

ST. FELICITAS



CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2016 – 2017 PARENT – STUDENT HANDBOOK

1650 Manor Blvd. San Leandro CA 94579

P: 510-257-2530

F: 510-357-5358

<http://www.stfelicitas-school.org/>

Dear Parents and Students,

*“What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young?”
~St. John Chrysostom~*

Welcome to St. Felicitas Catholic School! In choosing St. Felicitas, you have demonstrated a commitment to the values and philosophy of a Catholic education.

The Parent/Student Handbook reflects the policies of St. Felicitas Catholic School for the 2016-2017 school year. Please read this document carefully and click on the agreement button when registering online. This agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of St. Felicitas Catholic School during the 2016-2017 school year.

The faculty and staff at St. Felicitas Catholic School look forward to working with you to promote academic excellence and spiritual development in the context of the gospel values of Jesus Christ.

Together let us pray that God, who has began His good work the day that we were born, will continue carry it through each of us as we work in collaboration during this school year.

Abundant Blessings,

Mrs. Meghan Jorgensen
Principal
St. Felicitas Catholic School

The provisions in this handbook are designed to provide guidance to the procedures and rules of St. Felicitas Catholic School. These provisions are not a contract and impose no obligation on the school. The Principal retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause and parents/legal guardians will be given prompt notification of any amendments.

For your convenience, changes from the previous year have been put in red.

In addition, topics that are frequently asked about are highlighted in yellow.

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ABOUT ST. FELICITAS

Mission Statement

St. Felicitas Catholic School as a Catholic school in the Diocese of Oakland educates children in the Catholic faith and nurtures their minds, bodies, and souls, inspiring them to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, achieve their highest academic and creative potential, and actively serve and enrich the community.

History

St. Felicitas Catholic School opened its doors in 1959, a few years after the completion of St. Felicitas Catholic Church. Monsignor McGinty, the first pastor, invited the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita, Kansas to staff the school and for 34 years, they worked to provide quality education for our children. Today the school has a vibrant Preschool – 8th grade program committed to providing an exceptional education rooted in Catholic values. Although the St. Joseph sisters no longer work at the school, their spiritual presence continues to permeate through it.

Accreditation

St. Felicitas Catholic School is accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

School Philosophy

Jesus Christ is the reason for the Saint Felicitas Catholic School community. Two thousand years ago, Christ said, “Go and spread the Good News of God.” Inspired by His words, Saint Felicitas Catholic School, comprised of students, families, religious, faculty and staff, is dedicated to fulfilling this responsibility as an extension of the teaching mission of the Roman Catholic Church.

As a faith-filled community bound together by love for God, Saint Felicitas Catholic School strives to guide students toward their holistic development. This includes encouraging an appreciation for individual differences and commitment to service beyond the scope of the school community.

Recognizing the family as the primary educator of the child, Saint Felicitas Catholic School is dedicated to assisting parents in educating their children to be spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically and socially prepared to meet the challenges of living the Gospel message as Catholics in modern society.

St. Felicitas Student Learning Expectations

A spiritually centered person who:

- 1.1 Is knowledgeable in the Catholic faith
- 1.2 Models Christianity
- 1.3 Demonstrates service in the community

A life long learner who:

- 2.1 Is able to think independently
- 2.2 Is motivated to learn and develop his/her own thoughts
- 2.3 Comprehends and applies the basic curriculum of St. Felicitas
- 2.4 Is able to access, organize, and analyze information in a logical way
- 2.5 Develops skills in fine arts and physical activities
- 2.6 Is able to work cooperatively

An effective communicator who:

- 3.1 Utilizes the basic elements of grammar in speech and writing
- 3.2 Listens in an open-minded and respectful way
- 3.3 Accepts criticism and applies it constructively
- 3.4 Is able to use technology to enhance presentation
- 3.5 Expresses ideas clearly

A globally aware citizen who:

- 4.1 Respects life and the dignity of all human persons
- 4.2 Understands and respects the human right of all cultures
- 4.3 Is aware and responds to the needs of the less fortunate and vulnerable
- 4.4 Appreciates and respects all of God's creations by being environmentally conscious
- 4.5 Understands and lives by the laws of the community

PERSONNEL

Diocesan Personnel

Bishop

The bishop, the Chief Pastor of the Diocese, is officially responsible for all educational programs within the diocese. This responsibility extends beyond the spiritual formation of his people and includes all those elements, which contribute to the development of the total Christian community.

The bishop delegates comprehensive regulatory and general supervisory authority on school related matters by appointing a superintendent. The Diocesan School Board is approved by the bishop to function as an advisory board to the Superintendent of Schools and to the bishop.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

As an appointee of the bishop, the superintendent is responsible for reporting directly to the bishop, or his delegate, and the Diocesan School Board in all matters affecting the diocesan schools. S/he administers the operation of a school department and oversees this department in the administration, supervision, and strategic planning for education in the schools of the diocese.

The school department provides information, guidelines, assistance, and services to the schools that are ordinarily site-based managed and under the leadership of the principal. Although governance of the schools is at the local level, pastors and principals are expected to follow policies and guidelines approved for schools by the bishop. Schools are also expected to follow curriculum guidelines.

Diocesan Staff

Bishop.....	The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ
Superintendent.....	Sr. Barbara Bray, SNJM
Assistant Superintendent.....	TBD
Assistant Superintendent.....	Linda Basman
Fiscal Controller.....	Margo Tammen

School Personnel

Pastor

The pastor, by direction of the bishop and canon law, is directly responsible for all parish endeavors. One such major endeavor is the parish or area school. The pastor can render service and leadership to the parish or area school by acting as a religious leader, community builder, and administrator, working together with the principal, faculty, parents, and other parishioners in

a joint effort to advance the education of the children. He is also responsible for the hiring of the principal and the renewal or non-renewal of the principal’s employment agreement.

Pastor.....Father Thomas Khue

Principal

The position of administrative responsibility carries with it a unique opportunity for shaping a climate of Catholic/Christian values and an atmosphere for learning that will nurture the growth and development of each person. The principal fosters community among faculty and students. S/he understands the Catholic school as part of larger communities, both religious and secular. The principal collaborates with parish, area, and/or diocesan personnel in planning and implementing policies, programs and/or the use of facilities and grounds.

Principal.....Mrs. Meghan Jorgensen

Faculty and Staff

The faculty and staff of the school form a community whose purpose is to develop an atmosphere in which the religious faith of each student as well as his/her intellectual, moral, and physical capacities may be developed and strengthened.

- Extended Care Lead.....Cindy Roarty
- Extended Care Assistant.....Kristin Medeiros-Richardson
-Tim Roarty
- Office Manager.....Lori Zipp
- Secretary..... Susan Dioli
- Music Teacher.....Erik Krummell
- P.E. Teacher.....Jennifer King
- Technology Coordinator..... **Vinod Sahani**
- Learning Support Coordinator/ Vice Principal.....Katie Cronin
- School Counselor.....Amanda Leitner
- Spanish Teacher..... **TBD**
- Teacher Assistants.....Tina Stephano
-Margaret Connell
-Bethany Van Der Haeghen
-Cecilia Jacala
-Kandis Valles
-Terri Silva

.....	Angie Huaman
.....	Susan Dionisio
.....	Erika Amezcua
.....	Abril Ulloa
Preschool Director.....	Aledra Aguirre
Preschool Teacher.....	Cherie Parker
Kindergarten.....	Rebecca Hearne
First Grade.....	Maria MacKenzie
Second Grade.....	Anina Olivier
Third Grade.....	Sophia Real
Fourth Grade.....	Debbie Marcotte
Fifth Grade.....	Cynthia Manente
Sixth Grade.....	Jean-Thierry Mendiola
Seventh Grade.....	Beth Stern
Eighth Grade.....	Lori Mastrantonio
Middle School Math/ K-5 Science.....	Amos Hodgson

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

School Board

The School Board is an advisory organization whose mission is to bring its wisdom, talent, experience, faith and goodwill in providing quality education for all the students of St. Felicitas Catholic School. School Boards provide a way for individuals to take a positive and important advisory role in making major decisions about Catholic Schools. Board members meet with the Principal and Pastor monthly.

