

St. Rita Catholic School

St. Rita Catholic School was established in September 1954 as a parish school staffed by the Felician Franciscan Sisters. Initially, St. Rita housed seven grades in three classrooms. The growing enrollment resulted in an additional four rooms and a library constructed in 1966/67. In 1995 the Early Childhood wing was established to meet the needs of preschool children, grades PK 3 and PK 4. Currently, St. Rita Catholic School services children in grades PK 3 – 8th grade.

St. Rita Catholic School is part of the Catholic School System of the Diocese of Fort Worth. St. Rita is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED). It holds membership in the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA).

Patron Saint: Saint Rita

Saint Rita of Cascia is the patron saint for St. Rita Catholic School. Rita was born in 1381 at Roccaporena near Cascia, Italy. When quite young she felt the call to enter religious life, but at the age of fourteen she was promised in marriage by her parents to a young man of good will but rather restless by nature. Through her own goodness Rita was able to smooth over the rougher side of her husband's character, and they lived in harmony for about eighteen years. He was then murdered. Rita not only forgave his killers, but she also prayed to God that she would prefer the death of her sons rather than see them avenge the crime.

As it happened, both sons died shortly after their father. Now totally alone, but filled with love, Rita thought of fulfilling the longings of her youth by seeking admission into religious life. Having overcome formidable difficulties, she was received by the Augustinian Nuns in Cascia. Here she lived for her remaining forty years of life. Throughout the final fifteen years she bore the mark of a thorn of Christ's passion. Rita died on May 22, 1456, which is observed as her feast day. She was noteworthy in that she experienced all the possible states of life and overcame the difficulties of each with a generous love and a profound spirit of penance, while always being a peacemaker and a helper of divisions. Her incorrupt body is preserved in Cascia in the shrine which bears her name.

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St. Rita Catholic School

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Office of the Principal

Dear St. Rita Catholic School Parents:

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! The faculty and staff look forward to serving your child and to facilitating his/her spiritual, intellectual, social and physical development.

This 2011-2012 Student/Parent Handbook, located on the home page of the St. Rita School website: www.saintritaschool.net, has been compiled to provide all students and parents important information including curricular and extra-curricular programs, school policies, procedures, regulations, etc. I hope this handbook proves to be a helpful resource to you. Please note: The Principal retains the right to amend the handbook with just cause. All parents and students will be notified in writing of any revisions. Your signature below authorizes the school, the church, and the Diocese of Fort Worth to display or publish photographs of your student for promotional purposes.

According to the Diocese of Fort Worth Catholic Schools Office, all parents and students must sign and submit a Handbook Form signifying a review of the handbook and full acceptance and compliance of rules and procedures. This form is below. The Student/Parent Handbook form is due by Friday, October 21, 2011.

Yours in Catholic education,

Mrs. Kathleen Krick

Student/Parent Handbook Form

I have reviewed the 2011-2012 Student/Parent Handbook located on the St. Rita School website and will be governed by the procedures, policies, etc. of this handbook.

Parent's name

Parent's signature

Student's name

Student's signature

Student's name

Student's signature

Student's name

Student's Signature

Due to school office by Friday, October 21, 2011

Mrs. Krick will have a surprise for all classes with 100% on-time signed and returned forms.

St. Rita Catholic School Mission

St. Rita Catholic School is an accredited educational ministry of St. Rita Parish serving children representing an array of cultures, ethnic groups, economic backgrounds and religious beliefs in PK3 through 8th grade. We are dedicated to giving glory to God by passing on to our students the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church while providing a quality education in a nurturing environment. We ensure our students reach their full potential academically, spiritually, physically and socially so they may one day become successful high school students, contributing citizens, and leaders in our global society.

St. Rita Catholic School Philosophy

At Saint Rita Catholic School we believe:

- everyone is a child of God, capable of great goodness and called to serve others.
- gospel values must be interwoven into teaching all subjects to help form good stewards who will be morally responsible and productive citizens.
- the body is a temple of God to be nurtured spiritually, physically, intellectually, culturally and socially in a Catholic environment.
- the curriculum must be taught so that it provides the skills and concepts needed by the students to be successful at all grade levels and to form life long learners.

St. Rita Catholic School's Goals

St. Rita School's goals as a Catholic school are:

- to assist the family in the religious and formal education of their children.
- to teach students to make good choices and to be responsible for their actions.
- to provide students the foundation needed to successfully continue their education.
- to develop students into good stewards in their faith, neighborhood, and global communities.
- to form students who can succeed in a culturally diverse world.

School Creed

This is our school.
Let Peace dwell here.
Let the room be full of contentment.
Let Love abide here:
Love one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself,
And Love of God.
Let our prayers lead to world peace
So that peace may prevail on earth.

Admission/ Withdrawal Regulations

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth admit all students to the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to the student body. They shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, or national origin in the administration of its admission, loan, athletic, or scholarship programs.

New admissions will be based on the following priorities:

1. Children of faculty
2. Children who are currently enrolled
3. Children of active parishioners of St. Rita Parish with siblings enrolled in the school
4. Children of active parishioners of St. Rita Parish
5. Children of non-active parishioners of St. Rita Parish with siblings enrolled in the school
6. Children of non-active parishioners of St. Rita Parish
7. Children of Catholics who are parishioners of other Catholic communities
8. Children of non-Catholics with siblings enrolled in the school
9. Children of non-Catholics

The above priorities shall be used by the admission staff with respect to any conflicts in the enrollment of St. Rita Catholic School.

Admission Procedure

1. Parents/Guardian will complete an application form and present the following original documents to the school office.
 - Birth Certificate
 - Baptismal Certificate
 - Health Records
 - Previous school records: last report card, cumulative record, achievement test scores
2. A student entering kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before September 1st. A student entering 1st grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1st. A student entering PK 3 or PK4 must be 3 or 4 years of age on or before September 1st.
3. Upon receipt of the application form, an interview will take place with the family and the children. New students in grades 1st – 8th will be given a placement assessment for a fee of \$25.
4. The principal makes the decision regarding acceptance of the new student.
5. Upon acceptance a registration form is completed and a non-refundable registration fee is paid.
6. Prior to the child's entrance into St. Rita Catholic School, the child must have a physical check-up by his/her family doctor. Also, all immunizations required by law must be up-to-date.
7. All new students are accepted on a probationary period that exists for nine weeks, during which time a decision is made whether or not the school can meet the needs of the child. After the first four weeks, a progress report is sent to the parents and a conference may be requested regarding the progress of the student. At the end of the nine weeks, the principal will inform the parents of the acceptance of the student or the need for the parent to seek to enroll the student elsewhere since the school is not able to meet the needs of the student.
8. Each child's performance and citizenship is evaluated at the close of each school year to determine continued enrollment in St. Rita Catholic School.
9. Students who are invited to return for the upcoming school year will register during the spring semester. Fees are to be paid at this time. No student shall be re-admitted who has an outstanding financial obligation to the school.

Student Withdrawals/Transfers

When a student is transferring to another school, parents should notify the principal and the homeroom teacher. It is advisable to notify the school at least one week in advance of the transfer. All textbooks, library books, and other school property should be returned to the teacher. Transcripts and other school records will be released only after all financial obligations have been met and all textbooks and library books have been returned. If a student withdraws during the school year, tuition and fees will not be refunded.

Academic Regulations

Curriculum and Textbooks The formal curriculum for St. Rita Catholic School is provided by the Diocesan office of Ft. Worth and guides all instruction in all grades and subjects. Textbooks are selected from the State of Texas adopted textbook list. A variety of supplementary materials in addition to basic textbooks is used to enrich and expand the curriculum.

Textbooks are distributed to students at the beginning of the school year. Students will be fined for damages beyond the normal wear or be asked to pay full replacement cost for books lost.

Class Assignments It is the student's responsibility to keep up with class assignments.

- Students with excused absences will make up any work missed.
- Any student entering the school later in the day will make up work missed.
- Students absent on the day of a test will be expected to take the test the first day of returning to school.
- Students will be given an allowance of one class day for each day the student was absent to make up assigned work.
- On the day of an absence, class work/homework requests need to be called into the office by 9 A.M. to allow sufficient time for teachers to prepare. If a call is not made to the office by 9 A.M., the student will get the work from the teacher the following day or upon returning to school.

It is the purpose of these guidelines to promote responsibility in our students.

