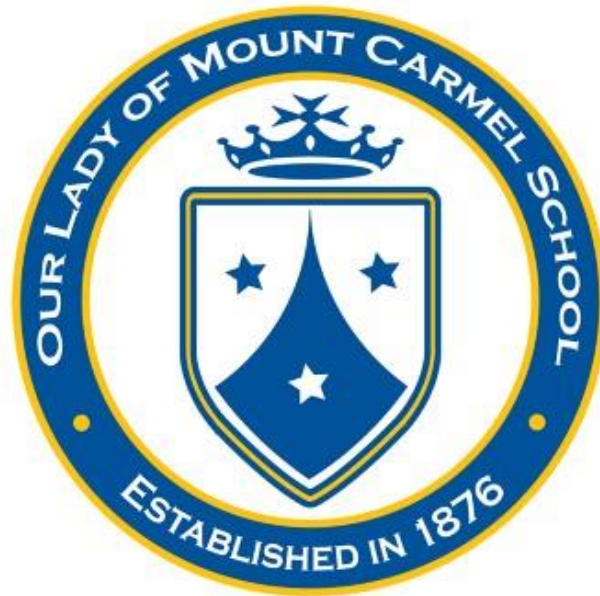


OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Student Handbook 2021-2022



**225 East Ashland Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-5907**

www.ourladymtcarmelschool.org

Students and parents must accept and abide by the school's policies and procedures in order for the student to attend school.

The pastor and principal are the final recourse in all matters and reserve the right to amend this document. Parents will be given prompt notice of any changes through updates that will be published on the website.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a Catholic elementary school proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, our foundation and inspiration. In partnership with families, students learn about the person of Jesus, worship as members of the Church community and offer service to the less fortunate. Our Lady of Mount Carmel seeks to educate the whole child through its strong academic program and to enrich the total person through co-curricular and extracurricular activities. We strive to provide a quality education that empowers students to lead and serve in our diverse, global society.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL
HONOR CODE



*On my honor, I am responsible,
fair, respectful, kind, honest, and
optimistic. As a follower of Christ, I
refrain from disrespectful behavior
including bullying and lying.*

WE ARE...

Responsible
Consistently polite, organized and good role models in our speech and actions

Fair
Demonstrating good sportmanship and working together equally

Respectful
Respecting people and property throughout our community

Kind
Encouraging, including and comforting others, being a peacemaker

Honest
Being true to our Christian values

Optimistic
Demonstrating an ambitious, hopeful and positive attitude

WE AVOID...

Disrespectful behavior
Calling out, talking back, negative or rude comments

Bullying
Rejecting others, treating others poorly in person or through social media

Lying
Cheating, being untruthful in our speech or actions

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ABSENCES

Each student is expected to attend school on a consistent and punctual basis, with absences only for serious reasons such as illness or family emergency.

A parent must report his/her child's absence on a daily basis. The attendance line (215-348-8899) is available from 4:00 PM through 8:30 AM. Specific directions will be available on a recorded message. A written note must be sent to the child's homeroom teacher on the day of the child's return from an absence of any length. A written note is also required for an early release.

A parent of a student who is absent for three or more consecutive days should present written verification of the reason for the absence from a licensed medical authority on the day that the student returns to class.

Homework requests may be made only for absences due to illness. Requests must be made through the office at the time the absence is reported or no later than 12:00 Noon. Homework will be available for pickup from dismissal time until 4:00 PM at the station outside the office. If homework is not retrieved by the following morning, it will be returned to the homeroom teacher for safekeeping. Homework requests cannot be accepted on days when there is an early dismissal.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic Honors are awarded to students in seventh and eighth grades at the end of each marking period. In order to qualify for Honors, students must earn a minimum grade of 90 in all graded subjects (88 in Honors Math) and a "3" or "4" in Personal and Social Growth, Effort and Study Skills, and all co-curricular subjects.

