



2025-2026
Parent/Student Handbook



ARCHDIOCESE
of BALTIMORE

In Association
Archdiocese of Baltimore
School Sisters of Notre Dame
National Catholic Educators Association
Accredited by Cognia

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Overview

Bishop Walsh is a co-ed school for grades Pre-K through 12th grade. The school reserves the right to amend the Parent/Student Handbook and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified of any changes made. This Parent/Student Handbook is an informative booklet for parents and students setting forth the rules and policies of the school and is not intended as an expressed or implied contract.

Archdiocese of Baltimore's Vision Statement

The Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore nurture and sustain the God-given gifts of every person, especially students, to be used in service to the Mission of Jesus.

Archdiocese of Baltimore's Mission Statement

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore provide a Christ-centered education that is academically excellent and empowers students to reach their full potential - spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and morally. Fostered through robust collaboration among all stakeholders, the mission is accomplished through accountable leadership at all levels, ongoing and coordinated strategic planning, centralized efficiencies, and financial sustainability.

Vision Statement

To provide the region with the best PreK through 12th grade college preparatory education emphasizing STEM and the arts in a faith-based environment.

Mission Statement

Bishop Walsh School integrates Catholic beliefs in a pre-K through 12th grade college preparatory curriculum which incorporates technology with strong foundational academic skills. We challenge diverse learners through an atmosphere of high expectations and involvement. Our students are empowered with a lifelong love of learning and a passion for service to others.

School History

Bishop Walsh carries a long and valued tradition of Catholic secondary education in Western Maryland. Opened in 1966, Bishop Walsh is proudly named after Bishop James Edward Walsh, M.M., a Cumberland native whose lifetime of service in South China resulted in twelve years of imprisonment by the Communist Chinese government. Bishop Walsh was freed in 1970 and, even though the school was dedicated in 1966, he shared a joyous dedication in his honor in Cumberland later that year.

Bishop Walsh School is an amalgamation of four small high schools: Catholic Girls Central, Ursuline Academy, St. Peter's High School, and LaSalle High School. The spirit of Bishop Walsh is supported in many ways by the loyal alumni of each of these schools. The Middle School program was added in 1985. The Elementary School program was added in 2002.

Bishop Walsh benefits from the continued efforts of the school's dedicated lay faculty and staff, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and the on-going legacy of the Ursuline Sisters and the Christian Brothers.

Accreditation

Bishop Walsh School is accredited by Cognia through June 2027. In accordance with standards set by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Bishop Walsh School met the requirements established by the Cognia Accreditation Commission and Board of Trustees and was thereby accredited by the SACS Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)

Bishop Walsh School is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

Awards & Accolades



Administrative Team

		extension
Mr. Joseph Carter	President	108
Mrs. Jennifer Flinn	Principal	110
Mrs. Raleigh Davis	Assistant Principal	104
Mr. Tony Orndoff	Dean of Middle/High School Academics	

Faculty and Staff

Mr. Travis Beeman	Director of Finance	106
Mr. Bradley Brandon	Director of Advancement	102
Mrs. Meredith Nagle	Director of Admissions & Communications	105
Mrs. Hollie Robertson	VIRTUS Coordinator & Administrative Assistant	103
Ms. Amy Markel	Receptionist	101
Mrs. Amy Herbert	School Nurse	111
Mrs. Kimberly Rotruck	Cafeteria Manager	114
Mrs. Stephanie Pratt	Director of the Pratt Program	
Mrs. Heidi Witte-O'Donnell	Before and After School Care	
Mr. Mitchell Peters	Athletic Director	113
Mr. Jake Reese	Assistant Athletic Director	
Mrs. Jill DiNola	Guidance Counselor	
Mrs. Mariah Morin	Academic Advising & Guidance	109
Mr. John Robertson	Facilities Manager	112

A list of all staff can be found on our school's website as well as a map of our campus and calendar. All school personnel can be contacted by e-mail. E-mail addresses are first initial, last name @bishopwalsh.org.

Pastoral Support

Our Lady of the Mountains Parish – Father Stephen Fernandes, O.F.M. Cap.

OLMCumberland@archbalt.org

Divine Mercy Parish – Father Scott Kady

divinemercury@archbalt.org

School Board Members

Joseph Carter- President

Jamie Walsh- Chair

Matthew Ryan

Lauren Zapf

Hayden Ort-Ulm

Gregory Getty

Tricia Geiger

Jared Mathews

Jennifer Flinn- Principal

Kristin Walker-PTO Representative

Alexander Brant

Jeffrey Kirk

Elizabeth Lamm

Patrick Cunningham

Parika Andreassen

TBA - Canonical Representative

School Calendar 2025-2026

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has a plan in case of inclement weather or unforeseen school closings:

Day 1: Closed

Day 2: Closed

Day 3: Closed

Day 4: Asynchronous Learning

Day 5: Asynchronous Learning

Day 6 and Beyond: Add a day of instruction to the calendar

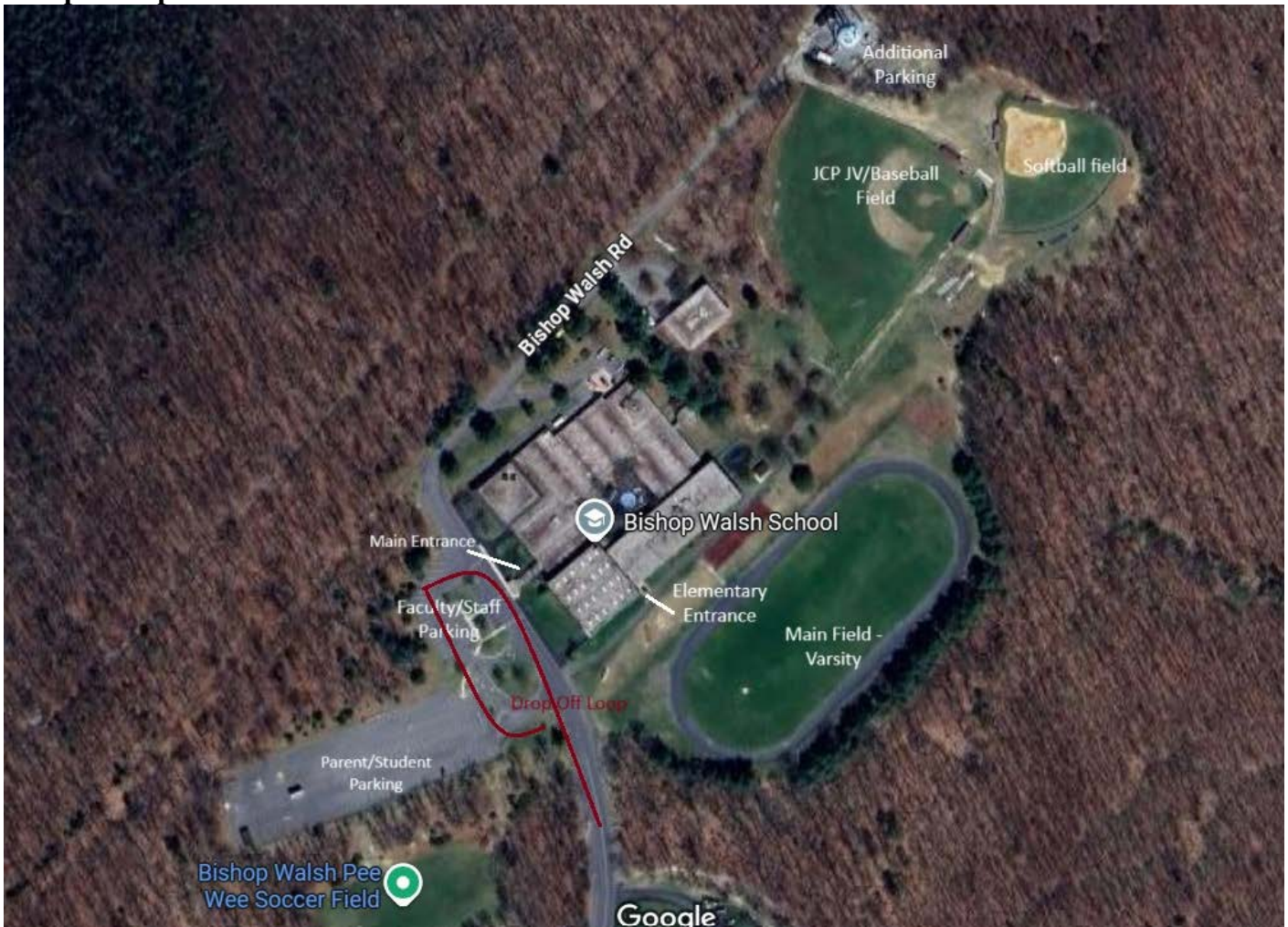
Bishop Walsh School has identified three (3) inclement weather days into the calendar. If the school does not close due to inclement weather or unforeseen events (Day 1, Day 2, Day 3), then the administrators have decided that school will NOT occur on these days: March 20, April 24, and May 8, 2026.

Please note: For each inclement weather day that is used, the one of the above planned days off will be removed- meaning the students and staff will be in school. Please check your school's daily announcements for details.

Two asynchronous ½ days, Friday, November 14 and Friday, February 27, are planned for the students during the 2025-2026 school year. All teachers and staff will be working in person at the school. All students will be working on the assignments at home. Students will be responsible for completion of required work as the assignments will be graded.

The calendar can be accessed online at <https://www.bishopwalsh.org/calendar>

Campus Map



Catholic Identity

The official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are taught in Bishop Walsh School. The faith formation program is under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop. The curriculum integrates the six tasks of catechesis and is developed in accord with the Archdiocesan faith formation curriculum guidelines published by the Institute for Evangelization. Students attend religion classes, participate in liturgical celebrations, and participate in the religious activities of the school. Parents receive information about the faith formation program in the school and the school's expectations of their child(ren) with regard to religion both as an academic discipline and as a lived faith.

Advent

During Advent, students participate in the lighting of the Advent wreath and reflect on the season's themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. The school organizes community service projects that encourage students to live out the spirit of giving and charity. The Advent/Christmas Mass is a highlight of the season, offering a special opportunity for students, faculty, and families to celebrate the birth of Christ together.

Prayer Buddy Program

The Prayer Buddy Program pairs older students with younger students to foster a sense of community and support in their faith journey. These buddies meet regularly to pray together, share faith experiences, and offer guidance throughout the year, enhancing the spiritual connection within our school community.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is a special celebration of Catholic education and the values it upholds. During this week, students participate in a variety of activities, including service projects, spirit days, and community-building events, to celebrate their Catholic faith and the role of Bishop Walsh School in nurturing academic, spiritual, and personal growth.

Daily Prayer

Each school day begins with a prayer led by students or faculty, inviting the presence of God into our school and guiding our actions throughout the day. The prayer encourages a connection with God and a spirit of service, compassion, and love for one another. Each class also begins with prayer.

Lent

Lent is a time for reflection, penance, and growth in faith. During this season, students participate in Ash Wednesday prayer services, Reconciliation, engage in acts of charity through service projects, and reflect on the meaning of the Lenten season in their lives. The school encourages students to give up something meaningful for Lent as an act of self-discipline and spiritual growth. The season ends with a Lent/Easter Mass as the school community celebrates the resurrection of our Lord.

Living Rosary

The Living Rosary is a powerful prayer tradition during the month of May at Bishop Walsh School. Students gather to pray the rosary together, each student representing a bead, offering prayers for the intentions of the school community, the Church, and the world. This event deepens the students' connection to Mary and her intercession for our lives.

May Procession & Crowning

The May Procession & Crowning is a special tradition where 2nd grade students honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this event, students process to the school's courtyard to crown a statue of Mary with flowers, offering prayers and hymns in her honor. This ceremony reflects the devotion of the school community to Mary, our mother.

Prayer Services

The school regularly hosts prayer services for special occasions, such as feast days and other significant liturgical events. These services offer students an opportunity to pray together, share their faith, and deepen their relationship with God.

Religion Curriculum

The religion curriculum at Bishop Walsh School is designed to provide a comprehensive education in the Catholic faith. The curriculum follows Archdiocesan guidelines and includes instruction on Scripture, Sacraments, Church history, moral teachings, and Catholic social teaching. Our students are challenged to integrate their learning into their daily lives, living out their faith in both school and in the world. Elementary students use the "Blest Are We" and "Growing with God" textbook series.

Retreats (Grade-level)

High school students participate in retreats that are tailored to their spiritual needs and development. These retreats offer students the opportunity to reflect on their faith, engage in prayer, and build a stronger connection with God and one another.

Sacraments (First Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation)

Bishop Walsh School supports the local parishes with sacramental preparation for students receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. These sacraments are celebrated in collaboration with the local parish, and students are guided in understanding the significance of each sacrament in their spiritual journey.

School Liturgy Schedule

The school holds regular liturgies, including Masses, prayer services, and other celebrations, throughout the year. These liturgies are an essential part of the school's Catholic identity, providing students with the opportunity to worship as a community and deepen their faith. All dates can be found on the school's Google calendar.

Service Projects

Bishop Walsh School emphasizes the importance of service as a core component of Catholic education. Throughout the year, students engage in various service projects, both locally and globally, as a way to live out the teachings of Jesus and help those in need.

Stations of the Cross and/or Living Stations

During Lent, students participate in the Stations of the Cross. This event allows students to reflect on the passion and death of Christ, deepening their understanding of Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation.

Virtue of the Month Program

Each month, Bishop Walsh School focuses on a particular character trait. Students learn about these traits, reflect on how they can apply them in their lives, and are encouraged to live them out through their actions. These are integral to our formation as students of faith and character.

Academics

Curriculum

Bishop Walsh School follows the Archdiocesan Curriculum standards, instructional minutes, and the regulations of the Maryland State Department of Education for non-public schools. Courses are updated on a rotating basis. The preK-8th grade curriculum parent portal can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/archbaltschools.org/curriculum-parent-portal?usp=sharing>

Academic Integrity Policy

Students who are under suspicion of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, test, exam, homework, or any instrument used for assessment may be subject to disciplinary action. This includes work that used Generative AI/ChatGPT to plagiarize. A grade of zero may be given in ensuring the integrity of the student and the school. Punishment for suspected academic dishonesty will ultimately be at the discretion of the administration.

Books and Materials

Textbooks are on loan to the students for the school year. Book fees are used for the replacement of worn and damaged books and to purchase consumable workbooks for the students.

Art and computer materials are purchased using fees paid by the parents at the beginning of the school year.

A list of additional materials and supplies needed by the students is sent to the parents annually.

Textbooks used on the elementary level are chosen from a suggested list found in the Archdiocesan Course of Study and approved by the elementary faculty and administration.

For elementary, the following textbooks are utilized: Open Court, Inspire Science, Go Math, Zaner Bloser, RCL Benziger, Growing With God, Catholic Connections Handbook, and IXL.