Classwork Classwork is to be completed in class on the day it is assigned. If a student does not complete the assignment, the teacher may allow it to be completed at home. Failure to turn it in the following day will result in a zero.

Homework The purpose of homework is to help students develop good study habits, foster positive attitudes toward school, and to communicate to students the idea that learning takes place at home as well as at school. Homework will reinforce skills and concepts taught in class. Student planners are utilized in grades 1-8. Parents should ensure that students complete all homework assignments.

In grades 6 – 8, Homework is to be turned in to the teacher on the day it is due. Failure to turn in homework on the assigned day will result in a lowered grade. Homework 1 day late – minus 10 points; 2 days late – minus 20 points; 3 days late – minus 30 points. Homework 4 days late will not be accepted by the teacher, the student will receive a zero. In cases of extreme family situations, such as death or hospitalization, the parent needs to write a note to the teacher explaining why the homework could not be done. The note is to be given to the teacher the day the homework is due. Homework will comprise 10% of the nine weeks grade, unless stated differently in the teacher's syllabus handed out in August.

Grading Grades are based on a combination of some or all of the following: daily work, class participation, homework, tests, extra work, notebooks, oral reports, neatness, promptness in work, and initiative.

Numerical grades are given on student report cards for all major subjects (religion, English, reading, math, social studies, science). Alpha grades are given for the following electives in grade 5-8 (Spanish, music and computer, except first year Spanish students)

A = 100-94
B = 93-86
C = 85-76

D = 75-70
F = Below 70
(a + or – may appear after an Alpha grade indicating upper or lower range of the grading scale)

The following ratings are used for P.E. grades 1st – 8th and in Spanish, music and computer grades 1st – 4th. First year students in Spanish will also receive this rating scale

E = Excellent
S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement
U = Unsatisfactory

Inc. = Incomplete

PK 3, PK 4, and Kindergarten have their own report cards. Student skill development will be marked.

Students conduct grades will be:

E = Excellent
S = Satisfactory

N= Needs Improvement
U = Unsatisfactory

Report Cards and Progress Reports Report cards are issued four times a year at the end of the nine week grading period. Progress reports are sent home at midpoint of each grading period.

Report cards, records and Option C access are withheld when financial responsibilities to the school have not been met. These include tuition, extended day payments, lunch charges, library fines, or payments for lost or damaged books.

A parent/teacher conference is required for a student earning anything 70 or lower on a quarter report card or progress report. No student with a grade of 70 or lower may be admitted to class after 3 school days following a report card or progress report until a conference has been scheduled.

Promotion and Retention

Diocesan Policy #5240

Promotion of a student in elementary school will be based on the satisfactory completion of the present grade curriculum and the ability to do the next grade's work.

- K – 1 A student must have at least a satisfactory final average in reading and mathematics in order to advance to the next grade level. Promotion is made on the ability to do the next grade level's work.
- 2 – 5 A student must have at least a "70" in religion, language arts, and mathematics, and an overall "70" average.
- 6 – 8 A student must have a "70" in all core subjects – religion, English and/or reading/literature, mathematics, science, and social studies. A student who fails a major subject is not promoted. For each major subject below "70" a student must make up the work in summer school. If summer school is not available, work will be assigned and the student will be tested prior to advancement to the next grade level.

Students in the elementary grades should not be retained more than once while enrolled in the diocesan school system.

If all avenues have been explored and the school cannot meet the needs of the student or the parent(s) have not acted on the school's recommendations regarding diagnostic evaluation, or recommendations regarding academic growth, the principal has the right to request withdrawal of the child (if currently enrolled) or refuse admittance.

Standardized Testing Standardized testing is one of several means of assessing pupil performance. The standardized test used in the Diocese of Fort Worth is the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is administered each fall during the designated week published on the yearly school calendar. Students, first through eighth grade, are tested.

The Otis-Lennon Mental Ability Test is given yearly to students in grades 4 and 7.

Each student's results are given to the parents. Testing results are recorded on the permanent record card.

8th Grade Promotion

Diocesan Policy #5270

Promotion from 8th grade may be marked by a modest exercise which gives recognition to the unique value of the phase of Christian education just completed. Schools should avoid elaborate ceremonies

which would overestimate the educational accomplishment, social events which are inappropriate for the level of maturity of the students, or other arrangements which would entail undue expense for parents or involve overnight travel.

St. Rita Catholic School 8th grade promotion activities are coordinated by the eighth grade homeroom teacher and the principal of St. Rita Catholic School. Eighth grade promotion activities include: a dinner, a class trip, Candle Mass, Graduation Mass, and a reception.

Student Awards/Recognition

Honor Roll:

Principal's Honor Roll:	A's and S's in all subjects
A – B Honor Roll:	A's and B's and S's in all subjects
Conduct: <u>6th-8th grade</u>	A student can be on the honor roll with 1 "N" on a report card. If a student has two "N's" or a "U" on his/her report card, he/she cannot be on the honor roll.
<u>2nd-5th grade</u>	If a student has a "N" or "U" in conduct, he/she cannot be on the honor roll
Honor Convocation:	Students receive honor certificates each quarter for honor roll status.

Duke Scholars: Sponsored by Duke University, students are recognized as Duke Scholars as 7th graders based on achieving in the 95th percentile or higher on specified sections of the Stanford 10 Achievement Test.

National Junior Honor Society: Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Junior Honor Society members are selected based on scholarship, leadership, community service, citizenship, etc. After the induction to the St. Rita Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society students must maintain a B average each quarter, with no quarter grade in any class below a C grade, and a conduct/citizenship quarter rating of Satisfactory or higher in all classes. Students are expected to perform community service projects. If a student does not comply with the above stated standard, the student and parent receive an official warning from the National Junior Honor Society moderator and the principal. If a quarter grade or citizenship/conduct grade falls below the standard a second time, the student's name is removed from the National Junior Honor Society rolls permanently.

Academic-Service Banquet: At the yearly Academic-Service Banquet, students who were on the Honor Roll all 3 quarters, participated in academic meets, served as altar servers, and/or served as a music minister are recognized and given a pin.

End-of-the-Year Academic and Service Awards: Students in each grade are recognized for outstanding academic performance, good citizenship, altar servers, St. Rita award, WordMaster Challenge, Spanish awards, and Music and Drama awards.

Sports Banquet: At the Banquet, students who participated in athletics are recognized and special awards are given to the outstanding boy and girl athlete in each grade.

Outstanding 8th Grade Student Awards: Organizations such as the Optimist Club, American Way, Knights of Columbus, and Catholic Daughters usually offer special awards based on specific criteria.

Academic Excellence Award: Eighth grade's top three graduates are determined in the following way: The seven academic subjects are averaged to the tenth place.

Esto Dux Award: Nolan Catholic High School presents the Esto Dux Award to two students who excel in scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Attendance/Tardy Regulations

In compliance with the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED) and the State of Texas Family Code, schools of the Diocese of Fort Worth follow compulsory attendance laws. St. Rita Catholic School publishes a school calendar prior to the beginning of each school year. Parents/guardians
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are expected to honor the calendar established by the school. Daily attendance is the only effective way to ensure continued academic progress.

Students must be in attendance at school for three and one-half hours to equal one-half day of school. Less than three and one-half hours counts as an absence. In order to participate in after school activities, a student must be at school at least one-half day.

Present: In school 5½ to 7¼ hours: arrive before 9:30 am; leave after 1:30 pm.

Half-Day Absent: In school 3½ to 5½ hours: arrive before 11:30; leave after 11:30 am.
(or absent more than 1½ hours during school day)

Absent: In school less than 3½ hours; arrive after 11:30 am; leave before 11:30 am.

School absence is categorized in the following manner:

Family Emergency – A death in the immediate family, serious or prolonged illness of the student or a member of the immediate family. Each case is handled on an individual basis.

Absence Due to Illness – A student unable to come to school due to illness of 5 or more consecutive days requires a doctor's statement for readmission to class. (In excess of 15 days absence during the school year for any reason may result in denial of credit for all or a portion of the school year and may require that a student repeat a grade or attend summer school. Diocesan policy states that excessive absences may be considered grounds for suspension or expulsion.) Students who have been sick must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Absences for Other Reasons – When a student is absent from school for any reason other than doctor's appointment, illness or family emergency, the student will not be permitted to make up the work that he/she missed. The school staff is not obligated to provide special services when a parent opts to schedule activities that warrant student absence on compulsory attendance days as indicated on the annual school calendar.

