

## **TO THE STUDENTS OF SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN,**

This handbook has been prepared to acquaint you with our school and to help you be a successful student of SHG. These policies have been designed through the joint effort of students, parents, faculty, and administration to help ensure the best possible educational environment for all students of SHG. The character and quality of the school depend on the gifts each student and faculty member brings to our faith community. Together we continue to create a tradition based on academic excellence within a strong Catholic community.

Students are expected to keep this student planner/handbook in their possession at all times in school. It will be used to document and authorize student passage in the halls during class time. Our hope is that the planner will also be useful in academic planning and time management.

## **SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS**

Sacred Heart-Griffin is a Catholic, Dominican high school that welcomes a diverse student population to pursue academic excellence in a community of faith.

Although the primary responsibility of education rests with the parents, all of us at SHG—educators, students, parents, staff—are called to guide the students in pursuit of the truth through a process of lifelong learning. We assist the development of talents and encourage students to realize their potential so that together we may grow in faith, knowledge, and reason and choose to serve others in Jesus' name. While we influence one another in many areas of our lives, our primary responsibility is the pursuit of truth through a program of academic excellence.

- As a Catholic high school, SHG is dedicated to the truth of Christian values as proclaimed in the Gospel; as fostered in a Christian community of faculty, students, parents, and staff; and as witnessed by service to the larger community.
- As an academic institution, SHG assists each student in achieving a level of academic excellence commensurate with his/her ability by offering an appropriate and challenging educational and co-curricular program.
- As a community of faith, the students, faculty, and staff of SHG cooperate with one another, the parents, area schools, and the local community to develop programs and activities that assist the student spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially in his/her search for truth.
- As Christians responsible to the future, SHG fosters independent thinking, the acceptance of responsibility, and the exercise of leadership through service so that the reality of justice and charity, lived in truth, may imbue our global society.

## **DIOCESAN SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY**

The purpose of Catholic secondary education is to give a well-rounded spiritual and academic education to Catholic young people (minimum of 13 years of age for 9th grade and maximum of 19 years of age for 12th grade). However, SHG admits students of any race, color, gender, and/or national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available to students at the school.

It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, and/or national and ethnic origin in admission policies or scholarship and loan programs. It does not actively recruit students for any particular program. Faculty recruitment has been and will continue to be processed without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, ethnic origin, or disability which can reasonably be accommodated and which is unrelated to all the duties essential to the position.

## **SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN ADMISSION POLICY**

SHG is dedicated to serving the spiritual and educational needs of Catholic students who demonstrate a commitment to SHG's mission, goals, and religious values, and who best benefit from its academic program. SHG admits a broad cross-section of students with varying academic, leadership, athletic, and artistic abilities. SHG seeks a student body which will benefit from and contribute to academic excellence within a community of faith.

Before admission to SHG, potential freshmen take the Explore placement exam. This standard indicator and the information gathered from parents, teachers, and grade school transcripts are used to plan the student's academic program. If the information gathered indicates that SHG does not have the educational program which best serves the needs of the student, the student will not be accepted.

Transfer students from other high schools are considered for admissions at the beginning of a semester unless the family is moving into the Springfield area. A screening process is used to assure that the student's former school record and reason for transfer are consistent with SHG's mission and goals. When a student is accepted, the high school transcripts are used to plan the student's academic program at SHG.

Should space or the quality of the educational program become restricting factors on enrollment, SHG will admit students on a priority basis. First priority will be given to Catholic students. Students of other religious beliefs will be accepted as space and programs are available. Preference will be given to these students on the following basis: siblings of current students/alumni; graduates of Catholic grade schools; children of SHG alumni; graduates of other religiously affiliated grade schools. If space is available beyond those preferences, a lottery system will be used.

All freshmen and students new to SHG are required to provide records of immunizations and physical examinations as prescribed by the State of Illinois by October 15. Non-compliant students will be excluded from school.

Once students are accepted as members of the SHG community, they are expected to maintain a commitment to the mission, goals, and religious values of SHG through support of the policies outlined in the student handbook and appropriate academic achievement as outlined in the curriculum guide.

## **SCHOOL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **TUITION AND FEES**

Tuition is charged on a quarterly basis. Unused tuition payments are refunded at the time of student's withdrawal. No fees are refunded. Students whose tuition payments are not current as of June 15 and/or Dec. 15: non-registration status for the following semester. Not current as of May 1: non-graduation status (seniors); non-registration status for the following school year (juniors, sophomores, freshmen); withholding of report cards and transcripts (all students). The Registration Fee is **DUE** by March 15. The course and graduation fees are **DUE** on Book/Fees day (but no later than the first day of school). Penalties will be assessed for late payments. **FUNDRAISER:** Each student is **required** to sell the assigned quota for Mostaccioli Dinner/Raffle. Any portion of the quota not met will be charged to the student's tuition account.

### **ACADEMICS**

SHG strives to achieve an atmosphere of academic excellence. The staff is willing to help each student meet success in his/her high school years. Students are expected to work to the best of their ability, to maintain standards of academic honesty, and to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning.

Assignments are given to assist the student's learning process in each subject area. Students are expected to develop a pattern of study and to complete assignments on time. If a student fails to turn in an assignment, the teacher may schedule a required session after school for the student to complete the work and/or penalize the grade.

Teachers provide students with an outline of class expectations at the beginning of the year. Parents are encouraged to review those class expectations with their students and refer any questions to the teacher. Included on the outline is a list of movies which parents are encouraged to examine for language, content, or presentations that they may consider objectionable or inappropriate for the age or the maturity level of their son or daughter. If parents object to their son/daughter viewing a particular movie, they should notify the teacher in writing by September 15. The student will

be excused from the viewing. An appropriate alternative assignment may be given.

Parents may access grades by way of the SHG home page. Report cards are sent at the end of the quarter. Arrangements for report cards and other communications to be sent to more than one address must be made through the school office. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, SHG will provide a non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the student. 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. Parent/Teacher conferences are held after first quarter. Phone calls, e-mails, and written correspondence may be initiated by parents or teachers.

Students are required to earn six credits to pass to the next class level. If a student falls behind, a guidance counselor will advise the student as to alternatives available to correct credit deficiencies. Twenty-four credits are required for graduation. Refer to the curriculum guide for a more extensive explanation of courses and a standard student course load.

## GRADING SCALE

Achievement marks are given in letters corresponding to the following percentages:

### NUMERICAL STANDARD

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>%</u>	
A+	99-100	4.4	A	95-98	4.0	A-	93-94	3.6
B+	91-92	3.4	B	87-90	3.0	B-	85-86	2.6
C+	83-84	2.4	C	79-82	2.0	C-	77-78	1.6
D+	75-76	1.4	D	71-74	1.0	D-	69-70	.6
F	Below 69		W	Withdrawn		I	Incomplete	

The percentage is rounded to the ones place (e.g. 98.5 is rounded to 99; 98.4 is rounded to 98). Some grades are "weighted" in value. The curriculum guide indicates the weighted values of grades in all courses as part of the course description. Courses have weighted grades ranging from 3.0 for the 332 level to 6.0 for the 662 level. Students are provided with both weighted and un-weighted cumulative grade point averages. Class rank is not published.

Grades are determined on the basis of all the work of a particular period--daily work, assignments, class participation, quiz, and test grades.