Grading Policy

All archdiocesan K-8 schools shall follow this grading policy to ensure consistent, transparent, and fair grading of students' academic performance. The purpose is to ensure consistent, transparent grading practices that accurately reflect students' academic performance and mastery of the curriculum.

Overview of Grading and Reporting

Grades serve as a tool to measure and communicate a student's academic performance and mastery of the curriculum. They provide valuable feedback to students, parents, and educators about the student's understanding of the material, areas of strength, and areas needing improvement. Grades help guide instructional decisions, support student learning, and ensure accountability in the educational process. By reflecting academic achievement, grades aim to motivate students to strive for excellence and foster a culture of continuous learning and growth.

Kindergarten – Grade 2

In Kindergarten through Grade 2, grading is standards-based and reflects students' developmental readiness and progression toward mastery. The focus is on growth, skill acquisition, and demonstration of understanding through developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Progress is reported using performance levels. (Consistently Developing, Making Progress, Support Needed, and Not Assessed at this time).

Assessment Practices

Assessment methods may include: teacher observation, classwork and student discussions, work samples and portfolios, checklists and rubrics aligned to standards, formal quizzes, and tests.

Formal quizzes and tests may be administered in developmentally appropriate ways to assess student understanding. While traditional numerical weighting is not applied in Grades K-2, assessment results are used to inform instructional decisions and report progress toward grade-level students.

Homework

Homework is used to reinforce skills already taught and may be graded when appropriate.

Assigned homework should be completed. It is the parent's responsibility to supervise the homework and guide the student to select a quiet, well-equipped place for study. As the child becomes older, the major responsibility should shift to the child. Yet even with older students some parent supervision is expected. Parents should emphasize that studying is as essential as written work.

A written explanation to the teacher will obtain permission if a student cannot complete their homework or needs more time due to extenuating circumstances. At all grade levels, homework is included in determining the subject area grade on the report card. When a teacher notices that a student is consistently missing assignments, the teacher will notify the parent, and a conference will be scheduled to discuss appropriate methods to remedy the situation.

Special Subjects

Participation, engagement, and skill demonstration are used to assess subjects like Art, Music, and Physical Education.

Behavior

Behavior is reported separately and is not factored into academic performance indicators.

Grades 3-8

Components of Grading

Grades should primarily reflect the student's academic mastery of the subject content. Schools will determine the category weighting within these ranges and will communicate school-specific grading practices.

Content Knowledge (50%) This category will represent the student's mastery of core subject content.

- **Classwork:** Assignments completed during class that show understanding of the material. These assignments should be graded for accuracy, comprehension, and depth of thought.
- **Practice Activities:** These include tasks that help reinforce learning, such as drills, exercises, and review activities. These activities should be integrated with class content and help students solidify their understanding.
- **Tests and Quizzes:** Frequent quizzes and formal tests will assess student retention and comprehension of key concepts. Quizzes assess smaller chunks of content, while tests cover larger units or major concepts. Tests will weigh heavily in this category, given their comprehensive nature.

Assessment of Learning (30%) This category includes more formal assessments such as larger tests and projects that evaluate how well students have mastered the material.

- **Projects:** Assignments that require students to apply learned concepts in more complex, real-world situations. These projects should be assessed on both the process (e.g., research, organization) and the final product (e.g., depth of analysis, creativity).
- **Major Tests:** These will account for a significant portion of this category, reflecting a student's overall understanding of unit content.

Skills Application and Critical Thinking (10%)

This category assesses how students apply their learning in complex or real-world contexts. It encourages critical thinking and problem-solving, going beyond simple recall of facts.

- **Problem-Solving Assignments:** These include tasks where students need to analyze, synthesize, and apply learned concepts to new or unfamiliar situations. Examples include science experiments, math problems requiring creative solutions, or essay questions that ask students to analyze a situation.
- **Critical Thinking Projects:** These might include essays, presentations, or research projects that require students to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills, such as analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

Homework and Practice (10%)

Homework and in-class activities should provide students with opportunities to reinforce and apply skills and concepts that have already been taught. Homework completed outside of school should be purposeful, developmentally appropriate, and should not introduce new content.

Practice activities, completed during the school day, such as exit tickets, fluency drills, or review exercises, support ongoing learning and skill development. Both contribute to a deeper understanding of the material.

- Homework: Homework assignments will be graded for completion and may be graded for accuracy if the learning concepts are previously taught concepts. These assignments should provide students with opportunities to practice and review the content discussed in class.
- Practice Assignments: Practice assignments structured tasks completed during class that reinforce previously taught concepts. These may include exit tickets, spelling tests, math fact drills, or other review activities that support skill development and content retention.

Behavior

Behavior should not be included in academic grades. It is essential that grades accurately reflect a student's academic performance, rather than their behavior.

Subjects and Activities Requiring Participation

There are courses and activities in which demonstration of mastery through participation is the only way to assess skills and application. These include, but are not limited to:

- Music: Participation in performances, rehearsals, and practice sessions is essential to demonstrate mastery of musical skills.
- Art: Active participation in art projects, critiques, and exhibitions is necessary to showcase artistic abilities.
- Class Discussion: Engaging in class discussions helps demonstrate understanding and the ability to articulate thoughts clearly.
- Physical Education: Participating in physical activities, sports, and fitness assessments is crucial for demonstrating physical skills and fitness levels.

Participation in these activities may be graded according to expectations for the course or activity. This ensures that students are actively engaged and effectively demonstrate their level of mastery.

Weighting of Grading Categories

Category	Weighting (%)
Content Knowledge (Classwork, Practice Activities, Tests, Quizzes)	50%
Assessments of Learning (Major Tests, Projects)	30%
Skills Application and Critical Thinking (Projects, Problem-Solving)	10%
Homework/Practice Activities (Practice Activities, Review)	10%

Trimester Report Card Grade Keys

Trimester Grade Key Grades 3-8	
A+	97-100
A	93-96
B+	89-92
B	85-88
C+	80-84
C	75-79
D	70-74
E	69 and below

Trimester Grade Key Grades K-2	
Consistently Developing	93-100
Making Progress	75-92
Support Needed	74 and below
NA	Not Assessed at this time

Trimester Grade Key Special 3-8	
Consistently Developing	93-100
Making Progress	75-92
Needs Improvement	74 and below
NA	Not Assessed at this time

Report Cards and Progress Reports

In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, students in pre-kindergarten through grade 8 will receive report cards three times a year, at the conclusion of each trimester. In addition, the school will send progress reports home for grades 3-8 during the middle of each trimester.

- Elementary/Middle School:
 - Trimester 1 ends on November 14, 2025
 - Trimester 2 ends on February 27, 2026
 - Trimester 3 ends on June 10, 2026
- High School:
 - Quarter 1 ends on October 24, 2025
 - Quarter 2 ends on January 14, 2026
 - Quarter 3 ends on March 20, 2026
 - Quarter 4 ends on June 3, 2026

High School Academic Requirements

All **Freshmen** are assigned

ONE EACH FROM ONE ELECTIVE

Religion

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

World Language

All **Sophomores** are assigned

ONE EACH FROM ONE ELECTIVE

Religion

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

World Language

All **Juniors** are assigned

ONE EACH FROM TWO ELECTIVES

Religion

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

All **Seniors** must select courses that total seven classes.

ONE EACH FROM FOUR ELECTIVES

Religion

English
Mathematics

Electives Include:

Computers
Fine Arts
Physical Education

Minimum requirements are as follows:

- 4.00 credits Religion (one for each year in attendance at BW) - Residency Requirement
- 4.00 credits English - Residency Requirement
- 3.00 credits Social Studies (Civilizations of the World, American Government, US History)
- 4.00 credits Mathematics (2 in Algebra, 1 Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Statistics or Consumer Math)
- 5.00 credits Mathematics (2 in Algebra, 1 Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus or Statistics) – Student begins math sequence in the 8th grade.
- 3.00 credits Science (lab-based Science courses)
- 2.00 credits same World Language
- 1.00 credits Computer Education
- 1.00 credits Fine Arts
- 1.00 credits Physical Education/Health

The course catalog lists the courses that are offered. (available at bishopwalsh.org) In the high school, some of these courses are offered on an alternating pattern. Courses are listed by academic department, and each department has developed a variety of required and elective courses.

The Phase System

Phase 1 (Foundational): Courses are designed for students who need emphasis on the basic skills of the course.

Phase 2 (College Prep): Courses are designed for students who need moderate emphasis on the basic skills of the courses. These courses are college preparatory.

Phase 3 (Honors): Courses are designed for students whose command of the basic skills enables them to pursue a more detailed study of the course material. These are honors level courses.

Phase 4 (AP or Dual Enrollment): These courses are Advanced Placement and completion of the national exam is mandatory.

Grade Point Average

The unweighted grade-point average is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the number of courses attempted. The present grading system and the grade point assignment are:

Grading System		Grade Point Assignment
A+	100 - 98	4.0
A	97 - 93	4.0
B+	92 - 90	3.5
B	89 - 85	3.0
C+	84 - 80	2.5
C	79 - 75	2.0
D+	74 - 73	1.5
D	72 - 70	1.0
F	Below 70	0

Class Rank and Quality Points

Class rank is determined by assigning a “weighted” value to each course according to its phase. Greater “weight” is assigned to the higher phase levels. Class rank is determined by dividing the total weighted grades by the total number of courses taken.

Weighted Values

Grade		Phase 4	Phase 3	Phases 1 & 2
A+	100 - 98	4.50	4.25	4.00
A	97 - 93	4.25	4.00	3.75
B+	92 - 90	4.00	3.75	3.50
B	89 - 85	3.50	3.25	3.00
C+	84 - 80	3.00	2.75	2.50
C	79 - 75	2.50	2.25	2.00
D+	74 - 73	2.00	1.75	1.50
D	72 - 70	1.50	1.25	1.00

Advanced Placement Courses

The Advanced Placement Program has been developed by the College Board to provide high school students with a selection of college level courses for which they may gain advanced placement or credit in college. These courses are special, college-level learning experiences that are offered over an academic year. They are challenging, stimulating, and compared to other high school courses, take more time, require more work, and provide a greater depth of study in the subject area.

Enrollment in these courses is highly selective, and each department will carefully screen those students who wish to select an AP course. Students who enroll in an AP course are required to take the AP examination which is administered in May of each year. We recommend that a student take no more than three AP courses in a school year.

College Level Courses

Students who earn 21 or more credits by the end of the junior year may be approved for a college level course at Allegany College of Maryland or Frostburg State University on the following conditions:

- The student’s grades at Bishop Walsh have been consistent with their potential as reflected in standardized testing.

- The timing of the courses(s) chosen does not interfere with courses that are required to be taken at Bishop Walsh.
- The same or similar course is not already available at Bishop Walsh.

Transcripts (grades 9-12 only)

All students may request transcripts of academic work. Parents, guardians, and students of legal age (18) may obtain a transcript by completing a request in the school office. All student records are maintained in a safe place.

Report Cards

Report cards show the students and the parents/guardians the student's educational growth and development in each subject area over a given length of time. High school report cards are issued four times a year. Elementary and middle school report cards are issued three times a year. In addition to grades, the report cards provide an opportunity for teacher comments; the report also contains the student's absence and tardy record. Report cards are distributed to the students in November, January, and March; final reports are mailed to the parents in June.

Progress Reports

Students and parents/guardians will be notified of academic progress at the mid-point of each trimester/quarter by means of an "academic progress report." Please follow any recommendations noted in the report, sign it, and return it to the teacher. Either parent/guardian or the teacher may request conferences. In either case both parents/guardian and teachers make an effort to insure continued communication with each other regarding student. Parent/teacher conferences may be requested at any time during the school year.

Midway through each marking period a written report is issued for:

- Positive performance in those areas of study which are commendable.
- Deficiencies for students who are not necessarily in danger of failing for the marking period but are not working to their potential.
- Failing for students who are in serious danger of failing for the marking period.

Students and parents should be aware that a failure in any marking period or in an exam could result in a failure for the course.

Honor Roll Policy

All Archdiocesan schools shall honor academic achievement with an Honor Roll based on specific criteria. The purpose is to recognize and encourage high academic achievement and positive contributions to the learning environment in accordance with the values of the Catholic archdiocese.

The honor roll is determined by letter grade; the phase level of the course is not considered. The grade is meant to indicate whether or not the student is working to his or her ability level. The honor roll is for students in grades 6-12.

Principal's Honor Roll

Academic Achievement: All A's (93% or higher) in core subjects.

Special Classes: Satisfactory or better in all special classes.

Standards, Effort, and Conduct: Satisfactory or better, including unstructured time.

First Honor Roll

Academic Achievement: All A's and B's (85% or higher) in core subjects.

Special Classes: Satisfactory or better in all special classes.

Standards, Effort, and Conduct: Satisfactory or better, including unstructured time.

Second Honor Roll

Academic Achievement: All A's, B's, and C+'s (80% or higher) in core subjects.

Special Classes: Satisfactory or better in all special classes.

Standards, Effort, and Conduct: Satisfactory or better, including unstructured time.

Promotion/Graduation

Students are promoted to the next grade upon successful completion of all subjects in a given year. A student must maintain a general average of 70%, with the final grades in each subject no less than a D, in order to be promoted to the next grade.

Twenty-four credits are required for graduation from the high school. Usually a failure in a course must be made up in an approved summer school, if available. Otherwise, this make-up credit may be taken in the following year, if possible. Graduating seniors must attend the practice and graduation ceremony.

Students in 5th, 8th and 12th grade who successfully complete the course of study as outlined by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, will be awarded a diploma at the end of the school year. These students must be in good academic, financial and behavior standing in order to participate in the end of the year graduation activities.

Students who do not successfully complete the required educational program may be retained at the current grade level. This decision is made by the principal in consultation with the parents after following the timeline described below.

Teachers should communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding the child's progress. By mid-February, the teacher, principal, parents, (and student) review the student's work performance to date and discuss his/her educational needs for the remainder of the year and the possibility of failure and/or retention. This meeting is followed by a written communication to the parents reviewing the content of the meeting, including the educational plan.

Retention

Students who do not successfully complete the required educational program may be retained at the current grade level. This decision is made by the principal in consultation with the parents after following the timeline described below.

Teachers should communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding the child's progress. By mid-February, the teacher, principal, parents, (and student) review the student's work performance to date and discuss his/her educational needs for the remainder of the year and the possibility of failure and/or retention. This meeting is followed by a written communication to the parents reviewing the content of the meeting, including the educational plan. Students may also be retained for severe attendance and tardy issues during the school year, as determined by the school in consultation with the Department of Catholic Schools.

Power School Access

It is also the parents' responsibility to obtain their passwords for PowerSchool and to monitor grades for their children in grades 3-12. Parents will be contacted by the teacher by mid-trimester with a progress report. In some cases, where there is a significant drop in grades or performance, a conference may be required.