School Board Members

President - Elvia Quiroga
Michelle Dourado
Jim McNicholas
Miguel Sanchez
Mary Myer
Sheila Bickerton
Sr. Chris Patrinos

Parent Association

The Parent Association provides parents/legal guardians with a school organization to guide them in their role as the primary educator of their child/children. This volunteer group meets monthly to organize the room parent program, plan community building activities, and organize fundraisers for specific the various needs of the school. Fund-raising, parent education, and building community are goals of this organization. All parents/legal guardians are automatically enrolled in the Parent Association and are encouraged to attend the monthly board meeting and social events.

Parent Association Board Members

Justine Chan
Grace Echalas
Kelly Kong
Lorena Lopez
Valerie Valentine
Carey Zavala

ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

Admission Process

Students will be tested for readiness before acceptance into St. Felicitas Catholic School. The application forms are available in January and can be found on the website or in the school office and is to be filled out completely. A copy of a state certified birth certificate is required. A Baptismal certificate shall be required of all baptized Catholic students at the date of registration. In addition, a report card from the previous school or preschool evaluation if applying to Kindergarten is also required. After all documentation is received, an admission test is scheduled for each student applying. This is a general assessment of reading, writing, and math. A testing fee will be collected before testing.

Non-Discrimination Policy – Diocese of Oakland

“The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Oakland mindful in their mission to be witnesses to the love of Christ for all, admit students of any race, color, nationality and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students in the schools. The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Oakland do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex or disability in the administration of educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic, and other school administered programs.”

- Diocese of Oakland Administrative Handbook

Priority of Acceptance

1. Siblings of students currently enrolled at St. Felicitas Catholic School whose parents/legal guardians are registered and at St. Felicitas Catholic Church.

2. Catholic students whose parents/legal guardians are registered and worshipping at St. Felicitas Catholic Church.
3. Prospective Catholic students whose parents/legal guardians are registered and worshipping at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in San Leandro; verification of registration and worship must be submitted by the Pastor.
4. Catholic students whose parents/legal guardians are registered and worshipping in another Catholic parish; verification of registration and worship must be submitted by the Pastor.
5. Non-Catholic students.

Parents/Legal guardians of students that qualify for enrollment are to meet with the Pastor/Principal to discuss family participation in the faith life and activities at St. Felicitas parish.

Admission of transfer students with special needs will be dependent upon the faculty's ability to meet these needs. A child may be admitted into Kindergarten only if he/she is 5 years of age on or before September first of the current school year. A child may be admitted into the first grade only if he/she is 6 years on or before September first of the current school year.

Where a child has been legally enrolled in another school, he/she may be admitted to the school and placed in a lower grade at the discretion of the admitting school.

Registration

In March of each year, pre-registration for all returning students takes place. Parents/Legal guardians pay a non-refundable registration fee to reserve a place for their student/students for the next year.

Early registration insures that students currently enrolled have the first opportunity to register for the following school year. Those families that do not contact the school or pay the registration fee by the due date may be put on the waiting list for the following year.

Applications for admission can be found on the school website. Applications are accepted beginning in January for following school year.

Probationary Period

All students newly enrolled at St. Felicitas Catholic School will be placed on academic and social probation for their first year of attendance. The Principal has the authority to extend the probationary period to two years. Dates and criteria of the evaluation will be stated on the probation form. Failure to meet the academic and behavioral standards can result in dismissal.

School Transfer Policy

Students clearly unable to profit from the school by reason of ability, or serious emotional instability, will be asked to transfer. When possible, the transfer should take place at the end of the grading period, preferably at the end of an academic year. The Principal, in consultation with the Pastor, will make final decision in these cases.

Withdrawal Policy

Any parent or guardian who decides to withdraw their child during the school year must notify the principal a minimum of 2 weeks in advance. It is recommended that the withdrawal take place at the end of the grading period. Registration will not be refunded and tuition will be charged up to the end of the current trimester.

Non-Renewal of Student Enrollment

St. Felicitas maintains the right to disallow the continued enrollment of a student (Section 640 Diocese of Oakland Handbook) if:

- it is determined that the school cannot serve the student's needs emotionally and/or academically
- the student displays an uncooperative and destructive attitude and/or behaviors towards him/herself, other students, or staff members
- the parent displays an uncooperative and destructive attitude which may include but is not limited to disrespectful communication either online or in person with any staff member
- there is a lack in partnership between school and home caused by the parents that is causing issues with the child's success and growth
- the parent refuses to meet with principal, pastor, or teacher when requested

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Parents/Legal guardians are the primary educators of their children, especially in the area of faith and commitment to a relationship with God. Weekend Mass attendance is a serious obligation for all Catholic families. Parents/Legal guardians model the importance of building a relationship with God by their weekly participation with their children at Sunday Mass. The school has a commitment to work in partnership with parents/legal guardians in this obligation by providing formal religion classes, daily prayer, and regular liturgical and para-liturgical experiences for the children.

Parents/Legal guardians are encouraged to confer with their child's teacher regularly. Formal conferences are scheduled for parents/legal guardians during the first trimester of the school year. Conferences, however, may be requested by either parents/legal guardians or teachers whenever necessary. All concerns should be shared first with the teacher. If further clarification, information, or resolution of a problem is necessary, the parents/legal guardians should bring the matter to the Principal.

Responsibility of Parents

Agreement to enroll your child/children at St. Felicitas Catholic School carries certain parental responsibilities. It is expected that the parents/legal guardians will:

1. Support the mission and philosophy of the school by instilling in their child the gospel values through modeling these values in everyday actions.
2. Be active in the development of the faith life of their child/children and worship at Mass on weekends and Holy days.
3. Nurture the partnership between school and home through professional and positive communication.
4. Support the educational programs and activities offered at St. Felicitas Catholic School by staying current on all the information coming from both the office and classroom, checking the school website and viewing online grades (middle school only).
5. Contribute to the support of the parish by the use of church envelopes.
6. Be familiar with and support the school and class regulations and policies.
7. Attend parent/teacher conferences, carry out teacher recommendations, and maintain continuous communication as needed.
8. Fulfill all contractual obligations including but not limited to the service hour contract and the tuition contract.
9. Support, attend, and participate in school and parish related functions.
10. Take an active part in all school fundraising activities by meeting the minimum yearly fundraising requirements per family or by using the buy-out option.
11. Be responsible for all damage and loss to school property caused by the student.
12. Follow the approved chain of command whenever a problem arises in the classroom. Verbally discuss the matter with the teacher, next the principal, and finally the pastor.

Service Hours

Parents and guardians are considered partners in their child's education and a role model to the gospel values of service. Parents are required to complete a certain amount of service hours that contribute to the continued success of the school. These hours are vital to the everyday functioning of the school and strengthen the school – home connection. **All parents and guardians that do not fulfill their required hours will be charged \$75 per hour not completed.** The

hours that are required are 6 hours (3 if single parent home) to the general well-being of the school and additional hours to the community events that your child(ren)'s class is in charge of. Parents or Guardians will need to sign in every time they complete any service hours. Please see your service hour contract for additional information.

Class Visitation By Parents

Any visitor must check in with the school office. Visitors must sign the ledger book near the office and take a visitor's pass.

Parents/Legal guardians are welcome and encouraged to visit their child's/children's class in order to become familiar with the course of instruction at St. Felicitas Catholic School and to support the teacher in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to work in the classrooms to fulfill their general service hours. Such visits require prior coordination to ensure that the visit provides the utmost value to the parent/guardian and does not interfere with testing periods or special activities. Please contact the teacher prior to the visit. An appointment can be made with the teacher by contacting the office.

Parent Communications with School

All parent communication with the school should work to strengthen the working relationship between the school and the parent. Before the parent communicates, the best means of communication should be chosen. Email should be used for quick questions or clarifications. If parents/legal guardians have concerns, questions, or feedback about classroom or school expectations, they should speak directly with the teacher over the phone or in person. If further clarification or resolution of an issue is necessary, then the parent should bring the matter to the principal. It has been our experience that direct and immediate communication leads to resolution of difficulties and an improved learning/growing experience for the child. If parents or guardians are not satisfied with the outcome of the meeting with the principal they should make an appointment with the pastor. If parents or guardians are still not satisfied after contact with the pastor, the Diocese of Oakland Superintendent may be contacted.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition

Tuition rates are established annually by the administration, with increases recommended by the School Board. Tuition contracts are available during pre-registration in the spring, providing parents/legal guardians with the rates for the following year.