### EXPANDED DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADING SYSTEM

- A** Superior-The student is more than meeting the expectations of the teacher. Given the nature of the class, the work is of superior quality. The student has turned work in on time and shows mastery of the subject matter. The student usually works independently and exerts a positive influence on the class.
- B** Above Average-The required work is above average in quality and is on time. The student meets the expectations of the teacher and exerts a positive influence on the class.
- C** Average-The student satisfactorily completes the required work. The work is generally on time and is of average quality. The student shows achievement.
- D** Below Average, but passing - The student is not doing all the assigned work or is inconsistent in doing work, and is dependent on others.
- F** Does not meet minimum standards required for passing. The student consistently submits unsatisfactory work. The work shows lack of interest, attention, and/or attendance.
- W** Indicates withdrawal from course with the grade status at time of withdrawal. No credit is given.
- I** The student fails to complete essential assignments because of extenuating circumstances such as sickness, death in the family, etc. All work must be completed within seven school

days or the grade reverts to an F.

## **SEMESTER EXAMS/AVERAGES**

The semester exam schedule allows for careful review and tutoring. The semester exam grade counts one-fourth and each quarter counts three-eighths of each semester grade. Semester grades are recorded on the student's permanent academic record.

## **HONOR ROLL**

**HIGH HONORS...** Students with a G.P.A. of 4.0 or above are eligible for High Honors.

**SECOND HONORS...** Students with a G.P.A. of 3.2 or above but less than 4.0 are eligible for Second Honors.

**MERIT HONORS...** Students whose GPA rose at least .5 from the previous quarter are eligible for Merit Honors.

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

Tests are administered in October on the designated school day. Scores are distributed to students soon after they are received by the guidance counselors. Freshmen take STS, Sophomores take PLAN, Juniors take PSAT, and Seniors attend a workshop.

## **SERVICE**

Students are encouraged to live their Christian faith by giving service to the school, Church, and community. Each year students are required to document a minimum of **20 hours** by May 1. Non-compliance will result in cancelled registration (or, for Seniors, no participation in graduation ceremonies and related services). Late documentation may result in required additional hours or a late processing fee of \$10.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY**

Primary importance is placed upon the academic program at SHG. Students must be academically eligible in order to participate in extra-curricular programs - Refer to the addendum at the back of the policy section for eligibility requirements.

## **GRADUATION POLICY**

All senior make-up work must be completed and turned in to the respective teacher, the required service hours must be completed, and all previously issued detentions must be served by the May date set in the calendar for senior incompletes. Financial debts must be paid. Failure to do so will exclude the senior from participation in honor and graduation ceremonies. Students who fail a required course or who lack the required credits for graduation will not take part in honor or graduation ceremonies.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is any action intended to obtain, or assist in obtaining, credit for work which is not one's own. Teachers report instances of academic dishonesty to the dean who confers with the student and notifies the parent and guidance counselor. The instance is recorded in the student's discipline file.

**FIRST OFFENSE:** The student receives a zero for the assignment, quiz, or test.

**SECOND OFFENSE:** (during a student's four years at SHG): The student receives a double zero for the assignment, quiz, or test.

If the student disputes the allegation of academic dishonesty, he/she may appeal through the Academic Review Board by contacting the Dean of Students before the end of the following school day. The Board, consisting of the dean of students, a student (appointed yearly), and two teachers (recruited on a rotating schedule) will meet with the student for the appeal. The Board meets with the teacher involved before rendering a decision. The Board may meet more than once with the teacher and/or student.

Any subsequent occurrence of academic dishonesty would require the student to appear before the Discipline Board and may result in expulsion.

## **ACADEMIC PROBATION**

Students who have failed a required course or who have a semester grade point average of 1.5 or below are placed on academic probation for one semester. During this time, the student must make special arrangements with the guidance office to assure that every effort is being made toward academic improvement. Students who by lack of effort indicate no desire to improve may have their registration cancelled. No more than three correspondence courses (1 course = .5 credit) will be accepted for graduation requirements.

## **SCHEDULE/COURSE CHANGES**

- Course change requests will be considered as designated on the student schedule verification form.
- A student, with serious reason, may drop a course at the counselor's discretion, provided he/she meets the required credits for the year. If a course is dropped any time during the school year, the grade W (Withdrawn) followed by the "grade in progress" will be assigned to the course.
- After the school year begins, a request to drop a course will be handled on an individual basis. Before any definitive action is taken, the teacher involved will be consulted in person. Written permission from both the teacher and the parent or guardian will be required.
- If in the opinion of the school staff there is no valid reason for dropping the course, the request will be denied. The following reasons are NOT considered adequate for dropping courses:
  - Student finds course harder than expected, although he/she is capable of passing.
  - Course requires more work (or time) than the student wants to give.
  - Remaining in the course would probably lower the student's GPA.
  - Student is no longer interested in the subject matter.
  - Student does not get along well with the teacher.
  - Student wants to be in classes with friends.
  - A change in teacher for the course occurred (e.g., during the summer).
- A teacher's request for student course level change will be considered by the guidance department at any time.
- A fee of \$35 will be charged for any student-initiated course change after the registration fee is due.

## **PROCEDURES FOR SCHEDULE/COURSE CHANGES**

- The student files a request for schedule change in the guidance department. Teachers file requests for student course or level changes with the student's guidance counselor.
- The student's guidance counselor checks all requests and assesses fees according to school policies.
- If the request is a student request - no school error involved - the guidance counselor will follow above mentioned regulations in allowing/disallowing the course change.
- If a change is granted, the guidance counselor is responsible for issuing a schedule change form to the student. This form is taken by the student to all teachers involved and then returned to guidance.
- Guidance makes the necessary changes in all school records.

- The student follows the new schedule when final approval is given by guidance.
- The approved schedule change form (pink copy) is given to the student as an admit to class.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students wear regulation uniforms at all times during physical education class. The uniforms are to be kept neat and clean. Tennis shoes for only PE use are required.

Names must be on the students' uniforms and shoes. Clothes and valuables left in the locker room or lockers are the student's responsibility.

Student athletes and all physical education students purchase locks for their gym lockers from the bookstore.

Unless excused by illness, students are expected to participate in physical education classes. A statement from the student's physician must give specific reason, date, and extent of exemption.

## **TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY**

The use of technology and network systems is a service provided by and in consonance with the mission of SHG High School.

The Internet links computer networks around the world, giving SHG access to a wide variety of computer and information resources. In general, electronic traffic passes freely in a trusting atmosphere with a minimum of constraints within the school's filtering software. SHG provides access to these local, national, and international sources of information and collaboration vital to intellectual inquiry in a democracy.

In return, every SHG user has the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of every user in our community and on the Internet. Students and Faculty are expected to act in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the policies as outlined in the Student Handbook, the missions and purposes of the other networks they use on the Internet, and the laws of the states and federal government.

An account on the school's network (Internet) is a privilege offered each academic year to those who have completed a basic network access program and have shown support of this policy.

All use of technology and the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the mission of SHG. The SHG account holder is held responsible for his/her actions and activities within his/her account. Inappropriate uses of the network will result in the suspension or revoking of these privileges. Some examples of such inappropriate use are:

- Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts.
- Using the network for financial or commercial gain or political lobbying.
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance.
- Vandalizing the data of another user.
- Wastefully using finite resources (i.e., paper, disk space, etc.).
- Posting personal communications without the author's consent.
- Posting anonymous messages, hate mail, harassing or discriminatory remarks, use of school name, remarks directed to or about faculty, offensive communications and safety threats.
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
- Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or system.

Additional fees will not be charged except in cases of deliberate damage, violations of copyright laws, or damages resulting from violations of this policy.

SHG recognizes that technology use/misuse outside of school falls under the purview of parents and their students. However, we also recognize that use/misuse of communication via technology

can result in an adverse consequence that affects member(s) of our school community. SHG reserves the right to impose consequences for inappropriate use of technology when members of our high school community are harmed. It should be noted that Sacred Heart-Griffin does not actively monitor student use of technology outside of the school as we feel students and parents are primarily responsible for the appropriate and ethical use of technology, especially in the home.