Communication

Please make sure your email address is correct on the registration form and if it changes during the course of the year, please make sure we get an update. All information pertaining to school will be available on the school website, www.bishopwalsh.org.

Other Student Services

- **Pratt Program & Title I**-The Pratt Program and Title I will receive recommendations for student academic evaluations for the purpose of developing adjusted and enhanced curricula to meet the individual needs of the student. This service is provided to enhance academic performance for students whose academic needs cannot be addressed in a regular classroom setting.
- **Speech Therapy** – Speech services are provided through ACPS and a private therapist.

Learning Support and the Student Advocacy Team (SAT) Process

If a child is not progressing academically, the school may ask the parents/guardians to initiate, or the parents/guardians may initiate on their own the process to request a professional consultation and/or evaluation through the local public school system.

In the public school system, the evaluative process is generally called the IEP Process (Individual Educational Plan) and begins when a parent/guardian calls 'Child Find.' Following the initial phone call to the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Child Find, parents/guardians are given an initial meeting date within 30 days.

At this initial meeting, parents/guardians and school faculty are invited to share their concerns, present information, and discuss whether an evaluation will take place. Student Advocacy Team members and particularly the student's teacher are a vital part of the process.

If an evaluation is deemed warranted and takes place, recommendations and an academic plan are developed by the Student Advocacy Team and given to the parents/guardians at the summative meeting following the academic evaluation.

If such a plan is developed and the test results determine that there is a need for accommodations and/or modifications within a student's learning environment, the school administrator will consult with the parents/guardians to determine what accommodations, resources, plans, and school placements may be implemented. When appropriate, a Student Accommodation Plan is developed at your child's Catholic School.

Field Trips

Field trips are considered an integral part of the school's educational program and a valuable learning experience for students. Field trips are scheduled at various times during the school year.

- In advance of the trip, a permission form, required by the Archdiocese Division of Catholic Schools, is sent home. A student will be permitted to attend the trip ONLY if the permission form

is signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the teacher by the specified date along with any fee.

- If, for some extraordinary reason, a student is unable to participate, the student is expected to attend school on that day and fees must still be paid since the rates we are quoted reflect total participation. The teacher(s) will supply work, and the student will be assigned an area in which to work under the supervision of a staff member.
- If a student is unable to attend because of illness, we cannot promise a refund. The teacher must be notified if a child will not participate in the field trip experience. Students who are kept home from the trip will be marked absent.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate as chaperones on field trips as the need arises. However, because of safety and liability factors, siblings are not allowed. We do not permit parents not selected as chaperones to join the group at the trip destination as this creates confusion. All chaperones are required to comply with the school's policies, to adhere to the Archdiocesan Child and Youth Protection policies, and to complete VIRTUS training in advance of the field trip. Any parents who are driving on field trips will have additional requirements.

Admissions

Application Process

Students must be in good standing (financial, academic, and behavioral) to be accepted into a Catholic school. Parents or guardians must provide pertinent information, including required forms for admission as well as additional information that may assist the school staff with your child(ren).

Admissions Policy

Students are considered for admission after completing an application form available online. The administration approves or disapproves of applicants on the basis of interview and/or previous school records. Placement of students into appropriate levels of courses is determined by the administration.

Requirements for Admissions

To enter kindergarten for the school year a child must be 5 years old by September 1st, as verified by birth certificate.

To enter pre-school a child must be potty trained and 3 or 4 years old by September 1st, as verified by birth certificate.

Documentation Needed for Applications

- Child's birth certificate
- Child's immunization records and other pertinent health data including a Health Inventory Form and a Maryland Immunization Certification Form. All students in the state of Maryland must be immunized against smallpox, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, pertussis, and rubella. The school will inform parents of the child whose immunization record is incomplete. The child will be excluded from school if these records are not furnished within a month.
- Permission for the school officials to obtain records from the child's previous school.

- Emergency information and permission enabling the school to act on the child's behalf in an emergency.

Placement

Criteria used for placing new students are as follows:

- Admissions test covering math and reading ability
- Teacher evaluation (from sending school)
- Permanent records
- Standardized test results

Registration Policy

Interested students are welcome to visit at any time during the school year. Shadow days can be scheduled through the administration or the admissions department. Formal registration is held in the spring. A non-refundable registration fee is due at that time. Families who wish to enroll their children should register online and arrange a pre-registration visit and interview. First month's tuition should be returned to the school before entry.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The State of Maryland requires the following statement in the Student Handbook:

"It is the policy of the State of Maryland that all public and publicly funded schools and school programs operate in compliance with:

- (1) Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and
- (2) Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code, which states that public and publicly funded schools and programs may not:
 - (i) Discriminate against a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
 - (ii) Refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or
 - (iii) Discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint."

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

Requests for reasonable accommodations for a student with a disability may be directed to administration.

Religion is required for each year a student attends Bishop Walsh School. All students enrolled in Bishop Walsh School must attend religion classes and services. We will always teach and act consistent with the tenets of the Catholic Church.

Probation Period (for new students)

All new students are given a two-month evaluation period. If during this time the school is unable to meet the needs of the student, the parents will be asked to place their child in another school. Such recommendations are made only after conferences with parents and after exhausting all other means of help.

High School Academics

Bishop Walsh School administers several standardized tests: the NWEA MAP tests, ACRE religious education test, the PSAT, SAT, and the AP tests. Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to take the SAT and ACT at regional test centers.

Assessment Program

Standardized Testing

- All Archdiocesan schools administer the achievement test designated by the Department of Catholic Schools in prescribed grades.
- Elementary school students in grades 2-8 are administered the NWEA MAP Assessment three times a year to measure growth. Grades 3, 5 and 7 also take the Science Assessment each Spring. Parents are given feedback about their child's performance at the end of each trimester.
- Pre K and Kindergarten students are administered the BRIGANCE developmental screenings. Parents are given feedback as to how their child is scoring at the end of the year.

ACRE

All students in grades 5, 8, 9 and 12 are given the ACRE (Assessment of Child/Youth Religious Education) the spring of each school year. This assessment gives information for growth to each school as it assesses how well the religious education program is forming Christian disciples. ACRE is a school assessment; therefore no individual student scores are obtained from the assessment

Middle & High School Exams

Winter high school exams are scheduled for December 18 and 19, 2025 and high school final exams are June 4 and 5, 2026.

Eighth grade final exams will be May 28 and 29, 2026.

Sixth and seventh grade exams will be June 8 and 9, 2026.

Attendance and Student's Records

Regular attendance is considered essential for learning at Bishop Walsh School. Students need to develop the work habits and responsibilities required of all of us as we go through life. When a student is absent from school, a parent/legal guardian must telephone the school between 7:45 am and 9:30 am to report the reason for absence. All absences and tardiness become part of a student's permanent record.

There are regularly scheduled vacations and holidays in the school calendar, which is based on mandated instructional days by the State of Maryland and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Please check these ahead of time when scheduling trips or doctor's appointments. Permission may not be given by any teacher or administrator for students to be absent for extra vacations or holidays. These decisions are the responsibility of the parents.

Prolonged unauthorized absences can and will affect students' grades and academic standing. The school cannot be responsible for the consequences of these absences. The teacher's instruction cannot be replicated. Missed work and assignments may only be obtained upon return and provided that missed work assignments may not be available for all absences, as they are dependent upon the nature of the work. Teachers are not responsible for creating alternative assignments or experiences for absent students

All attendance information becomes part of a student's permanent record.

Tardiness (arriving at school late or leaving school early) is another action that affects a student's readiness to learn. Coming in and/or leaving early, not only disrupts the educational learning for your child, but also those of other students in the class. Parents will be notified in writing for 5 or more tardies (arriving at school late or leaving school early) and a conference may be requested by the administrative team to address the issue and consequences.

Students who are absent from school may not participate in any after school or evening school sponsored events such as sports, dances, and possibly field trips. After 7 student absences in a trimester, a parent, teacher, and administrator conference needs to take place to discuss the potential educational impact on the students' academic standing.

After an absence and he/she returns to school, the student must bring a written note to his/her homeroom teacher signed by a parent/legal guardian stating the reason for absence. The school reserves the right to require a doctor's note for absences due to illness or injury or need for assessment/evaluation. A child may not return to school until he/she is well enough to participate in all school activities including recess.

If a student will be out of school for an extended period, whether continuous or intermittent, parents should consult with the administration regarding appropriate support of the student in fulfilling the school curriculum or alternative arrangements such as home and hospital services through the local public school district.

Per the AOB policy, a student marked absent for more than 20 instructional days in one school year is considered excessively absent and may result in the student being retained. The administration reserves the right to request a conference with parents of the student with excessive absences and tardies at any point during the school year to make parents and students aware of the possible consequences of not attending school on a consistent basis. Child Protective Services (CPS) may be called due to excessive absences.

Truancy

Students in Catholic Schools must comply with Maryland State law concerning compulsory attendance. The law requires regular attendance during the entire school year. Students are held accountable for time(s) they are absent from school. A principal may excuse a student for a necessary absence.

Regular school attendance is expected in order for students to achieve their academic potential. Each student's attendance is carefully recorded and permanently retained. Therefore, absence for reasons such as a

vacation is strongly discouraged. Excessive absence has a serious impact on the student's academic performance.

The purpose of compulsory attendance is to ensure the continuous development and progress of the child's education. Unlawful absences are considered truant. The school informs parents that if truancy persists, the public authorities will be notified.

Truancy is defined as a student absenting him/herself from school without parent/legal guardian permission or leaving school grounds without permission during the school day. Truancy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion and may be reported to the Maryland State Department of Education.

Lateness & Assignments

Any student arriving after 8:15 a.m. is considered tardy and must report to the office for a late slip. Teachers will not admit students to their class without this pass. Tardiness is entered into the student's permanent record. It is the responsibility of the student to check with the teacher to receive necessary communication or work that may have been missed due to lateness. Carpool problems, oversleeping, driving siblings to school, etc., are ordinarily not excused tardies. Be aware that unexcused lateness to school is a serious matter and the student can be assigned a detention. If the student develops a pattern of tardiness, he/she will be subject to an Administrative Review. Students will not be permitted in to school after 8:30 a.m. without a doctor's note.

Early Departure & Late Arrivals

The school discourages early departures and requests that families arrange medical and dental appointments, etc. after school hours, on early dismissal days, **or during** vacation periods. Check the calendar for days when school is not in session.

Regular School Hours

The elementary, middle, and high school day ordinarily begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 2:20 p.m. Dismissal on half days (four-hour days) is at 12:15 p.m. for all students. School begins at 10:15 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay.

Early Dismissal

In order to be dismissed early on a particular day, the student must submit a note to the main office on the morning of the early dismissal request. The student/parent must sign out at the office before leaving the school building and sign in upon returning to school. If possible, medical, or dental appointments should not be scheduled during school hours.

Location & Access to Student's Records

Student records are maintained in the school office or a designated administrative area. Access to records is governed by the Records Policy.

Records Policy (*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*)

Bishop Walsh School complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. In general, FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to education records. (The rights granted to parents under FERPA automatically pass to the student when the student turns 18 or enrolls in college.) These rights and related procedures of Bishop Walsh are as follows:

Parents have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the School. Parents should submit to the principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School will make arrangements for access and notify the parent of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

Parents have the right to request that the School correct records they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. Parents who wish to request an amendment of the student's records should write to Mrs. Jennifer Flinn and clearly identify the part of the record they believe is inaccurate or misleading and the information they believe should be included in a corrected record. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested, the School will notify the parent of the decision and the parent's right to request a hearing.

Parents generally have the right to consent in writing to disclosures of information from a student's education record. However, there are certain exceptions to the consent requirement, including disclosures under the following conditions:

- To School officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information. A school official is a person employed by the School or the Archdiocese as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff); a person or company with whom the School has contracted to provide a service (e.g., attorney); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibilities or duties to the School.
- To other schools to which a student is transferring.
- In connection with financial aid under certain circumstances.
- To specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
- To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school.
- To accrediting organizations.
- In order to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- To appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

The School also may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent unless a parent objects in writing. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School to include this type of information in certain publications. Examples of such publications include a playbill, showing the student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; and sports activity sheets.

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bishop Walsh School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

The School has designated the following as directory information

- Student's name

- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Honors and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level

Parents who do not want the School to disclose the above directory information without their prior written consent must notify administration in writing.

A log must be maintained of each request for access to and each disclosure of educational record information other than disclosure to parents or students 18 or older or school officials. The log should contain the name of the person(s), the date, and the legitimate interests the person had in requesting or obtaining the information.

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Bishop Walsh School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

Discipline

All Levels

The administration and the teachers of Bishop Walsh will work with students who have discipline problems. At all times, the school will operate in accordance with the Bishop Walsh philosophy and mission statement in an attempt to understand individual circumstances of a particular situation. The administration may then take appropriate means to help the student correct the matter.

Bishop Walsh School strives to develop responsible, courteous, self-disciplined students whose pride in themselves, their parents, their school, and their community is reflected in their behavior. The development of such young people requires a consistent practice of thought and responsible behavior during these formative years. Students are made aware that they are an integral part of the faith community and that their actions affect themselves as well as the entire community. The ultimate purpose is to develop true Christian character and a sense of responsibility; to establish an atmosphere conducive to academic excellence; and to protect the welfare of the individual, as well as the school community.

Goals for Students:

- To grow in the knowledge of and the ability to live Christian values
- To grow in respect for self, others, and property
- To share the responsibility for creating a calm, courteous, friendly atmosphere throughout the school
- To grow in ability to accept responsibility for personal actions and behavior
- To take pride in and support the local community.

Constructive Behavior

Constructive behavior builds the Christian from within and reflects a person striving for spiritual, moral, and human growth. Basic courtesy and respect for one another are shown by a sincere “thank you, please, I’m sorry” are expected. Christian values demand thoughtful concern for one another at home, at school, in the parishes, in the neighborhood, and in the community.

Student Responsibilities

The system of discipline in a Catholic school has as its basic purpose the teaching of responsibility to God, to self and to others. An effective discipline code contributes toward establishing a proper educational atmosphere thereby promoting personal, social, academic, and spiritual growth. While the Assistant Principal is directly responsible for overseeing and coordinating all discipline efforts, discipline is the responsibility of everyone--students, parents, administration, faculty, and staff.

Bishop Walsh School reserves the right to review the conduct of any student while on school property and/or at school functions and of all students on an annual basis. Students whose conduct is poor, who pose a chronic discipline problem, as well as students who do not contribute to the school in a positive manner can be asked to withdraw.

Respect for Persons

Any threats, harassment, fighting, injury, or damage to the person or property of any person by an individual or group are strictly forbidden. Such actions render the student liable to suspension and expulsion.