ACCEPTABLE USE FOR TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Our school will make every effort to provide a safe environment for learning with technology including Internet safeguards. The students and school community are granted the privilege of using the computer hardware and software, peripherals, and electronic communication tools including the Internet. With this privilege comes the responsibility to use the equipment correctly and to respect the intellectual property of others.

Educational Purpose/Appropriate Use - All technology use and Internet access is provided solely for educational purposes. Educational sites and teacher-created assignments are to be used to enhance student learning. Students may not access entertainment sites, for example social networking sites or gaming sites, except for educational purposes under teacher supervision. Expressed permission to use the Internet and hardware/software in any area of the school must always be obtained.

Copyright/Intellectual Property - All materials obtained from the work of others should be properly cited. Students are expected to respect the rights of and the intellectual property of others in accordance with Federal Copyright Law. Transferring copyrighted material to or from a school computer or student essays, papers or assignments without expressed permission of the owner is a violation of Federal Law. In addition, a student may not copy the work of a peer and represent it as his/her own.

Examples of Unacceptable Uses -

- Users must not use equipment to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
- Users must not post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane or sexually oriented material. Users must not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude or threatening language. Users must not knowingly or recklessly post false information about any persons, students, staff or any other organization.
- Users must not use a photograph, image or likeness of any student or employee without the express permission of that individual and the principal. Users must not use school equipment to create any site or post any photo, image or video of another individual except with express permission of that individual and the principal. Maintaining or posting material to a website or blog that threatens a likelihood of substantial disruption in school, including harming or interfering with the rights of other students to participate fully in school or extracurricular activities, is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and subject to the disciplinary measures found herein.
- Users must not attempt to circumvent system security, guess passwords, or in any way gain access to secured resources, another person's files or another person's password.
- Users must not install, move, delete, download, upload, reconfigure, or modify any software or files on school equipment without permission.
- Users must not move, repair, modify, or attach external devices to the systems without permission.
- Users must not deliberately visit a site known for unacceptable material or any material that is not in support of educational objectives. Students must not access entertainment sites, for example social networking sites or gaming sites, except for educational purposes under teacher supervision.
- Users are not to plagiarize content and may not present the work of another as their own without properly citing that work.
- Users must not violate license agreements or copy protected media. Users must not use technology for any illegal activity. Use of the Internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an educational site.
- If a user accidentally accesses a questionable website, he/she should promptly exit the site and report it to the teacher immediately.

Reporting - Users must report immediately any damage or change to the school's hardware/software that is noticed by the user.

Infractions against these regulations may result in the loss of the use of the school network, computers and software, including Internet access. A student committing an infraction will be expected to complete work at home or by hand at school.

ACCESS TO STUDENTS

In order to maintain good order and eliminate distractions to the student body, parents are not permitted to visit the classrooms, cafeteria, or recess yard during the day except by arrangement. Parents who have been invited to meet with a class for a special activity are required to sign in at the office before they proceed to the classroom.

C.A.R.E.S.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School offers a before and after-school C.A.R.E.S. (Children Are Receiving Extended Services) program. Information is available in the school office and on the school website. Students must register to attend.

COMMUNICATION

Information packets are mailed to each family during the month of August, and pertinent information is posted and updated frequently on our website at www.ourladymtcarmelschool.org.

Parents and students have the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers, and discuss curriculum at the optional Open House and at the Back-to-School Night in early September.

Parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall. A conference sign-up sheet will be available in each classroom on Back-to-School Night for students at all grade levels. These conferences will be arranged on a first-come, first-served basis. Parent conferences may also be arranged privately by appointment throughout the school year.

It is the right and privilege of parents to advocate for their child with the professional and support staff as long as they do so with reasonableness, respect and privacy. Correspondence sent via voicemail, personal note, email or letter should be limited to a statement of the parent's concern and/or question and a suggestion of a meeting time within the school day if that is warranted. In response, the principal, a teacher or a staff member will contact the parent (usually within 24 hours). Concerns or inquiries that do not meet the standard for reasonableness, respectfulness and privacy will not receive a response from the school staff. It is requested that parents refrain from writing comments on the bottom of a student's paper and returning them in full view of the child. Comments of a delicate nature require the privacy of an envelope.

CUSTODY ISSUES

Parents need to inform the school when legal custody of their child(ren) resides with one parent. The parent should furnish the school with a copy of the custody agreement that will assist the principal and teachers in making effective decisions as the need to do so arises. Custodial parents likewise need to inform the school and provide documentation when restraining orders are in effect.

Parents and/or guardians who have legal custody of the student may attend school meetings, participate in educational decisions and review educational records regarding that student. Persons who do not have legal custody (including those with visitation rights but not legal custody) have no such educational rights and may not participate in these matters.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is as fundamental in Catholic Education as it is in Catholic life. Discipline can be considered from two points of view:

Intellectual - the ability to think clearly and logically in light of correct principles.

Moral - the habit of always acting in conformity with the right reason, which is a virtue.

The essence of Christian moral discipline is self-discipline. General school discipline and guidelines are based on respect for each person and are developed to create and maintain a safe environment in which to learn. If a student violates Our Lady of Mount Carmel's school rules or acts to prevent others from achieving these goals, the student will receive a consequence and the parent or guardian will be notified. Corporal punishment will not be used at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

Guidelines for positive self-discipline are outlined in the OLMC School Honor Code (page 2).

Grades K – 3

The homeroom teacher will administer consequences for minor offenses. A student who receives three offenses (per trimester) will be required to write a letter of explanation to his/her parents and stay in for a silent lunch with his/her homeroom teacher. Offenses of a more serious nature or repeated minor infractions will be brought to the attention of the principal who will discuss these with the parent, by phone or in person, and administer consequences appropriate to the student's grade level. These consequences may include detention, suspension, or expulsion.

Grades 4 – 8

A demerit/detention form is used. When issued, parents are required to sign and return the form. A demerit will be given for, but not limited to, the following:

- Three missed assignments;
- Disrespect and lack of cooperation;
- Minor class disruptions;
- Uniform violations;
- Excessive noise or running in the hallways;
- Gum chewing;
- Inappropriate use of technology and use of electronic devices of a minor nature.

After a student receives a third demerit, the next infraction will result in a detention. A detention may be issued without receiving prior demerits when deemed necessary. The following behaviors may warrant, but are not limited to, a detention without prior demerits:

- Deceit toward faculty or staff members;
- Slander, gossip or profanity;
- Classroom disruptions of more than a minor nature;

- Missing classes without permission;
- Aggressive verbal or physical behavior;
- Cheating, copying, unauthorized use of test material and/or answer keys, or plagiarism;
- Inappropriate use of technology and use of electronic devices of more than a minor nature.

Detention will take place on Wednesdays from 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM. Students who have not been picked up by 4:30 PM will be sent to C.A.R.E.S. at the parent’s expense.

Note that three detentions in a trimester will result in a suspension from classes. Formal suspension is a serious disciplinary action taken against a student whose behaviors constitute a major infraction. The suspension will be in-school or out-of-school at the discretion of the principal. The parents of the student will be informed of the seriousness of the situation, and the school will seek the immediate cooperation of the parents to resolve the problem. Students will be required to complete all school assignments given during the suspension.

A student is liable for an immediate suspension as a result of, but not limited to, the following:

- Aggressive verbal behavior, including the issuance of threats verbally or in writing to faculty, staff and/or peers;
- Sexual harassment;
- Theft or vandalism;
- Violent or aggressive physical behaviors that result in injury;
- The possession, use or transfer of alcohol, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, or drugs;
- The possession, use or transfer of a weapon or firearm, or of any item that might be used to inflict bodily harm;
- Initiating or participating in bomb scares or triggering other false alarms.

Detention may be reflected and suspension will be reflected on the student’s PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL GROWTH grade on his/her report card.

Bullying (Grades K - 8)

Bullying is an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed by one student towards another student or students that occurs in a school setting, on the bus, or during a school sponsored activity that is serious, persistent or pervasive as it occurs over time and that causes 1) substantial interference with a student’s education; 2) creation of a threatening environment; and/or 3) substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

A student who has been bullied is encouraged to promptly report the incident to a trusted adult: a teacher, an aide, the principal or a parent. A student who has witnessed bullying is encouraged to promptly report the incident to a trusted adult: a teacher, an aide, the principal or a parent. Reprisals or retaliation that occur against a student as a result of a good faith report of bullying are considered to be further infractions.

A student who acts as a bully will attend a conference with school personnel and receive a consequence (demerit, detention, or suspension depending upon the seriousness of the incident). His/her parents may also be asked to meet with school personnel. If necessary, local authorities may also be notified. Referrals to a mental health professional or requests for a psychological evaluation may also take place. A student who acts as a bully may be temporarily or permanently removed from the school community if deemed necessary by the administration.

EARLY RELEASE

If it is necessary for a student to be excused from school before the regular dismissal time, a note must be given to the homeroom teacher in the morning. A parent must come to the office to sign out the student. The student will remain in the classroom until his/her parent has arrived at the office. When he/she arrives, a parent needs to be prepared to tell the office staff the classroom or special subject in which the child can be found so that disruption to the other students will be minimized.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones and iPods, is not permitted during the school day in the classroom, restrooms, cafeteria or recess yard between 8:20 AM and the time that the student departs the campus.

A cell phone, if considered necessary by the parent to communicate about after-school activities, must be kept in the “power off” position between 8:20 AM and the time that the student leaves the campus.

Use of fitness devices, such as the fitbit, is limited to those that do not utilize text or calling features. Students are not permitted to wear Smart watches.

Student may use personal e-readers to access recreational reading material. If the e-reader has Wi-Fi capability or allows access to apps or games, none of those may be used in the school building.

If the student uses an electronic device inappropriately during the day, the device will be taken from the student for the remainder of the day. Repeated use may require a conference with the parent. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost or damaged electronic devices, make announcements, or permit the posting of flyers to locate such missing items.

FOOD ALLERGIES

To ensure his/her safety, a student with a food allergy that is documented in his/her health record and requires a standing order for medication in the event of a reaction will be allowed to eat only food that is supplied by his/her parents. To provide for treats that are offered for parties, special events, etc., he/she can maintain a snack box in the classroom that is stocked with acceptable foods by his/her parents. Teachers or the school nurse cannot accept letters of exception from parents for their child’s consumption of treats for specific individual occasions.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

Lunches – In order to minimize interruptions to the classrooms, lunches or lunch money brought to school by an adult after the beginning of the school day will be taken to the cafeteria by an aide. A student may check with the aide on duty in the cafeteria to learn if an item has been brought for him/her. Any student who does not have a lunch will receive one from the Aramark staff for an IOU (amount determined annually). It is the responsibility of the student to make his/her need for a lunch known to the aide on duty in the cafeteria.

Books, Projects and Musical Instruments – In order to minimize interruptions to the classrooms, academic items brought to school after the beginning of the school day will be placed in the homeroom teacher’s mailbox where they usually will be picked up by the teacher at lunchtime. Musical instruments brought to school after the beginning of the school day will be kept in the office. After gaining permission from his/her teacher, a student may check there to learn if an item has been brought for him/her.

HOMEWORK

Parents are asked to help their children develop good study habits by providing an orderly and quiet atmosphere in which to do homework and review material for assessments. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has suggested the following time allotments for homework:

Grades 1 and 2	30 minutes	Grades 5 and 6	90 minutes
Grades 3 and 4	60 minutes	Grades 7 and 8	120 minutes

Assignments vary by teacher and subject. The objective is not time, but the extension of learning beyond the classroom. Homework is NOT optional.

Parents may request homework for a child who is absent due to illness on the attendance line anytime before 8:30 AM but no later than 12:00 Noon. It will be available from dismissal until 4:00 PM at the station outside the office on the same day that it has been requested. Homework that has not been retrieved by the following morning will be returned to the homeroom teacher for safekeeping. Homework requests cannot be accepted on days when there is an early dismissal.