Family Trips – If a trip is required by a family, it will be at the principal's discretion whether the absence will be excused or unexcused. The following procedure must be followed: Draft a letter to the principal 2 weeks in advance of the trip requesting absences from school. The letter must contain the date of the trip, reason for the trip, a request to all teachers for all assignments from all classes. All assignments, tests, projects will be due the day that the student returns to school.

Doctor/Dental Appointments – Arranging doctor and dental appointments during the school day is strongly discouraged. Please make a sincere effort to have all doctors' appointments made after school. If this is impossible and a student must be dismissed early, a note is to be sent to the teacher. Parents should report to the school office to sign the check-out book before the student is released. Parents will need to sign a student back in at the school office before the child returns to class. Verification from the doctor or dentist is required upon return to school.

Restricted Physical Activity – If for any reason a student is not able to participate in physical education class or recess more than 2 or 3 days please send a doctor's note to the homeroom teacher. The note should explain the situation, the physical activities restricted, and the approximate duration your child will not be able to participate in these activities.

Note: It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of each student to call the school by 9 A.M. to explain the absence of the student and to request class work. If the school office is not called, the student must bring a note explaining the absence on the first day the student returns to school.

Tardiness A student is tardy if he/she arrives after the 7:50 bell rings. A student who is late should report to the office accompanied by the parent or guardian. The parent is to sign in the tardy book and get a tardy pass for the student.

Habitual tardiness seriously affects a student's school performance and disrupts the class they are entering. Tardies are recorded for each grading period. If necessary, parents will be contacted to discuss habitual tardiness and students may be subject to dismissal from school.

If a student accumulates 12 or more tardies during the course of the school year, he/she will not be eligible for a Perfect Attendance award at the end of the year.

It is unfair to punish students for tardiness when it is the fault of the parent or guardian when a child is tardy to school. While I realize it is difficult to get up earlier in the morning, it may be necessary. I also realize it is difficult to get some children moving in the mornings. However, regardless of these difficulties, it is a parent's responsibility to see that children arrive at school on time. Please note that after 10 unexcused tardies parents or guardians will be required to meet with the principal. Continued tardies could result in loss of financial aid, dismissal from school, or other appropriate consequences determined by the principal. Excused tardies are: family emergencies, medical emergencies, vehicle default, or major traffic incidents (must identify location and time). I appreciate your help in getting your children to school on time. – Principal

Communication

RITA Pack (RITA-Relevant Information To All) Each week on Thursday a parent pack will be e-mailed to parents via RenWeb. This "pack" will contain digital copies of all important school information. Please read all of the information, some will require feedback. If a form needs to be filled out and returned, please print a copy. The school will have some hard copies in the office. A copy of all documents included in the e-mail will be posted outside the front office each Thursday.

Conferences: Formal conferences will be held twice a year, after the first grading quarter for all students and after the third grading quarter for special concerns identified by teachers and for parents who wish a spring conference.

Informal conferences – discussions about your child's progress are welcome throughout the school year. However, teachers are not available to discuss issues during the regular school day without an appointment. Contact the school office to leave a message for the teacher, send an email to the teacher, or send a note with your child. The teacher will contact you as soon as possible.

Parental and Student Rights St. Rita Catholic School shall respect parental and students' rights to information and to confidentiality. The school shall:

1. provide parents and students access to records directly related to the students (e.g. duplicate report card, permanent record card, health records)
2. obtain written consent of parents before releasing personally identifiable information from student's records

Parent Contacts to School If a parent wishes to speak with teacher/staff or principal, the parent should send a written note to the school office, make a personal phone call, or send an e-mail message. Keeping open communication is a priority. All faculty/staff are to return phone calls and e-mail messages within 24 hours of a school day.

Parent Concerns All parent questions and concerns regarding class, grades, projects, conduct, class procedures, etc. should be directed to the teacher. If the parent brings the concern to the principal, the principal will immediately refer the issue to the teacher or staff member for positive resolve. If a resolve is not possible, the principal will schedule a meeting with the parent and teacher. Complaints should be handled at the lowest possible level. Direct concerns to the teacher first.

Non-Custodial Parent Parental rights extend to either parent unless the school has been provided with evidence that there is a court order, statute, or legally binding document relating to matters such as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights. A copy of such document must be in the school file. In case of joint custody both parents should be equally informed of their child's progress. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the school if special accommodations need to be made.

Discipline Regulations

St. Rita Catholic School's ultimate goal in discipline is to help its students become self-disciplined. This can be observed in students whose behavior is consistent with good moral principles and Christian values. We strive for a positive, non-disruptive environment in which all persons, their rights and their belongings are respected. An important key for building responsibility in children is allowing them to experience logical and natural consequences. It is of utmost importance that discipline builds each student's positive self-esteem.

St. Rita Catholic School has high expectations of appropriate behavior for its students. We believe that discipline can be taught, therefore, we will concentrate on teaching students' appropriate behaviors and social skills.

Discipline is the responsibility of every student, parent, and educator, since it is both a cooperative and an individual effort. The ideal for which we strive is that discipline is best achieved through love and good example. However, when disciplinary actions are necessary, they will be carried out in a firm, fair, caring and consistent format. A parent-teacher conference is required for students having repeat discipline referrals. If all avenues have been explored and students cannot follow the rules and guidelines of St. Rita Catholic School, the principal has the right to request withdrawal of the child or refuse re-admittance.

Within each teacher's classroom, there is a discipline plan in place. Each teacher will communicate her discipline plan to parents and students.

All Students Must:

- Show respect/courtesy to all people and their property
- Treat school property with respect; including keeping textbooks covered at all times
- Develop a basic attitude of thoughtfulness and consideration
- Remember manners, courtesy, and good language are ways of showing consideration for other
- Be on time for class
- Bring paper, pencils, and all other materials necessary for class
- Complete homework assignments and turn them in on time
- Be in the correct and complete uniform each day (See p. 28 for school uniform regulations)
- Walk in the classrooms, hallways, and cafeteria at all times
- Accept responsibility for his/her own actions
- Know, understand, and comply willingly with rules and regulations

Types of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Disrespectful conduct to adults and other students
- Abusive language and/or use of profanity
- Running and/or horseplay
- Chewing gum or eating candy
- Damaging school property
- Violation of dress code
- Poor grooming – hair, nails, cleanliness, facial hair, etc.
- Failure to do homework
- Pushing or shoving
- Abuse of playground equipment or classroom/school furnishings
- Any behavior that the school/principal deems disruptive to the educational process and moral environment of the school
- **Possession of electronic toys or devices. These include cell phones, pagers, radios, lap top computers, game boys, laser pointers, or any other games or gadgets which could be considered a distraction from the education and learning process or environment.**

- **If a parent deems a cell phone necessary for their child, it must be turned off. Phones will be picked up each morning and parked in the cell phone garage in the office. Phones will be returned to students at dismissal. From 7:30 to 3:30, if they are found in the classroom, they will be confiscated. The school assumes no responsibility for any stolen, damaged or lost property. Cell phones that are confiscated by school personnel will be held in the principal's office. On the first offense, a parent must pick up the phone. There will be a \$10 fine. On the second offence, phones will be kept in the office until the last day of school.**

If a student does not respond to efforts made by the teacher to encourage appropriate behavior, the parent and the principal will be notified. If inappropriate behavior continues, the student will be sent to the principal's office and the student will be given consequences for his/her behavior. These consequences may include:

Counseling student
Parent notification (written or verbal)
Restitution
Lunch and/or recess detention
After school detention
Saturday detention
In-school suspension
Out of school suspension or expulsion

If a student commits a major offense, the student's consequences may include:

In-school suspension
Out of school suspension
Expulsion

*In-school suspension requires a cost of \$65 per day be added to your tuition to hire a substitute teacher to monitor your child.