Students are encouraged to show respect to each other, as well as teachers and staff at all times. Actions and comments which may be misconstrued as inappropriate should be avoided. Students responsible for isolating or conspiring to isolate students will face administrative intervention and review.

Respect for Property

Students should take as their personal responsibility the care of the school building, the grounds, and the equipment put at their disposal. Marking or defacing the school property in any way will call for restitution and severe disciplinary action. Furthermore, if the student is guilty of serious destruction of school property or of breaking, entering and/or theft from the school the student will be liable to suspension and expulsion.

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports)

PBIS is a statewide program created in partnership with Shepherd Pratt Health System and John Hopkins University. PBIS has been implemented in every archdiocesan elementary and high school.

PBIS is a framework or approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students.

PBIS is a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for students. PBIS supports the success of all students.

Our school uses the PBIS Rewards app in order to communicate with families the current standing of their student's behavior. Students earn points by exhibiting positive behaviors throughout their day. Teachers and administrators use this app as a form of communication with parents and students. Please follow the directions that are sent home to set up your user friendly account.

We are...WALSH!

Welcoming

Always respectful

Learning

Safe

Helpful!

We Are...	Classroom	Bathroom	Cafeteria	Hallway/ Stairwell	Assemblies/ Mass	Playing Field	In Public
W Welcoming	- Smile - Greet one another		- Greet one another - Invite others to sit with you	- Smile at one another - Greet one another	- Enter quietly	- Greet opponent	- Greet others
A Always Respectful	- Show kindness to others - Respect other's property - Use proper language, including online	- Give others privacy - Respect school property	- Say please & thank you - Wait patiently in line - Practice table manners	- Quiet voices - Respect other's property	- Give your attention - Show reverence - Give your best effort	- Use proper language - Play fair - Give your best effort	- Use manners
L Learning	- Participate in class - Be prepared for class - Make best use of class time - Use technology responsibly		- Keep all food on tray/table - Walk carefully	- Keep locker organized	- Respond and participate		
S Safe	- Hands and feet to yourself - Follow teacher's directions - Walk carefully	- Wash your hands - Hands and feet to yourself	- Clean up after yourself - Push in your chair	- Hands and feet to yourself - Stay to the right - Walk safely		- Use equipment properly	- Follow rules
H Helpful	- Cooperate with others - Lend a helping hand	- Throw away trash	- Recycle	- Hold the door - Lend a helping hand - Throw trash away			- Hold doors - Respect elders

Unacceptable Behavior

To maintain a positive learning environment and standards that are consistent with our Catholic philosophy, it is essential that students exhibit a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves as well as others.

Listed below are some behaviors that are not acceptable:

- Tardiness
- Disrespect in manner and/or language
- Rowdiness

- Using the property of others without permission
- Dishonesty
- Theft
- Disruptive behavior
- Failure to have necessary supplies for class
- Rudeness
- Fighting
- Dangerous play
- Vulgarity
- Dress code violations
- Defacement/destruction of school property
- Gum chewing
- Harassment of any kind by word or action including but not limited to digital harassment
- Possession or consumption of any drug or look-alike drug while at school or while attending a school function
- Possession or consumption of alcohol while at school or while attending a school function
- Possession of knives/weapons or look-alike knives/weapons
- Possession of pornographic material(s) including distribution of both physical and digital
- Smoking/using matches/vaping/gummies
- Willful destruction of school property
- Leaving school property without permission
- Theft or extortion
- Fighting or threats of violence
- Public displays of affection
- Harassment
- Any other types of behavior not specifically stated in this handbook, but which the administration considers to be acts of serious disruptive behavior. Generally, the teacher will deal with the infractions. Should circumstances warrant, the parent and/or the administration involved will be consulted.

After school activities, while riding on buses to sports games or other school or parish sponsored activities are included in the definition of on-campus conduct.

When it comes to social media, whether posted during school hours, and on school property, or while occurring outside of the school property, if it creates a substantial disruption, the school can take action to support the school environment.

Generally, the teacher will deal with infractions. Should circumstances warrant, the parent and/or the Administration involved will be consulted. In cases of serious or repeated violations, students may be subject to disciplinary suspension or expulsion. The school's fair procedure to be used in cases of possible suspension or expulsion. The principal will exercise his/her discretion whether the suspension should be served in-school or at home.

While on suspension, the student is still responsible for missed work. After the specified amount of time for suspension, which shall not exceed three consecutive school days, (unless approved in consultation with the superintendent) the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) will meet with the Administration for reinstatement. The Administration reserves the right to determine the conditions for reinstatement.

An expelled student forfeits all privileges of the Bishop Walsh School student. The Administrator reserves the right not to re-admit an expelled student later. If a student is expelled, the student is entitled to a prompt review procedure established by the Department of Catholic Schools. A written request for review must be submitted to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools within 10 working days of the notice of intent to expel. In some cases, parents are given the option to withdraw the student in lieu of expulsion.

The school reserves the right to deny attendance to anyone whose behavior is contrary to the teachings and ideals of the school or whose behavior or attitude is disruptive to the functioning of the student body.

Search and Seizure

Bishop Walsh School reserves the right to search school property (e.g., lockers, desks), a student's belongings, and areas under the student's control to enforce school policies, rules, and regulations or otherwise to preserve a safe and orderly learning environment.

Conflict Situations

Conflicts are a normal and healthy part of living and growing. The goal is reconciliation. The guidance counselor in conjunction with the administration will implement acceptable conflict resolution techniques to work towards a solution.

Bullying Policy Statement

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation (as defined below) of any student is prohibited in all Archdiocese of Baltimore Schools. Retaliation or reprisal against anyone who reports such behaviors or participates in an investigation of a report is also prohibited. Such behaviors are contrary to school life in a Christ-centered community, which respects the dignity and uniqueness of all of God's children. To foster a school environment where all students are educated in a safe and caring atmosphere, all Archdiocesan schools will follow established procedures for bullying prevention, intervention, and response.

Harassment of students on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability or handicap, gender identity or expression, and sexual orientation are also addressed under the Archdiocesan Student Harassment Policy in the Code of Conduct. Suspected abuse or neglect of students is addressed under the Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth.

"Bullying, harassment, or intimidation" means intentional conduct, including written, verbal, or physical conduct or an intentional electronic communication, that:

- Creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and:
 - Is motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability; or
 - Is sexual in nature; or
 - Is threatening or seriously intimidating; and
- Occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Electronic technology means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer, pager, etc.

Retaliation means an act of reprisal or revenge, i.e., getting back at a person for an act he/she committed (such as reporting misconduct).

The principal or designee will notify the parent/guardian of the alleged victim of a report of bullying, harassment, or intimidation within three (3) business days after the incident is reported. The principal or designee will notify the parent/guardian of the alleged perpetrator of a report of bullying, harassment, or intimidation within five (5) business days after the incident is reported

Reporting forms are located in the main office and on the school's website.

Harassment Policy

Policy: It is the policy of the Archdiocese to prohibit harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or protected activity (i.e., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the complaint process) in its education programs and activities. Each Catholic school shall adhere to this policy with respect to students. (Employees are similarly protected from harassment by a separate Archdiocesan policy.) A school is not required to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with its religious or moral teachings.

Scope: This policy applies to all students in Archdiocesan elementary, middle, and secondary schools. The Archdiocese neither condones nor tolerates harassment of students at school, at school-related activities or functions, or in any school-related setting. Harassment of students, whether engaged in by other students, teachers, administrators, or others, is prohibited. Violation of this Policy is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment or suspension or expulsion from school, depending on the nature and severity of the offense and the individual's disciplinary record.

Prohibited Conduct:

For purposes of this Policy, "harassment" means verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or protected activity, that:

- Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance; or
- Otherwise adversely affects an individual's educational opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, handicap or disability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. "Sexual" harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for educational decisions or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment

Procedure:

- Any person who believes that a student is being subjected to harassment should immediately report the harassment to any one or more of the following individuals: the student's teacher, the principal of the school, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools. A bullying/harassment form should be filled out.

- Individuals are encouraged to report harassment early, before it becomes severe or pervasive, so that preventive action can be taken. All complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and impartially, and will remain confidential to the extent possible.
- Any retaliation, reprisals, or intimidation, whether by the alleged harasser or from another source, directed toward the complaining party or anyone else as a result of the filing or investigation of a harassment complaint is considered a serious violation of this Policy and should be reported immediately.
- Once the investigation is complete, the school will take immediate and appropriate corrective action when it determines that this Policy has been violated. The complaining party and the complained-of party will be advised of the investigation's findings and conclusions. A report of the findings will be forwarded to the Department of Catholic Schools.

Suspension

A student will be suspended from the school for a serious violation of the attendance or disciplinary rules of Bishop Walsh School. Both the student and the parent/guardian(s) will be made aware of the suspension and the reasons for it. A suspended student may not be allowed to attend his/her retreat. Suspension from school activities begins immediately upon notification of suspension by the administration and continues through the day of the suspension. When a student is suspended for an extended period of time during the month of May, home study may be an option to complete the school year. While on suspension, the student is still responsible for missed work. After the specified amount of time for suspension, the student and the parents/guardians will meet with administration for reinstatement. Administration reserves the right to determine the conditions of reinstatement.

There are two forms of suspension and they are:

- During In-School Suspension (ISS) a student will attend school and report to the front office immediately. The student will be expected to remain in a designated area while under the supervision of the Assistant Principal. Regular class work, special assignments, quizzes, or tests are assigned by the student's teachers. Lunch is eaten in the designated area at an assigned time. The purpose of the ISS is to modify behavior. The student may not participate in co-curricular activities on the day of the ISS.
- During Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) the student will be sent home for a determined number of days. Parents/guardians are to make an appointment with the Assistant Principal before the student can be readmitted to the school. It is the responsibility of the student to remain current with academic work. At their discretion, teachers may allow students to make up missed work. The student may not participate in co-curricular activities on the day of the OSS.

Expulsion

A student will be expelled from Bishop Walsh School for misconduct requiring immediate dismissal or continuing misconduct. After a meeting with the parents, a recommendation is made to the principal, whose decision is final. The school reserves the right to expel any student at any time when his/her conduct warrants it. Any expelled student forfeits all privileges of the Bishop Walsh School student. The administrator reserves the right not to re-admit an expelled student at a later date. Non-compliance with school recommendations or requests may result in dismissal of a student after five days.

Offenses that may result in suspension or expulsion are:

- The possession of a dangerous weapon or look-alike weapon on campus or at a school event
- Gang membership or criminal gang-like activity
- Serious criminal charges
- Serious insubordination, verbal or physical abuse toward another student or a staff member
- The possession, use or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia on campus or at a school event
- Possession or consumption of alcohol while at school or attending a school function.
- Possession of pornographic material(s)
- Smoking/using matches
- Willful destruction of school property
- Leaving school property without permission
- Theft
- Fighting
- Harassment (sexual or otherwise)

Fighting

Any threats, harassment, fighting, injury, or damage to the person or property of any person by an individual or group is strictly forbidden. Such actions render the student liable to disciplinary procedures including suspension and/or expulsion.

Exclusion

Exclusion means any denial of school privileges for disciplinary reasons. Parents/guardians will be notified by phone call or a letter home.

Classroom Behavior

Education involves the cooperation of all concerned. Proper behavior is therefore expected of all students in the classroom. Disruptions of any kind hinder the learning process and will not be tolerated.

Expected Classroom Behavior

The following are standard classroom policies. Teachers may have other regulations not listed here. Students are bound by both the following rules and by teacher's rules.

- Students are to be in their seats when class begins.
- Students should turn in their cell phones to the designated area within the classroom.
- Each student is to have all the necessary materials for class.
- Students are to be attentive to the teachers and to participate in all class activities assigned by the teacher. They are not to do work for another class or read other materials unless assigned activities are complete, or the teacher gives explicit permission.
- Each student is to refrain from talking without permission while instruction is going on, or study periods or tests are underway.
- Students are to avoid any action that is distracting to the learning procedure underway in the classroom, especially harassing other students.
- Students are responsible for the cleanliness around their chairs, in their desks, etc. Students should dispose of any trash around their desks at the end of the day.
- Students are to refrain from insulting expressions, open demonstrations of disapproval, and all other behavior disruptive to the classroom situation. They are not to argue about tests, grades, or

punishments during the class, but rather they should see the teacher after the school day in order to resolve such difficulties.

- The location of desks, the condition of windows, blinds, and lights, etc. are the teacher's responsibility; students are not to change these unless directed to do so by the teachers.
- Students should always enter or leave a classroom quietly.
- Chewing gum is prohibited throughout the school at all times.

Verbal Warning

An administrator or teacher will discuss the problem behavior with the student in the classroom or in private. The student must agree to correct his/her behavior or the parent or guardian will be contacted.

Referrals

Students are issued referrals through our PBIS Rewards app. This information will be accessible to students and parents. Minor referrals are for warnings of repeated behaviors or detention. Major referrals are accessible to the student, parents, and administration. Students who have major referrals will be sent to the Assistant Principal and will be subject to the appropriate action. The action may include, but not be limited to detention, suspension/probation, or expulsion.

Detention

Middle and high school detention will be held on Thursdays every other week from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Students will either complete schoolwork or do chores around the building. These detentions will include middle and high school students. Students who are given a detention will be issued a conduct referral form and will be issued the detention by the teacher. The student will be given a notice to take home to parents. If a student is given a detention, he/she will serve it on the next day detention is held. (For example, if a detention is given on a Tuesday, it will be served on Thursday.) If a student does not show up for detention, he/she will be issued two additional detentions. If a student fails to show up to either detention, he/she will be given an In-School Suspension. If a student is late for detention, he/she will be issued an additional detention. Students are responsible for informing parents, teachers, coaches, and moderators of this assignment. Families are responsible for making arrangements for a ride home after serving detention. Failure to make the necessary arrangements will not excuse the student from serving the detention.

Athletic and club activities **may not** take precedence over an assigned school day or Saturday detention. Students may also be assigned to a classroom detention for violation of a particular teacher's classroom rules.

Disciplinary Probation

A student is placed on probation for relatively serious misconduct. Both the student and parent/guardian will be made aware of the probation and the reason(s) for it. There are two forms of probation:

- Non-participation Probation: An initial parent conference is required. This probation may last for 30 days and prohibits students from participating in and attending any co-curricular activities such as interscholastic sports, drama, student council, clubs, or any other elected or appointed office activity.
- Participation Probation: A parent conference is required. This probation will extend over a period of time that the administration considers necessary in order to closely monitor a student's behavior. Participation in school activities may be allowed. The student must check in with moderators and an administrator at functions.

School Awards and Recognition

Any student who has been suspended and/or has developed a chronic discipline behavior history during the current school year may not be eligible to be nominated or receive school awards in both the academic and athletic departments. The Assistant Principal will document the disciplinary action and the behavior history.