This policy will be reviewed yearly by the technology committee and administration. The policy can be modified at any time in order to meet arising needs and changing conditions in the field of technology. Notification of modifications to the policy will be given to the student.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Absence from school is always detrimental to the progress of the student. Class discussions and lectures cannot be repeated and make-up tests are very difficult to schedule. Every effort should be made to schedule vacations and appointments to coincide with school vacations. Missing half or more of the class period is considered an absence.

A student who misses more than ten classes in a given subject within a semester will receive a failing grade for the semester. Exceptions will only be made if student's illness is extended and documented by a physician and/or if, in the opinion of the administration in consultation with the parents and teachers, there are justifiable circumstances. Documentation from the physician must give specific reason, date, and extent of exemption. This documentation must be on file in the school office by the last day of the semester. Parents will be notified after the seventh absence. After the seventh absence, students will not be allowed to miss school to attend school sponsored activities (i.e., field trips, athletic events, service projects, Kairos leadership, etc.) or college days. When a student has missed seven (7) periods in a class, he/she WILL NOT be allowed to leave.

## **MEDICAL**

In the case of illness, a parent or guardian is requested to notify the school office before 9:00 a.m. Upon return after an absence, a written note signed by the student's parent or guardian is presented to the school office. The office will issue a form which the student will use to be admitted to class.

For one or two day's absence, contact a classmate for the assignments or check HomeLogic. On or after three days, a parent may contact the guidance office who will make arrangements to send the work.

If a student becomes ill during a school day, he/she should get a pass from the classroom teacher and report to the office. The office will notify the parent.

All assigned work and tests announced prior to a student's absence are made up the day the student returns; ordinarily the number of days for other make-up work equals the number of days absent. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the teacher to arrange for make-up tests and make-up work.

All students are required to have medical insurance. A student coverage package is available for purchase during the first week of school. The insurance verification form is due the first week of school.

## **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Students with AIDS or test positive for HIV who are enrolled or who are seeking enrollment shall be permitted to attend SHG. Students who are known to have AIDS or are HIV positive will be individually evaluated by the administration, physician, and other professional personnel in order to determine if their behavior or physical condition poses a high risk or spread of the disease. One of the purposes of the evaluation is to prepare a specific plan for the education and care of the student. The school will respect the right of privacy of the individual. Knowledge that a student has AIDS or HIV will be confined to those persons with a direct need to know. Those persons will be provided with appropriate information as well as procedures and precautions that may be necessary. Those persons will also be made aware of confidentiality requirements. Placement of students who have seizure disorders or other conditions that seriously affect the individual's or classmates' health and safety will be evaluated by administration and a physician before enrollment is confirmed.

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

The principal shall notify the Department of Public Health when a student is sent home because of suspected communicable disease. In case of absence due to communicable disease, a release card from the Department of Public Health or a letter from the family physician indicating that the Department of Public Health regulations have been fulfilled must be presented when the student returns to school.

## **MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS**

Every effort should be made to schedule appointments outside of school time. However, if this cannot be arranged, the school must be notified in writing at least two school days prior to the day of the appointment. Verification of the appointment will be expected from the doctor or dentist office.

## **NON-MEDICAL/VACATION POLICY**

The school must be notified in writing at least two school days prior to an absence for personal reasons. The school must be notified in writing at least five school days prior to a vacation which exceeds two days. If the school does not receive prior notification of absences for any reason other than sickness or death in the family, the days will be considered unexcused.

There is no guarantee that the student's grades will not slip during these absences. The teacher is not obliged to make up tests/quizzes or to spend extra time preparing assignments. Teachers may reduce credit for work missed.

If teachers allow students to make up work, they may require that tests/quizzes are taken and assignments handed in prior to the student's departure. All long term assignments must be handed in prior to the student's departure.

## **COLLEGE DAYS/SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

Seniors who must visit a college during school time are allowed a college day. A second college day may be approved at the discretion of the college counselor and/or administrator. If the college is local, a half day is allowed. College Visit Days will not be approved during the month of May. The form to be completed **prior** to a college day being granted can be obtained in the Guidance Office.

College days, retreat days, and school sponsored field trips are excluded from the ten day limit for absences, provided the student has procured and turned in the forms with the proper signatures to the office.

## **TARDY POLICY**

Students are expected to be in their desks ready for work when the second bell rings for each class period. Students late for first period are to report to the office. The first two tardies of the semester are not accompanied by a detention in order to accommodate unexpected problems such as traffic, weather, or car trouble. All subsequent tardies are considered unexcused and warrant penalties as follows: 3-5 tardies - one detention; 6-8 tardies - two detentions; and more than 8 tardies in-school suspension.

A student who is tardy to any class other than 1st period will be admitted by that period teacher and will be issued a detention unless there is a signed pass from authorized personnel. In case of habitual tardiness, parents will be notified and the student will be placed on disciplinary probation. Missing more than half the first period is an absence.

## **TRUANCY**

Truancy is defined as leaving the campus or being absent from class/study hall without permission. In case of truancy, the student's parents are notified; the parents must meet with the Dean of Students or administrator before the student will be re-admitted to classes. The student receives no credit for work missed because of truancy. Truancy results in a work detention equal to twice the amount of class time missed. Truancy is recorded on the student's record. A second truancy, or a truancy in addition to another major violation, cancels a student's registration. State law requires students to attend school until age 17.

## **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/SUSPENSIONS**

When an absence is unexcused, students do not have the right to make up work missed and therefore accept the academic consequences. During days of suspension, a student will not receive any credit for work that is due during those days or required during class time on those days. The student is required to study material missed during suspension. The Dean of Students informs the student and the parents of the suspension and the reason.

## **PREGNANCY POLICY**

SHG affirms the moral teachings of the Catholic Church including the teaching of the holiness and gift of life. It takes a pro-life stance and upholds the sacredness of God's life in all of us, beginning at conception. At times, SHG is faced with a situation where a student will become a parent. To arbitrarily exclude students with parental responsibilities from school conveys a negative message, namely, terminating a pregnancy is an answer that will permit the student to remain in school. Therefore, the policy of SHG is that pregnancy itself is not a reason for dismissal from school.

At the time a student becomes aware of parental responsibilities, he/she or the family must notify the school. Meetings will be scheduled with the student(s), parents, school counselor, and the principal to discuss the educational options available to the student. SHG will make every effort to permit the student(s) to continue class work. Regular classroom attendance will be based on the health, safety, and well-being of the student and the child as well as the best interests of the school community. Since consensual pre-marital sex is not a moral or personal option which supports healthy development for the student or upholds the mission of the school, a female or male student choosing that option will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities which represent the school. Reinstatement in extra-curricular activities can be considered at the beginning of the quarter following the birth of the baby.

## **WITHDRAWALS**

Transfer requests are taken to the principal. No transcript will be issued or recommendations given by the school until all obligations, financial and otherwise, are met. Unofficial interim grades will be sent within ten days where appropriate. Health records will be sent when requested.

## **VISITORS**

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the building. Any student who wishes to bring a visitor to classes must bring in a parent completed Permission Form for Student Visitors (found in the main office) to the office at least one day in advance. The visitor must bring a parent permission slip on the day of the visit. Only 8th-10th grade students will be allowed to visit. With administration's approval, the note will be advanced to the classroom teachers involved. On the day of the visit, the student and visitor will check in at the office before going to classes.

## **POLICE QUESTIONS AND APPREHENSION**

When students become involved with law enforcement officers, the officer is to be requested to confer with the student when he/she is not under the jurisdiction of the school if this can be arranged. The following steps shall be taken to cooperate with the authorities:

1. The officer shall properly identify him/herself.
2. The parent shall be notified immediately and informed of the intent of the law enforcement authorities.
3. The student's parent or guardian has a right to be present if the conference is held at school. (If the student is 18 years old, a parent does not have to be present.)
4. If the student's parent or guardian cannot be located, authorities are not to confer with the student unless they produce a warrant.
5. If there is a warrant or if it is impossible for the parent to be present and they request it, the administrator should be a witness to the conference held at school.