Registration

Registration is for the following year and is paid during March of the previous school year. It is non-refundable. It can be broken up in payments but needs to be paid in full by May. Registration is a general amount per student but may increase with additional fees in certain

grades such as Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 8th grade. Please see the registration form for additional information. The registration fee is susceptible to change each year.

Fundraising Responsibility

St. Felicitas Catholic School is a non-profit organization of learning, and as such our School Board plans and organizes specific revenue generating fundraisers to meet our yearly budget commitment. We also rely on all of our families to actively participate in our fundraising activities to meet these budget commitments. Our fundraising revenue is an integral part of the effort to supply our students with learning materials such as textbooks and computers, and provide them with a devoted faculty and staff. All revenues we generate benefit and potentially help reduce the amount of annual tuition increases.

As a parent/legal guardian of a student at St. Felicitas Catholic School you are required to actively participate in any and all scheduled fundraisers via direct participation or through the buy-out program. Any parent/legal guardian, who does not complete the predetermined family goal, will be billed the difference

Tuition Assistance

Tuition assistance is available from the St. Felicitas Catholic School Financial Aid Fund, FACE (Family Aid for Catholic Education), Basic Fund and Independent School. These organizations raise money to provide tuition assistance to families whose needs or circumstances require financial help. Family income determines the qualifications, and the application requires a copy of the latest Federal Tax Return form. All organizations have a specific process and deadlines. If deadlines are not met, financial aid is not given. Call the office for more information.

Tuition Payments

FACTS is the largest provider of tuition payment plans for Catholic schools, giving families at all levels a better way to manage education costs over time. All families are required to enroll with FACTS tuition management. Please note there is a \$41 registration fee associated with FACTS that you pay directly to them. Annual tuition can be paid with a 12-month plan or a 10-month plan.

Parents and guardians who pay tuition in one or two lump sum payments are not required to enroll with FACTS tuition management.

Late Payments

If tuition/fees have not been paid in full by May, or arrangements made with the Principal for late payment, the student(s) will not be registered/enrolled at St. Felicitas Catholic School for the following year.

Falcon's Nest (Extended Care)

In order for a child to participate in the extended care program a registration fee and snack fee are required. Payment for extended care can be paid through a monthly tuition program or hourly. Drop Ins are acceptable at a minimum amount. After 3 "drop Ins" a child must be registered in Falcon's Nest. Families are billed for extended care separately from tuition.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Immunizations

Students entering St. Felicitas Catholic School for the first time must bring complete, updated immunization and health records. **No child will be admitted into the school without these records.** Incoming 7th graders are also required to have their TDap immunization before starting school.

Medical Records

Preschool Students and new students in any grade must have a medical examination administered by their doctor. This form, completed by the doctor, is in addition to the Immunization Record. These are to be turned into the school office the first day of school. Students will not be allowed to attend class until these records are submitted.

Students who attended St. Felicitas Catholic School last year need only to keep their health records current. If he/she has received any immunizations during the summer, or there is additional information that should be listed, this is to be submitted to the office in August.

Health Program

The health program is conducted with consultation through the Alameda County Health Care Agency. The program includes are:

- Vision Screening
- Audiometric Testing
- Scoliosis Testing

The Diocesan Health Chairperson reviews health records annually.

Special Health Problems

If a child suffers from any type of seizure disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, serious allergic reactions, severe asthma, cardiac abnormalities or serious visual or hearing deficiencies requiring special considerations, parents/legal guardians must alert the teacher and the Principal and provide appropriate instructions in writing. Written indication of special health problems should also be put on the emergency contact form submitted at the beginning of the year.

Contagious Diseases

If a child has been diagnosed as having a contagious disease, (e.g., chicken pox, strep throat, lice, etc.) the parent/legal guardian should notify the office so that precautions can be taken and that notification can be sent home. A student who has had a fever may not return to school until 24 hours after the child is fever free without the use of medication.

If your child is not well prior to the beginning of the school day, you are requested to keep the child home. A child should not be sent to school with a temperature or if he/she experienced nausea during the night or early morning. A child cannot return to school until he/she has been fever free for 24 hours. The student is held responsible for any work missed.

Release from Physical Activity

PE classes are held for grades Kindergarten through Eighth each week. These classes are mandatory and a student must have a written note from a physician or parent to be excused from class. The note must include the duration of the exclusion from PE class. Due to liability issues and regard for student safety, the school will strictly follow all instructions sent in to the office regarding release from physical activity. Therefore, students excused from PE classes will also be excluded from physical activity at recess and extended day care. A note should be sent to the P.E. teacher, classroom teacher, office, and extended care (if applicable) to be kept on file.

Medications

Students cannot bring any medications to school and keep them with them. All Non-prescription and/or prescription medications are to be stored in the office and administered to a student by the school staff. Also, students needing cough drops will have to keep their cough drops at the office, as students are not allowed to have these in their possession.

If a child has a prescribed medication or over the counter medication to be given during the school day, the following procedure is to be followed:

- A release form signed by the doctor and parent/legal guardian should be on file stating the nature of the medication. Forms are available in the school office or refer to the appendix for a copy.
- The student is responsible to come to the office (if age appropriate) to request the prescribed medication and it will be administered according to doctor's instruction.

Bee Sting or Severe Allergy Reaction

Please contact the office if your child has severe allergies. This will allow us time to plan accordingly for his/her allergies.

Lice Policy

- According to the Diocese of Oakland Administrative Health Manual, the following procedure is to be employed if lice are found:
- Student will be sent home with a letter outlining treatment.
- Parent/Legal guardian should shampoo the child's hair according to directions and comb out nits. Nits must be removed before the child returns to school.
- Parent/Legal guardian must bring the child to the school office to be inspected for lice. If no nits are found, the child can go to class. Otherwise the parent/legal guardian will take the child home to start treatment over.
- On the eleventh day, the child will be inspected at school.
- Parents/Legal guardians who believe that their child does not have head lice and who refuse to treat the child must obtain a written letter from their doctor stating that the child is free from such an infestation.

The school maintains the right to evaluate this situation to insure the rights of all students. Please be aware that school parents volunteer to come to school to inspect for lice. In most cases they are nurses. Please be polite and respectful of their decisions.

Emergency Health Forms

Parents/legal guardians will complete an online Diocesan "Emergency Health Information" form at the beginning of each school year or when enrolling at St. Felicitas Catholic School. If a child is enrolled in the Extended Care, parents will be asked to complete another emergency contact form. All relevant information should be correct and current. Please inform the school immediately of any changes in address, telephone number, email address, or cell phone number. Keep the name and phone number of the contact people current.

Parents/Legal guardians will be notified if a child becomes ill or is seriously injured. If parents/legal guardians are not available, those persons listed on the "Emergency Health Information" form will be notified.

If the parents/legal guardians or those listed cannot be contacted and school personnel deem that the child should be seen by a doctor "911" will be called. The parents/legal guardians will be notified as soon as they can be contacted.

CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES

School Calendar

The school calendar is created under the guidance and recommendations of the Diocese of Oakland. The school calendar includes 180 days of student instruction. Within those 180 days,

20 of those days are minimum days, used for professional development of the teachers. Each year the calendar is sent to the Diocese of Oakland central office for approval. Please see the website for all updated calendar dates.

Daily School Schedule

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Falcon’s Nest (Child care before school)
8:00 a.m.	Playground Supervision Begins
8:15 a.m.	Bell Rings / Morning Assembly
8:20 a.m.	Instruction Begins
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Recess K - 2
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Recess: Grades 3 – 8
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch: Grades K – 8
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal: All Grades K – 8
*Early Dismissal Days end at 12:00	
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Falcon’s Nest (Extended Care)

For safety and insurance reasons students are to arrive on campus after 8:00 a.m., when teacher supervision commences. Students arriving on campus prior to 8:00 a.m. will be placed in Extended Care (Falcon’s Nest) and an hourly fee will be charged. Students may remain at the gate only if they are supervised by a parent/guardian. Students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Students waiting for rides, or those who have not departed campus by 3:15 PM will be sent to Extended Care (Falcon’s Nest). An hourly fee will be charged.

Early Dismissal Days

To provide our faculty the time necessary to collaborate and identify school-wide instructional goals and improve student learning, early dismissal days are generally twice a month on Wednesday at 12:00 PM. Falcon’s Nest will continue to be available from the time of dismissal on these days. Students who are not picked up by 12:15 p.m. will be sent to Extended Care and a fee will be charged to the parents/legal guardians.

There are also some 12:00 p.m. dismissals during the school year that fall on other days due to holidays or school functions. These days are noted on the yearly school calendar. Please reference the minimum day full year calendar sent home in the registration packet.

Extended Care Hours

St. Felicitas Catholic School offers an Extended Care Program (Falcon’s Nest) for all students enrolled at the school. Extended Care is available only on the days the school is open for instruction. On minimum days, students’ participating in the Extended Care Program are asked to bring lunch or order hot lunch for the current hot lunch program. This program accommodates “drop-ins” upon parental/legal guardian request. The hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and then from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. (12:00 to 6:00 on minimum days.) Any child/children remaining after 6:00 p.m. will be assessed additional fees. There is no extended

care offered on the 1st and last days of school, the last days before Christmas and Easter break, Special Person's Day, Evacuation Drill Day, and Field Day.

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

Absences

Upon returning to school after an absence, a dated, written excuse stating the reason for the child's absence must be signed by the parent/legal guardian and presented to the teacher (State of California Education Code). These excuses shall be kept on file until the end of the school year. If your child is sick with a contagious disease please see procedures in Medical Information Section.

If a child is absent from school, parents/legal guardians must notify the office before 9:00 a.m. Parents/Legal guardians are requested to leave a message on the answering machine if they call before 7:00 a.m. Parents will be notified if a child is absent and no one has contacted the school.

Anytime a student is absent, work will be provided at the end of the day and left in the bookshelf next to the office to be picked up after school by a parent or relative.

Excessive Absences

“Excessive absence” is when a student is absent from school for seven (7) days per trimester or a total of twenty one (21) days per school year. When a child arrives after recess he/she is considered to be a half-day absent. Excessive absences can have serious effects on student progress. In the event that excessive absences have occurred a conference with the principal, teacher, and parent will be scheduled. **Excessive absences may result in loss of enrollment for the following year.**

Vacation Absences

The school year is set up to be 180 days of instructional time for our students. This leaves 185 days left in the year for vacation time for students including weekends, federal holidays, Christmas vacation, Easter vacation, and summer vacation. There are a variety of opportunities for vacation set up during the school year and it is vital that all families utilize those times only.

A family that needs to use instructional time for vacation does so at their own risk. It is important that the principal and teacher are contacted a minimum of 2 weeks in advance. Although the student will not be able to make up all instructional time missed, particularly group projects, teacher lectures, and hands on learning projects, any paper assignments that can be given will be provided. Please also note that loss of instructional time may negatively impact student progress and grades. Due dates for assignments completed during vacation need to be discussed with and clarified by the teacher.

Tardiness

Student tardiness is disruptive to the entire class, causing interference once teaching has begun. Every effort should be made to ensure that students are on time for school. School gates close at the 8:15 bell. Students arriving at the school site after the 8:15 a.m. bell are to report to the office. As a safety precaution, late students must be escorted to the office by the parent or person dropping them off. That person will be required to sign and complete an entry into the Tardy Book. Students will not be admitted to class without the parent/guardian signature.

Please try to keep excused tardies, for medical purposes, to a minimum. Please try and schedule appointments after school, on half days or even no school days.

Each student will be allowed three unexcused tardies a trimester (9 total during the year). Any more than three tardies a trimester is considered excessive tardiness. After the third tardy, the parent(s) will be given one extra service hour for each tardy that follows. Excessive tardies will be charged at the end of each trimester.

Appointments

Doctor and dental appointments should be made during school vacation, on minimum days or after school. When such appointments are impossible to obtain before or after school hours, OFFICIAL VERIFICATION from the doctor or dentist is required.

When an early dismissal for an appointment is necessary, the parent/legal guardian should send a note confirming the appointment and the time the child will be picked up. If a note is not sent, the parent/legal guardian must present himself/herself to the office before the child can be released. The parent/legal guardian will sign the appropriate page in the binder at the school office before the child can be released. If someone other than the parent/legal guardian is picking up the child, he/she must present a signed note to this effect from the parent/legal guardian before the child is released.

ACADEMICS

Curriculum

The curriculum at St. Felicitas Catholic School is the responsibility of the Principal and faculty following the approved Diocesan guidelines. Our mission at St. Felicitas Catholic School is to provide a quality Catholic education that addresses the needs of the whole child while recognizing the abilities and talents of each individual child. Our curriculum follows the State, National, and Diocesan guidelines and offers an integrated and critical thinking approach to subject matter. The following is a generalized overview of the scope of the subjects offered. Specifics for each grade level are explained at Back-to-School Night.

Religious Education Program

The St. Felicitas Catholic School community strives to live the Gospel message by providing significant religious activities for our students. All students have the opportunity to attend a monthly liturgy in the church, usually held on the first Friday of each month. In addition, prayer services, liturgical celebrations, and Holy Days of Obligation, will be observed by students. Complete formal uniforms will be required when attending all school Liturgies. (P.E. attire is not allowed. No optional uniforms are to be worn. Free Dress passes may not be used.) Guests are always welcome to attend. Non-Catholic students are expected to participate respectfully in these activities as they occur during the school year.

Students at St. Felicitas Catholic School begin and end each day with prayer. Religion is taught daily and the faith-life of the student is encouraged to grow.

The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are received after a preparation period. Parents of students enrolled in the parish sacramental program are expected to participate in the parish parent-education program. Older students who have not received these sacraments will be prepared on an individual basis. Parents are to request this instruction.

English Language Arts

The goal of the Language Arts Program is to develop effective communicators that utilize both written and spoken language to clearly communicate ideas and opinions. This means that all instruction is planned and structured with the intent to challenge our students to read increasingly complex texts and create cohesive, well-organized, and succinct writing pieces.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Program is designed to provide a meaningful understanding of facts and the application of processes. It includes Problem Solving, Estimation and Mental Arithmetic, Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Relations and Functions, Probability and Statistics, and Logical Thinking.

Science

The Science Program is designed to develop in students the skills necessary for observing, communicating, comparing, measuring, organizing, relating, inferring, and applying. The emphasis is on textbook and hands-on learning, which incorporates lab experiences and creative challenges. It encompasses life, physical, earth and environmental sciences.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Program emphasizes the value of the diversity of our heritages. It is designed to promote knowledgeable and responsible citizenship. The Social Studies program includes the study of: People and Communities, California, the United States, Cultures of the World - ancient and modern, and the United States Constitution and Government.

Music

The Music Program teaches the love and enjoyment of music to every child. The students learn to sing liturgical songs that reflect the different Church Seasons. The students are also exposed to many different kinds of instruments, composers, and cultures through music. Students begin to read music beginning in 4th grade.

Physical Education

The Physical Education Program provides the students with the opportunity to acquire and develop physical skills, confidence, teamwork, and physical and mental wellbeing. Motor development, eye-hand coordination, and physical fitness are emphasized as well as seasonal sports. PE classes are held for grades Kindergarten through Eighth grade each week.

Spanish

The K-5 Spanish Program is designed to provide early exposure to the Spanish language and various cultures. In addition students will be working towards mastery of basic vocabulary through hands on activities. The Middle School Spanish Program is designed to develop conversational, written, and verbal skills, as well as awareness and appreciation for Spanish speaking cultures.

Grading Policy

The administration and faculty of St. Felicitas Catholic School are working to evaluate students' performance in achieving and mastering the grade level standards. Therefore, written grades will be given to keep students and parents/legal guardians informed of the student's performance. It is our desire that parents/legal guardians and teachers recognize the necessity of consistent communication. The grading code is consistent with the policy recommended by the Diocese of Oakland. **K-3 will have standards based report cards. You may reference the Standards Based System handbook for additional information.**

Grades K- 3

Grading Code:

- 4 - Exceeds Grade Level
- 3.5 - Student has mastered grade level standards and displays partial mastery above grade level
- 3 - Student demonstrates mastery of grade level standards
- 2.5 - Student is progressing toward mastery of grade level standards and displays mastery of some
- 2 - Student is beginning to progress toward mastery of grade level standards
- 1.5 - Student demonstrates grade level understanding with some support
- 1 - Student does not yet demonstrate grade level understanding with support
- N/A - Not Assessed

Grades 4 – 8

Grading Code:

- A = 95 – 100
- A- = 90 – 94
- B+ = 87 – 89
- B = 83 - 86
- B- = 80 –82
- C+ = 77 – 79
- C = 73 – 76
- C- = 70 72
- D+ = 67 – 69
- D = 63 – 66
- D- =60 – 62
- F = Below 60

Educational Trips

Educational field trips are planned as part of the instructional program. Such field trips are a privilege and students can be denied permission to participate for academic or behavioral reasons. Parents will be notified ahead of time if their child is not allowed a field trip. Students are required to have a signed, diocesan approved form to participate (Refer to appendix for a copy of the form). Phone calls or notes are not accepted, but faxed, signed diocesan forms are acceptable means for student participation. It is the policy of St. Felicitas Catholic School to use contracted buses, cars, or public transportation as the means of transportation for these educational trips following all guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Oakland.

Textbooks

The school registration fee covers the fee for student textbooks. All classroom textbooks are the property of St. Felicitas Catholic School. Families will be charged for lost or damaged books.

Homework

Homework is a resource for all our students to develop self-discipline, organizational and study skills, review concepts studied, and add enrichment to their learning. Reading is above all the most vital activity for students to do at home to support their studies. Parents/legal guardians are asked to help students by providing the following:

- A quiet place for study away from other activities and media sources.
- Schedule a regular time for study. They should be doing something every night. IF a student does not have written homework, quiet reading, working on long term projects or studying for upcoming tests is recommended so the habit of regular study time is formed.
- Homework is not to be so excessive that a student does not have time for home responsibilities or leisure. Always discuss any concerns with your child's teacher(s) as soon as they arise.
- Closely monitor any use of technology that your child may be using to complete his/her homework.

Students must complete missed assignments when they are absent. Due dates for missing assignments need to be discussed with and clarified by the teacher.

Middle School Homework Policy

In an effort to build self-discipline and prepare our middle school students for high school all assignments should be turned in on time. In the event that an assignment is not complete or turned in, the middle school student will need to complete a pink slip explaining why they did not have their assignment. The pink slip will need to be signed by their parent. If a student has excessive missing assignments or is missing key summative assignments – the student will receive an incomplete for their grade. The student will need to meet with the teacher and discuss assignments needed to be turned in. By the end of the trimester an incomplete will turn into an F.

Report Cards

Report cards are provided as a final summary of student progress given each trimester. Report cards are sent home at the end of each trimester. Report cards reflect the student's effort, academic achievement, and conduct. Reports cards are to be signed by parent/legal guardian and returned within three (3) days. It is important that parents discuss the report cards with students and create goals for the following trimester.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are sent home as a preview of student progress at the halfway mark of each trimester. It is important information that provides feedback for a student to make improvements before the end of the trimester. Progress reports are sent to parents/legal guardians for students in grades K-8. This report is formulated to inform parents/legal guardians of student achievement. The progress report must be signed and returned within three (3) days.

Standardized Testing

Students will take the Star Renaissance Learning Online Adaptive Assessment at least 4 times per year to evaluate growth and progress. The Star test is based on the California Common Core Standards. All students Kindergarten through 8th grade will be tested. The test is used to assist us in our efforts as professional educators to review our curricular programs and make informed decisions about day to day instruction that will best serve our students. These tests are not used to determine grades for report cards. The results of these tests will be shared with the parents/legal guardians. This testing is but one component of a rounded approach to assessing an individual, and the classroom program as a whole. High school counselors will use the test results from 7th and 8th grades during the admittance process.

Promotion and Retention Policy

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

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

DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

Student's actions and attitudes should always reflect a Christian ethic, and their behavior should be in accordance with the moral and religious expectations outlined by our school philosophy. Discipline is attained when students work cooperatively with the teachers, fellow students, and principal toward the attainment of class and school objectives. Discipline is an aspect of moral guidance and not a form of punishment. The purpose of discipline is:

- To provide a classroom climate conducive to learning.
- To educate students to an appreciation of the importance of developing responsibility and self-discipline.
- To build a sense of Christian community.

Respect and responsibility are essential in our Christ-centered environment, allowing optimal learning and growth.

The following are the guidelines for these expectations:

1. Respectful behavior toward oneself, others, and the surrounding environment is expected of students at all times.
2. Students are required to contribute to the learning environment.
3. Students are expected to follow all school procedures and policies.

Consequences for non-compliance of school rules

- Students will conference with the teacher and/or the Principal on infraction. Parental/Legal guardian contact will be made if necessary.
- Habitual violation of any rule(s) will result in serious consequences that are appropriate to the infraction.
- The teacher will communicate with parents/legal guardians when repeated instances or problems occur.
- Conduct that takes place outside of St. Felicitas Catholic School that damages the good name of the school may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the principal.

Morning/Lunch Recess Rules

In order to have a safe and caring environment for morning and lunch recesses, the following rules apply to students:

1. Stay in their assigned class area
2. Respect every person with words and actions
3. Keep school buildings, restrooms and grounds clean
4. Walk to and from play areas
5. Freeze when the bell rings and line up when whistle is blown
6. Get drinks during play time not after the bell has rung

Consequences on the Playground

The yard duty personnel may give any of the following disciplinary actions:

1. Time-out on the playground
2. Lunch area/campus cleanup
3. Parent Contact from Teacher if Necessary

Repeated issues will result in a conference with the student, parent/legal guardian, and the Principal. Disrespect, talking back, gestures, or defiance to any school personnel or volunteer will result in disciplinary action.

Suspension Policies

Suspension from school will be used when other means of corrections fail to result in proper conduct. Additionally, suspension will be utilized if the conduct of a student is deemed by principal to be contrary to the gospel values and mission of the school.

In-School Suspension

After a review of the issues, the parent/guardian will be informed of an in-school suspension (from 1 to 3 days, at the Principal's discretion). During an in-school suspension, the student will work independently in the school library (or another classroom) on class assignments. Recess and lunch periods will be spent in the office. Students are to meet with the Principal or his/her representative at 2:55 p.m., before the student leaves the school.

Out-of-School Suspension

The Principal may suspend a student for one to five consecutive days for a specific incident. Students are responsible for making up work that would have been given had he/she been in class. Parents/Legal guardians will be informed of the suspension. The principal will meet with the Parent/Legal guardians.

Student suspensions may be a result of, but are not limited to the following reasons:

- Fighting, hitting or any threatening of violence directed towards students or school personnel
- Intimidating, threatening, or defamatory words towards teachers, students or school personnel either verbally, written, or online
- Serious misconduct as determined by the faculty, staff, or Principal
- Extortion
- Continual misbehavior and disregard for school regulations in the classroom, in or about the buildings, and on school grounds
- Leaving school grounds without permission

Expulsion Policies

Expulsion is an extreme but sometimes necessary measure for the common good. Consultation with the Pastor and Superintendent of Schools is required before expulsion can take place. Students who pose a threat to themselves or to others may be expelled from St. Felicitas Catholic School. Students who have been expelled will not be allowed to return to the school without prior permission from the Principal.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Weekly School Newsletter

The designated means of school-home communication is the Blue Letter and Family Envelope, which are sent out Thursday of each week. The Blue Letter includes a weekly letter from the principal, important upcoming dates, and additional information about various activities happening. It is vital to the functioning of the school that parents stay up to date on the information coming from the Blue Letter. The Blue Letter is sent out via email to all families and posted on the school website. Any other flyers or information are sent home in the Family Envelope. In an attempt to conserve school resources and be responsible citizens to our environment, we encourage all families to access the blue letter from their email or the website. However, if you have difficulty accessing the Internet please inform the office and a paper copy of the newsletter will be sent home in the Family Envelope.

Parents/legal guardians are asked to read all enclosures, sign the envelope and return it to school the following day. On occasion, if there is a short week, the envelope will be sent home on a different day. The oldest student in the family is responsible for delivering the contents of the envelope to the parents/legal guardians, and bringing the envelope back to school the next day. If you would prefer another child beside the oldest to take home the envelope please inform the office and accommodations will be made.

Weekly Teacher Newsletters

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, the teachers send home a weekly newsletter filled with class announcements and curriculum information. It is vital to the functioning of the classroom that parents stay up to date on the information from the newsletter.

In an effort to continue to teach responsibility to our middle school students, news and updates are discussed with students during morning homeroom time. Class websites and Powerschool are another way for middle school parents to stay up to date.

School Website

The school website is an important place to go for information about the school. Most important documents are posted on the website in addition to the most up to date version of the school calendar. The Blue Letter is also posted on the school website. Parents should check the school website at least once a week for up to date information.

All classes have individual websites connected to the general school website. All newsletters, class announcements, curriculum overviews, and homework are posted on these websites for the convenience of our parents.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Classroom supplies

All parents receive a supply list for their child's grade in their registration packet. All supplies on the list must be brought in on the first day of school. The school provides many other basic supplies necessary for running the classroom smoothly, such as paper, pencils, notebooks, etc. These supplies are paid for partially through the registration fees.

Book Bags

All students are encouraged to use a durable, protective bag so that wear and tear on school material will be lessened. Label bag with name and grade. Any decorative material deemed inappropriate will be asked to be removed, if the item cannot be removed, a replacement book bag will have to be purchased at the parent/guardian's expense. Book bags with wheels are allowed in Grades 4 – 8 **ONLY**.

Lunch

Children can either bring their lunches to school or purchase hot lunch from Choice Lunch. Lunch menus can be found online at www.choicelunch.com. **Canned beverages or soft drinks are not allowed at lunch, this includes glass containers as well as aluminum.**

In addition, St. Felicitas Catholic School continues to work to instill self-discipline and responsibility in our students and expects all students come to school prepared with their lunches for the day. On the rare occasion that a student forgets his/her lunch, he/she will receive an emergency lunch from Choice Lunch. In an effort to support your child's independence, no drop off lunches will be permitted. If a family has a special circumstance that makes it very difficult to follow through with this policy, it is important to communicate and work with the principal so arrangements can be made. Exceptions may also be made for emergency circumstances, however frequent drop offs or fast food will result in your child needing to eat lunch in the nurse's room.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Policy

The Diocese of Oakland recognizes the various ways, both positive and negative, that students, personnel, and parents can use technology both in school and at home. Our schools seek to educate 21st Century learners through 21st Century teaching. Our objective is to fully prepare students to use the resources available in ethical, constructive, productive and intelligent ways as Christian citizens in a global community.

As a community of faith that embraces technology, we recognize the following:

- ❖ Words transmitted using the Internet and related technologies are published materials, available for worldwide access, and are public documents
- ❖ The values of dignity and respect for every person apply to all of our interactions with each other, be they in person or by virtual means
- ❖ Using technology to publish opinions which are obscene, work against the values of dignity and respect of each person, or bring harm to the individual as well as to our school community are contrary to the mission of each of the schools

The Diocese of Oakland discourages students, personnel, and parents from using technology in irresponsible ways both at school and at home and will hold all users responsible for their published words if they effect the school, administration, faculty, staff, students and families. Students, personnel, and parents who use technology in ways that are contrary to our mission will face disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion/dismissal.

Code of Conduct

St. Felicitas Catholic School students are expected to model a code of conduct reflecting the

school philosophy of *St. Felicitas Catholic School* at all times. This includes all school events and activities, and extends beyond the physical boundaries of the school.

The school's jurisdiction with respect to conduct includes:

- ❖ At all times when the student is on school grounds
- ❖ At all times during the school day, both on and off school grounds
- ❖ At all officially sanctioned school-sponsored events
- ❖ Outside of the school day when the student's behavior reflects upon the school.

Note: The school retains the right to discipline students for their actions, regardless of when or where they occur, when those actions negatively impact the school's image, reputation, and/or the safety and well-being of the school community. This covers inappropriate behavior in cyberspace including but not limited to messages, chat room commentary, comments/pictures, postings on social networking sites, blogs, wikis, gaming chats, digital transmissions and other technology related activities.

Responsible Use Agreement

Telecommunications Responsible Use Agreement *Adapted from NCEA's [From the Chalkboard to the Chatroom](#).*

As a school technology user, I agree to follow the rules and code of ethics in all of my work with telecommunications while attending *St. Felicitas Catholic School*:

1. I recognize that all computer users have the same right to use the equipment; therefore, I will not use the computer resources for non-academic purposes. I will not waste or take supplies such as paper, printer cartridges, and discs that are provided by the school. When I am in the computer lab, or utilizing mobile technology within the classroom, I will work in ways that will not disturb other users. I will keep my computer work area clean and will not eat or drink in the computer lab or around the mobile lab equipment.
2. I recognize that copyright laws protect licensed media; therefore, I will not make unauthorized copies of software and I will not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others. I understand that I will not be allowed to bring software applications, games, or CD-ROMs from home to be used on school equipment without proof of licensure and prior approval of appropriate school personnel.
3. I recognize that the work of all users is valuable; therefore, I will protect the privacy of my password and not share it with others; I will also protect the privacy of others by not trying to learn their password; I will not copy, change, read, or use files from another user without prior permission from that user; I will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs for computer equipment; I will not use computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users or use inappropriate language in my communications. If I become aware of any misuse by others, I will notify the school site administrator immediately.

I will honor my school's procedures for the storage of information. I realize that after prior notice has been given to me, files may be deleted from the system to protect the integrity of the network or because of space limitations on the computer's hard drive.

4. Each student who receives Internet access will be instructed in the proper use of the network. The use of the Internet must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of the school. Students using network or computing resources must comply with the appropriate rules for that network or resource.

As a user of a network, I will not use bulletin boards or chat lines for personal use. In addition, I will not reveal my personal information, home address, or personal phone number or those of students, teachers, or other staff members. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. The use of school computers and networking resources for commercial activities is not permitted. Their use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

5. Parents must realize that their students may encounter material on a network/bulletin board that they do not consider appropriate (vulgar jokes, statements of belief that some might consider immoral, etc.) The student is responsible for not pursuing material that could be considered offensive.

6. The use of technology is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of these privileges. Vandalism or intentional modification of system settings will result in cancellation of privileges and/or school disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to seek financial restitution for any damage caused by a student or other user. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. The administration, faculty, and staff of the school may request that the system administrator deny, revoke, or suspend specific user privileges. Violations of the rules and code of ethics described above will be dealt with seriously.

7. Cyber-bullying, cyber-harassment, and cyber-stalking are forms of bullying that utilize electronic means including, but not limited to email, texting, inappropriate images, posting, and instant messaging. These forms of harassment are taken seriously and are prohibited.

8. Students, personnel and parents may not take or transmit images that violate the Responsible Use Policy. Taking pictures, videos, or recordings without a person's knowledge is a violation. The transmission, display, and sharing of inappropriate images is subject to disciplinary and legal action.

9. Students are allowed to bring personal computers or mobile devices onto campus for educational purposes only and at the discretion of the classroom teacher or school administration. This privilege can be revoked at any time if the student violates the Responsible Use Policy. The school will not be responsible for the security, troubleshooting or repairing of student or personnel-owned computers. Students/parents/guardians and personnel accept full responsibility for the loss or damage to their computers or mobile devices.

Violation of Telecommunications Responsible Use Policy

Any user who violates the Responsible Use Policy or local, state, or federal law, faces the loss of technology privileges, disciplinary action, and may face legal prosecution.

The goal of the Technology Program is to produce young citizens who are life long learner's and digitally responsible in today's global market. By integrating the current curriculum with skills and information that utilize computer technology, students learn to apply technological skills to real life situations.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Use of School Logo

No one may use the school logo for any reason without the expressed written permission of the administration.

Closets, Desks, and Computer Files

Closets and desks are joint property of St. Felicitas Catholic School and the students. Either tenant may access these areas at any time without notice. The school also reserves the right to check the download history of every school computer.

Gum Chewing

No gum chewing is not allowed anywhere on the school property.

Safety on School Property

1. No student can be in the school building/classroom without adult supervision before school, after school or during school hours.
2. Skateboards are not permitted on the school grounds.
3. All gates should remain closed and locked at all times.
4. Front office door remains closed and locked at all times.
5. All classrooms have one of the two doors locked at all times in case of emergency.

Cell Phones

Cell phones & other electronic devices are not part of the instructional program at St. Felicitas Catholic School, unless the device has been cleared by the principal. Students are **not** allowed to

use cell phones & other electronic devices on campus. If this occurs, the electronic device will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian. Students with cell phones are required to turn them in to their teacher at the beginning of each school day. The cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. St. Felicitas Catholic School takes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

Student Cumulative Records

Student records are maintained by the school and kept locked in the office. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to inform the school of any change in custody arrangements. The school may require legal verification of such arrangements.

The school abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to the school related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with the official copy of the court order. All the student's records shall be made available for inspection by the student's parents or legal guardians except that behavioral records (e.g., counselor's reports) shall be released only in the presence of a person qualified to interpret the records. The school has five (5) days to comply with a request to inspect student records, and will make every reasonable effort to comply with the request.

Records of students transferring to other schools will only be sent through the US Mail. No records will be given to parents to transport to the new school.

The school may not permit access or release of school records to any other person or agency without the authorization of the parent/legal guardian. (Payment of tuition for a student does not give the legal right to student records.) The authorization shall be in writing, signed and dated by the person giving consent. It must include a specification of records to be released, the reasons for release, and the names of the parties to whom the records will be released.

CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

Class Parties

All grades will celebrate three social occasions as a class. The three occasions include Christmas, Valentine's Day, and the final day of school. Teachers may plan additional parties. Room parents will plan and deliver the treats. Funds for these parties are taken from the registration fees.

Birthdays

The school and teachers do various things throughout the day to make birthdays special for our students. All students are very important to the staff, however it is very important that instructional time is minimally disrupted. Therefore, the school only allows very **simple** birthday celebrations of the students in the classroom. One small treat for each student may be

brought to the school. We require that the treats are packaged individually to promote easy distribution. Treats will be distributed at recess or at the end of the school day at the discretion of the teacher. **Gifts, party favors, whole class meals, whole cakes, goodie bags, balloons etc. are not allowed as they are disruptive to the learning environment.**

In addition, invitations to private birthday parties cannot be distributed on school premises. Unless families are inviting all students of one gender or all students in the class, we insist that invitations not be given out at school. We want to spare the heartache experienced by those students not included in private parties.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY

Fire

A monthly fire drill is held. The diocesan insurance agents make routine inspections of the school plant.

Earthquake Policy

This disaster plan will be tested at least once each trimester during the school year.

When an earthquake occurs, all students and all adults present at the school will immediately duck, cover and hold; their backs are to be toward the windows. Should students and/or adults be outside during this occurrence, they are to move away from any building or structure and assemble in the back playground.

The Principal will activate the fire drill to evacuate the building. All students will assemble at the designated outside assembly area. Once students are assembled:

- Teachers will take roll and report results to the Principal
- Teachers will notify the Principal of any injuries and/or special problems.
- Students and staff will remain outside until given the signal to return to the classroom.

Earthquake Retention Policy

Should a serious earthquake occur, all students will be retained at school until dismissed to an adult who has been designated by the parent/legal guardian to pick up the student. Parents/Legal guardians will indicate who those adults will be on the “Emergency Disaster Release Form” each year. **NO CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO HOME ALONE, STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED TO ONE OF THE ADULTS LISTED ON THE “EMERGENCY DISASTER RELEASE FORM.”**

The access road to the school will be closed to all vehicles. Parents/legal guardians are to walk to the school gates used for dismissal. Parents/Legal guardians must follow the dismissal procedure that will be posted.

- DO NOT PANIC! Your child/children will be cared for.
- Follow the posted signs.
- Check in at the Release Area and fill out the release form. Students will be brought to you.
- In the event that phones do not work, have a designated person pick up your child/children if you are unable to do it yourself. This person **must** be listed on your child's/children's emergency form.

School Lockdown

At any given time it may be necessary to lockdown our school under the direction of the local Police or Fire Departments. In the event of a lockdown the teachers will be given directions from the Principal using different code words. Classrooms and buildings will be locked and the students will follow the directions of the teacher. For security purposes the full lockdown procedure is not included in the handbook. Please request a copy at the office if you would like more information. We will distribute copies to parents or guardians only.

Insurance

Included in the yearly registration fee is the student accident insurance fee. If a child is injured during school hours, parents/legal guardians may apply to the school for an insurance claim form. This must be done within twenty (20) days of the incident. At the beginning of the school year, each family receives a copy of the policy outlining the benefits.

Pick Up and Drop Off

All drivers who enter the school driveway to drop off or pick up children must drive slowly and with extreme caution. Drivers **must enter from Manor blvd. only.** Drivers must follow the direction of the traffic. **The curb area, in the mornings, is for unloading children only.** If a parent/legal guardian wishes to park and walk with a child, the car must be parked in the designated angle spaces, on the right, along the fence. An adult must escort students crossing the driveway. **No double parking is allowed to pick up or drop off students as it is very dangerous for our students.** For afternoon pick up everyone parks and walks to the appropriate pick up area to pick up student(s). Kindergarten through 2nd are picked up at the basketball courts play area gate. 5th grade is picked up at the Religious Education building gate. 3rd and 4th grade are picked up between the play structure and school office gate. Middle School is picked up at the gate outside the office.

All students who walk home from school must get a permission slip signed at the beginning of the year. They must check out with the teacher before they walk home.

Students riding bicycles to school are to walk their bikes on the school premises. The school accepts no liability for damage or theft. Students bring their bicycles to school at their own risk. All bicycles must be placed in the bike rack and locked. California State Law requires helmets be worn anytime a student is riding a bike.

School Wide Bullying Policy

Bullying is defined as consistent, daily harassment of a student by another student or group of students. Bullying does not reflect our school mission and is not tolerated. If any student, teacher, or parent is aware of bullying (as defined above) at the school it needs to be reported to the Principal immediately. The Principal will investigate accordingly. Parents will be notified about the findings of the investigation. Appropriate consequences will be established at the discretion of the principal.

STUDENT SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY

Policy Statement

The schools of the Diocese of Oakland prohibit any form of sexual harassment of students whether verbal, physical or environmental. It is a violation of this policy for any employee or agent of the Diocese to harass a student or for a student to harass another student in a sexual manner as defined below.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is defined as including, but not limited, to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward a student under any of the following conditions:

1. Submission to, or toleration of, sexual harassment in an explicit or implicit term or condition of any services, benefits or programs sponsored by the Diocese;
2. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is used as a basis for an academic evaluation affecting a student;
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonable with a student's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment;
4. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, sponsored by the Diocese.

Employee to Student Harassment

1. Employee to student harassment is prohibited at all times whether or not the incidents or harassment occur on school property or at school sponsored events.
2. To prevent sexual harassment, amorous relationships between a student and an agent or employee of the Diocese are strictly prohibited.
3. Any employee or agent of the Diocese who participates in the harassment of a student is subjected to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, verbal warnings, letters or reprimand, transfers, reassignment, suspension without pay, and dismissal.

Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment

This policy prohibits student-to-student sexual harassment whenever it is related to school activity or attendance and occurs at any time including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. While on school grounds;
2. While going to or coming from school;
3. During the lunch period whether on or off campus;
4. During, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.

Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of another student is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to the following: verbal warnings and reprimands, required counseling, suspension and/or expulsion.

Retaliation

The Diocese forbids retaliation against anyone who reports sexual harassment or who participates in the investigation of such a report.

Grievance Procedure

The Diocese has adopted administrative procedures for filing sexual harassment complaints. A copy of the formal complaint procedure is contained in the Diocese of Oakland Department's Administrative Handbook. At an informal level, complaints may be reported to a school counselor, the Principal, or Leadership Team Member or designee. Complaints should also be presented in written form to the Principal.

St. Felicitas Catholic School affirms the Christian dignity of every student.

Child Abuse Reporting Obligations

All school employees are mandated by law to report suspected abuse of children. This abuse includes physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and all suspected acts of omission or commission that can endanger the child. This law requires that the school report suspected abuse immediately to Child Protective Services. In this very serious situation the school will not contact the parent/legal guardian in advance of making a report to the authorities.

DRESS CODE AND UNIFORM

Uniforms

In order to provide an environment that reflects our Catholic tradition, promotes respect for school and individuals, and enhances self-esteem, students at St. Felicitas Catholic School are required to wear uniforms. Any deviations from the uniform (dress-up days, school spirit, team recognition, etc.) are at the discretion of the administration. The Principal will make all final decisions regarding uniforms.

St. Felicitas Catholic School uses a single source supplier, Bancroft Uniforms. It is **required** that all uniform items are purchased at this site to provide school wide conformity to our uniform code.

Personal Appearance

Grooming for all students should be in keeping with the students' age. Hairstyles should be plain and simple. Boys' hair must be cut above eyebrows, earlobes and shirt collar. Boys must be clean-shaven at all times in middle school.

Girls' hair must not cover eyes; girls are welcome to use hair accessories to keep long hair from covering eyes. All Girls' hair color must always reflect their individual natural hair color. Lipstick, lip-gloss, makeup, fake nails, and nail polish may not be worn in school.

Only two pieces of jewelry may be worn at a time. Earrings can only be studs, no dangling or hoop earrings allowed.

Each teacher will be responsible for seeing that his/her students are wearing proper uniforms. The appropriateness of all personal appearance will be left to the discretion of the administration. Violations will be handled immediately. Parents will be called and informed. Parents may be required to bring a change of clothes if necessary.

Non-Uniform Days

"Free dress" is a privilege earned by the students allowing them to wear clothing other than the uniform. Clothing can be casual or formal but must be appropriate for school. All shoes worn must be rubber soled, no boots or sandals. Examples of clothing *not* considered appropriate for school include but are not limited to:

- Clothing with a bare midriff
- Halter and tube tops
- Low Cut tops
- Clothing with un-Christian or lewd printed material
- Clothing made of sheer material
- Writing on back of pants
- Leggings only (Need to have skirt or dress covering)
- Spaghetti Strap tank tops, other tank tops, and off the shoulder shirts

- Skirts shorter than knee length, short skirts with leggings underneath

The decision of the Principal as to what is acceptable attire will be final. If students come to school inappropriately dressed, the parents/legal guardians will be called to bring a change of clothing.

Lost and Found

Please permanently mark all uniform items. Embroidered names or initials on sweatshirts and sweaters allow these items to be quickly returned or retrieved by the students. Lost items can be claimed in the Lost and Found box in the nurse's room. Any uniform article not claimed will be sent to the Uniform Exchange inventory. All other items will be given to charity.

All students are required to be in approved uniform daily.

Girls Formal/Full Uniform (Mass Attire)

Grades K – 3

- White blouse with rounded “Peter Pan” collar
- Plaid v-neck jumper
- Red v-neck cardigan sweater or red fleece jacket

Grades 4 – 8

- Plaid skirt (length of skirt is to be no shorter than one inch above the knee)
- Red v-neck cardigan sweater or red fleece jacket
- Short sleeve white polo shirt with school logo

Girls’ Daily Wear

Formal Uniform may be worn on a daily basis. Additional options to formal uniform on non-mass days are as follows:

Grades K – 8

- Short sleeve polo shirt with school logo may be worn with the uniform slacks and uniform shorts
- Blue long uniform slacks with a belt contained in the loops. Pants are to be fitted around the waist and appropriately tailored for school wear (without shoes, pants should not fall beyond the heel of the student’s foot)
- Blue uniform walking shorts with a belt contained in the loops
- White cotton turtleneck shirt, tucked in at all times
- Red fleece school jacket (may be worn in the classroom)
- P.E. red sweatshirt with school logo
- Red sleeveless vest

Shoes and Socks

All girls are required to wear:

- Black, white, red, gray, brown, dark blue, or dark green, mostly solid shoes with closed toes and rubber soles are permitted to be worn. Shoes are permitted to have accent colors that are the same color as named above. No characters, pictures, or lights are permitted. No bright or neon accent colors are permitted such as but not limited to pink, yellow, orange, neon green, neon blue etc. (boots and sandals are not permitted)
- Solid red, black, navy blue, or white socks must be worn at all times. Solid colored socks contain no symbols or logos of any kind. Socks should be visible above the shoe.
- Red, white, and black tights or ankle length leggings may be worn under a skirt or jumper. Leggings must be worn with socks that follow the above stated rules.

Not Allowed: logoed socks, or sport socks

Boys Formal/Full Uniform (Mass Attire)

Grades K – 8

- Navy blue twill pants. Pants are to be fitted around the waist and appropriately tailored for school wear (without shoes, pants should not fall beyond the heel of the student's foot)
- White knit polo shirt with school logo. Shirts must be tucked in at all times
- Red cardigan v-neck sweater or red fleece jacket
- Belts must be worn. Belts must be of appropriate length and contained in the belt loops

Boys' Daily Wear

Formal Uniform may be worn on a daily basis. Additional options to formal uniform on non-mass days are as follows:

Grades K – 8

- Red sleeveless sweater vest
- White cotton turtleneck shirt
- Blue uniform walking shorts with a belt contained in the loops
- Red fleece jacket (may be worn in the classroom)
- P.E. red sweatshirt with school logo

Shoes and Socks

- Black, white, red, gray, brown, dark blue, or dark green, mostly solid shoes with closed toes and rubber soles are permitted to be worn. Shoes are permitted to have accent colors that are the same color as named above. No characters, pictures, or lights are permitted. No bright or neon accent colors are permitted such as but not limited to pink, yellow, orange, neon green, neon blue etc. (boots and sandals are not permitted)

- Solid red, black, navy blue, or white socks must be worn at all times. Solid colored socks contain no symbols or logos of any kind. Socks should be visible above the shoe.

Not Allowed: logoed socks, or sport socks

Boys and Girls P.E. Uniforms

- Uniforms must be purchased at Carlene's
- Red sweatpants with school logo
- Red shorts with school logo
- Red T-shirts and/or sweatshirts with school logo

Other Uniform Rules

In the event that your child's P.E. day falls on a Mass day or a day with a Prayer Service (Not all masses are on Fridays) your child is expected to wear Formal/Full Uniform not P.E. uniform.

Non-uniform jackets may be worn as an additional layer on top of the fleece, sweatshirt, or sweater to and from school during winter. These non-uniform jackets must be removed when inside during class time, assemblies, and mass. The red school fleece jacket is the only acceptable jacket that may be worn inside the classroom, gym, or church.

CYO sweatshirts are not to be worn at school. They can be worn on fieldtrips, jean days, and free dress days.

Only plain white undershirts may be worn under the school uniform (no printed or colored t-shirts). Long sleeve solid white t-shirts can be worn under the white polo in the winter.

If a student is not in full uniform due to a family emergency, a note from the parent/legal guardian can be sent to the teacher, explaining the situation.

All uniform items should be labeled clearly so that they can be returned to student if misplaced.

If more clarification is needed on the Uniform policy please utilize the visual chart on the following page

GIRLS

	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Formal Uniform (Mass)</i>	<i>P.E.</i>
Blouse	White Blouse w/ rounded Peter Pan collar - or - white cotton turtleneck shirt - or - short sleeve polo shirt w/ school logo (A)	White Blouse w/ rounded Peter Pan collar (A) (K-3) Short sleeve polo w/logo (4-8)	Red T-shirt w/ school logo
Jumper or slacks/shorts	Plaid V-neck Jumper (K-3) Skirt (4-8) - or - - blue long uniform slacks w/ a belt in the loops (C) - or - blue uniform walking shorts w/ a belt in the loops (C)	Plaid V-neck Jumper (K-3) Plaid Skirt (4-8)	Red sweatpants - or - red shorts with school logo
Sweater / Jacket	Red V-neck Cardigan sweater - or - red fleece school jacket (D) - or - red P.E. sweatshirt	Red V-neck Cardigan sweater - or - red fleece school jacket (D)	Red sweatshirt w/ school logo

BOYS

	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Formal Uniform (Mass)</i>	<i>P.E.</i>
Shirt	White knit polo shirt w/ school logo - or - white cotton turtleneck shirt (A)	White knit polo shirt w/ school logo (A)	Red T-shirt w/ school logo
Slacks / Shorts	Navy blue pants - or - blue uniform walking shorts w/ a belt in the loops (B & C)	Navy blue pants (B & C)	Red sweatpants - or - red shorts with school logo
Sweater / Jacket	Red V-neck Cardigan sweater - or - red sleeveless sweater vest - or - red fleece school jacket (D) -or- red P.E. sweatshirt	Red V-neck Cardigan sweater - or - red fleece school jacket (D)	Red sweatshirt w/ school logo

(A) All blouses and shirts must be tucked in at all times.

(B) Pants are to be fitted around the waist and appropriately tailored for school wear

(C) Belts must be worn, be of appropriate length, and in the belt loops

(D) Red fleece school jacket may be worn in the classroom