Dismissal from Class

If a student is dismissed from class for disciplinary action, she/he must report immediately to the Assistant Principal and must not leave until authorization is given. She/he will be required to fulfill all directives before being readmitted to class.

Public Display of Affection

There should be no inappropriate public display of affection in school.

School Property

Items belonging to the school (books, uniforms, equipment, etc.) MUST be returned by the announced due date. Any student failing to adhere to this policy will forfeit participation in related activities, such as sports, activities, and semester exams. Report cards will not be issued to students who owe items to the school.

Deliveries

Deliveries of food, flowers, balloons, and packages cannot be made to students at school. Parents and students should not give the school as a delivery address. Items delivered will be refused from the delivery services.

Drug/Alcohol Policy

The school administration looks upon possession or use of illegal substances (drugs, alcohol) or paraphernalia during the school day or at any school-sponsored event, home or away, whether social or athletic, as an extremely serious offense. If a student should be found drinking, under the influence, or in the possession of illegal substances or paraphernalia, his/her parents will be notified immediately and will be asked to come to school. The student will be subject to automatic suspension, disciplinary probation, and possible expulsion from Bishop Walsh School. Students who are found in possession of or using illegal substances or paraphernalia on the school grounds during the school day are subject to immediate expulsion.

The school reserves the right to search students' belongings and areas under students' control (such as lockers, desks, and cars) in order to enforce school rules and preserve a safe and orderly learning environment. While on campus or at school events, students may be subject to drug or alcohol testing for "cause" or randomly as a condition of continued enrollment following a drug or alcohol violation.

The school considers the consumption of alcohol or the use of drugs as a very serious matter; therefore, any 8th grader or senior who violates this rule may be subject to exclusion from participation in any of the Baccalaureate or Graduation ceremonies. Any student who breaches this policy will be required to attend counseling before being re-admitted to Bishop Walsh.

Tobacco Products

The building and campus are smoke free areas. Students are required to refrain from smoking and the use of other forms of smokeless tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes or vapes while on campus and while traveling in school vehicles.

First Offense: Three days In-School-Suspension and participation at the student's expense in "Smoke Enders Program" approved by the school.

Second Offense: Three days Out-of-School-Suspension, parent interview, probation period of one month, 24 hours of documented community service, participation at the student's expense in a "Smoke Enders Program" approved by the school.

Third Offense: Administrative Review

Forgery

Any student who forges a parent signature on any school document or assignment is subject to disciplinary action.

Backpacks & Gym Bags

All book bags, etc. must be stored in the student's assigned locker throughout the day. These items are not to be brought into classrooms, the library, the auditorium, hallways, or cafeteria during the school day. Gym bags can be stored in designated locker room area.

Weapons/Contraband

Any student who has in his/her possession, or uses a weapon on school property or at school functions, violates both school and civil law. The principal will suspend or expel students involved. Contraband which is toxic or flammable should not be brought to school. If a student is found in possession of these items he/she may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Student Drivers

Students must park in the parking lot in properly marked spaces. The areas around the circle are reserved for faculty/staff.

- Parking in front of the school and in the entrance to the Parking Lot is prohibited by the Fire Department. Red curbs identify these areas.
- Students may not go to their cars during the day without permission from the main office.
- All parked cars are to be locked.
- There is to be no loitering in the parking lot.
- Speed limit on campus is 15 m.p.h.
- Students are encouraged to obey all posted speed limits in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Failure to abide by the rules will result in the loss of the privilege of parking or driving on campus.

Middle and High School Dances

The following procedures constitute the dance policy of Bishop Walsh:

- A student must complete a full day of school the day of the dance.
- A dance sponsored by Bishop Walsh has a published start time and end time. No student will be admitted to a dance one hour after the published starting time.
- Students who bring guests from other schools are required in advance to have a guest pass signed by the guest school's administration and to be on file at Bishop Walsh two days prior to the event. Students should introduce their guests to the chaperones of the dance.

- Once a student leaves a dance for any reason, he/she will not be readmitted. Students may not leave dances early unless permission is granted by the parent or guardian.
- The school parking lot will be closed 15 minutes after the published ending time.
- A student on conduct probation/discipline probation may not attend a school-sponsored dance.
- If a student should be found drinking, under the influence, or in possession of illegal substances or paraphernalia, he/she will be subject to disciplinary action (see section on Drug/Alcohol Policy).
- All other school regulations regarding student behavior are in effect during a school-sponsored dance.
- Burgundy Ball/Prom – Students are expected to be in attendance at the specified time and remain throughout the duration of the dance. (High school only.)
- The guest of a BW high school student must not be more than one year out of high school.
- The guest of a BW middle school student should also be a middle school student.
- This dance policy also includes what the school considers appropriate dancing/actions in line with our value system. While music and dance styles have certainly changed over the years, students are reminded that school-sponsored dances are not clubs or private parties. While the school does not want to restrict the fun that students have while at school-sponsored dances, students must be reminded that any dancing which the Administration of Bishop Walsh considers lewd or overtly sexual in nature will not be tolerated. Students dancing in a manner deemed lewd or inappropriate will be warned for the first offense and will be removed from the dance floor on the second offense. Front to back contact is an example of inappropriate dancing and will not be tolerated. Continued inappropriate dancing/behavior at dances could affect attendance at future BW dances. BW students are responsible for their outside guests' behavior.
- Dresses must not have cut-outs or plunging necklines. Two-piece dresses and midriff baring dresses are not permitted.

Public Conduct

Students are encouraged to show respect to each other, as well as teachers and staff at all times. Actions and comments which may be misconstrued as inappropriate should be avoided.

A student whose behavior outside of the school jeopardizes the good name of Bishop Walsh School, expresses an incompatibility with the mission and philosophy of the school, and/or presents a potential danger to the school community may be barred from participation in school activities. Furthermore, he/she is subject to a full range of disciplinary actions up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Financial Obligations

Tuition Rates for the 2025-2026 School Year

All tuition rates are posted on our website at www.bishopwalsh.org

Tuition payments must be made through the FACTS Collection Plan. Visit the FACTS website to choose your payment plan—www.factsmgt.com. Please contact Mr. Beeman for more information. Tuition credits may be obtained by participating in the FACE program and/or the sweepstakes program.

Registration Fee

The application fee for new students is \$100. For returning students, the registration fee is \$200. Before May 1st, there is an early bird registration discount of \$100.

Activities Fee

Student clubs or teams may have additional fees. Please see the coach or club moderator. Each student athlete has an athletic fee that they are responsible for.

Busing Fee

If your child uses our busing service, the busing fee will be included on a separate invoice along with your tuition invoice and other fees. This must be paid on the 10th of the month or in full at the beginning of the school year.

Financial Responsibility

Any member of the Bishop Walsh community, whether student, parent, teacher, coach, or representative who orders any items without approval of a Bishop Walsh School administration designee will be personally responsible for the cost of the items. Bishop Walsh School has no financial responsibility.

The “Facts” About FACTS Tuition Collection Plan

- FACTS Tuition Management collects tuition. Payments are withdrawn automatically from your bank checking or savings account.
- Parents will receive an invoice from Bishop Walsh in July. The invoice will have all charges itemized, with any financial assistance from the school and parishes deducted. The exception to this is the senior class, whose tuition must be paid in full by mid-May.
- FACTS will be provided with your balance, along with your renewal agreement. Previous contracts do not require your signature. New contracts require your signature. Automatic withdrawals will be made on the 5th or the 20th of each month.
- FACE credits will be deducted monthly and the business office will provide FACTS with the adjustment in April, which will lessen your last payment for grades K through 12.
- Neither Bishop Walsh nor FACTS has access to the privacy of your bank account.

Lunch Fees

The cafeteria serves the entire school and staff. Payment for lunch is not a credit process. Parents are encouraged to place money in their child’s account to prevent a debt. Payments may be made in PowerSchool. All lunch accounts should maintain a positive balance only. There will be no charging for lunch, extras, etc. All students must maintain a positive balance in order to purchase anything from the cafeteria. In the event that a student is in debt, an alternate lunch will be served.

Tuition Assistance

It is understood and appreciated the financial commitment and sacrifice families undertake in deciding to send their children to a Catholic school. And although paying for education is first and foremost the

responsibility of a family, the school, parish, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore devote significant funds each year to financial aid programs that help families. In turn, our school communities benefit by attracting students who otherwise would not be able to attend our schools.

All families seeking financial aid from Bishop Walsh and the Archdiocese of Baltimore can apply here: www.online.factsmgt.com/aid. The deadline for applications is February 28th each year. Notice of awards is posted on a family's individual FACTS home page.

Families anticipating aid must apply each year. Due to the increasing numbers of families applying for aid, only those qualifying through the FACTS Tuition Assistance Program will be eligible to receive financial aid from the Archdiocese or the school. Catholic parishioners should contact their pastor for more information on applying for tuition assistance through the parish.

We also offer several scholarships, including the Maryland BOOST and West Virginia Hope Scholarships. See our website for more information.

Delinquent Tuition

Accounts are considered delinquent after the last working day of the month. A \$35 late fee will be assessed on all accounts not paid before this date. Accounts that remain delinquent past 60 days will result in termination of access to PowerSchool information services and no report cards will be released until the account is brought current. Accounts that remain delinquent past 90 days are considered to be in default of contract and may be turned over to an attorney or collection agency for final resolution. Any additional expenses incurred as a result of the collection will become the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Re-registration will not be accepted for any student whose tuition account is 60 days or more past due. No student will be placed on a class list for the upcoming school year nor will records be released for any student whose tuition account is not up to date. A check that is returned by your bank for any reason will result in a fee of \$30 to your account.

Upon acceptance of a student and execution of a tuition contract, the full year's tuition shall be considered payable. If a student should leave the school for any reason during the school year, the school will refund tuition based upon the below schedule. The contract will be payable through the last date of the month the student was registered.

Effective for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Date of Withdrawal after June 1st: Family Tuition Obligation is 25% of annual tuition and fees
- Date of Withdrawal after First Day of School: Family Tuition Obligation is 50% of annual tuition and fees
- Date of Withdrawal after the start of Second Trimester/Semester: Family Tuition Obligation is 100% of annual tuition and fees

All tuition refunds are contingent upon the school receiving written notice prior to the student's actual departure date and the refund amount will be determined based on the actual departure date. The school reserves the right to withhold all student records (with the exception of Health Records) until accounts have

been paid in full. Since individual student accounts are invoiced on a family basis, these policies will affect each child in the family (If an outgoing student leaves a balance due, the younger siblings will not be admitted to school until the outgoing student's balance is paid in full.) No enrollment will be permitted in any other Archdiocesan school while there are tuition and/or fees outstanding.

Report cards and school records may be withheld because of financial obligations.

Withdrawal from School

A student requesting a transfer from Bishop Walsh should submit a written request to the administration. Transcripts cannot be mailed until all financial obligations have been met.

A family with outstanding financial obligations to the current school is not to be accepted at another Catholic school within the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Work Habits

Teachers and parents work together to help students establish strong and consistent work and study habits. Guidelines to assist in this task are as follows:

- Written assignments must be neat, legible, and complete.
- Books and notebooks should be free of scribbling inside and out.
- Notebooks, folders, and supplies should be replaced when worn or depleted.
- Students should always have a book to read.
- At all levels, students are required to do homework.
- Requirements for class work and homework are determined by the teacher and are communicated to the parents verbally or through written correspondence.
- Parent comments regarding class work or homework assignments should be directed to the teacher assigning the work.

National Honor Society

Bishop Walsh School is a member of the National Honor Society. Our chapter is the John XXIII Chapter in honor of Saint John XXIII.

The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate desire for service, promote leadership, and develop character in the members.

To be eligible for membership in this chapter, the students must have been a student at Bishop Walsh for at least one semester. Students must be at least a sophomore. Eligible students must have achieved and maintained a cumulative, weighted grade point average of 3.5 or higher and must have been in phase three/honors or higher in a majority of courses. Students must have good conduct and attendance records and give evidence of character, leadership, and service to others.

Invitation to join the National Honor Society is very selective. It is a privilege, not a right. Students must participate in at least one in-school activity (excluding athletics) and one out of school activity. A brief written recommendation must be submitted from an adult moderator of an out of school activity.

N.H.S. members are subject to dismissal for any school suspension, chronic discipline problems or for bringing dishonor to the organization/school.

High School Level Courses in Math and Science Taken in Eighth Grade

Students who achieve a final grade of 93% or higher at the end of the seventh grade in mathematics and science and whose standardized test scores have been consistent with this rating may be advanced to the high school level in Algebra I and Science. This placement requires the approval of the parents and certain standards must be met in order to continue in these courses. The courses must be successfully completed in order to receive academic credits. Students who take high school courses in the eighth grade will be required to complete five years of math in order to meet graduation requirements.

Course Cancellations Policy

The administration reserves the right to cancel any course due to insufficient enrollment.

Schedule Change Policy

Students may revise their schedules during the period indicated by the administration.

There are no class withdrawals after the third week of the 1st semester of a yearlong course. The withdrawal will not be recorded on the permanent record. There are no class withdrawals after the third week of either semester in a semester class. Students with unusual circumstances may petition the administration. All changes must be in writing and approved by the parent or guardian. A later withdrawal may result in a failing grade in the course, which will appear on the permanent record.

Student Outreach (Service Hours)

Bishop Walsh requires graduates to have completed 75 hours of student outreach. These hours may be earned in grades 6-12 through verified service outside of school hours. Log sheets may be obtained in the main office.

Academic Probation

Bishop Walsh reserves the right to review the academic progress of all students. If a high school student's grade point average is below 2.0, the student will be placed on probation. While on probation, the student may continue to participate in activities. If grades do not improve within the probationary period (next progress report or report card), the student will be removed from the activity and lose the privilege to attend all co-curricular activities unless grades improve to 2.0 or above by the next progress report or report card.

Students whose grades fall below 2.0 for the fourth quarter from the previous school year will be placed on academic probation at the beginning of the current year. If a 2.0 is not attained by the first progress report, then the student will be removed from the activity and lose the privilege to attend co-curricular activities. The student will be removed from probation if his or her grades are above 2.0 at the progress report.

If a 7th or 8th grade student fails two or more major subjects on the progress report or report card, the student will be placed on probation. While on probation the student may continue to participate in activities. If grades do not improve within the probationary period (next progress report or report card), the student will

be removed from the activity and lose the privilege to attend all co-curricular activities unless grades improve by the next progress report or report card.

Failure Policy

When a student fails a course, he/she will have to repeat the course the following school year. Ordinarily when a student fails two or more classes, the student may be subject to repeat the school year. No more than two classes may be made up during the summer. Students may earn the credits through a formal summer school program or with an approved tutor (120 hours per course).

A student who is bordering on failure throughout the school year and is impacted by a failure on a final exam may risk failure for the year. Parents will be notified as soon as possible.

