaels.org

Position	Name & Contact Information
Receptionist	Cristina Sua-Gatica 301-762-2143 receptionist@straphaels.org
Nurse	Judy Kettl 301-762-2143 x136 nurse@straphaels.org
Student Counseling	Katie Vedete 301-762-2143 kvedete@straphaels.org
Resource	Molly Nagel 301-762-2143 mnagel@straphaels.org
Development	Stacey Woodward 914-329-1694 swoodward@straphaels.org
	Laura Magafan 301-762-2143x104 Development@straphaels.org
Enrichment	Maura Chongpinitchai 301.762.2143 x108 mchongpinitchai@straphaels.org
Enrichment	Amy Burgaleta 301-762-2143 x 108 aburgaleta@straphaels.org
Enrichment	Tim May 301.762.2143x108 tmay@straphaels.org

Position	Name & Contact Information
Spanish K-3	Natalie Coene 301.762.2143 ncoene@straphaels.org
Spanish 4-8	Rosi Cevallos 301.762.2143 rcevallos@straphaels.org
Science Lab	Melissa Kelly 301.762.2143 x173 mkelly@straphaels.org
Media Specialist	Stephanie Klinger 301-762-2143 x103 sklinger@straphaels.org
Physical Ed	Andrew Price 301.762.2143 aprice@straphaels.org
Art	Yolanda Prinsloo 301.762.2143 x138 yprinsloo@straphaels.org
Music	Flannery Jamison 301-762-2143 fjamison@straphaels.org
Lunch/ Recess Supervisors	Alhine Espinoza Kristen Gregory Ewa Kowalska Natalie Pardo

APPENDIX B

ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL COMPUTER/NETWORK USE POLICY

St. Raphael School's computer network is for the education and administrative use of its students, faculty, and staff. The network provides access to a wealth of services and resources internally and on the Internet.

The purpose of this Use Policy is to ensure the security of all elements of St. Raphael School's computer systems, related technology, and electronic information; to delineate appropriate uses for all users of St. Raphael School's computer systems; to promote intellectual development through the use of computer systems, related technology, and electronic information in a safe environment; and to ensure compliance with relevant state, local and federal law.

Use of the network and all technology equipment is governed by the terms below:

1. Students, faculty and staff are expected to use it in support of educational, administrative and research activities consistent with the objective of the school. The use of the network and technology equipment is a privilege, not a right.
2. Users are advised not to share any personal information, including addresses and telephone numbers, over the Internet.
3. As members of the St. Raphael's network community and as representatives of St. Raphael's on the Internet, all users are expected to conduct themselves in appropriate manner at all times. Users must also take care to ensure their safety and privacy particularly when using the Internet. All users should:
 - Be polite.
 - Never use vulgar, profane, obscene, or other inappropriate language.
 - Always respect the privacy of others. Never indiscriminately forward or duplicate email messages without the permission of the author.
 - Never use the network in such a way that it would impair or disrupt its use by others.
 - Never connect your computer to the school's network without permission.
 - Observe and respect all copyright laws and properly attribute information used.
4. Users are permitted to correspond with persons outside St. Raphael's Community and use the network for personal research so long as it does not violate any of the provisions of this policy and does not interfere with their work. At no time should the network be used for the playing of games.
5. Those who do not use the network in an appropriate manner will immediately lose their privileges and may face further disciplinary action. The administration determines what constitutes appropriate use and its decisions are final. The following is a partial list of prohibited uses. No user should ever:
 - Use network resources for purposes other than those prescribed in this policy.
 - Transmit any material or engage in any activities that are in violation of any local, state, or federal law of regulation.
 - Distribute, post, download, transmit, or view profane, abusive, or threatening materials.

- Install, copy or delete any software on school computers without the permission of the Principal.
- Access another User's account or attempt to intercept or examine the content of messages or files being transmitted over the network.
- Seek access by attempting to circumvent computer security methods or operating systems.
- Harass or stalk anyone.
- Change or delete another person's files without permission.
- Vandalize or damage technology equipment, software, and/or files.
- Plagiarize
- Engage in any act that is intended to slow network traffic or disrupt network operations.

Archdiocesan Admissions & Non-Discrimination Policy

Archdiocesan schools follow local, state, and federal non-discrimination regulations, as applicable. As religiously-affiliated schools, Archdiocesan schools are not required to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with the religious or moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.¹

Catholic students shall be given preference over non-Catholic students for initial admission into Archdiocesan schools. All applicants shall follow all applicable policies and procedures regarding school-based entrance requirements, health examinations and immunizations before finalizing any admissions.

¹Maryland law requires non-public schools that receive state funds to publish the following additional statement: "It is the policy of the State of Maryland that all public and publicly funded schools and school programs operate in compliance with:

(1) Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

(2) Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code, which states that public and publicly funded schools and programs may not:

(i) discriminate against a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;

(ii) refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or

(iii) discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint."

Maryland law further provides that Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code "does not require a nonpublic prekindergarten program or nonpublic school that is religiously affiliated to enroll, retain, or extend privileges to a student or prospective student who does not meet the usual and regular qualifications, requirements, and standards of the program or school or to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with the program or school's religious or moral teachings, provided that the denial, rule, regulation, or policy is not based on discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability."