The behavior policy of St. Patrick Catholic High School fosters the total Christian formation of each student through the nourishment of religious values, self-discipline, personal growth, and academic excellence. This goal is best realized through the cooperative effort of students, parents, teachers, and school administrators. **Students who finish the year without “recorded disciplinary actions” will be rewarded for their efforts.**

There are times and places in which the behavior of students affects St. Patrick Catholic High School. In all such cases, student behavior is considered within the province of St. Patrick Catholic High School. Parents are invited and expected to support St. Patrick Catholic High School in the rigorous enforcement of this behavior policy since discipline is necessary to provide for the orderly growth and development of the individual and to assure the health and safety of each student.

**PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE**

A school is often judged by the behavior of the students outside of school. Therefore, each student, whether in or out of school uniform and whether on or off campus, should conduct himself or herself in a manner consistent with his/her status as a member of St. Patrick Catholic High School. Behavior that is contrary to the moral or religious principles of the Roman Catholic Church or the philosophy or policies of St. Patrick Catholic High School as indicated in the Student Handbook makes a student subject to disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal.

If students are present when wrongdoing is evident, they have the obligation to remove themselves immediately from the situation and report it to a faculty member; otherwise, they share in the consequences related to such behavior.

Students who engage in the type of misbehavior listed under the discipline code will be placed on the appropriate step in the discipline ladder, with the consequences clearly listed.

**All disciplinary actions are subject to administrative discretion as to placement on the disciplinary ladder in keeping with the severity of the student's misbehavior.**

All disruptions/discipline problems and consequences shall be applicable to all students during all periods of time they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of this school as defined by the laws of the State of Mississippi and/or while they are participating in or going to or from any activity sponsored by this school district and/or while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal, staff member, coach, or other authority of this school.

**DISCIPLINE IN THE CLASSROOM**

To ensure proper communication and consistency among students, faculty, administration, and parents, a school wide discipline policy has been established. Listed below is the discipline plan of each classroom. The steps below may be given verbally by the teacher or by placing the student’s name on the board.

- **Step 1:** Warning
- **Step 2:** Student/teacher conference
- **Step 3:** Parent contact (by email or phone)
Step 4: Referral to the administration

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY LADDER

To ensure fair practice regarding disciplinary matters include the following actions:

1. The teacher submits a referral form to the administration.
2. The disciplinarian investigates the matter.
3. The disciplinarian confronts the student, explains the charges, and provides the student with an opportunity to explain the case from his or her perspective.
4. The disciplinarian provides the student with consequences based on the discipline code. The disciplinarian/administration has the discretion to provide additional consequences as needed based on the severity of the infraction.
5. The principal has the final say on all disciplinary consequences.

For major offenses regarding consultation, a discipline committee may be convened to make a recommendation to the administration. If needed, the discipline committee will consist of the school administration, counselor, school pastor (if available), and two teachers who are familiar with student. The administration will make the final decision on the consequences of any disciplinary action recommended by the committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY LADDER CONSEQUENCES

Described below are possible consequences of violations of the discipline policy of St. Patrick Catholic High School.

After-School Detention: When an after-school detention is issued, it will be served on an assigned date in room 116 from 3:05 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). The student will be provided at least twenty-four hours’ (24) notice to make arrangements to attend the detention as scheduled. Students will be given a written assignment to complete during the detention. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited, and students will not be permitted to work on homework or other assignments. If the student skips an after-school detention, he or she will receive a Saturday detention. No student will be exempt from detention unless he or she has a doctor’s appointment. A note must be provided to the disciplinarian from the doctor or dentist for the student to be excused, in which case the detention will be scheduled for the next available date.

Saturday Detention: When a Saturday detention is issued, it will be served on an assigned date from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. During this time, students will be required to complete assignments, perform general clean-up work, and other specific tasks. The student will be provided at least twenty-four hours’ (24) notice to make arrangements to attend the detention as scheduled. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited, and students will not be permitted to work on homework or other assignments. If the student skips the Saturday detention, he or she will receive one (1) day of ISS. No student will be exempt from detention unless he or she has a doctor’s appointment. A note must be provided to the disciplinarian from the doctor or dentist for the student to be excused, in which case the detention will be scheduled for the next available date.

In-School Suspension (ISS): When placed on ISS, a student is isolated on campus and is required to complete all assigned work under the supervision of an administrator or teacher. All classwork, tests, and assignments must be completed while in ISS. Any homework assignments due on the date the student is on ISS should be turned into the disciplinarian before first period begins. The student must turn in all other completed assignments or tests at the end of the day to the disciplinarian. Students on
ISS will not be granted additional days for tests or other assignments once allowed to attend class as usual. **While on ISS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.**

**Out of School Suspension (OSS):** When placed on OSS, a student is prohibited from entering the school campus. For attendance purposes, OSS will be counted as an unexcused absence. While placed on OSS, the student will be able to make up work missed with a maximum grade of 70% (which is proportional: 100% becomes 70%; 90% becomes 60%; etc.). The parent/guardian is responsible for attaining work missed due to OSS, and all assignments are due on the day the student returns to school. Class assignments and homework may be picked up by a parent/guardian, or the parent/guardian may email the student’s teachers to request assignments. Additionally, the student is responsible for making up all tests and/or quizzes missed on the first day of his or her return to school. **While on OSS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.**

**Expulsion:** Expulsion occurs when a student is asked to leave St. Patrick Catholic High School. Prior to the sanction of expulsion being imposed, a student will have the right to an informal hearing to be conducted by the principal, notice of which will be provided to the student at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. At this informal hearing, the student is entitled to be accompanied by either or both of his or her parents/guardians. The student will be allowed to explain his or her position on the offense of which he or she is accused and, if desired, call witnesses on his or her behalf. Following this informal hearing, the administration shall make the final recommendation.

Upon receipt of a written notice of expulsion the disciplined student, through his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), shall have the right to submit a written request for appeal to the Diocesan School Advisory Council through the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1790 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532, (fax: 228-702-2135), within five (5) business days of receipt of the notice. The written request should identify the student, the relationship between the student and the person making the request, the school involved, and the date of the expulsion. Once a request is received, a date for a hearing shall be set by the council president at the earliest available date and notification will be sent to the principal and parent(s)/guardian(s). At the hearing, both sides will be allowed to present testimony, documentation and other evidence; however, hearsay may be disallowed or disregarded. The council may ask questions or request further information. Upon hearing all of the evidence, the council shall submit a written decision to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school within (10) business days. The council’s decision will be final.

**DISCIPLINE CODE**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Other misbehavior as determined by the administration</td>
<td>Step 1 – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Unauthorized use of cell phone or electronic device</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Gum and/or candy</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Tardy to class (see attendance policy)</td>
<td>Step 1 – 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Leaving class without permission</td>
<td>Step 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Driving violation (possible loss of driving privileges)</td>
<td>Step 2 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dress code violation</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Unauthorized fundraising (including sale of candy)</td>
<td>Step 2 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Public display of affection</td>
<td>Step 2 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Improper behavior in the cafeteria</td>
<td>Step 1 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Improper behavior at Mass, assemblies, or other school activities (possible removal or isolation)</td>
<td>Step 1 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Misbehavior on a school bus</td>
<td>Step 1 – 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Horseplay</td>
<td>Step 1 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Disrupting instructional time</td>
<td>Step 1 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Defacing or otherwise injuring property belonging to the school (student to provide restitution)</td>
<td>Step 4 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Defacing or otherwise injuring property belonging to another student or faculty member (student to provide restitution)</td>
<td>Step 2 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Disrespectful behavior to faculty or staff members</td>
<td>Step 1 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Truancy and/or skipping class</td>
<td>Step 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Leaving campus without permission (may be reported to police)</td>
<td>Step 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Gambling or possession of gambling devices</td>
<td>Step 3 – 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Defiance of authority</td>
<td>Step 1 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Self-mutilation or hurting another student (i.e. erasers, sharp objects, etc.)</td>
<td>Step 4 – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Harassment, intimidation, or threatening of other students, faculty, or staff members</td>
<td>Step 4 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Harassment, intimidation, or threatening of other students, faculty, or staff members using media platforms (cyber-bullying) such as, but not limited to text messages, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.</td>
<td>Step 4 – 9</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Lying to authorities</td>
<td>Step 4 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Use or possession of unauthorized items (i.e. lasers)</td>
<td>Step 2 – 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Sexual harassment</td>
<td>Step 4 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Assault and/or fighting (may be reported to police)</td>
<td>Step 7 – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Use, sale, or possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products including electronic cigarettes (may be reported to police)</td>
<td>Step 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Using forged or altered documents (i.e. report cards, progress reports, parent notes, hall passes, other students’ lunch numbers, etc.)</td>
<td>Step 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Campus disturbance</td>
<td>Step 3 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Stealing (student to provide restitution)</td>
<td>Step 4 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Profanity or vulgarity (to include acts, gestures, or symbols directed at another person)</td>
<td>Step 4 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Use or possession of dangerous objects</td>
<td>Step 7 – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Use, sale, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or alcohol-related products (may be reported to police)</td>
<td>Step 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
36. Use, sale, possession, or being under the influence of drugs or drug paraphernalia (may be reported to police)  Step 10
37. Possession of firearms and/or weapons (may be reported to police)  Step 10
38. Bomb threat (may be reported to police)  Step 10