Make Up Work

Students who, because of absence from school, have not completed their schoolwork must take the responsibility of completing all the work they have missed. In general, make-up work should be completed within one to two days but not to exceed five school days.

Students who receive a grade of INCOMPLETE on a report card must complete the assignments, test, or project within five days of the issuance of the report. Students who fail to remove the INCOMPLETE within the specified time will receive a failure for the incomplete work and the grade will be closed at that time.

Exam Schedule

The school will observe a special Exam Schedule at the end of each semester for the purpose of administration of final exams. Students will be expected to be present in school during these special schedules. No exceptions will be made. Dress code is in effect on these days. In the event of inclement weather, the exams will follow the delay schedule, if announced.

Absence from Exams

Students should not be absent from midterm or final exams in January (winter) or June (spring) due to reasons other than serious illness or death in the family. A doctor's note is required.

Excused Absence from a Class

If an activity precludes attendance of a class, the assignments due on the day of the absence must be submitted to the teacher on the day due.

Campus Bookstore

Select items are available in the campus bookstore. Total payments are due at the time of purchase.

Library/Maker Space

No food or drink of any kind is permitted.

All library materials should be returned as soon as the assignment is finished. Overdue lists are issued at the end of each marking period. Lost or damaged books must be paid for at the current price.

Health

If a student becomes ill during the day, he/she should report to the nurse. If the health room is closed, the student should then report to the main office. Before going to the health room, the student must first get a hall pass from his/her teacher during the current period. No one will be admitted to the health room without a pass or the nurse has been contacted. **Under no circumstances are students to call home for transportation because of illness.** If the nurse judges that the student should be sent home, she will contact the parents or guardians. A student who requires the attention of the health office for more than two periods is subject to be withheld from participation in the day's school activities.

As of August 2014, Bishop Walsh School has adopted a policy allowing the availability of stock epinephrine in the health room for use in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. This epinephrine is for emergency use during normal school hours and is not dependent upon allergy history. It is not available outside of normal school hours or on field trips. Students with a known history of severe allergies are still expected to maintain emergency action plans, medical orders, and their own supply of emergency medication.

All students in Catholic schools must be immunized in accordance with Maryland State Law. A child may not enter school unless he/she has submitted an official immunization record or other appropriate documentation of immunization status. The immunization record must have the month, day and year of each vaccination and be signed by a physician or health department official. In the case of religious objection or medical contra-indication, form DHMH 89, must be submitted and kept on file and be approved by the school. Exempted students are to be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of the disease for which they are not immunized.

Maryland School Immunization Requirements

A child may not enter school unless he/she has submitted an official immunization record or other appropriate documentation of immunization status. The immunization record must have the month, day and year of each vaccination and be signed by a physician or health department official. In the case of religious objection or medical contra-indication, form DHMH 89, must be submitted and kept on file and be approved by the school. Exempted students are to be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of the disease for which they are not immunized.

Dispensing of Medication

The administration of medication in school is discouraged. However, if a student's physician recommends that the student receive prescription or over-the-counter medication during the school day, a written order from the student's doctor is required. Medication can only be dispensed with a written order from the student's physician, specifying start and stop date. The original medication container or box for inhalers must be brought to the school. These containers or boxes should include the following: name of medication, directions for use, time for dispensing, name of doctor ordering the medication, date of prescription, expiration date as stated by the pharmacist, strength of medication/dosage, and student's name and grade.

A student is not permitted to possess, administer, or distribute medication, whether prescription or non-prescription. Under special circumstances, individual students may be authorized by their physician to carry and self-administer emergency medications (e.g., inhalers, epi-pens). In this case, the school nurse must be consulted. All medication must be delivered to school by a parent/guardian.

Communicable Diseases

Parents must call the school if their child is diagnosed with a communicable disease. The school must notify their county Health Department. All reports are confidential. Reportable diseases include the following:

Measles – regular or German (Rubella)	Tuberculosis
Meningitis	Whooping Cough (Pertussis)
Hepatitis	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Food Poisoning	Human Immune Deficiency
Mumps	Virus Infection (AIDS and all other symptomatic infections)
Adverse reactions to Pertussis Vaccine	Animal bites / Rabies
Lyme disease	Influenza
Chicken Pox (varicella)	
Covid 19	

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

Any student with drainage from the eyes associated with conjunctivitis (pink eye) must be kept at home until under treatment from a doctor. A doctor's note will be required for readmission to school.

Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Students who have chicken pox are excluded from school until all lesions are scabbed over.

Health Records

The school maintains a health file for each student for the duration of enrollment. Parents are required to complete a Health Form listing any allergies, serious medical conditions, medications, and emergency contact information. The school must be notified of any changes that occur during the school year.

Head Injury

If any injury to the head or any other serious injury occurs to a student, then nurse will call the parent and send home a report. The report is to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to school. If the parent/guardian or alternative contact person cannot be reached in an emergency, the school will contact police/ambulance for assistance.

Allergies

Parents must notify the school of their child's allergies including food allergies. School medication orders must be renewed each year by the physician and the order must be signed on or after July 1. If the student carries an EPIPEN with them, the physician must state this requirement on the order.

Bloodborne Pathogens

A complete Bloodborne Pathogens Standard Exposure Control Plan has been established by the school and can be found in each Faculty Handbook and on file in the Office.

Vision & Hearing Screening

The school follows the directives of The Allegany County Health Department and responds to parent's requests for individual testing.

This testing is usually done for:

- All new students who have not provided documentation for screening in the past year;
- All students the year they enter the school in Grades PreK, kindergarten, 1, and 8 or 9; 3.) Grade 3 or Grade 4 if funding is available;
- Any student with a suspected hearing or vision problem as reported by school staff or parents/guardians.

Health Forms

Parents are required to complete a health form listing any allergies, serious medical conditions, medications, and emergency contact information. The school must be notified of changes that occur during the school year.

Birthdays

Elementary school students may send in a treat for the whole class to celebrate a birthday. Please be sure that it is store bought with ingredients listed. Students may have this class birthday treat during lunch in the cafeteria. We encourage birthday party invitations to be sent electronically or in the mail. If a family chooses to send invitations home from school, all students need to be included and receive the invitation. Student's home address will not be given out by the school.

General Use Epi Pens

As of June 2024, Bishop Walsh has adopted a policy allowing the availability of stock epinephrine in the health suite for use in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. This epinephrine is for emergency use during normal school days and is not dependent on allergy history. It is not available outside of normal school hours or on field trips. Students with a known history of severe allergies are still expected to maintain emergency action plans, medical orders, and their own supply of emergency medication.

Bronchodilators

As of August 2025, Bishop Walsh School has adopted a policy allowing the availability of a stock bronchodilator through the health suite for use in the event of an emergency when a student is, or is perceived to be, experiencing asthma-related symptoms or respiratory distress and the student does not have a bronchodilator of their own readily available. The stock bronchodilator is for emergency use during normal school days. It is not available outside of normal school hours or on field trips. Students with a known history of asthma are still expected to maintain emergency action plans, medical orders, and their own supply of emergency medication.

Naloxone (Narcan)

As of June 2024, Bishop Walsh School has adopted a policy allowing the availability of Naloxone through the health suite for use in the event of a suspected overdose emergency. This Naloxone is for emergency use during normal school days. It is not available outside of normal school hours or on field trips. As required by the "Start Talking Maryland Act" a communication about the program is provided at the beginning of the school year. For those interested in learning more about the program and administration of Naloxone, please refer to the following resources:

https://youtu.be/p9hYzykHs_o and [Pages - Home \(maryland.gov\)](#).

Other Health Related Issues

- Upon entering school, students must have a complete physical, and the required immunizations according to the Allegany County Health Department.
- Children who are ill enough to be kept in during recess periods should be kept at home until they can follow a regular school schedule. The school does not have adequate personnel for individual supervision.
- **Parents should not send a student to school that is ill in the morning; this includes a child running a fever.**
- A doctor's written signed request is needed for a student to be excused from physical education classes.

Partnership and Communication with Parents

Responsibilities

In enrolling your child in a Catholic School, you agree to certain important responsibilities. These include:

- to be a partner with the school in the education of your child
- to understand and support the Catholic mission and identity of the school
- to read all communications from the school and to request clarification when necessary
- to know who your child's teachers are and to observe parent-teacher conference dates and any special requests for meetings
- to discuss concerns and problems with the person (s) most directly involved
- to be as actively involved as you can be in the life of the school and to volunteer assistance when possible
- to promote your school and to speak well of it to others to include, but not limited to, social media platforms.
- to meet your financial obligations in a timely manner and to support the fundraising efforts of the school when possible
- to appreciate Catholic education and the benefits of attending a school in a Christ centered environment.
- to behave appropriately at all school related function, both inside and outside of the school hours, and whether on school property or third-party site, and including sporting events.
- to follow the guidelines of this handbook including non-academic standards and expectations, including related to parking, drop-off, pick-up, and communication with teachers and staff.
- To demonstrate appropriate behavior and respect to all teachers, staff, and, administrators, this includes verbal, written or electronic exchanges.

Support, Partnership, and Compliance by Families

In cases of disregard of the direction of staff members, threats, or threatening behavior, serious or repeated noncompliance with school policies or procedures, or other demonstrated lack of support or cooperation, whether by parent, child or other family member, the administration reserves the right to withdraw child/children from the school. Depending on the severity of the breach of partnership with the school, parent or other family members may be prohibited from entering the campus.

Communication

In the best interest of students, the school welcomes and encourages communication between parents and teachers. Whenever a situation occurs that causes concern, the concern should be addressed first at the level at which the situation arose. Please contact your child's teacher directly by email or phone to schedule a mutually convenient time to meet. Due to instructional time with their students, teachers may respond to emails and calls up to 48 hours on business days. Teachers typically do not respond to emails and calls during the evening or over the weekend.

Parents whose phone numbers are unlisted must give the school either the unlisted number or a number where the parent(s) can be reached. It is essential that the school have this information in case of an emergency. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence. Any change of phone number or home address is to be given to the school office and homeroom teacher immediately.

- **Conferences**

- When a failure occurs or poor performance is indicated, the parent(s) and student are requested to meet with the teacher. These meetings are scheduled following the distribution of grades. The meetings provide the opportunity for all involved to discuss the steps required for the student to achieve a passing grade. The dates and times are listed on the school calendar. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time concerning the progress of their children.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

- A teacher or a parent may request a conference at any time during the year. An appointment can be arranged by contacting the teacher directly or through the main office.
- Conferences before school will not be allowed unless previously arranged by the teacher.

- **Parent-Administrator Conferences**

- Parents wishing to discuss a problem occurring within the classroom should FIRST contact the teacher involved.
- If results of that conference are unsatisfactory, parents are encouraged contacting the Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal can be reached by phone during school hours or email.

Parents are encouraged to utilize both Google Classroom and PowerSchool. Google Classroom is a free website where teachers post homework, assignments, and tests. Parents can view their child's grades on PowerSchool. Contact the office for information regarding Google Classroom and PowerSchool.

Whenever a situation occurs that causes concern, the concern should be addressed first at the level at which the situation arose. Therefore, the parents should first contact the teacher involved and then, if necessary, the teacher and parents should contact the Assistant Principal. However, parents are not permitted to interrupt teachers either before school or during class hours.

If a conference with the Assistant Principal or teacher is needed, please contact the office.

In the best interest of students, the school welcomes and encourages verbal and written communication between parents and teachers.

Custodial Parent Responsibilities

Divorced or separated parents must file a court-certified copy of the custody section of the divorce or separation decree with the administration. The school will not be held responsible for failing to honor arrangements that have not been made known. It is the responsibility of the parents, custodial or otherwise, to request mailings under separate cover of school records and information. This request needs to be in writing and filed with the main office.

Emergency contact information for each child is to be kept current in School Admin. It is the parent's responsibility for keeping that information current. Children will only be released to the person(s) designated on the emergency card, unless otherwise instructed by the custodial parent/guardian.

Non-custodial parents are welcome to review their child's records unless there is a court order or legal agreement prohibiting such access. The school may notify the custodial parent of a request to review records.

We do not allow a non-custodial parent physical access to his/her child during school hours or on school premises unless the custodial parent has consented or the school has a court order permitting access.

Change in Name, Family Status, and Custody

If there is a change in the family status/or the change of a child's name, or a change in custody arrangement, it is important that the school be informed promptly of the change. In case of a change of custody, a copy of the portion of the court order that describes the custody arrangements must be on file with the school. The parent also needs to notify the principal.

Change in Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address

When there is a change in address, phone number or email address, parents need to update School Admin immediately.

Bright Arrow

Bright Arrow communicates daily bulletins, weather related notifications and any other communication from the school. Please be sure to sign up to receive these important notifications.

Homeschool Program

Bishop Walsh School welcomes homeschool students to attend classes and to participate in student life. We believe this experience will benefit these students academically, spiritually, athletically, and personally.

Part-time enrollment is open for middle and high school age students.

- Orientation will be provided for incoming students.
- All admissions requirements related to eligibility for enrollment, placement, and immunizations as defined in the Bishop Walsh student handbook must be met.
- Students will be enrolled for a full year.
- Students must enroll in at least three courses. The courses must be religion and a core, academic course.
- Evidence of achievement for the preceding school year is required.
- Prerequisites for requested courses must be satisfied. Assessment testing may be required for appropriate placement.

- Students are required to comply with all requirements for each course, including A.P. testing in the spring.
- Students are subject to all codes of conduct, policies, and regulations as set forth in the Bishop Walsh student handbook.
- Students are eligible for participation in school sponsored athletics, student organizations, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Students are responsible for any additional fees for such participation.
- Eligibility for activities and athletics requires a minimum 2.0 GPA for Bishop Walsh courses.
- Part-time students are not eligible to receive a Bishop Walsh diploma.
- Tuition is \$1,250 per course. Payment must be made in full prior to enrollment.

Archdiocese Home And School Association Manual

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ULei_pUjrFF-g9VCPcFjGRBr-E7XyU8K/view?usp=sharing

Safety

Emergency Plan

Our school has an Emergency Plan which follows the Standard Response Protocol. Please see the below explanations of each action that would be implemented during an emergency event. (Jen, insert protocols here)

Fire and Safety Drills

Fire and Safety Drills Our school conducts regular Fire and Safety drills as required by the State of Maryland.

Emergency& Weather-related Closing and Delayed Openings

The school will follow the county in which the school is located, for decisions regarding early dismissals, delayed openings and any other emergency and weather-related closing in most cases. Announcements will be made using our alert system, social media, and radio. If there is no announcement, Bishop Walsh follows decisions announced by Allegany County for school cancellations, delays, early dismissals, and evening/weekend events.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

AHERA – In October 1986, the U.S. Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under this law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require most schools to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings and implement response actions in a timely manner. Our program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in our asbestos management plan. This plan contains information on our inspections, re-inspections, response actions and post- response action activities, including periodic surveillance activities that are planned or are in progress. The plan is kept in the principal's office and may be viewed upon request during normal business hours.