## **DCFS**

When an agent requests to speak with a student, the following procedure is followed. The agency representative is asked to confer with the student when he/she is not under the jurisdiction of the school if this can be arranged.

The following steps shall be taken to cooperate with the authorities:

1. The agency representative will properly identify him/herself.
2. An administrator may be a witness to the conference held at school. The parent(s) shall be notified that an interview has occurred, unless the safety of the child requires that parent(s) not be notified.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are an extension of the learning process. Students are required to have a permission slip with appropriate signatures on file prior to the trip. Sample: I request that my student be permitted to attend the (field trip, place, time). Transportation will be provided by \_\_\_. The purpose of the trip is \_\_\_. I hereby release SHG from any liability accruing from this Field Trip. In the event of accident, emergency, or illness and I cannot be reached immediately, I hereby authorize the teacher/moderator in charge to provide such first aid treatment deemed necessary and advisable.

## **HALL PASSES**

A student may not be in the halls during class time without his/her handbook and proper authorization from a staff member as signified by a signature on the page which logs hall passes.

## **IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Each student is issued a school I.D. card and is required to carry it with them at school and at school functions. If an I.D. is lost or stolen, it should be reported immediately to the office. The student will assume the cost to replace the I.D. card. The I.D. card serves as a pass to all home sporting events and as a lunch card. Cards are collected for insufficient funds and/or improper use in the cafeteria.

## **LOCKERS**

Students are responsible for the lockers assigned to them. Lockers should be locked at all times. Book bags which are brought to school must be left in lockers during the school day. Students keep their coats and extra books in their lockers. The school assumes no responsibility for lost and missing items. Lockers are the property of the school, and as such, administrators and designated personnel have access to them at all times. Lockers are subject to searches for illegal substances by law enforcement personnel. Locker doors may be appropriately decorated for birthdays and school events ONLY. Masking tape is the only tape that may be used.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

A faculty member may confiscate any objects that are inappropriate to the place or time that a student possesses or uses the object. Arrangements for reclaiming the object will be determined according to the type of object and circumstances leading to confiscation.

Music players and video games are inappropriate for school hours and distract from the educational process. The use of these items is not allowed during school hours. Study Hall supervisors are piloting some use of these.

The selling of items or marketing for causes outside of SHG is not permitted within the school without the explicit permission of the administration.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students who attend SHG share the responsibility to build a community of faith. In an atmosphere of mutual respect, all are expected to provide an environment which supports the educational process. In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and for the safety of others, there are certain expectations of SHG students. Through enrollment at SHG, students agree to abide by the policies of the school and the spirit of its philosophy. Sacred Heart-Griffin reserves the right to impose consequences for inappropriate behavior that takes place off campus and outside school hours. The school reserves the right to cancel the registration of any student who fails to meet the standards of conduct of the school and to refuse admission of any student experiencing disciplinary problems at another school. Students who fail to meet these expectations will be subject to consequences as outlined in this handbook. Examples include but are not exclusive to the following:

### **LEVEL 1 OFFENSES: GENERAL RESPONSE: DETENTION(S)**

- Tardies
- Lack of homework/books
- Dress Code
- Eating/drinking outside the cafeteria
- Boisterous or inappropriate conduct
- Failure to carry out directions/disobeying
- Parking violation/unsafe driving
- Inappropriate hall behavior
- Littering
- Cell phone use
- Out of class without a pass
- Public display of affection
- Profane or vulgar language
- Failure to serve assigned detentions

### **LEVEL 2 OFFENSES: GENERAL RESPONSE: SUSPENSION**

- Vandalism
- Disrespect toward a faculty member
- Verbal/physical disrespect to students
- Substance abuse/possession on/off school grounds
- Possession/use of tobacco products
- Intimidation
- Sexual harassment
- Verbal abuse toward a teacher
- Fighting
- Theft

## **LEVEL 3 OFFENSES: GENERAL RESPONSE: EXPULSION**

- Continuation of unmodified Level 2 acts
- Blatant disrespect to faculty member
- Action which interferes with safe functioning of school including possession of a weapon
- Attack on staff member
- Second violation of substance abuse/possession on school grounds
- Third violation of substance abuse/possession off school grounds
- Third violation of tobacco use/possession on school grounds
- Bomb threats
- Severe fighting or sexual harassment
- Possession/use of fireworks
- Third offense of academic dishonesty
- Other situations as prescribed by Discipline Board/Administration

## **WORK DETENTIONS - 3 HOUR DETENTION FOR REPEATED OR MORE SERIOUS VIOLATION (Scheduled By The Dean For After/Before School Hours Or On Saturdays)**

- For each tardy beyond seven – ISS - equivalent
- Accumulated detentions
- Blatant disrespect to a faculty member
- Truancy
- Other action judged by the Administration to be disruptive to the school environment

The Administration of SHG reserves the right to alter responses to offenses on a case by case basis. Corporal punishment is never used as a disciplinary action.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CONSEQUENCES**

### **DETENTIONS**

The GENERAL DETENTION is served on the designated day from 7:05 to 7:55 a.m. in Room 213. Students are expected to serve their detention on the scheduled date. No student will be allowed into detention after 7:05 a.m. Students report for detention in dress code with sufficient school work to be done. Students who do not follow detention guidelines or who cause a disturbance during detention will be asked to leave. These students will not have fulfilled the detention.

A work detention may be assigned at the discretion of the detention moderator or dean. Absence from school is the ONLY excuse for missing a detention. A detention missed for any other reason will be doubled.

### **SUSPENSION**

Due to the seriousness of a disciplinary offense, the disciplinary board or administration may suspend a student from school. During the period of time the student is suspended, he/she receives no credit for work missed. The student must do the missed work and assignments, but he/she will not receive credit for the work or missed tests/quizzes. A student who is suspended is not allowed on school grounds or at any school activity.

### **IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

Sacred Heart-Griffin will continue to pilot an In-School Suspension program for a variety of offenses. The rules and regulations are posted on the [www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org) website under the Dean of Students. As the ISS is piloted, these directives may be altered by the SHG Administration throughout the school year. ISS counts as three detentions towards probation or contract.

## DISCIPLINARY PROBATION

A student who exhibits a pattern of irresponsible behavior (seven detentions in a nine week period) or who has violated a particularly serious policy will be placed on probation. Included in the probation document are the conditions. On the first day of probation, the student, accompanied by a parent/guardian, will be required to attend a disciplinary staffing. Before the student is allowed to return to classes, BOTH the student and the parent(s) will sign the probationary document. Violations of the conditions of the probationary document may lead to the student being placed on a disciplinary contract or cancellation of the student's registration. With total compliance to the probationary document, the student may earn the chance to be taken off of disciplinary probation.

## DISCIPLINARY CONTRACT

A disciplinary contract includes the conditions and the length of the contract. The disciplinary contract includes serving an in-school suspension on the first day of the contract. The disciplinary contract must be signed by BOTH the student and the parent(s) prior to the student returning to class. A violation of this stringent contract may lead to the student's registration being canceled (expulsion). With total compliance to the disciplinary contract, the student may earn the chance to be moved from the contract back to probation.

## APPEAL PROCESS

Students or parents may appeal the disciplinary decision(s) of the administration regarding a suspension or termination of the student's registration (expulsion). The appeal process entails contacting an Administrator within three school days of the disciplinary action and meeting with the Discipline Board. Prior to the meeting, parents and students may direct additional questions about the process to the Director of Student and Family Services.

## DISCIPLINE BOARD

In certain disciplinary circumstances, a student's conduct may be subject to a review by a Discipline Board consisting of five faculty members and ex-officio administrator(s). There shall not be a right of counsel for the student. Only the student and parents may meet with the Discipline Board. An administrator is present during the hearing. Ordinarily, the administrator leaves before the deliberation. At the discretion of the Board, the student may be placed on contract, denied participation in any school activity, or have his/her registration canceled. The principal is a permanent ex officio member of the Discipline Board and makes the final decision after receiving the recommendations of the Discipline Board and apprising the President of the case and recommendations.

## DRESS CODE

To maintain an atmosphere that promotes the education process, all students are expected to be in dress code at all times during the school day. Their appearance should be neat and clean, and clothing properly fitted. **Students who are not in dress code will not be allowed to attend class until the violation is corrected.**

The dress code consists of:

1. Solid color polo or Oxford-style shirts with the SHG logo are to be worn. ONLY shirts purchased from Luers (1520 S Macarthur) will be allowed.

Shirts are to be tucked in and buttoned within the top two buttons.

If a student chooses to wear an undershirt, it is to be worn under the golf or Oxford-style shirt. Writing/pictures must be supportive of the SHG mission. The sleeves are not to be longer than the dress code shirt.

ONLY an SHG sweatshirt (sold at the SHG bookstore or Luers) will be allowed to be worn over the polo or Oxford-style shirt. Team sweatshirts are not allowed. The collar of the shirt must be visible.

2. ONLY traditional cut black, navy, or tan khaki pants/slacks purchased from Luers store will be permitted. BELTS ARE REQUIRED!

## OR

Girls may wear navy blue skirts purchased from the Dennis Uniform Company or Luers. NAVY BLUE TIGHTS or NAVY BLUE OPAQUE PANTYHOSE ARE REQUIRED when wearing the skirt. **Torn tights are NOT acceptable. The skirt length must be modest and at least two inches below the fingertips when arms are at the side.**

3. Tied shoes, loafers, or slip-ons (**with backs**) with soles must be worn with visible socks when wearing pants/slacks. Sandals, clogs, athletic-style shoes, or shoes that look like athletic shoes WILL NOT be allowed. Should a medical condition prevent students from wearing dress code shoes, a doctor's verification will be necessary beyond one day. Students will not be able to participate in practices/games due to the same medical condition. A parental note and visual verification to the office staff explaining the medical condition will suffice for the day(s) until the doctor appointment.
4. Traditional hairstyles are expected. Boy's hair must be above the collar and facial hair is not allowed.
5. All other accessories and jewelry should be in good taste and appropriate for school; only ears may be pierced. There should be no visible tattoos. Spiked apparel and accessories or chains that can be used as weapons shall not be worn. Purse size will be regulated.
6. Jackets/coats, hats, and other non-dress code items are not to be taken or worn to class.

Dress code checks will occur throughout the school day, including the lunch period and exchange of classes. A detention will be given for dress code violations. Additional detentions will be given as the violation recurs. Repeated dress code offenses will be considered a disregard for school policy. Teachers will take sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, hats, etc. that are not SHG dress code apparel. SHG is not responsible for items lost or misplaced in this process. Questions should be addressed to the Dean of Students.

### NON-DRESS CODE DAYS

On specific days, students will be permitted to come to school out of dress code. The days will be announced and guidelines published. Tight, low-cut revealing tops are not allowed. T-shirts/sweatshirts with writing or pictures referring to alcohol, drugs, music groups, or things which are contrary to the philosophy of the school are not allowed. Sandals, clogs, and slippers are not allowed for safety reasons and socks must always be worn. On "Jeans Day," non-uniform skirts ARE NOT an option.

### DANCES

Students are expected to arrive no later than an hour after the dance begins. Once students leave a dance they are not allowed to return. If a student chooses to leave the dance before the last hour, they will be asked to sign out. The sign-out sheet will be available to parents who wish to verify the time a student leaves the dance. Students who are inappropriately dressed or who are dancing inappropriately will be asked to leave. Moderators may set dress code and more stringent time guidelines for dances and mixers. Freshmen are not allowed to attend prom.

### RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Respect for all individuals is a primary component of our community of faith. Students are expected to display Christian values and attitudes in their treatment of others. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated in any way.

Blatant disrespect to a staff member, including profane language or gestures, merits suspension/expulsion. Consent of the staff member involved and a public apology are required before readmission will be considered by the principal/dean.

Verbal or physical disrespect to fellow students is unacceptable. The level of responsibility for and involvement in student altercations determines the level of consequences including work detention and/or suspension/expulsion.

Any action which interferes with the safe functioning of the school or student body, including the carrying of a weapon, will result in expulsion.

## **RESPECT FOR PROPERTY**

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. Deliberate destruction or defacement of school property is cause for detention and/or suspension. Students take pride in their school and, as a matter of justice, leave it in good condition for the students who follow them. Vandals are responsible for repair/replacement of property.

Tape is NOT ALLOWED on painted surfaces. Masking tape is the only tape allowed for posting materials in the building. All posters and publications must be approved by an administrator or moderator **before** they are displayed. **Locker decorations are limited to the locker door using masking tape.**

Stealing from the school or other students will not be tolerated. A student guilty of stealing is subject to suspension/ expulsion.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

SHG High School is firmly committed to providing a safe, positive learning and working environment for everyone in the school. For this reason, and in keeping with the goals and objectives of Catholic education, SHG expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual violence in the school environment. This policy re-emphasizes the personal dignity of the individual and fosters positive sexual attitudes and respect of others.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

For the purpose of this policy, sexual harassment includes any inappropriate behavior of a sexually implicit, explicit, or obscene nature that is intended to or would demean or offend the recipient or if it offends other students and/or teachers who observe it. Examples include: verbal sexual abuse; disseminating obscene or sexually explicit material, whether in the form of music, written lyrics, pornographic pictures or other literature, or having such material in one's possession in the school, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored activities; obscene or sexually explicit graffiti anywhere in the school or on the school grounds; continuing and unwanted written or oral communication of a sexual nature directed to another; spreading sexual rumors/innuendos; obscene t-shirts, hats, or buttons; touching another sexually; and obscene and/or sexually explicit gestures. The above list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but is intended to provide guidance as to what may constitute sexual harassment.

Isolated, trivial incidents are not sufficient to constitute harassment, but may warrant a detention and/or verbal reprimand.

Allegations of sexual harassment, whether you are the recipient or a bystander, are to be reported to the principal. Students may first contact a teacher, counselor, or dean of students who will then report to the principal. Parents of both the offender and the victim will be informed of the allegations. The matter is to be kept confidential by all parties involved, and every effort will be made to protect the alleged victim from retaliation of any kind. The parents of both the offender and the victim are obligated to cooperate in remedying the situation.

If the allegations are substantiated, disciplinary action will be taken. Disciplinary action will also be taken if the accuser has purposely presented false allegations. Disciplinary actions taken will depend on the nature, frequency, and severity of the action; the history of similar actions by this individual; and the circumstances in which the harassment occurred. These disciplinary actions may include expulsion.

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

Recognizing the ever present danger in the illegal use of chemicals/alcohol by high school students, SHG strives to provide preventative education and a drug-free climate for SHG students. We also oppose students' actions which encourage illegal use of drugs/alcohol including their presence in situations where there is use of drugs/alcohol by minors.

For purposes of this policy, a student found to be in possession of any drug paraphernalia, any illegal drug, alcohol, or prescription not prescribed for the student or having consumed any illegal substance is in violation of this policy. SHG supports parents in their role of parenting and students in their role of making healthy decisions. If a student (or parent of that student) **self reports** to a representative of the school, it will not be treated the same as a violation. Self reports may be left on the school's answering machine or the principal's voice mail. The school will provide support (e.g., mandatory participation in Insight) without the punitive consequences. The school may require community service hours. However, any occurrence thereafter (self-reported or otherwise) will be treated as a violation. For any incident that is first reported in the public media, the self-reporting procedure is nullified and will be treated as a violation.

At any SHG event (dances, games, etc.), SHG administrators may use instruments for detecting/measuring alcohol use. The instruments used are commercially available and can be operated with minimal training. Calibration for accuracy will be regularly checked.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE VIOLATION ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Students in violation of this policy while on school grounds, at any SHG event, or that of any other school will receive the following consequences:

- automatic five day suspension from school.
- appearance before the discipline board which will determine the status of the student's registration.
- required assessment from an outside agency recommended by the school at the family's expense.
- required attendance, with a parent, in the Insight Program.
- suspension from extra-curricular activities as outlined in the policies for extra-curricular programs.

Second Violation: A second violation cancels the student's registration at SHG.

If a student is on school grounds or attending a school event and a teacher, coach, or supervisor observes behavior or physical evidence that suggests that the student has consumed an illegal substance, parents will be called. The student will be asked to undergo a breath test for alcohol or an urinalysis/blood work for other substances. The purpose of the test is to verify the student's claim of not having consumed an illegal substance. Should the parent refuse permission or a student refuse to cooperate with the test, the student will be viewed as having violated this policy.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE VIOLATION OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Students found to be in violation of the school substance abuse policy while off school grounds or those in attendance at an event where illegal drugs and/or alcohol are present will be in violation of this policy. This includes students who are present beyond the time when they could reasonably know that illegal drugs and/or alcohol are present, beyond the time when they could reasonably depart from the illegal activity, or at the time when law enforcement officials arrive.

Consequences include:

- automatic three day suspension from school.
- required attendance, with a parent, in the Insight Program.
- suspension from extra-curricular activities as outlined in the policies for extra-curricular pro-

grams.

Second Violation: A second violation results in the same consequences as if the violation has occurred on school grounds the first time.

Third Violation: A third violation cancels the student's registration at SHG.

Though we are firmly committed to assisting students with drug/alcohol related problems, we will not compromise the safety of the student body at SHG. The school community reserves the right to cancel the registration of any student who provides, sells or flagrantly contradicts the drug-free philosophy of SHG in any way.

## **TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

SHG provides a smoke free environment. Students found to be in possession of or using any tobacco product on or near school grounds are considered in violation of this policy. This includes students in possession of tobacco paraphernalia (including matches and lighters).

Students in violation of this policy while on school grounds, at any SHG event, or that of any other school will receive the following consequences:

- automatic two day suspension from school.
- suspension from extra-curricular activities as outlined in the policies for extra-curricular programs.

Second Violation: A second violation results in the same consequences as any substance abuse violation that occurs on school grounds.

Third Violation: A third violation cancels the student's registration.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUSPENSIONS**

Students involved in extra-curricular activities who violate the drug/alcohol policy are subject to suspensions from the activity as outlined in the extra-curricular addendum to this handbook.

Students not officially enrolled in an extra-curricular activity or those involved in activities for which a grade is received will be suspended from school events for a length of time determined by the administration/discipline board.

# **SCHOOL SERVICES**

## **BOOK STORE**

Supplies may be purchased in the book store. Open hours for the store will be posted. All books except those purchased second-hand are purchased through the bookstore.

## **CAFETERIA/FOOD**

The commons and cafeteria are areas for student enjoyment; students are expected to keep these areas free of litter and in proper condition for other students' use. No food or drinks are allowed outside the cafeteria during lunch time or outside the commons at any time. Teachers reserve the right not to allow gum chewing in their classrooms.

Time for lunch is scheduled during the fourth period. All students remain on campus for lunch. Leaving campus for lunch is considered truancy and will be penalized as such.

All students get their books for the 4th period class and their lunches at the end of the 3rd period. Since classes are in progress during the lunch shifts, students are not allowed to go to their lockers or be outside of the cafeteria/commons areas during their lunch period.

All students must use their own I.D. to purchase lunch. Students cannot purchase lunch for another student.

The cafeteria and commons are to be left neat and clean. All waste should be disposed of properly and dishes returned to the dish washing area. Chairs are to be pushed back into place and are not to be moved from table to table. When students leave the cafeteria after eating, they are to go to the commons area or to the campus area outside the cafeteria.

Food deliveries are not accepted at the school during the lunch hours. However, classes/students with the permission of administration and food service personnel may use the cafeteria for such deliveries at other times with proper supervision. Parties are never held during class time without prior permission of the principal.

## **DOORS**

For the protection of the students, the main entrance on Washington Street will be the only door unlocked during school hours. No one is to be admitted through any other doors. All guests to the school must report to the main office.

## **ELEVATOR**

The elevator is used only by the faculty and those students who have received permission from the office.

## **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING**

School closings will be announced over all local radio stations WTAX (1240AM), WFMB (1450 AM), WMAY (970 AM), WCVS (96.7 FM). Students are requested not to call the school. An automated phone system will be used for emergencies when possible.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

According to state law, school personnel are not allowed to distribute medication of any kind, including aspirin. Students who need to take prescribed medication may keep it in the office, as long as it is accompanied with the doctor's prescription and the student can administer the medication themselves.

## **LIBRARY**

The library is usually open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. During the school day, students may go to the library during their study hall to do research, check out books, and read library magazines and books. Students are subject to all rules posted in the library.

No material is to be taken from the library unless it has been checked out. Failure to return borrowed materials on time will result in fines and loss of the use of the library until the material is returned. Fines are posted in the library. Detentions are given for gross negligence in the returning of overdue material (more than a month overdue). If material is lost or severely damaged, the student will pay for its replacement.

## **MESSAGES**

Every effort is made not to interrupt the educational process of the students. Messages and deliveries, except in emergency, are held for the students until the end of the day. The office personnel cannot guarantee delivery of messages to students.

A bulletin board is assigned for club and sports announcements.

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

Students may enter the school after 7:00 a.m. Students who are not with a teacher, club moderator, or coach must leave the school and grounds by 4:00 p.m., as adult supervision will not be provided after this time.

## **STUDY HALL**

The study hall is a place of quiet study. Any student who finds it necessary to be excused from the study hall must present a pass previously signed by a teacher. The study hall moderator cannot write passes for students to go anywhere except the library. The study hall supervisor will assign seats, post and explain the rules and procedures, and monitor all activities in the study hall. The moderators may initiate ideas that may contribute to the quiet learning atmosphere.

## **SURVEYS**

Surveys must have administrator approval. This does not refer to a teacher who may administer a relevant, subject related survey in his/her own classes.

## **TELEPHONE**

Cell phones are not allowed during school hours. Cell phones must be kept in the **OFF** position from 8:00 AM to 3:01 PM and left in the student's locker. Those who violate any of the rules regarding cell phones may forfeit their privileges of bringing them to school. Any faculty or staff member may take a student's cell phone during school hours. After the second violation, a parent must re-claim the cell phone from the Dean of Students. The complete Cell Phone Policy is on the principal's website.

# **SUPPORT GROUPS**

## **INSIGHT GROUP**

The insight group is designed for students who have experienced some consequence as a result of their use of alcohol or other drugs. The program provides an opportunity for these students to examine their choice to use chemicals and to explore the problems caused by their decision. Within the process of the insight group, students are asked to sign a no-use contract.

## **PERSONAL GROWTH**

To learn about yourself, work on personal issues (such as with friends and family), identifying feelings, or learning to cope with a particular situation.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

For students who have experienced the loss of someone significant in their lives through death.

# **TRANSPORTATION**

## **BUSES**

Student bus passes for Springfield buses are available for sale in the office. Buses leave at 3:05 p.m. from the front of the school on full days and 5 minutes after dismissal on half days. Students should check the city schedule for further information.

Students attending CACC ride the bus provided unless they have special written permission from a parent and approved by SHG administration. All school rules are in effect on the CACC buses. If students obtain special permission to drive to CACC, they are not allowed to take any other passengers.

## **CARS**

As a convenience to students and families, students are allowed to drive to school. However, limited parking areas on the campuses and respect for businesses and residences which share the available public parking necessitate the following regulations.

All students who drive to school must register their cars with the dean of students and are required to purchase and use the parking identification tag issued them. If students change their license plate or car during the course of the year, they are to notify the dean of students.

Juniors and sophomores are assigned parking spaces on the west campus lot. Seniors are assigned parking spaces on the north lot. Seniors who do not receive parking spaces on the lot will receive a map indicating the street areas available to them for parking. Students who fail to use their assigned space or location will receive a detention. Subsequent violations will result in \$20 fines and doubled detentions. Repeated offenders will lose the privilege to drive to school.

Cars are to be locked during the day. Students may not at any time go to their cars or sit in them during the school day.

## **NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The School Asbestos Management Plan required by the Federal Government has been prepared by Allen Service Corporation, Springfield, Illinois. Recommendations in the plan have been accepted and each year a report is forwarded to the State. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is on file in the School Office for public review, upon request.

## **PARENT NETWORKING RECOMMENDATION**

We want to join others in our community in a mutual effort to benefit both children and parents. Because we are concerned and wish to stop the increasing acceptance of adolescent and pre-teen use of drugs-primarily alcohol-as an ordinary part of growing up, and because we believe that appropriate limits are necessary for the healthy development of young people, and because we believe that both parents and children need and benefit from a unified statement of positive standards and values,

### **WE AGREE TO...**

Encourage wholesome activities for our teens by not allowing alcohol or any other drug to be consumed by minors socializing in our homes and to appropriately chaperone such activities,

Communicate with the appropriate adults to ensure that events outside of our homes will be properly chaperoned and will not include the use of alcohol or other drugs by minors,

Join in an effort to establish a friendly supportive atmosphere remembering that success will occur through parent-parent and parent-student communication,

Support the use of the following weekend curfews for our children as a general guideline:

- 12th Grade ..... 12 Midnight ..... 12:30 a.m.
- 11th Grade ..... 11:30 p.m..... 12:30 a.m.
- 10th Grade ..... 11:00 p.m..... 12:00 Midnight
- 9th Grade ..... 10:30 p.m..... 11:30 p.m.

## **ADDENDUM TO SHG STUDENT HANDBOOK**

### **GUIDE TO STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

While extra-curricular activities do not fall within the scope of the regular curriculum and carry no academic credit, we believe these activities are a vital part of the total program of a school. Participation in these extra-curricular activities are an educational experience for all students who participate. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and with this privilege comes responsibilities as outlined in this addendum.

Goals for the student activities program support the expressed objectives and general philosophy of SHG. The goals of the program are:

1. That students develop a sense of personal discipline and pride (of self, of activity, of school).

2. That students learn the elements of and benefits of teamwork, cooperation, and group loyalty.
3. That students earn a sense of accomplishment through involvement in learning activities outside the formal classroom.
4. That students learn skills that will contribute to their ability to be lifelong learners.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

SHG's mission statement "Academic Excellence in a Community of Faith" is the basis of all curricular and extra-curricular programs. Student conduct which is contrary to the mission of the school or impinges upon the rights of other students is not allowed. This guide is designed for the purpose of maximizing the educational experience for each student and eliminating student conduct which is not conducive to that goal.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

SHG believes extra-curricular activities are a vital part of the total program of a school. We believe that participation in these extra-curricular activities is an educational experience and should be offered for all youths who attend SHG. The behavior of students involved in extra-curricular activities on and off school property is very important. Participants in all extra-curricular activities must maintain standards which cause all students and parents to be proud of their representatives.

The four years in which each student represents his/her high school in interscholastic competition under the auspices of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) may be four of the most enjoyable years in his/her young life. As students compete, the school has local rules and regulations which must be followed in order that extra-curricular participation and competition is a profitable educational experience. The IHSA also has rules and regulations incorporated into the Association's constitution and by-laws to which students, as well as school personnel and fans, must adhere.

The Principal of the school is responsible to certify the eligibility of all students representing the school in any interscholastic events. Any question concerning eligibility must be answered by the Principal, who has available, a complete copy of all IHSA eligibility rules. This copy includes the Association's due process procedure.

We believe that those students who are participating in extra-curricular activities are not only representing themselves, but our high school and community as well. Therefore, SHG students must present a good image by appearance and behavior. Each coach or moderator should discuss with his/her participants (on the first day that the extra-curricular activity begins) the rules and regulations and any other requirements of the organization.

## **ATHLETIC GOAL STATEMENT**

The athletic program will be conducted in an atmosphere which demonstrates respect for self and others, which sponsors good sportsmanship, and which values the fun and enjoyment of sport participation.

The goal of the Sacred Heart- Griffin Athletic Program is to help participants achieve their athletic potential through development of the following: a healthy competitive attitude, good sportsmanship, knowledge of fundamental skills and strategies, teamwork, good work habits, self worth, confidence, esteem, strong sense of one's own values, and personal values for good health.

In striving to accomplish these goals, one will have an opportunity to become a team member who can develop his/her athletic skills and potential and find joy and achievement in sport participation.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THIS GUIDE TO STUDENT CONDUCT APPLIES**

A student is expected to conform his/her behavior to the school rules of conduct in the following situations:

- While in school, on school grounds, or in the proximity of the school.
- While on school-chartered buses or other transportation.

- While engaged in school-sponsored activities, including extra-curricular activities, whether at school or away from school and whether during the school year, week-end, or vacation periods. These activities include student council, yearbook, newspaper, all clubs or activities related to school, athletics, cheerleading, and pom-pons.
- Whenever the student's activity directly relates to and affects the efficiency, good order, and welfare of the school or another student.

## **GUIDELINES FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES**

### **APPLICATION (SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES)**

School related activities include all athletic teams, Student Council, yearbook, newspaper, academic team, cheerleading, pom-pons, all clubs, and any other groups or organizations that have school or faculty sponsorship under SHG.

### **TRY OUTS**

Extra-curricular activities at SHG are voluntary. Any and all students are encouraged to participate in any activity in which they are interested. Because of various requirements, some activities can only accommodate a specified number of participants. The number of participants is determined by IHSA, the nature of the activity, equipment available, and/or the judgment of the moderator or administration.

In such instances try outs will be held for the number of positions available. Therefore, some students may not be chosen to participate in that particular activity. Summer and out-of-season programs are provided as an opportunity for students to enhance their skills. While programs are encouraged, they are not mandatory. Try outs are NOT solely based on participation in summer or out-of-season programs.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Diocesan policy states: School sponsored athletic programs are to be guided by the general curriculum goals of the school and should in no way detract from the academic and religious goals of the school. At SHG, this policy extends to extra-curricular involvement.

Because of the primary importance of academic achievement, students who participate in extra-curricular activities are expected to be in good academic standing. A student must possess a minimum cumulative grade point average of C- and currently maintaining a C- average with no F's to qualify for try outs. Organizations within the school, however, retain the right to set higher standards than those given above. Some of these are listed below.

- Class/Student Council Officers: minimum cumulative GPA of 2.600 or better; no record of disciplinary probation or suspension during the past year; attendance at a leadership training session.
- National Honor Society: this honor is considered for those who have achieved and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.8000; have internalized and demonstrate the value of Christian Service; demonstrate and document Christian leadership; demonstrate and recognized for a positive moral character. See Chapter By-laws for particular information.

### **MULTIPLE IN-SEASON ACTIVITIES**

Student athletes must have prior written approval from their in-season head coach in order to participate in any other sport or sports-related activity during their respective season.