**DISCIPLINE LADDER**

**Step 1**  
- **After-School Detention – One (1) day**  
The student will be provided at least twenty-four hours’ (24) notice to make arrangements to attend the detention as scheduled.  
Students will be given a written assignment to complete during the detention.  
The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited, and students will not be permitted to work on homework or other assignments.  
Failure to report to detention as assigned will result in the student being placed on step 3 of the discipline ladder.

**Step 2**  
- **After-School Detention – Two (2) days**  
Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone or email.  
The student will be provided at least twenty-four hours’ (24) notice to make arrangements to attend the detention as scheduled.  
Students will be given a written assignment to complete during the detention.  
The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited, and students will not be permitted to work on homework or other assignments.  
Failure to report to detention as assigned will result in the student being placed on step 3 of the discipline ladder.

**Step 3**  
- **Saturday Detention – One (1) day**  
Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone or email.  
The student will be provided at least twenty-four hours’ (24) notice to make arrangements to attend the detention as scheduled.  
The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited, and students will not be permitted to work on homework or other assignments.  
Failure to report to the detention as assigned will result in the student being placed on step 4 of the discipline ladder.

**Step 4**  
- **In-School Suspension (ISS) – One (1) day**  
Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone or email.  
The student is isolated on campus and is required to complete all assigned work under the supervision of an administrator or teacher.  
While on ISS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.

**Step 5**  
- **In-School Suspension (ISS) – Two (2) days**  
Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone or email.  
The student is isolated on campus and is required to complete all assigned work under the supervision of an administrator or teacher.  
While on ISS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.
Step 6
- **In-School Suspension (ISS) – Three (3) days**
  - Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone or email.
  - The student is isolated on campus and is required to complete all assigned work under the supervision of an administrator or teacher.
  - While on ISS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.

Step 7
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) – Three (3) days**
  - Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone.
  - The student is prohibited from entering the school campus at any time during his or her suspension.
  - The student will be able to make up work missed with a maximum grade of 70% (which is proportional: 100% becomes 70%; 90% becomes 60%; etc.). The parent/guardian is responsible for attaining work missed due to OSS, and all assignments are due on the day the student returns to school. Additionally, the student is responsible for making up all tests and/or quizzes missed on the first day of his or her return to school.
  - While on OSS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.
  - The parent/guardian should meet with a school administrator before the student returns to school following his or her suspension.

Step 8
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) – Four (4) days**
  - Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone.
  - The student is prohibited from entering the school campus at any time during his or her suspension.
  - The student will be able to make up work missed with a maximum grade of 70% (which is proportional: 100% becomes 70%; 90% becomes 60%; etc.). The parent/guardian is responsible for attaining work missed due to OSS, and all assignments are due on the day the student returns to school. Additionally, the student is responsible for making up all tests and/or quizzes missed on the first day of his or her return to school.
  - While on OSS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.
  - The parent/guardian should meet with a school administrator before the student returns to school following his or her suspension.

Step 9
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) – Five (5) days**
  - Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone.
  - The student is prohibited from entering the school campus at any time during his or her suspension.
  - The student will be able to make up work missed with a maximum grade of 70% (which is proportional: 100% becomes 70%; 90% becomes 60%; etc.). The parent/guardian is responsible for attaining work missed due to OSS, and all assignments are due on the day the student returns to school. Additionally, the student is responsible for making up all tests and/or quizzes missed on the first day of his or her return to school.
  - While on OSS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity.
The parent/guardian should meet with a school administrator before the student returns to school following his or her suspension.

**Step 10**
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) – Ten (10) days**
- **Recommendation for expulsion**
- Parent/guardian will be contacted by phone.
- The student is prohibited from entering the school campus at any time during his or her suspension. If expelled, the student is prohibited from returning to St. Patrick Catholic High School for any and all school functions and/or events.
- If the student is able to return to school, he or she will be able to make up work missed with a maximum grade of 70% (which is proportional: 100% becomes 70%; 90% becomes 60%; etc.). The parent/guardian is responsible for attaining work missed due to OSS, and all assignments are due on the day the student returns to school. Additionally, the student is responsible for making up all tests and/or quizzes missed on the first day of his or her return to school.
- While on OSS, the student is prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity
- If a student returns to school after being placed on step 10, he or she will be placed on an individualized behavior contact signed by the parent/guardian, the student, and the administration.

The student may be escalated to the next higher step of the discipline ladder after the second placement on any one step at the discretion of the disciplinarian.

A student may be recommended for expulsion at any time if the administration feels that the student’s actions warrant such recommendation.

A student may enter the discipline ladder at any step, depending upon the nature of the offense.

Failure to complete the punishment as designated may result in escalation to the next step in the ladder.

Loss of privileges means that during the time stated the student cannot participate in assemblies or any school function designated as an extra activity, including athletic events, dances, plays, extracurricular programs, field trips, school-sponsored activities, etc.

All disciplinary actions are subject to administrative discretion as to placement on the disciplinary ladder in keeping with the severity of the student’s misbehavior.

### DISCIPLINE: SPECIAL CONCERN AREAS

#### CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

School phones are available in every class if an emergency should arise. If a parent chooses to send a cell phone or other electronic device to school with a child, the phone or electronic device should be turned off and secured in the student's backpack or purse. Phones and other electronic devices may only be used during the lunch period in the outside courtyards.

Students are never allowed to use cell phones or electronic devices in the school buildings during the school day.
The use of digital books, iPads, and laptops are permitted in the classroom with teacher approval. The use of such items must directly relate to the objectives being taught during the class period on that day. The teacher is responsible for monitoring to assure that the student is reading approved material and not playing games, accessing the internet, or displaying inappropriate material.

Should violation of one of these rules occur, following consequences will be administered:

- **First offense:** the phone or electronic device will be collected, and the student will be assigned an after-school detention. The student will receive the phone or electronic device back upon his or her completion of the after-school detention.
- **Second offense:** the phone or electronic device will be collected and held in the office for twenty-four (24) hours. The student’s parent/guardian may pick up the phone or electronic device after the twenty-four (24) hour period has ended.
- **Third offense:** the phone and/or electronic device will be collected and held in the office for the remainder of the school year.

Further disciplinary actions will be administered for students who continuously violate this policy.

**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Cheating is morally wrong and is considered a major violation of the conduct code at St. Patrick Catholic High School. Cheating is both the improper acquisition as well as the improper distribution of information pertinent to a homework assignment, test, quiz, or exam. The following are common examples of academic dishonesty:

- Open notebooks, texts, or other course-related material during a test, quiz, or exam without the explicit permission of the teacher.
- Concealed notes (“cheat sheets”) during a test, quiz, or exam.
- Communication with another student during a test, quiz, or exam without the explicit permission of the teacher.
- Copying homework assignments from other students.
- Plagiarism of essays, term papers, or research papers from outside materials that are not cited or insufficiently cited. Downloading a term paper from the internet is considered a serious act of plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation or imitation of the language, idea and thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work.)
- Any other promulgated actions that the teacher and/or administration designate as academically dishonest.

A student who is caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the assignment, test, quiz, or exam in which the cheating has occurred. He or she will also be referred to the administration, and the incident will be documented in the student’s discipline record. Multiple offenses of cheating and/or plagiarism may also result in the student’s removal or denial of admittance into and/or participation in honor societies, campus ministry, athletics, and other school-sponsored organizations.

**CHILD ABUSE**

State law requires school personnel to report suspected child abuse to the appropriate agency.
DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USE

St. Patrick Catholic High School does not condone the use, possession and/or distribution (including selling) of alcohol, tobacco (including electronic cigarettes), or prescription/illegal drugs by students.

St. Patrick Catholic High School neither tolerates use, possession and/or distribution of alcohol, tobacco (including electronic cigarettes), or prescription/illegal drugs by students on campus or at any school-related activity, nor allows a student judged to be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs to attend school or school-related functions. Such activity is a severe violation of school policy, and the student will be placed on the discipline ladder and (if warranted) subject to expulsion.

St. Patrick Catholic High School reserves the right to conduct screening of any student who the administration feels exhibits behavior ordinarily associated with alcohol or illicit drug use. Students may be screened more than once a year. Parents are responsible for the cost of the screening. Parents who refuse to allow their student to be tested are required to remove their student from the school.

FIREARMS/WEAPONS POLICY

Possession of pistols, firearms, or other weapons in any other form on school premises or at school-sponsored activities by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials is prohibited. Any student found in possession of any form of weapon, real or fake, will be removed from the school premises or school function. The weapon will be confiscated. For cases involving pistols and firearms, the police will be called and the student shall be subject to immediate expulsion. For cases involving other forms of weapons, the police may be involved and the student may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER USAGE

All students who use computers provided by St. Patrick Catholic High School should follow the following acceptable use policy:

- Respect the integrity of the system.
- Use computers and the facilities in an appropriate, ethical and lawful manner.
- Abide by the proprietary rights of software, upholding applicable copyright laws.
- Act within the framework of Catholic tradition, demonstrating honesty, integrity and respect for the rights and privacy of others.
- Limit the use of computers and the facilities to academic and research purposes only in relation to specified school activity.
- Respect the governing policies of alternate organizations when accessing remote sites via St. Patrick computers.

Examples of misuse, in and out of school, include, but are not limited to, the following: sabotage, vandalism, harassment, visiting inappropriate sites, software infringement, recreational game playing, checking personal e-mail, utilizing instant messaging or similar programs, chatting or entering chat rooms.
LASER ITEMS

No student attending any school shall be permitted to use or carry in any other manner laser pointers, laser key chains, or any other laser items. Failure to comply will result in the student being placed on the discipline ladder.

MARRIED STUDENT POLICY

Married students are not permitted to attend classes at St. Patrick Catholic High School. In addition to marriage being a civil contract, our belief that marriage is a sacrament and our support for the total commitment of both parties to nurturing these vows through personal, spiritual, social and employment activities make marriage inconsistent with the mission of St. Patrick Catholic High School.

MEDICATION POLICY

All medications must be registered with the school nurse. The nurse or designated personnel is responsible for dispensing all medications. Failure to follow this procedure is considered a violation of the school drug policy and the student may be subject to disciplinary action including expulsion.

A limited number of over the counter medications will be available in the nurse’s office. In the event a student needs medication for a short duration, these are to be sent to the nurse’s office with a note from the parent with specific instructions for administering the medication. All medication given must be prescription and should be in the original labeled container as dispensed by the pharmacy.

Unauthorized sale of, purchase of, irresponsible use of and/or distribution of prescription and/or over the counter medication is considered a violation of the school’s drug policy.

Except in the case of an emergency, students will not be allowed to leave class to see the school nurse. If needed, students should do so between classes or during lunch.

PREGNANCY

St. Patrick Catholic High School recognizes its obligations to the individual student, the school community, and the community at large. In full support of the Catholic Church’s teachings on sexuality, the sacredness of life, and faith community, St. Patrick Catholic High School expects and encourages its students to live in accordance with the virtues of chastity and social responsibility. All students are treated with love and compassion. When a student, male or female, fails to practice abstinence, he/she violates our Christian moral code and the expectations of the faith community and may thereby become subject to disciplinary action as provided by local school policies. Additionally, the lack of abstinence may lead to pregnancy and possible health problems. The policy of St. Patrick Catholic High School takes into consideration the student, the unborn child, other students, the school community as a whole and the community at large.

St. Patrick Catholic High School, as an extension of the Catholic Church, has the following policy with regard to the student who engages in premarital sex resulting in a pregnancy and offers three options with accompanying responsibilities:

**Enrollment Options:**

- Withdraw from St. Patrick Catholic High School, subject to normal readmission policies.
• Remain enrolled as a student and engage in a homebound program provided by St. Patrick Catholic High School until such time as the baby is born, the student has recuperated and her familial relationships are established.

• Continue with regular school attendance as long as possible, subject to all conditions and requirements of the St. Patrick Catholic High School Student Handbook, including adherence to the uniform policy. If home bound study is advised by the attending physician, the student will engage in the home bound program provided by St. Patrick Catholic High School, subject to the same conditions listed above.

Any student found to have engaged in illicit sexual actions will not be allowed to publicly represent St. Patrick Catholic High School, hold any leadership positions with St. Patrick Catholic High School clubs, organizations or activities or participate publicly in those clubs, organizations or activities for one or two school semester(s) to be determined at the discretion of the principal after meeting with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). There are some leadership positions (such as Class Officer, Campus Ministry, Homecoming Court or others at the discretion of the Administration) for which the student may be ineligible for the remainder of his/her high school tenure.

Student Responsibilities:

If the female student chooses to remain enrolled in St. Patrick Catholic High School, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) must fulfill the following requirements. Failure to do so may result in expulsion.

• For the health of the mother and the child, notify the principal once pregnancy is determined.
• Meet with the principal immediately.
• Participate in St. Patrick Catholic High School sponsored counseling sessions as determined by principal.
• Participate in a psychological support counseling program approved by Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Biloxi during the period of the student’s pregnancy and thereafter as long as determined by the professional counselor. Such counseling will be at the student/parents’ expense. The student must provide verification to the principal from the professional counselor that she is participating in the program.
• Continue to reside in the home of her parent(s)/guardian(s) or in an accepted residential care facility.

If the male student chooses to remain enrolled in St. Patrick Catholic High School, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) must fulfill the following requirements. Failure to do so may result in expulsion.

• Participate in St. Patrick Catholic High School sponsored counseling sessions as determined by principal.
• Meet with the principal immediately.
• Participate in a psychological support counseling program approved by Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Biloxi during the period of the student’s pregnancy and thereafter as long as determined by the professional counselor. Such counseling will be at the student/parents’ expense. The student must provide verification to the principal from the professional counselor that he is participating in the program.
• Continue to reside in the home of his parent(s)/guardian(s) or in an accepted residential care facility.

Refusal of students and parents to meet the principal or engage in routine counseling may result in expulsion. Students are subject to immediate expulsion when determined to have engaged in premarital sex a second time when enrolled at St. Patrick Catholic High School.
The Church supports the sanctity of the life of the mother and the child. When it becomes public knowledge that a student has terminated a pregnancy through an abortion, the student shall be subject to immediate expulsion.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CYBERBULLYING

Social networking websites have become very popular with today’s youth. Since the content of what is put on these sites often refers to the student’s school, it reflects St. Patrick Catholic High School and is therefore the business of the school. As such, the school has the right to take appropriate action. The administration will act according to policy when information from one of these sites is brought to its attention. Parents are encouraged to monitor what their students are placing on these websites.

Cyber bullying is defined as the use of electronic information and communication devices to willfully and repeatedly harm either a person or persons through the medium of electronic text, photos, or videos. Examples of this behavior include but are not limited to:

- sending false, cruel, vicious messages.
- creating websites that have stories, cartoons, pictures, and jokes ridiculing others.
- breaking into an email account and sending vicious or embarrassing material to others.
- engaging someone in electronic communication, tricking that person into revealing sensitive personal information and forwarding that information to others.
- posting pictures of another student or faculty member without their permission.

Bullying of this nature creates a hostile, disruptive environment on the school campus and is a violation of a student’s right to be safe and secure. Cyber bullying and harassment will not be tolerated. Actions deliberately threatening, harassing, and intimidating an individual or group of individuals; placing an individual in reasonable fear of harm or damaging the individual's property; or disrupting the orderly operation of the school will not be tolerated.

The online activities and technologies often used by students engaged in cyber bullying include but are not limited to social networking sites, chat rooms and discussion groups, instant messaging, text messaging, computers, cell phones and personal digital devices, digital cameras, cell phone cameras, and web cams. As new technologies emerge, they too may be included with the above forms of electronic communication.

The use of digital media which is intended to, or has the effect of, embarrassing, harassing, disturbing or otherwise harming another individual will not be tolerated. "Digital media" includes social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), text messaging, and other related forms of electronic communication. Students who take sides in cyber bullying cases will be considered participants and investigated for misconduct. An example of taking sides is hitting the thumbs-up "like" button on Facebook in reaction to an inappropriate remark, but other ways of being a participant may exist and will be investigated.