Child and Youth Protection

Maryland law requires that all educators and other school employees, including volunteers, report suspected child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities in order that children may be protected from harm and the

family may be helped. Our school policy supports Maryland laws in this regard and requires that all school staff report suspected abuse and neglect to the Department of Social Services, Protective Services Division, and/or the local police department, as well as to the Principal.

Bishop Walsh School follows the policies and procedures as outlined by the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Student's Cell Phones

At Bishop Walsh School, we are committed to creating a focused and engaging learning environment while also protecting the privacy of students, faculty, and staff. To support these goals, students are required to place their cell phones in the designated teacher's organizational basket or caddy at the beginning of each class. This policy aligns with practices adopted by many other school districts and is designed to help students concentrate fully on their studies while ensuring that their phones are nearby if needed.

Phones will remain in the basket or caddy until the end of the class period. Students may retrieve their phones at that time as permitted by school policy.

Enforcement:

- First Offense: If a student has their phone out at an unauthorized time, they will receive a warning.
- Second Offense: After the first warning, the phone will be confiscated, turned into the assistant principal until the end of the day, and the student will receive a detention.
- Repeated Offenses: For repeated offenses, the student's phone will be held in the office until a parent or guardian can pick it up.

Cell phones and any other electronic devices may not be used in bathrooms, stairs, or hallways during the changing of classes. Cell phones may only be used after school is dismissed or only with the permission of a faculty or staff member. At no time should a student be playing games during class, watching videos, or using social media. A student may not wear ear buds or headphones at any time unless given permission. Students may not make phone calls unless given permission and must do so in the main office.

Each teacher's classroom is subject to their specific rules with regards to using a cell phone or electronic device. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

School Logo/ Name

The school name and logo may not be used without the expressed written consent from the administration. This includes use of school name and logo for personal reasons including uses in technology/internet/written communication of any kind.

Telephone/Messages

Parents are requested not to call the school to leave messages for students except in cases of emergency. Please do not text or call your child's cell phone during the school day. The office will deliver emergency messages to your child if needed.

Visitors

In order to ensure a safe environment for your child, all school doors will remain locked during the school day. All visitors must report to the office and receive an identification badge through RAPTOR before visiting other parts of the school building.

Volunteers

Prior to volunteering, all volunteers must be fully trained in VIRTUS as required by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. All policies and procedures must be followed for Child and Youth Protection.

All parents, grandparents and other caregivers who wish to volunteer in school activities must complete the Virtus program in order to participate. This includes attending field trips, volunteering in the classroom and other such events. Virtus training is now completed on-line at www.virtusonline.org. Directions on how to complete the training, as well as reference sheets, can be obtained from Mrs. Robertson, Virtus Coordinator, in the Main Office or via email at hrobertson@bishopwalsh.org.

Family Involvement Program - Volunteer Requirements

Service is one of the most important aspects of our Catholic faith. Bishop Walsh School is proud of its tradition of volunteerism and the outstanding community built around families working together for a common goal. To this end, we are asking each family to contribute 10 hours of time during the school year in support of school wide activities.

Why do we ask this of you?

The deepest benefit of volunteering is the community that is built when we roll up our sleeves and work together. We know it when we feel it and our children feel it as well-our support, our participation, and our commitment to the community that is the family we build here. Assistance in fundraising events provides the money needed to fulfill BW's education mission. The proceeds help us to close the tuition gap; that is the difference in the cost to educate and the tuition you pay.

How much time is required?

Each family is required to complete 10 hours of volunteer service via the approved list. This requirement is regardless of the number of children attending. Grandparents, other relatives, and friends may also volunteer on behalf of a parent.

Who tracks the service hours?

BW is committed to accurate and fair recording of hours. Volunteers are required to check in according to the volunteer procedure. We will be using an app to record volunteer hours. Failure to check in can result in unrecorded hours.

What if I do not have time? Can I purchase my hours?

Bishop Walsh School has worked hard to make this program feasible for all family situations. If volunteering does not work for your family, you may pay for the hours at a rate of \$25 per hour.

Playground

Elementary students play on the school grounds after lunch each day, weather permitting. During this time, teachers and parents supervise students. Safety on the playground is very important; therefore, all students will show the proper respect to the playground supervisors. Failure to do so will result in the loss of access to the playground.

School Supervision After Hours - Middle and High School:

The school is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students arriving at 7:45 a.m. should report to the cafeteria until the doors of the academic wing are opened at 7:55 a.m. At dismissal time, the students who will be picked-up need to walk to the parking lot area. The school is responsible for the supervision of students from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or when there is a scheduled activity.

Parents are required to follow the times stipulated when dropping off or picking up students. The school is not responsible for supervision of students before the drop-off time and after the pick-up time, as listed above. The school is not liable for any injuries or accidents which may occur before the drop-off time or after the pick-up time, as stated above.

If the student is participating in a scheduled, supervised activity before or after the hours noted above, specific arrangements must be made for drop-off and/or pick-up at the designated times. If children are participating in before or after school care, parents must comply with the rules established by the program for drop-off and pick-up. As a school, the aim of this policy is to provide safe and fair guidelines to all school families and staff.

Tobacco and Drugs

Bishop Walsh School is a tobacco-free and drug-free workplace.

Security

Bishop Walsh School is monitored and secured continually by internal and external devices.

Transportation Procedures

Students are only to be released to custodial parents, legal guardians or those adults listed on emergency contact forms. Students should never be allowed to leave school in an UBER, Lift, or any private transportation company. Since we are a small school, transportation may not always be provided to school sponsored events off campus. For school sponsored events, participants must notify the school if the student needs to make other travel arrangements.

Buses

- No eating, drinking, smoking, vaping, or use of any form of tobacco.
- Normal rules of safety and good conduct are to be observed. No part of the body should extend out of the windows.
- Students must be courteous to the bus driver and obey his/her directions promptly. During the bus run, the driver is solely in charge and responsible for the safety of all. The driver has the authority to stop the bus if students are not conducting themselves properly.
- Violations of rules of safety and conduct will result in students being barred from the bus temporarily or permanently. Such judgments will be reserved to the Administration of the school.
- No student may ride the bus unless he/she are a registered bus rider. All students who ride the bus must register before the start of school with the school by filling out the school bus form.

Parking

Parents should **ONLY** use the large, lower school parking lot. The upper lots in the circle are for faculty and staff parking **only**. Parents parking in these upper lots make for hazardous conditions for students exiting the

building at dismissal. Please do not park on either side of the road in the area below where the buses park. It is illegal to make a U-turn from the road, and there is a danger of accidents occurring because of that.

Morning Drop-Off & Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures

Every student at Bishop Walsh needs to be in their classrooms ready to learn at 8:15 a.m. (weather delays being the exception)

Students will not be granted entrance to the building after 8:30 a.m. without a doctor's note.

Every student is dismissed at 2:20 p.m. on full days. Four-Hour Day dismissal is at 12:15 p.m.

Keeping in mind that there are approximately 300 students being dropped off, arriving, leaving, or being picked up at these times, it is VITAL that everyone follow drop-off & pick-up procedures for the safety of our students & staff.

- ALL HS & MS STUDENTS enter the building at the Main Entrance.
- ES STUDENTS enter the building at the Elementary Entrance starting at 7:45 a.m.

Drop Off

Drivers and adult passengers should not be exiting the car in the drop off lane at any time.

During morning drop-off, in order for traffic to flow properly, you must pull up to the handicap railing or as far up as traffic allows before stopping. If your elementary students need help exiting the car or you wish to walk your elementary students in, pull up in the left lane around the circle and drive around to the lower parking lot.

All students being dropped off should exit the vehicle on the curb side. We do not want anyone to get hit by traffic in the through lane.

Do not pull into the left lane after being in the drop-off lane until you are at the front of the line. Cutting into the left, pull-through lane creates hazardous conditions for those people driving in the left lane and may result in an accident – we speak from experience.

Do not turn left directly into the lower lot in the morning. Drivers are exiting the lower parking lot and drivers entering create a hazard.

Parking in the circle in front of school, the faculty spaces, visitor spaces or in the fire lane in front of school is prohibited at any time during school hours.

Teachers & staff report to school beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The 4 Administrative parking spaces are reserved for Administrators at all times.

Drivers parking in the lower lot should be parking in parking spaces – not along BW Road, along the sides of the parking lot or blocking other spaces.

Pick Up

During pick-up, there should be no parking in the circle in front of school, the faculty spaces, visitor spaces or in the red-curb fire lane in front of school - even if your child attends half-day PreK.

Beginning at 2 p.m. traffic is prohibited in the circle. All drivers should turn left directly into the lower lot after 2 p.m.

Elementary parents should be parking in the same lot and walking over to pick up their students at the Elementary doors.

Middle & High School parents should be parking in the lower parking lot to wait for their students at dismissal.

Please use the painted crosswalks for everyone's safety!

The parking spaces along the field fence are for BUS PARKING ONLY – morning and afternoon.

Parking along the fence and Bishop Walsh Road is strictly prohibited.

Please be sure to share this with anyone who is dropping off or picking up your student/s and your student drivers. Thank you for your help ensuring the safety of all.

Restricted Areas

When school is in session, students may not be outside the building unless they are involved in a class or recess and are accompanied by a faculty member. Empty classrooms are restricted areas. Corridors are to be generally cleared of traffic except for movement at the change of class. Students need a hall pass to leave the classroom.

Off Campus

Students are not permitted to leave campus during the school day. Leaving campus without permission during the school day is a serious violation of school policy and will result in suspension from school. Authorization from the Principal/Assistant Principal is necessary to go to the parking area during the school day.

Lockers- School and Gymnasium

Lockers are provided so there is a safe and convenient place for books, clothing, physical education equipment, etc.

- Middle and high school lockers should be locked and combinations kept as a private matter. Do not share combinations with anyone.
- The care of the locker is the responsibility of the individual to whom the locker was issued.

- Since lockers are the property of the school at all times, the school administration can order a locker check, search, or repair of occupied lockers when necessary.
- Students may not switch lockers with another student.
- If students have any problem with the locker, they should report it to the main office.
- Expensive items should not be stored in lockers. The school cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen items.

Student Services

Elementary School Before and After Care Program

The Bishop Walsh before and after school program is not a day care center. This program is regulated by the Maryland Office of Child Care. It is opened on school days only, and serves students attending Bishop Walsh School. Beginning on the first full day of the school year, the program services students in the morning from 7:30 to 8 A.M. and in the afternoon from 2:25 to 5:00 P.M. **Students arriving between 7:30-7:45 should enter through the main doors** and proceed to the morning care room on the elementary floor. All elementary students arriving at 7:45 should enter through the elementary doors.

The before school program provides supervision for students who arrive at school before 8 A.M. The after-school program includes snack, quiet time for the completion of homework assignments, organized activities, and when weather permits, outdoor playtime.

The before and after care program is not included in the regular educational program of Bishop Walsh School. Additional registration for this program is required by those who use the after-school care program on a regular basis, as well as for those who may occasionally need after school care for their children.

The Bishop Walsh Before and After School Care fee is \$10.00 per hour.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria is designated as the area for the consumption of food and beverages during the school day. Goods purchased from the vending machines are to be consumed during the school day. Food and beverages are not to be consumed in classrooms, corridors, the gym, auditorium, or any other area in the building during the school day. No take-out or delivery meals may be brought into the school building during the school day.

A school lunch program is provided. The cafeteria operates under the Federal Child Nutrition Program. Prices and forms for reduced and free lunches are sent home each year. Menus are posted online monthly.

During lunch, students are expected to practice the general rules of good manners:

- Leave the table and surrounding area clean and orderly.
- Replace chairs and put trash in the proper container.
- Do not leave the cafeteria area without permission.

- Refrain from boisterous talk and disrespectful conduct.
- At lunchtime, students are encouraged to eat and socialize with their classmates. Device usage will not be permitted during middle school lunch. Recess time is scheduled during the second half of middle school lunch. During high school lunch, device usage will be permitted during the second half of the period for students to do schoolwork.

Snacks and sodas obtained from the concession stand are to be consumed in the MAIN LOBBY ONLY. Careless disposal of gum in drinking fountains, on furniture and floors presents sanitation, cleaning problems and costly repairs. Therefore, gum chewing is not permitted in the school building at any time during the school day.

All lunch accounts should maintain a positive balance only. There will be no charging for lunch, extras, etc. All students must maintain a positive balance in order to purchase anything from the cafeteria.

Guidance and Counselor

Academic advisement, college/career, and personal counseling are offered at Bishop Walsh in a personal or group setting. The department works with students and teachers to schedule appointments. The department coordinates and develops all standardized.

A guidance counselor is available in the school to assist students, parents, and teachers in addressing problems affecting students. The counselor works with students on an individual basis, as well as in small groups as the need arises. The counselor is available for classroom guidance activities and coordinates Rainbows for All Children.

Academic Advising and Guidance- Mrs. Mariah Morin

Guidance Counseling- Mrs. Jill DiNola

Technology

Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet and Technology Tools

Technology skills are necessary to ready our students for their future. Access to the Internet and technology tools (including software tools, web-based applications and services, computer equipment, I-Pads, and other personal electronic devices) allow students to conduct research, produce digital content, and communicate with classmates and teachers. The Internet and technology tools put enormous power at the fingertips of users. As such, they also place a great deal of responsibility on users.

It is imperative that technology resources be used to build community, encourage critical reflection, and foster readiness for future learning. Developments in technology at the School are to be used ethically, legally, and responsibly. As in other areas, our students are expected to make good choices with regard to their behavior.

Individual users are responsible for their activity on the Internet and technology tools, including the material stored and information shared. In order to protect private and personal information, unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information is prohibited. The School reserves the right to edit Internet accounts for child-only configurations, and to run filtering software for students' protection.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that student users (and their parents) recognize the limitations the School imposes on the use of the Internet and technology tools and that they understand the standards of behavior the School expects of users.

All users of the School network and technology tools, whether on a School-owned or personal device, are responsible for adhering to the following guidelines for acceptable use.

Acceptable uses of the Internet and technology tools are for authorized academic and school-related activities that support learning and teaching and:

- Respect the privacy and property rights of others and the well-being of the School
- Are consistent with Roman Catholic values and morals
- Treat technology tools and computer equipment with respect.