Major offenses include, but are not limited to:

- Habitual misconduct which is disruptive to the teaching/learning process or safety of students or school
- Refusal to obey reasonable directives, orders, rules, regulations or policies of the school, which are promulgated for the well-being of the student body, the staff, or the institution
- Possessing, using, selling, or distributing harmful or illegal substances, including alcohol
- Smoking or using any tobacco product
- Having possession of a weapon, real or play
- Verbal abuse or threats of bodily injury or harm to a student/school personnel
- Assaulting a student or any school personnel
- Vandalizing school property or the property of others
- Having possession of pornography
- Participating in disruptive activities by a group such as a gang
- Verbal or written mention of the use of fire arms or weapons against an individual or group
- Intimidation, bullying, or harassment
- Actions of the parent of a student may be grounds for the student to lose the privilege of attending school at St. Rita Catholic School. The parents of students are expected to conduct themselves so as not to be a disruptive influence on the school or staff. A parent who becomes a disruptive influence shall be requested to withdraw his/her student from the school

Blogs: Engagement in online blogs such as, but not limited to, MySpace.com, Xanga, Friendster, Facebook, 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.

Bullying and Cyberbullying: St. Rita Catholic School attempts to provide a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken very seriously. Students making such threats (**seriously, or in jest or online**) face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Suspensions and Expulsions

Suspension is defined as the temporary exclusion of a student from school for disciplinary reasons. The principal will notify the student and the student's parents/guardians of the reason for the suspension, the duration of the suspension, and the requirements for reinstatement. Students may be suspended by the principal for various reasons. A teacher may not suspend a student. A teacher may be an interim principal in the principal's absence. An interim principal may suspend a student for a severe offense. The pastor is to be informed of the suspension and the reason for it. A suspended student may make up any missed work as outlined by the principal.

Expulsion is defined as the permanent dismissal of a student from school without the agreement of the parents or guardians. In the case of expulsion, the principal will:

1. confer with the student, the teacher(s), the parents/guardian, and the pastor regarding the problem
2. advise parents of their options and/or Policy 5114 and its implementation
3. inform the superintendent of the expulsion decision and submit to the Diocesan School Office a copy of the report of these conferences, a description of the problem, and a summary of the student's history in school

Appeal: If the parents or guardian wish to appeal the principal's decision, a written appeal must be filed with the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) days from the date the parent or the guardian received notification of the principal's decision. If the decision is sent by certified or registered mail, the five (5) day time period shall begin on the day the letter is mailed. The decision of the Superintendent of Schools is final and is not subject to other appeal processes or conciliation and arbitration procedures.

If a student is expelled, his/her records shall reflect that the student has either withdrawn or transferred. The student's records shall not reflect that the student has been expelled, unless the parents refuse to remove the student from the school after having been notified that the child must withdraw or transfer to another school.

Legal Issues: Sexual Harassment – All demeaning behavior is prohibited

Sexual harassment is defined as:

- Threatening to impose adverse employment, academic or disciplinary or other sanctions on a person unless favors are given; and/or
- Conduct, containing sexual matter or suggestions, which would be offensive to a reasonable person

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, imitations, or comments
- Visual contact such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, or gestures
- Physical contact such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movements, or interfering with work, study, or play because of sex
- Threats or demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of continued employment or grades or other benefits or to avoid some other loss or offers of benefits in return for sexual favors
- Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report sexual harassment
- Internet harassment

Reporting Sexual Harassment:

All allegations will be taken seriously and promptly investigated. Confidentiality will be stressed. Concern will be expressed for both the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator. All suspected cases should be reported to the principal immediately.

Educational Support Program (ESP)

The Educational Support Program is an integral part of the operation of our school. All families must participate. Each family is required to provide 30 hours of volunteer service to the school or pay \$15 per hour. If a family chooses to pay the \$15, that is a total of \$450 per year. If a family falls short of 30 hours, they will be billed for the remaining hours. (Ten hours of the 30 must include assisting with fund raising activities.) By contributing time and resources to the educational process, parents provide valuable role models of service and dedication to children. A sense of belonging to the caring St. Rita School community is established.

Please use the correct process for recording your hours.

1. You volunteer to do an activity such as stuff RITA packs on Thursday morning, clean and organize the uniform closet, work a booth at International Fair, help clean the yard, attend a Home and School meeting, etc.
2. You look at the time you arrive and write it down for your use.
3. You look at the time you complete your volunteer activity.
4. You sign your name and write the number of hours worked on a Volunteer form on the shelf outside the front office.
5. Failure to sign the form results in hours not being counted.
6. If you are unable to fill out the form, go to the individual in charge of overseeing the activity and give them your name and hours in writing, so you will be given credit for the hours.
7. Periodical updates will be sent home in your RITA pack.
8. 15 hours must be served by the end of the 1st semester.

All service hours must be completed by April 30th. (Service hours completed in May, June and July will be credited to the next school year.) If a family fails to complete 30 hours of service and fails to pay the remaining balance as noted on the May statement, the child(ren) will be viewed as not registered for the next school year. If a student is leaving the school, the student's records will not be transferred to the new school. Until the final balance is paid, students will not receive final grades, report cards, school records, etc. from the administrative offices.

Please note: Service hours may be credited by parents, relatives, and children grades 9 – 12 or college age. St. Rita students may NOT fulfill educational support hours as they are expected to perform community service as a religious curriculum requirement.

Electronics

Electronic toys or devices are not to be brought to school. See Discipline on top of page 12.

Extra-Curricular Activities

St. Rita Catholic School strives to offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to enhance the curriculum, the social and physical development of each child. These activities may vary from year to year depending on many factors such as student interest, parent volunteers, number of students able to participate, etc.

Fine Arts:

Band
School Musicals
Art

Academic Competitions

1st-3rd grade Spelling Bee
4th- 8th grade Spelling Bee
Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA)

Sports

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 may participate in the Catholic School Interscholastic Sports Program. Fifth graders may play on a 6th grade team in volleyball and/or basketball, if 6th grade doesn't have enough to make a team. Sixth graders may not be moved up to 7th to make room on the team for 5th graders. The program includes soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, and track. All necessary forms (4) must be completed and turned in to the school before a student is eligible to attend practice. All forms must be on file by the deadline date given on the school calendar for each sport in order to participate in that sport. **All students must have a complete physical (Diocesan Health Report) each year before participating in sports program.** St. Rita School sports program depends on student interest and volunteer coaches. If either of these are absent for a sport, St. Rita School will not offer it that year.

Accident coverage is offered to all students who participate in the sports program. Participation in the insurance program is at the parents' discretion but highly recommended by the school.

We welcome and encourage parents and siblings to attend athletic events. Diocese policy requires all spectators (adults and children) to remain in the gym during all basketball and volleyball games. Children are to be supervised by parents at all times. Parents are not to confront referees/coaches at any time. As the primary educator, parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsman-like behavior.

Volunteer Coaches All volunteer coaches must work with at least one other volunteer coach at all times. **All volunteers, including volunteer coaches, must complete a Diocesan volunteer form and will be required to complete a Criminal Records Review and Keeping Children Safe.**

If parents are late picking up their child(ren) three times, the student will have to sit out the following game. The coaches need to be able to leave when the practice is over. They have families and jobs which require their time. Please respect their time.

Sports Eligibility If an athlete is absent or has not been in attendance for one-half day (3.5 hours) of school, he/she is not permitted to participate in practice or games that day.

Academics are a PRIORITY at St. Rita Catholic School. Students must maintain passing grades in all required subjects to participate and practice in the sports program.

A St. Rita student who has a grade below a 70 or a "U" in conduct on his/her progress report or report card will not be eligible to play sports for the following two weeks.

Sports eligibility will be determined at each progress report and end of each quarter. Progress reports will be distributed and the following school day ineligibility will begin. A student will remain ineligible to participate in practice or play in games until ineligibility has been removed. Ineligibility may be removed for a student who improves his/her grades and has earned passing status in all classes after 10 school days (10 days from the date of ineligibility). A student may also become ineligible for unsportsmanlike conduct. Only the athletic directors or principal may impose sports eligibility and sports ineligibility.

Note: The principal may declare a player ineligible for serious disciplinary reasons which include constant disruption of class. Disruption of class can be verified by the number of times a student is sent to the office.

Sports Banquet—An annual Sports Banquet is held to recognize athletic achievement.

- *Outstanding Athlete* – All coaches submit a nomination for the Outstanding Athlete award based on coaches' observations of skill, agility, and performance.
- *Outstanding Sportsmanship* – All coaches submit a nomination for the Outstanding Sportsmanship award based on the coaches' observations of sportsmanlike qualities.