Detailed homework guidelines will be distributed to the parents at each grade level in the fall. The teachers post daily and long-term assignments on OptionC.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The individual public school district superintendents are responsible for the closing of the schools before the day begins or the early closing of schools once the children are already in session. The decision is based on the information received from the radio, the local police and the transportation companies. If the Central Bucks School District is closed, then Our Lady of Mount Carmel School is closed. If any other district is closed, but Central Bucks Schools are open, then Our Lady of Mount Carmel School is open. If a family resides in a school district that provides transportation which differs from the announced schedule of OLMC School on a delayed opening day, it will be the responsibility of the

parent to determine the possibility of bus service for his/her child. A student cannot arrive earlier than the announced delayed opening time even if the district in which he/she resides is transporting at an earlier time.

School Cancellation – On a day when school is cancelled entirely in the early morning, an announcement will be made through the OptionC automated phone notification system.

Delayed Opening and Early Closing – On a day when a delayed opening is in effect or when inclement weather causes the closing of school during the day, an announcement will be made through the OptionC automated phone notification system.

Parents will complete a Back-up Early Dismissal Form in September which identifies the mode of transportation should an early dismissal be deemed necessary. Information provided to the school on the form should be noted carefully by the parents as it will be used by the teachers in this situation.

LOST AND FOUND

Found items will be placed in a container in the cafeteria. If they have not been claimed within a reasonable amount of time, items will be donated to the Uniform Exchange or given to charity.

MEDICATION DISPENSING

Prescription and non-prescription medication will be administered to a student during the school day only after the proper completion of the Medication Dispensing Form which is available through the Health Room. All medications must be delivered in the original and properly labeled container to the Health Room. All controlled medications must be delivered to the Health Room by an adult, counted with the nurse, recorded on the student's medication log, and signed for by both parties.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The Blessed Duns Scotus Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those seventh and eighth grade students who meet the required standards in five areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NHS/NJHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a Faculty Council and inducted by the principal, who bestows this honor upon qualified students each October.

In order to be offered consideration for membership, students must have:

- A 93.0 average in each trimester of the year (grade 6 scores qualify a student for membership in grade 7 and grade 7 scores qualify a student for grade 8 membership).
- A “3” or “4” in all co-curricular subjects, Personal and Social Growth and Effort and Study Skills grades in each trimester of the year.

Students then complete a *Student Activity Information Form* in the spring that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's service, recognitions, and community and co-curricular activities. A history of participation in school or community activities and the completion of

service hours will be required. Those students who submit the appropriate paperwork by the deadline will be considered for membership. If, and only if, the student's Trimester III grades continue to meet the requirements, he/she will be considered as a candidate for membership in the fall of the following school year.

The Faculty Council carefully reviews the *Student Activity Information Forms* to determine membership. A majority vote of the council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection in early September. Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held to recognize all the newly-selected members.

Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level (or better) of academic performance and behavior that led to their selection. This obligation includes, but is not limited to, regular attendance at chapter meetings and participation in the OLMC School iServe club. Students who fail to meet the academic or behavior criteria during a trimester will be counseled by a member of the Faculty Council and will be placed on a probationary status for the following trimester. Failing to meet the criteria two trimesters in a row will result in dismissal from the National Junior Honor Society.

PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS

A student who participates in any performance group (Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Tone Chimes Ensemble, Fourth Grade Choir or Concert Choir) is required to wear a performance uniform for concerts and events. The uniform consists of white golf shirt with OLMC music department logo (purchased from FlynnO'Hara Uniforms), black slacks, black socks and uniform or black shoes (no leggings or sneakers).

PHYSICIAN AND/OR DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Parents are urged to arrange physician's and dentist's appointments after school hours and/or on school holidays. If this is not possible, a note must be sent to the child's homeroom teacher stating the date and time of the appointment. A parent must come to the office to sign out the student. The student will remain in the classroom until his/her parent has arrived at the office.

The State of Pennsylvania requires physical and dental examinations at certain grade levels, which will be communicated to the parents by the school nurse.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed at the end of each trimester to students in Kindergarten through grade eight.