Unacceptable uses of the Internet and technology tools include but are not limited to:

- Violating the rights or privacy of others, including by photographing or filming an individual without consent
- Posting or distributing videos or photographs without consent of the people depicted and the School
- Using technology to send profanity, obscenity, or other offensive or harmful language
- Unauthorized copying, downloading, or installation of content, software, or applications (including plagiarism or “pirating” music)
- Sending false information or sending messages to the School community that fail to identify the sender (including anonymous messages or messages using a pseudonym)
- Using any program designed to disrupt network performance or breach network security, such as software designed to capture passwords or break encryption protocols
- Revealing personal information beyond what is required for login while using Internet or web-based resources
- Responding to inappropriate messages from others (which should be reported to the School)
- Downloading or copying information onto disks or hard drives without prior teacher approval
- Accessing, downloading, storing, or printing files or messages that are inappropriate or may be offensive to others (including pornography and other inappropriate images)
- Sharing of passwords or attempting to discover another’s password (passwords should be changed frequently)
- Using or accessing another’s account (network accounts are to be used only by those for whom the account has been established)
- Intentionally writing, producing, generating, copying, or introducing dangerous codes or programs designed to cause harm, including, but not limited to viruses, bugs, ‘worms,’ etc.
- Intentionally damaging, altering, or tampering with any hardware, software, printers, keyboards, speakers, etc.
- Accessing or searching files, directories, or folders for which the user does not have authorization
- Intentionally erasing, renaming, or disabling anyone else’s files or programs

- Accessing social media, email, or other off-task websites or apps during School without explicit permission of a teacher or adult supervisor
- Violating School conduct rules or the law.

Harassment/cyber-bullying of others online, whether against a student, non-student, or employee, is serious, is prohibited, and is contrary to the School's policy and values. Harassment/cyber-bullying whether it is initiated on campus or off campus, online or in person, should be reported immediately to a faculty member, and may lead to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution under Maryland 's law prohibiting the Misuse of Interactive Computer Service ("Grace's Law").

Parents are responsible for:

- Reviewing and discussing this policy with their child as well as supporting the School in its enforcement
- Partnering with the School in monitoring their child's technology use
- Modeling appropriate Internet behaviors for their child
- Reporting any concerns regarding this policy or their child's use of the Internet or technology tools to School personnel.

Failure to adhere to the policy guidelines may result in a revocation of a student's Internet access and other technology privileges and disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Artificial Intelligence

Principals must ensure staff and students in the Archdiocese of Baltimore use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in an ethical and responsible manner, following all policy guidelines listed below.

Purpose:

- To provide clear expectations for staff and students on how to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) ethically and responsibly in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
- To ensure generative artificial intelligence (AI) supports teaching and learning without replacing critical thinking, creativity, and/or effort.
- To ensure the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) is aligned with the teachings of the Catholic Church and our Catholic values.
- To protect the privacy and safety of all staff and students by ensuring compliance with data privacy laws (e.g., FERPA) and safeguarding personal information.
- To help prevent potential exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and unauthorized generative AI use, ensuring that it is used responsibly and ethically.

Introduction and Definitions:

- Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that usually require human intelligence, such as reasoning, problem solving, learning, and decision-making.
- As stewards of creation, we are called to use AI to enhance teaching and learning while preserving human judgment and dignity, ethical responsibility, personal interaction, and the common good. AI should serve as a complement to traditional education, rather than a replacement.

- *Generative AI* is a type of artificial intelligence that creates new content, such as text, images, videos, or music, based on patterns it has learned from existing data. Examples include chatbots that write responses, or tools that generate pictures or videos.

Student Use

- PreK–Grade 4 are not permitted to use *generative* artificial intelligence (AI) at this time.
- Grades 5–8 are permitted to use *generative* artificial intelligence (AI) for academic purposes.
- Grades 9–12 are permitted to use *generative* artificial intelligence (AI) for academic purposes.

Privacy and Safety

- Any user of generative artificial intelligence (AI) must protect student, parent, teacher, and school data by never sharing private information, including but not limited to student names, grades, SAP (Student Accommodation Plan) details, or any other personally identifiable information (PII).

Misinformation and Potential Bias

- Staff and students must not assume that all AI-generated content is accurate or appropriate to share and must be fact-checked for misinformation and potential bias.
- All staff must carefully review AI-generated content before using it in lessons, parent communications, or content generation.

Web-based Services

The School uses Google Apps for Education as well as other web-based education tools, sites, and services (“web-based services”) to provide students with important web-based educational experiences and enhanced opportunities to communicate and share collaboratively with one another. As part of students’ use of web-based services, certain educational records may be created, collected, or stored. Directory information, such as a child’s name, email address, grade/age, and enrollment status, may also be shared with web-based services. The School may access, monitor, and review children’s use of web-based services and Internet use and children shall not have any expectation of privacy with respect to any communications or activities through such services. Use of web-based services is for educational purposes only and subject to the conduct and acceptable use guidelines set forth in this Handbook. A list of the School’s web-based services and corresponding privacy policies are available upon request. By enrolling a child in the School, the parent consents to the child’s participation in the School’s academic activities and programs, including the child’s use of and access to web-based services as described in this paragraph. In order to withhold or withdraw consent for the use of web-based services, parents must contact the School principal in writing.

Uniforms

Middle School and High School Dress Code

Students are expected to dress neatly and to observe the uniform requirements during the school day. Shirts and blouses are to be tucked in at all times during the school day. Sloppy attire is unacceptable. Dressing in an appropriate and neat manner signals to self and to others that school is a place where a seriousness of purpose can be found.

Consistent with our educational philosophy, any clothing which contains objectionable words or symbols, such as those conveying vulgar, violent, satanic, sexually suggestive, or racially discriminatory messages, or which advertise tobacco, drugs or alcohol are prohibited at all times.

Students frequently question rules on dress, and the school attempts its best to balance encouragement with enforcement. The teacher will discuss a violation with the student in the classroom or in private. Uniform offenses will ordinarily result in a referral. Students improperly dressed may also be sent home or to the health room to correct their attire and be assigned detentions for missed classes. The faculty will supervise the daily observance for consistency and neatness. **Ultimately, the administration will determine what is or is not appropriate.**

“Dress down” or “out of uniform” is an occasion when students are permitted to dress out of uniform, yet consistent with the philosophy of the school.

“Dress down” and “out of uniform” days do not include shorts that are shorter than their fingertips, tank tops, flip flops, crocs, or hats. Jeans may be worn, but cannot have holes or be torn in any way. No crop tops are permitted. Any skirts worn have to at least be fingertip length. Clothing may not contain terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, slogans, writing, or images that are offensive, political, harassing, or discriminatory in nature.

Regardless of theme, each student’s attire should be safe and appropriate for wear throughout the school day as determined by the school’s administration.

Uniforms can be purchased from the **uniform sections** of the following brands: Old Navy, Lands’ End, and Flynn O’Hara, Uniform Village and French Toast.

GIRLS

- Tops
 - Middle School - White, chambray blue or burgundy short or long-sleeved polo
 - High School – polo shirt (September & May/June)
 - High School - White button-up shirt (October through April)
- Bottoms
 - Burgundy & gray plaid skirt or skort -- to be worn no more than three inches above the bend of the knee. **Any student who repeatedly violates this policy will lose the privilege of wearing a uniform skirt.**
 - Khaki pants with dress belt. Straight-leg or boot cut pants only. Pants should fit appropriately.
- Sweaters
 - Solid burgundy, gray, white or navy sweater with no hood
- Socks / Tights
 - White, burgundy, gray or navy knee socks or tights
- Shoes
 - Rubber soled dress shoes in black, navy, or brown
 - Casual canvas shoes, backless shoes, slippers, moccasin-style shoes, boots, or similar styles are not permitted.
- Hair

Hair must be neat and well-groomed for all students. Hair color must be a natural color. Fad or extreme hair styles will not be allowed.

BOYS

- Tops
 - Middle School - White, chambray blue or burgundy short or long-sleeved polo
 - High School – polo shirt (September & May/June)
 - High School - White button-up shirt with tie (October through April)
- Bottoms
 - Khaki dress pants with dress belt
 - Sweaters
 - Burgundy, gray, white, or navy sweater with no hood
- Socks
 - Dark colored dress socks
- Shoes
 - Rubber soled dress shoes in black, navy, or brown
 - Casual canvas shoes, backless shoes, slippers, moccasin-style shoes, boots, or similar styles are not permitted.
- Hair
 - Hair must be neat and well-groomed for all students. Hair color must be a natural color. Fad or extreme hair styles will not be allowed.
 - Male students must be clean-shaven.

Bishop Walsh School recognizes that particular hairstyles may be part of social, ethnic, spiritual, and cultural identities and practices or adopted for protective purposes. In those cases, it is the policy of Bishop Walsh School to permit individual families to receive an exception from this policy so that they may choose the appropriate cared-for hairstyle for their child. Should a parent have a question about a hairstyle or wish to request an exemption, they should contact the administration before getting his hair cut or styled.

Additional:

- No facial piercings
- Shorts worn under the skirt should not be visible.
- If a tee shirt is worn under the uniform shirt, it must be solid white without lettering or designs.

Not Permitted:

- Sandals, athletic or canvas shoes
- Oversized sweaters
- Short- Shorts, cargos, or capris
- Hats
- Sweatshirts or hoodies
- All tattoos should be covered during the school day.

Warm Weather Uniform: During the months of September, May, and June, high school students are able to wear colored polos. The summer dress code always includes tailored dress shoes worn with socks. All students are permitted to wear khaki shorts during the months of August, September, May, and June. The warm weather dress code always includes tailored dress shoes worn with socks.

Elementary School Dress Code: 1st Grade -5th Grade (PreK & Kindergarten do not wear uniforms)

GIRLS

- Jumpers
Burgundy & gray plaid with white button-up short or long-sleeved blouse
- Tops
White button-up short or long-sleeved blouse
White or burgundy short or long-sleeved polo
- Bottoms
Burgundy & gray plaid skirt or skort from Land's End
Khaki skirt or skort
Khaki shorts (September & May/June)
Khaki dress pants
Gray sweatpants (gym days only). No yoga pants permitted.
- Sweaters / Sweatshirts
Burgundy, gray, white, or navy sweater with no hood
Burgundy Bishop Walsh crewneck sweatshirt
- Socks / Tights
White, burgundy, gray or navy knee socks or tights
No leggings
- Shoes
Rubber soled dress shoes in black, navy, or brown
Tennis shoes without lights
Backless shoes, slippers, moccasin-style shoes, boots, or similar styles are not permitted.
Shoes laces must be tied.
- Hair
Hair must be neat and well-groomed for all students. Hair color must be a natural color. Fad or extreme hair styles will not be allowed.

BOYS

- Tops
White or burgundy short or long-sleeved polo
- Bottoms
Khaki dress pants
Khaki shorts (September & May/June)
Gray sweatpants (for gym days only)
- Sweaters / Sweatshirts

Burgundy, gray, white, or navy sweater with no hood

Burgundy Bishop Walsh crewneck sweatshirt

- Socks

White, burgundy, gray or navy socks

- Shoes

Rubber soled dress shoes in black, navy, or brown

Tennis shoes without lights

Backless shoes, slippers, moccasin-style shoes, boots, or similar styles are not permitted.

Shoes laces must be tied.

- Hair

Hair must be neat and well-groomed for all students. Hair color must be a natural color. Fad or extreme hair styles will not be allowed

Bishop Walsh School recognizes that particular hairstyles may be part of social, ethnic, spiritual, and cultural identities and practices or adopted for protective purposes. In those cases, it is the policy of Bishop Walsh School to permit individual families to receive an exception from this policy so that they may choose the appropriate cared-for hairstyle for their child. Should a parent have a question about a hairstyle or wish to request an exemption, they should contact the administration before getting his hair cut or styled.

Please visit our website for further information and photo examples of our uniforms.

Lost and Found

Any articles found on the school premises should be taken to the cafeteria or office.

Uniform Exchange

Our Uniform Exchange Program is a wonderful opportunity for families to support one another within our school community. Families can donate uniforms that their children have outgrown, providing others with the chance to find uniforms in the appropriate sizes for their children. This initiative not only promotes sustainability but also ensures that all students have access to the required attire, fostering a spirit of generosity and cooperation among our families. Participation in the Uniform Exchange is both easy and beneficial, making it a valuable resource for everyone involved.

Families will be notified via email and social media about when the exchange is happening and when they can bring in their donations beforehand. The exchange will be held at the school and can be found in front of the main office. Participation in the Uniform Exchange is both easy and beneficial, making it a valuable resource for everyone involved.

BELL SCHEDULES

Regular Schedule

8:15 – 8:55	Period 1
8:58 – 9:38	Period 2
9:41 – 10:02	Homeroom
10:05 – 10:45	Period 3
10:48 – 11:28	Period 4
11:31 – 12:11	Period 5
12:14 – 12:54	Period 6
12:57 – 1:37	Period 7
1:40 – 2:20	Period 8

Beginning of Instruction – Elem 8:15
 Elementary Dismissal 2:20
 Buses Depart 2:25

Two Hour Delay Schedule

10:15 – 10:41	Period 1
10:44 – 11:10	Period 2
11:13 – 11:26	Homeroom
11:29 – 11:55	Period 3
11:58 – 12:24	Period 4
12:27 – 12:53	Period 5
12:56 – 1:22	Period 6
1:25 – 1:51	Period 7
1:54 – 2:20	Period 8

Beginning of Instruction – Elem 10:15
 Elementary Dismissal 2:20
 Bus Depart 2:25

Spirit Schedule

8:15-8:48	Period 1
8:51-9:24	Period 2
9:27-9:47	Homeroom
9:50-10:23	Period 3
10:26-10:59	Period 4
11:02-11:35	Period 5
11:38-12:11	Period 6
12:14-12:47	Period 7
12:50-1:23	Period 8
1:26-2:20	Spirit Program
Beginning of Instruction – Elem	8:15
Elementary Dismissal	2:20
Bus Depart	2:25

Assembly Schedule

8:15 – 8:48	Period 1
8:51 – 9:24	Period 2
9:27 – 9:47	Homeroom
9:50 – 10:44	Assembly Period
10:47 – 11:20	Period 3
11:23 – 11:56	Period 4
11:59 – 12:32	Period 5
12:35 – 1:08	Period 6
1:11 – 1:44	Period 7
1:47 – 2:20	Period 8

Beginning of Instruction – Elem 8:15
 Elementary Dismissal 2:20
 Buses Depart 2:25

Four Hour Schedule

8:15 – 8:37	Period 1
8:40 – 9:02	Period 2
9:05 – 9:27	Period 3
9:30 – 9:50	Homeroom
9:53 – 10:15	Period 4
10:18 – 10:40	Period 5/6
10:43 – 11:05	Period 7
11:08 – 11:30	Period 8
11:33—12:15	Middle/High Lunch

Beginning of Instruction – Elem 8:15
 Buses Depart 12:20

Three Hour Delay Schedule

11:15-11:34	Period 1
11:37-11:56	Period 2
11:59-12:08	Homeroom
12:11-12:30	Period 3
12:33-12:52	Period 4
12:55-1:14	Period 5
1:17-1:36	Period 6
1:39-1:58	Period 7
2:01-2:20	Period 8
Beginning of Instruction—Elem	11:15
Elementary Dismissal	2:20
Bus Depart	2:25