Extended Day Program

Before school students may be dropped off at 7:30. Teachers and staff will be on duty in the gym or back courtyard of the school. They will provide the necessary care needed until 7:45 when the first bell rings. If a child is dropped off at 7:45, he/she has until 7:50 to get to his/her classroom. Children arriving after 7:50 are tardy to school.

Students enrolled at St. Rita Catholic School are eligible for our Extended Care Program. This program is available for students in PK 3 – 8th grade. Extended Care is provided for use by parents whose working hours do not permit them to pick-up their children at dismissal time. This program begins at 3:15 on regular school days and 12:15 on early dismissal days. It ends at 6:00. Drop-ins are welcome based on space available, with 24 hours notice. We try to maintain a 1 to 10 teacher/student ratio.

Since teachers and staff are not available after 3:30, which is when their school day ends, children still at school at that time will be taken to Extended Care. The families will be billed for this service. Extended care is offered on all early dismissal days except the last day of school.

Tuition for Extended Care will be included in your monthly statement. Fees can be obtained from the business office. Drop-ins are charged \$9.00 per day for the first child and \$7.00 for additional children. If drop-ins are picked up by 4:15 on a regular school day or by 2:15 on an early dismissal day, families will be charged ½ the stated price. There is a \$25 late fee for paying after the 10th of each month.

Rules and Regulations: Extended Care is an extension of St. Rita School and adheres to the same procedures and regulations:

1. Discipline
2. Behavior Expectations
3. Dress Code

If a student enrolled in Extended Care is present at school, we assume he/she will be attending Extended Care that afternoon. Please notify Mrs. Hernandez or the office beforehand if your child will not be attending Extended Care.

Facilities Used: PK 4 and Kindergarten rooms, courtyard and blacktop, gym

Activities: Snacks, study time, free play, games, etc.

Pick-up Policy: Parents should enter the gate by the Kindergarten room and pick children up from the back door of the PK wing. No adult other than those listed on the Extended Care form will be allowed to pick up your child from the program. If there is a change in the person picking up your child, the office must be notified before 3:00. We request in writing any information concerning alternative pick up arrangements. Any adult picking up a child, other than parents, will be asked to show a Texas Driver's license. Parents or person picking up your child are required to "sign-out" your child and record the time they were picked up each day.

Students not picked up by 6 P.M. will be charged \$2.50 per every 5 minutes beginning at 6:01 P.M.

If a child is not picked up at closing and we have not received word from the parent, the following steps will be taken:

1. The staff will try to contact the parent.
2. The staff will try to contact the adults on the emergency form authorized to pick up the child immediately.
3. The authorities will be notified if child is not picked up.

Any enrolled Extended Care student who attends sports practice, guitar lessons, etc. may be brought to Extended care provided a note is on file stating the day(s) and time of the activity and its dismissal.

Financial Policies

Tuition A schedule of tuition and fees can be obtained from the business office. Yearly tuition and fees are set February of each year. There is a yearly registration fee, which is non-refundable.

St. Rita families are billed by the business office and tuition is paid in 12 monthly installments June through May. The first tuition payment is non-refundable. There is also the option of paying annually, quarterly, or semi-annually. Tuition is due on the first of each month and considered late if not received by the tenth of the month. A late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed after the 10th of the month. In addition, if the account has an unpaid balance on the 25th of the month, an additional late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed on the 26th of each month. A child may be suspended if delinquency occurs for two consecutive months.

Families with tuition payments delinquent through December may not be readmitted in January. Families with tuition payments delinquent through April will not be readmitted for the next school year, unless prior written arrangements are made with the school principal. Students' transcripts, report cards, and diplomas will be held until the balances of all fees are paid. Families unable to meet tuition due dates must draft a letter to the principal outlining the payment plan with dates and dollar amounts for principal's approval. All payments after May 10 must be made by cash, cashier's check or money order.

A delinquent account will be turned over to the collection agency when:

1. The school tuition account and all outstanding fees are over 60 calendar days delinquent,
2. The child (or children) is no longer in school, and
3. No payment has been received for 30 calendar days since the child departed school.

Returned Checks: There will be a \$25.00 fee collected for a returned check. If a family has accumulated two returned checks, they will be required to pay all future financial transactions in cash, cashier's check or money order.

Tuition Assistance: A tuition assistance program is available for families on the basis of need. Families in this program are required to complete a financial aid application and supply the necessary information for consideration:

Financial assistance programs available include:

- Diocesan Financial Assistance
- STAR
- Kenedy Foundation Grant
- Breen Foundation
- Four partial scholarships from private donor
- Sisters of St. Mary Mooney Scholarship Fund
- St. Rita Tuition Assistance

All financial information is held in strictest confidence.

Health

Forms: A health form complete with Immunization record showing dates and kinds of immunization received must be on file for each student. All students must meet all State and Diocese required immunizations before starting or entering St. Rita Catholic School.

All families will fill out an Emergency Card at the start of each school year. All phone numbers and emergency contacts must be kept up to date. Whether a child is not feeling well or a serious accident occurs, parents or authorized persons should be able to be reached at all times. Please inform the school office of any changes in this information throughout the school year.

All students participating in sports must have a yearly health exam completed on the official form and submitted to school office.

Shots:

DPT	4 doses required with one on or after 4 th birthday; with a booster for entry into 7 th grade, if at least 5 years has passed since the last dose of a tetanus containing vaccine
POLIO	(OPV or IPV) 3 doses required with one on or after 4 th birthday
MMR	(Mumps, Measles, Rubella) Two doses with the 1 st dose received on or after the first birthday for entry into Kindergarten
HEPATITIS A	2 doses for Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kindergarten students with the 1 st dose received on or after the first birthday
HEPATITIS B	All children 5 years of age and older are required to have 3 doses. Minimum interval between 1 st and 2 nd dose is 1 month. Minimum interval between 2 nd and 3 rd dose is 2 months
HibCV	1 dose required on or after 15 months unless a primary series and a booster was completed prior to or at 15 months. Proof of HibCV is not required for children 5 years or older.
VARICELLA	Two doses of varicella vaccine, with the 1 st dose received on or after the 1 st birthday, for entry into Kindergarten and 7 th grade (validation of disease accepted on separate form)
MENINGOCOCCAL	One dose for entry into 7 th grade

Sickness: The school is not set up to care for sick children. For the protection of all the students, the following guidelines have been set up. A child having one or more of the following symptoms will be sent home.

Exclusion Guidelines	Return to School Guidelines
Oral temperature of 100 degrees or above	Fever free for 24 hours
Vomiting, nausea or severe abdominal pain	Symptom free for 24 hours
Marked drowsiness or malaise	Symptom free
Sore throat, acute cold, or persistent cough	Symptom free
Red, inflamed, or discharging eyes	Written physician release
Acute skin rashes or eruptions	Written physician release
Swollen glands around jaws, ears, and neck	Written physician release
Suspected scabies or impetigo	Written physician release
Any skin lesion in the weeping stage	Covered and physician diagnosed as non-infectious
Earache	Symptom free
Pediculosis (head lice)	Nit free
Other symptoms suggestive of acute illness	Written physician release

Communicable Disease Control Measures: If your child has any type of infectious disease or rash notify the school immediately. After such disease, parents should take the child to the school office before re-entering the classroom. Students will need a permit from their physician for re-admission to school. (Examples: measles, pink eye, lice, ring worm, hepatitis, mononucleosis, etc.)

Medications: Your child may have an illness which requires medication for relief or cure that does not prevent his/her attendance at school. When possible such medication should be taken at home. However, according to Texas State Legislature a medication may be dispensed to a student by school personnel if the following requirements are met by the parent or legal guardian requesting this service.

- Parents are encouraged to schedule the administration of student medicine in such a manner that medication brought to school will be kept to a minimum. (For example, the physician may be able to prescribe the medication before school, after school, and at bedtime.)