### **AFTER TRY OUTS, ELIGIBILITY IS AS FOLLOWS:**

- When a student receives a failing grade at the weekly eligibility check, the student is rendered ineligible to play for one (1) week. The ineligibility runs from Tuesday to Tuesday.
- If at the next weekly eligibility check the student has not raised the failing grade, he/she re-

mains ineligible until the weekly eligibility check reflects a passing grade.

- The eligibility check for the first week of the quarter will be based on the report card grade of the preceding quarter. The eligibility for weeks 2-9 of the quarter will be based on grades/achievement from the beginning of the present quarter (this does not include the cumulative points from the preceding quarter).
- Students are encouraged to be responsible for taking the initiative to connect with teachers and/or guidance counselors to make a plan to improve his/her academic standing. It is **NOT** appropriate for the student to approach a teacher to ask for a grade change for that week or for a higher grade without doing the work.
- Students who are ineligible are not allowed to participate in the practices for the week.
- Students who are ineligible are not allowed to participate in the contest or function, nor are they allowed to be dressed in the team's uniform for the game or team function.

## **PHYSICALS**

All students participating in athletics must have a current (less than a year old) physical on file. Physicals are periodically offered at school by volunteer professionals.

## **MISBEHAVIOR DURING CONTESTS**

If a student is found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, he/she may be barred from inter-scholastic extra-curricular contests, either as a participant or spectator or both.

Any other person(s) who is found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or principles of good sportsmanship also may be barred from inter-scholastic extra-curricular contests.

Whenever a member of a school team or organization is not living up to the highest standards of personal conduct or sportsmanship (such as any illegal or immoral act committed by a participant which causes embarrassment to the school, team, coach or moderator) or is regarded as a detriment to the best interest of his/her squad or organization, he/she will be suspended from further participation.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CURFEW**

All participants are governed by the Springfield city curfew ordinances, regardless of age.

Exception: Each moderator or coach may set different hours for special occasions as long as the hours do not violate local curfew laws and with the knowledge and approval of the administration.

Exception: Students in job related situations or students coming home late from a contest.

Penalty: Penalty for curfew infractions is determined by the moderator or coach. Each moderator and coach (all levels) will post or give written guidelines for his/her activity prior to the beginning of the activity or when participants first become involved in the activity.

## **MEETINGS, PRACTICE SESSIONS, AND ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL**

Participants must attend each scheduled meeting and practice session.

Exceptions:

- Illness or pre-arranged events approved by the particular coach or moderator.
- If in school all day, the participant should contact the coach or moderator personally for an excused absence before going home.
- Excuses from doctors or parents will be recognized if #1 above is not possible.
- Penalty: For infractions of attendance at meetings or practice sessions, the coach or moderator will post or give written guidelines for his/her activity prior to the beginning of his/her activity or as participants first become involved in his/her activity.

## **ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL**

The participant is expected to be in school the entire day of a contest AND the entire day after such contest.

If a student is absent from school because of illness the day of a contest or practice, he/she may not participate that day.

If a participant leaves school because of illness during the day of a contest or practice, he/she will not be eligible to participate in the activity that day.

A student arriving at school late because of illness must be checked in by 10:45a.m. in order to be eligible to participate that day. Doctor appointments, funerals, and similar circumstances may allow students to participate if they arrive after 10:45a.m.

If a participant is absent from school for reasons other than illness, the decision of eligibility will be left up to the discretion of the administration.

## **EARLY DISMISSALS FOR EVENTS**

After the seventh absence in any instructional period (does not include study hall), students will NOT be allowed to miss school, or leave early, to attend school sponsored activities.

## **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE AT SCHEDULED EVENTS**

Absence from scheduled events shall be pre-arranged and approved by the coach or moderator. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the assistant principal or athletic director.

Penalty: First Offense and Additional Offenses - the coach or moderator will determine the penalty. Each coach or moderator will post or give written guidelines for his/her activity at the first organizational meeting of his/her organization or the first time of attendance by a participant.

## **TRAVEL**

The means of travel will be on school vehicles when possible. Vehicles will leave school on schedule (which will be posted or given in advance). The entire group will travel to and from out-of-town events by school-sponsored means. All participants will come home on the school-sponsored means unless a parent informs the coach or moderator in writing ahead of time. Penalties are to be determined by the moderator or coach of the organization involved.

Athletes may be asked to provide their own transportation for in town or local games. In this instance, athletes and their parents will be required to sign a release.

## **AWARDS**

Policy regarding awards will be determined by the coach or moderator and the Administration or Athletic Director.

## **INJURIES**

Any school-related injury shall be reported immediately to the coach or moderator so that an accident report is filed with the main office.

If an individual has any special medical problem, the parent must inform the coach or moderator in writing. This is essential to safeguard each student's health.

Should an injury be discovered after the participant has returned home, he/she should go to the doctor and report the injury as described above.

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO USE: (ALSO SEE SECTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY)**

If the violation of SHG's substance abuse policy occurs at a time when the student is representing the school by performing in an extra-curricular activity, the student will be permanently banned from the activity.

Students will lose eligibility for honors which represent the school or student body (e.g. dance courts, student of the week) for the remainder of the school year.

Students participating in an extra-curricular activity or sport will be suspended for one fourth (25%) of the activity season. If a student is not currently in-season, the suspension will carry over to the student's next sport/event. If less than 25% of the activity remains, the suspension will be completed during the next school year.

Elected student leaders (e.g. student council members and officers, class officers, club officers) will be removed for the remainder of their term. Students with membership in national charter organizations (e.g. Key Club or National Honor Society) will be denied membership in the organization.

### **DRESS CODE PASSES**

Should a student request to receive a dress code pass in order not to wear dress code shoes, that student will also NOT be able to practice during the duration of the pass.

### **PARENT/COACH OR MODERATOR COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to our student athletes. As parents, when your son/daughter becomes involved in our programs, you have a right to understand the expectations. This begins with clear communication between the coach and the parent.

### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH/MODERATOR**

- Philosophy of the coach/moderator
- Expectations the coach/moderator has for your son/daughter as well as the other team players
- Location and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements- special equipment, off season conditioning
- Procedure should your son/daughter be injured during participation
- Discipline that results in denial of your son's/daughter's participation

### **COMMUNICATION COACHES/MODERATORS EXPECT FROM PARENT(S)**

- Concerns expressed to coach/moderators (see examples below)
- Notification of any schedule change well in advance
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's/moderator's philosophy and/or expectations
- There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/moderator and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the procedure below should be followed to help promote a resolution of the issue or concern.

### **PROCEDURE TO DISCUSS A CONCERN WITH A COACH:**

- Call and leave message at school (787-1595) with athletic director to set up the meeting.
- *PLEASE, do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest.* These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this type do not promote a resolution.
- The parent or coach may request to have the athletic director or administrator present at the meeting.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

Academic support and college opportunities; a concern for your son's/daughter's mental and physical well being; ways to help your son/daughter improve; concerns about your child's behavior.

### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACHES**

Playing time; team strategy; play calling; other student-athletes.

## **WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION ?**

- Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
- At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

**The principal is the final recourse and reserves the right to amend this handbook. Parents and students will be given prompt notices.**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

Main Office - open Monday thru Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

217-787-1595 - Phone call will be directed to appropriate staff

[www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org) - Daily announcements, special events, faculty directory, menu, calendar, newsletter. As time allows and need arises, some policies and practices will be explained in more detail. In some cases, the process or rationale may also be presented.

Monthly Newsletter - The monthly newsletter will gradually only be available via the website.

All SHG athletics are subject to IHSA (Illinois High School Association) rules and regulations. The complete set of IHSA bylaws and policies may be found at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

A complete list of student activities, including athletics, clubs, and competitions can be found at [www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org).

**SCHOOLREACH** is an automated phone system that allows SHG to send a message to all families at once. If your answering machine is not working and/or you are not at home, you will miss the call.