- Medication (Prescription and Non-Prescription) may be administered to students only upon written request by the parent/guardian and physician. A “Permission to Administer Medicine” form must be completed, with the parent/guardian signature and physician signature, and on file in the school clinic BEFORE medication can be administered. Please ensure that time and dosage is specific. You may request a form from the school office.
- All medication, prescription and non-prescription, must be in its original container and be properly labeled in English. A properly labeled prescription is one with a pharmacy label stating the student’s name, the name of the medication and date prescription was filled. Non-prescription medication must be in original container indicating directions for use and labeled with student’s name. Medications sent in baggies or unlabeled containers will not be given.
- It is the responsibility of the student to report to the clinic to take his/her medication.
- At the end of the school year, all medication must be picked up from the clinic or it will be destroyed.
- Experimental medication/dosages will not be given. Herbal medication, dietary supplements, and other nutritional aids not approved as medications by the FDA, will not be administered at school.
- Antibiotics will not be given at school by school personnel. If the parent feels the antibiotic must be given during the school day, the parent may come to the school office and administer it.
- Only the school nurse and/or parent perform nebulizer treatments in school. Non-medical school personnel are not permitted to administer this treatment.
- Diocesan policy will be followed regarding administering medications or treatments necessary for medical reasons. **Students are not permitted to keep any medication or drugs in their pockets, locker, backpack, or lunch kit. All medications must be kept in the school office.**

In the event of visiting a physician without a school form handy, the physician may write and sign instructions. This may be attached to the school form that is completed and signed by the parents.

Corrective Lenses: In order to better serve all children, we ask that parents notify the school office and teachers about the need of corrective lenses.

Allergies: If a child has an allergy, please write a note to the teacher and the school office regarding the allergy.

Annual Student Screenings: Student screening for vision and hearing problems are state regulation pursuant to the Special Senses Communications and Disorders Act of 1983. Student screening for spinal curvature is state regulation according to TAC, Section 37.141-37.152.

Texas Required Screenings	Who
Vision and Hearing	First time entrants Grades P-K4, K, 1, 3, 5, 7 Entrants from another state
Spinal - Scoliosis	All students in grade 6
Ancanthosis (AN)	Grades 1, 3, 5, 7

Child Abuse and Neglect: Provisions of the Texas Family Code require reporting of all suspected child abuse or neglect under penalty of fine or jail sentence or both, for failure to timely report.

Internet

The Internet is a valuable resource. While student’s use of the Internet will be supervised by staff, students are expected to refrain from accessing any inappropriate material. Students may not access “chat” sites unless directed to do so by the classroom teacher. Students are expected to use e-mail only under the direction of the computer teacher.

Students will sign an Acceptable Use Policy at the beginning of each year. Failure to comply with the Computer Technology Acceptable Use Procedure may result in suspension from the computer lab or use of computer technology.

Lunch

National School Lunch Program:

- **All students can order hot lunch and or breakfast.**
- Some students will be able to eat for free or at a reduced cost. This is based on the completion of the free and reduced lunch program application.
- On the menus, please check the box in the lower right corner of the days you would like your child to receive a meal. Milk is included with the meal.
- **IMPORTANT:** There are many guidelines the School must follow to participate in the National School Lunch Program or we will be fined and/or revoked from the program. The guidelines apply to **all students.**
 - **NO SHARING FOOD, BROUGHT OR PURCHASED.**
 - **NO FAST FOOD OR SODAS/COKEs;** students bringing lunch SHOULD BRING HEALTHY LUNCHES AND DRINKS. Most fast food does not meet the USDA'S nutritional value guidelines.
 - **Any food brought in to share for a birthday celebration must be store bought, no homemade cakes or cupcakes, etc.** Celebrations must be planned and approved by the Teacher and Mrs. Krick. Celebrations may not be during lunch time; therefore you must have it approved for class time. **The TDA guidelines prohibit having birthday celebrations/cakes, etc. during lunch time and highly discourages such food of minimal nutritional value.**
- **Parents should limit their lunch visits.** The program requires that children receive adequate time to eat. The school also feels that this time belongs to the children to eat quietly or socialize among the other students. **Please drop all lunches in the front office and we will deliver the lunch to the student in the gym.**
- **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM ANY STUDENT.** Orders must be submitted to the office on the due date or before. The school has a due date to the company preparing the meals; therefore no lunch orders will be accepted after the due date.
- If a student will be absent or misses breakfast or lunch for any reason, the school will attempt to cancel the order. If the order cannot be cancelled there will be no refunds and you will still be billed/charged. It is very important to let the office know as soon as possible if your child will not be at school. If you are free or reduced you must promptly notify the office. Please do not abuse this privilege at the expense of the school.
- **No extra lunches will be available to purchase. All meals must be pre-ordered.**

Understand that there are many guidelines, but remember who benefits...the children. Your cooperation is appreciated.

- *If you need a new application to participate in the free or reduced meals, let us know.*
- *All students can order hot lunch at full price with no application; however we encourage every family to fill out an application.*

Breakfast will be served from 7:20am to 7:30am and students have until 7:45am to finish their meal. No breakfast will be served after 7:30am.

Lunch hours:

Kinder – 3 rd	11:00 – 11:45
PK3, PK4, 4, 5	11:30 – 12:15
6,7,8	12:00 – 12:45

Prices:

Full price lunch with milk	\$3.25
Full price breakfast with milk	\$2.00
Reduced price lunch with milk	\$0.40
Reduced price breakfast with milk	\$0.30

Library

The St. Rita School Library is completely automated and is equipped with 4 technology research stations.

St. Rita Catholic School maintains a holding of over 6,000 books in the library which is coordinated by a library manager. The reference section is continually updated and includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, periodicals, almanacs, educational series, etc. These materials may be used only in the library unless permission is granted otherwise. Some reference material and library books are kept in the classroom for everyday use. A collection of film strips, records and video tapes is available for all classes. The Accelerated Reading Program is an integral part of the Library Media Program.

Each class visits the library every week. Students are allowed to check out a specified number of books. Parents are urged to encourage reading, research, and proper care of borrowed materials. Students will pay fines on overdue books, 5 cents per weekday. If a student is absent there is no fine, but the book must be returned the day the child returns to school. Students will be expected to reimburse the school for the cost of damaged or lost books. Additional books cannot be checked out and report cards will be held until all fines are paid.

Our library holds two book fairs per year. These are exciting events for the students and we welcome your participation.

St. Rita School holds a Summer Reading Program. The library is open one day a week from 3 P.M. until 8 P.M. Students can check out books and take AR tests.

Students are encouraged to become “STAR” readers. After earning a specified number of AR points, students’ pictures are posted in the hall. “STAR” students will participate in an end-of-the year celebration. They will receive special treats throughout the day and have the opportunity to win door prizes.

Parental Involvement

School Advisory Council: The St. Rita School Advisory Council is an advisory group that consults with the pastor and principal in developing policies, budgets, and financing. There are working committees for finance, academic/student life, development/ marketing, facilities, technology, cultures/diversity, and St. Rita parish liaison.

The Advisory Council is comprised of the pastor, the principal, and nine members. Two members are elected and seven members are appointed. Meetings are held monthly.

Home and School Association: The Saint Rita Home and School Association is a network of parents who are actively involved in supporting the school by providing the manpower for fund-raisers and special events at school. The purpose of this organization is:

- To promote communication and a spirit of friendship and cooperation among the administration, teachers, school board, and parents.
- To raise and distribute funds to support St. Rita School.
- To organize volunteers for all Home and School standing committees, other volunteer programs, and all Home and School fund raisers.

The Home and School Association voted to have a \$50 yearly fundraising fee in lieu of small fundraisers throughout the year. The HSA also voted to continue Las Vegas Night and the annual school supply fundraising events. Every parent is encouraged to become actively involved in the Home and School Association. Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Volunteers: Our volunteer program welcomes all parents and friends of the school to get involved in activities both in and out of the classroom. Volunteers not only enhance your child’s education, but also

make you a part of it. The faculty and staff are greatly appreciative of the support of our volunteers' contributions.

All volunteers are required to attend a "Safe Environment Training" course offered throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Parents have an opportunity to sign up for various volunteer positions at the beginning of the school year. The Home and School Volunteer Coordinator works with the school staff to coordinate the entire volunteer effort.

School Uniforms

Boys and girls attending St. Rita Catholic School wear the official school uniform. Uniforms are purchased through Parker Uniform Company – 1125 Oakland Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76103, (phone: 817-446-0436; or online at www.parkersu.com: web ID code: FW390351). Because Parker Uniform shorts are the appropriate length, we request that shorts be purchased through Parker Uniform. St. Rita School also has a supply of second-hand uniforms for sale.

- All skirts and shorts must touch top of knee
- Solid white socks – all socks must be at least 1" above ankle, No golf socks, no insignias
 - Students wearing non-regulation socks will be sold a pair by the front office and parents will be billed.
- All belts must fit the waist with no extra length hanging down in front of slacks or shorts.
- All uniform slacks, shorts, skirts, etc. must be the correct fitting waist size; no extreme oversize garments are permitted.
- Boys pants should not sag below the waist.
- Boys slacks or shorts must have appropriate size inseam.
- Students not wearing ties on three consecutive Dress Uniform days will be sold a tie from the front office and the parents will be billed.

Preschool students (Pre-K3 & Pre-K4) must wear pull on pants or shorts with elastic waistbands, without belts. Kindergarten students may wear pants or shorts with belt loops, but must wear a belt with them. Preschoolers may not wear tights or hose.

Early Childhood Division Pre-K3 – Kindergarten

Girls' Dress Uniform – Required Items

Plaid school jumper, knee length
with modesty shorts
Plain white blouse with rounded collar
Red cross tie
Red uniform sweater
Solid white socks
Black leather shoes, 1-1½" heel

Girls' Uniform

Plaid school jumper, knee length
with modesty shorts
Navy slacks or shorts, elastic waist,
knee length
Plain white blouse with rounded collar
Hunter Green or white 3 button golf shirt
Red uniform sweater or
Green St. Rita sweatshirt
Solid white socks
Tennis shoes or leather shoes (no lights)
Belt – solid brown, black or navy (Kinder only)

Boys' Dress Uniform – Required Items

Navy pants. elastic waist
White shirt, button down (no insignias)
Red St. Rita tie
Red uniform sweater
Solid black or navy socks – at least 2" above
ankle, No golf socks, no insignias
Black leather shoes
Belt – brown, black or navy (Kindergarten)

Boys' Uniform

Navy pants or shorts, elastic waist,
knee length
White shirt, pullover or button down
(no insignias)
Hunter Green or white 3 button golf shirt
Red uniform sweater or
Green St. Rita sweatshirt
Solid white socks
Tennis shoes or leather shoes (no lights)
Belt – solid brown, black or navy (Kinder only)

Elementary Division – Grades 1-5

Girls' Dress Uniform – Required Items

Plaid school jumper, knee length *
with modesty shorts
Plain white blouse with rounded collar
Red cross tie
Red uniform sweater
Solid white socks
Black leather shoes, 1-1½" heel

Girls' Uniform

Plaid school jumper, knee length *
with modesty shorts
Navy slacks or shorts, knee length
Plain white blouse oxford or rounded collar
Hunter Green or white 3 button golf shirt
Red uniform sweater or
Green St. Rita sweatshirt
Solid white socks
Tennis shoes or leather shoes
Belt – solid brown, black or navy

*Exception: Fifth grade girls wear skirt (no jumpers)

Boys' Dress Uniform – Required Items

Navy pants
White shirt, button down (no insignias)
Red St. Rita tie
Red uniform sweater
Solid black or navy socks – at least 2" above
ankle, No golf socks, no insignias
Black leather shoes
Belt – solid brown, black or navy

Boys' Uniform

Navy pants or shorts, knee length
White shirt, pullover or button down
(no insignias)
Hunter Green or white 3 button golf shirt
Red uniform sweater or
Green St. Rita sweatshirt
Solid white socks
Tennis shoes or leather shoes
Belt – solid brown, black or navy

Junior High Division – Grades 6-8

Girls' Dress Uniform – Required Items

Plaid school skirt, knee length
with modesty shorts
Plain white oxford blouse
Red cross tie
Red uniform sweater
Solid white socks
Black leather shoes, 1-1½" heel

Girls' Uniform

Plaid school skirt, knee length
with modesty shorts
Navy slacks or shorts, elastic waist,
knee length
Plain white oxford blouse
Hunter Green or white 3 button golf shirt
Red uniform sweater or
Green St. Rita sweatshirt
Solid white socks
Tennis shoes or leather shoes
Belt – solid brown, black or navy

Boys' Dress Uniform – Required Items

Navy pants.
White shirt, button down (no insignias)
Red St. Rita tie
Red uniform sweater
Solid black or navy socks – at least 2" above
ankle, No golf socks, no insignias
Black leather shoes
Belt – solid brown, black or navy

Boys' Uniform

Navy pants or shorts, elastic waist,
knee length
White shirt, pullover or button down
(no insignias)
Hunter Green or white 3 button golf shirt
Red uniform sweater or
Green St. Rita sweatshirt
Solid white socks
Tennis shoes or leather shoes
Belt – solid brown, black or navy

Students must remove coats and non-uniform sweaters or sweatshirts during Mass and during class.

No Green St. Rita sweatshirts may be worn on dress uniform days.

Shirts and blouses are to be tucked in at all times. Ties are to be knotted at the neck and the top shirt button is to be buttoned. Modesty shorts must be worn under skirts and jumpers in all grades.

Students are expected to be dressed in an appropriate manner for school. If a student is in doubt concerning the acceptability of his/her attire, it should not be worn. Fashions designed for leisure time activities are not appropriate for the classroom.

A variety of used acceptable dress code garments will be available in the office. If a student comes to school in an unacceptable outfit, he/she will be required to change into a borrowed uniform to attend classes that day. Borrowed uniforms are to be washed and returned to the office the following day. In addition, the administration reserves the right to send home any student who is dressed improperly.

White opaque tights may be worn by Kindergarten and up during cold weather months. If pants or shorts are worn, the child must wear a belt. Red uniform sweaters may be worn anytime. Wildcat sweatshirts may be worn only on non-dress uniform days. Coats, jackets or non-uniform sweatshirts may not be worn in the classroom or church. Students who suffer from specific fabric allergies may contact the principal for possible solutions.

Each student's name should be on all garments with permanent ink or sewn-in name tags.

Shoes must be clean and in good repair, closed toe and closed heel. Black leather shoes are required for the dress uniform. Tennis shoes, mostly white, black, or shades of gray; with matching black, gray or white laces (no bright colors) may be worn on all other uniform days. Boots and insignias are not part of the dress code. Shoes that require laces must be laced and tied. Shoes that light up or have characters on them are not permitted.

Costume jewelry, including dangling earrings, and make-up are not allowed. One pair of small stud earrings is permitted for girls with pierced ears. A watch is acceptable (no rings or bracelets, including rubber band bracelets). Clear nail polish only is acceptable for girls, no white tip manicures or fake fingernails. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings, costume jewelry, make-up or nail polish. Body piercing and temporary or permanent tattoos are not permitted. Students may wear a small necklace with a religious medal or cross.

Hair styles for boys and girls should be neat and simple. Bangs must be above eyebrows for boys and girls. Hair length for boys should be no longer than the top of the shirt collar, and above the ears. Natural hair color is his/her God-given color. It is age appropriate that students do not color or highlight their hair. Fad haircuts, i.e. Mohawk, long tails or shaved stripes are not allowed. Spiked hair may be no longer than one inch (1") high. No facial hair, boys must be clean shaven.

Free Dress Periodically, we will have free dress day for the students. Free dress includes jeans, T-shirts and other appropriate modest, neat clothing items. No torn or battered clothing is permitted. (Un-covered midriffs, spaghetti straps and tank tops or short shorts are not permitted.) Dresses, skirts and shorts must meet the knee length requirement. No gang affiliation clothing is allowed or T-shirts with inappropriate slogans or words. Students must wear close-toed shoes. Free dress days will be announced in advance. All clothing items should reflect the virtue of modesty.

Students that are habitually not in compliance with the dress code will not be permitted to participate in Free Dress.

Spirit Dress Occasionally during the year, spirit days will be organized with a special theme. This special theme dress will accessorize the spirit dress. On those days, all students will be allowed to wear any St. Rita T-shirt or sweatshirt (i.e. International Fair, St. Rita sports team jersey, etc.) accompanied by the Parker Uniform shorts, slacks, or skirts. No slacks, shorts, or skirts other than uniform clothing are allowed on spirit dress days. Shirt tails are required to be tucked in at all times.

Buck-a-Jean Dress We will have Buck-a-Jean days occasionally. The dress code for these will include jeans and a spirit shirt (see Spirit Dress above). Shirt tails are required to be tucked in at all times, and belts must be worn with the jeans.

General Information

Articles Forgotten at Home: We ask that you do not bring students forgotten items from home. An important part of building responsibility in children is allowing them to experience logical and natural

consequences. Students will not be allowed telephone use to call for forgotten items. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Appeals Process: Although the Diocese endeavors to establish a harmonious Christian atmosphere within its schools, it recognizes that misunderstandings or differences of opinion sometimes occur. Ideally, such matters can be resolved by a parent or guardian meeting with the immediate authoritative person to discuss the matter. If, however, the matter is not then settled to the parent or guardian's satisfaction, the parent or guardian may institute a formal grievance. A formal grievance must be in writing and must be received (5) working days following the occurrence of the event on which the grievance is based. Please contact the principal for a copy of the Diocese's current appeals process/grievance procedure for further details. Also, please note that the current policy supersedes and replaces all previous policies and statements regarding institution and processing of formal grievances with Diocesan schools.

Change of Address/Emergency Card Information: Please contact the school office, preferably in writing, as soon as your family has any address or phone number changes. All Emergency Card information must be kept up to date. Whether a child is not feeling well or a serious accident occurs, parents or authorized persons should be able to be contacted at all times. If you update your information on RenWeb, this does not update the information on your child's Emergency Card, you must still let the office know of any changes.

Early Dismissal: Periodically early dismissal days will be scheduled to allow for teacher in-service training, staff development, and faith formation. Please consult your yearly/monthly calendar for those dates. No lunch will be provided on early dismissal days. On noon dismissal days (early dismissal) extended care will be available from 12:15 until 6 P.M. To help us serve children, we ask that all parents please call at least 24 hours in advance for extended care on early dismissal days. Students staying for extended care must bring a sack lunch.

Emergency School Closing: In case of inclement weather, such as flooding, storms, or icy streets, St. Rita School will post information regarding closing of school or delayed opening on radio station WBAP 820AM and television station KXAS – TV (Channel 5).

Field Trips: Field trips serve the instructional program by utilizing educational resources of the community to supplement classroom work. Parents must sign a field trip permission form allowing their child to participate. Students must return this form; no other form will be accepted. No phone permissions are allowed. No exceptions will be made! If a parent does not want his/her child to participate, the school should be notified in writing. Students not participating in the field trip will be expected to attend school that day and participate in an alternative activity.

- Field trips are privileges and students can be denied participation if they fail to meet academic or behavioral requirements.
- Full dress uniform, including red sweater, must be worn to school for the student to participate in a field trip.
- Any parent driving for school field trips is required to attend Keeping Children Safe.
- To ensure the safety of our students, field trip drivers/chaperones should not bring younger children on the field trip.

The Diocese has guidelines for adults driving on field trips which may change at the discretion of the Diocese or the Administration.

- The driver must be 21 years of age.
- The driver must have a copy of a valid and current driver's license on file in the school office.
- The driver must have completed Keeping Children Safe and have a Volunteer form on file in the school office.
- The vehicle must have a valid and current registration and a copy on file in the school office.
- The vehicle must have valid and current license plates.

- The vehicle must be insured for the following minimum limits: \$100,000 per person/ \$300,000 per occurrence (A copy of the current proof of insurance must be on file in the school office.)

Lockers 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will have specific lockers assigned to them. They will have specific times to go to their lockers. It is their responsibility to keep their lockers neat and orderly. This will help prepare them for high school and foster responsibility and preparedness. Lockers will be lock free as St. Rita School will follow the Honor Code:

Students will be expected to comply with the following procedures:

- Lockers may be used before school, between block periods and after school only.
- Students may not use a lock on their lockers.
- Students may not decorate their lockers or anyone else's interior or exterior.
- Students must be ready on Friday or on the last day of the week for a locker organization check for the following week.
- Personal items of value are not to be stored in the lockers.
- No open drink or food containers are allowed in lockers.

The following items may be kept in lockers:

- Textbooks, workbooks, spirals, folders, binders, library books and other necessary supplies
- P.E./sports clothing and shoes
- Coats, jackets, gloves, dry umbrellas
- Lunch
- Band instrument
- Non-adhesive and non-marking mirrors or storage items

It is the student's responsibility to immediately report any damage to his or her locker. A reparation fee will be assessed if a locker is not in acceptable condition at the end of the school year.

Lost and Found: Please label all articles of clothing, lunch boxes, and backpacks with your child's first and last name. Any items found will be kept in a box in the school office. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen property. Any unclaimed items will be donated to Eastside Ministries at the end of each school year.

Parent Visits: Due to reasons of safety for our children and staff, parents/visitors are not to go directly to a classroom to speak with a teacher or child during the school day or during dismissal. All parents and visitors are to report to the school office. If a student is leaving early, the parent is to sign the student check-out book in the school office.

All visitors to the school are asked to sign in and sign out at the school office. All visitors will be issued a visitor's badge to be worn while on school grounds.

Party Policy: St. Rita Catholic School celebrates two holidays each year with parties – Christmas and St. Valentine's Day. The room mother will contact the teacher in advance to discuss the party guidelines and parent responsibilities.

Birthdays: Students may bring a special snack to share with their class; however, no favors or drinks should be brought. Please check with the student's teacher to determine which day is best to bring the special snack to avoid schedule conflicts. **Invitations to private parties/birthday parties may be distributed at school only if each class member receives an invitation.** The student should consult with the teacher before distributing invitations. Invitations sent to school that do not comply with the above rule will be sent home for distribution by mail.

School Pictures: St. Rita Catholic School has contracted with Lifetouch to take school pictures. The individual photos of students in their school uniforms will be published in the school yearbook. Dates of picture taking are announced in the monthly calendar.

Use of Student Information/Pictures: The school reserves the right to use student pictures in publications and on the school's web site. Any parent who does not wish his/her child's picture used must notify the principal in writing by the second week of each school year.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Student Arrival: Supervision is provided for all children at 7:30 each morning. Students PK -3 to grade 5 should proceed to the cement commons area or gym between 7:30 – 7:45 A.M. where they will be supervised by teachers. In the event of cold, damp, or light rain conditions, students will report to the parish center (gym).

Students in grades 6 – grade 8 may be dropped off on Weiler or in the main parking lot. Students in grades 6 – 8th will report directly to the junior high wing via the library doors facing Weiler Blvd. or the back junior high doors. Junior high students will go to lockers immediately after entering the school each morning. Students in grades 6th – 8th may not enter through the front door entrance before 7:45 A.M. Tardy junior high students and parents must enter through the front school doors to sign-in and receive a tardy pass.

Parents are not to enter the parking lot from Weiler Blvd. during the school day. Enter the parking lot from the Lancaster entrance, form a line in the shape of an “L” if dropping the student off from your car. Wait until you are on the side of the school facing Weiler before letting your child exit the car. A school staff person should be there to assist your child. If you choose, you may park in the parking lot and walk your child to the assigned area. Be careful of moving cars.

If dropping a junior high student off pull forward to the school walk leading to the doors at the entrance by the library.

No vehicles should be left unattended on Weiler Blvd. at any time. No vehicles are permitted on the blacktop area between the school and gym during the school day: 7:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Walking Home/Bus Procedures: All students who walk home after school or ride a bus must have a written letter on file in the principal's office. The letter must be signed by the parent or guardian giving permission and approval.

Pick Up Procedures: Parents may either pick their children up by parking in the lot and coming into the school, or by driving along Weiler Blvd. and picking their children up in front of the school. Parents are asked to please pull up in line and move forward. We ask parents to not cut in line as accidents can occur. A caller will announce each parent's arrival, and the child will be called for pick-up. Proceed down Weiler to the stop sign, do not make a U-turn on Weiler Blvd. Parents are not to park on Weiler and come inside to get children, as this backs up the line; park in the parking lot to come inside to get children. If a child is not ready, parents may pull up on Weiler past the school building and park as directed by patrol.

All parents are to proceed slowly through the parking lot for safety of all children.

The State of Texas law prohibits cell phone use in car pool lines, even if the car is not moving.

St. Rita Student Council

St. Rita Catholic School has an active Student Council. Eighth grade students who meet the criteria (grades, citizenship, and leadership skills) are eligible to run for Student Council Offices. The student council has a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes also vote for two class representatives. The Officers and Classroom Representatives form the Student Council. The Student Council organizes and executes several activities each year. They include, but are not limited to: Red Ribbon Week, Meadows Grant, Teacher/Student sports events, school socials, etc.