Grading for PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIOR – This grade reflects the student's ability to cooperate with the policies and procedures established for the good order of the school community. Students who receive a detention for behavioral issues should not expect to receive a "3" in Personal Development and Behavior.

Grading for EFFORT AND STUDY SKILLS – This grade reflects the student's ability to arrive on time for school; complete and turn in homework and class work in a timely manner; attend class prepared

with the proper materials; volunteer information and participate in classroom discussions; and complete absentee make-up work and make-up testing in a timely manner. Students who receive a detention for issues related to effort should not expect to receive a “3” in Effort and Study Skills.

SCHOOL HOURS

Arrival and supervision begin at 8:20 AM. The school day begins at 8:35 AM. Students must be unpacked and at their desks ready to begin the day at that time. Students arriving after 8:35 AM must sign in at the office.

Dismissal begins at 3:15 PM. A student who is a walker becomes the responsibility of his/her parents as soon as he/she leaves the building. No further supervision is provided to a student leaving as a walker. A student who is a car rider will be supervised on the car loop until 3:30 PM. If any student has not been picked up by that time, he/she will be escorted to the office.

SCHOOL RECORDS

At the time of initial registration, a child’s identity is confirmed with a certified birth certificate. The legal name that appears on the birth certificate is the name that will be used on all written school documents. Parents, unless restricted by a court or custody agreement, are entitled to access the academic records of their children. This review is done by appointment, after a written request has been submitted to the principal.

SCHOOL TRIPS

School trips are an important part of a student’s educational experience and are planned to support the curriculum. Trips are a privilege. The administration reserves the right to restrict participation on field trips to those students who maintain a satisfactory record of behavior.

All chaperones need to provide documentation of the necessary clearances in order to attend a school trip. Clearances requirements are detailed in the section on Volunteers.

STANDARIZED TESTING

The *TerraNova*, Third Edition is administered to students in grades two through seven in the spring of each school year. Students are encouraged to get a good night’s sleep and eat a healthy breakfast in preparation for the testing. They are also expected to be present and on time for the days of testing, which will be published on the school calendar well in advance. In addition to assessing curriculum strengths and appropriateness, the results of these tests are used for selecting students for the Honors Math program, awarding graduation recognitions, and qualifying for scholarships. Make-up sessions to accommodate a student’s absence may be arranged in cases of illness .

TARDINESS

A student who has five (5) unexcused tardies in any one trimester will receive one (1) detention. A student will be counted tardy after 8:35 AM. Students who arrive late by bus will not be marked tardy.

Students who have a doctor/dentist note or can demonstrate a valid excuse will be marked tardy on OptionC, but the lateness will not count towards a demerit.

A conference with the principal will take place if the student accrues subsequent tardies within the same trimester .

TELEPHONE

The school telephones are for business only. On occasion, permission may be granted to a student to call home using the main office telephone for forgotten supplies, projects or homework. A student may not use a cell phone anywhere on the school campus from 8:20 AM until he/she departs the campus.

TRANSPORTATION

At the beginning of the year, parents designate the usual means of transportation for their children on the Daily Dismissal Plans form. A change to this usual arrangement requires a written note on the day the change will be in effect. Phone calls for transportation changes will also be accepted in the office. Parents who need to change their child's dismissal plans may indicate the change on the sign out sheet in the office no later than 3:00 PM. Daily dismissal changes are not accepted by email.

Busses provided by the Central Bucks School District – Central Bucks has an established procedure to request a change in a bus stop or bus for the entire year. The appropriate paperwork (Alternate Bus Stop Request) may be requested in the office and submitted to Central Bucks for approval. A change in bus stop or bus is not permitted for visiting friends after school or sporadic child care arrangements. Car transportation should be provided for these students.

Busses provided by other school districts – Parents in districts other than Central Bucks should consult their respective districts for specific policies.

Misbehavior on the Bus – Students being transported by bus become the responsibility of their respective school districts while en route on the bus. Therefore, if a behavior problem occurs, parents need to speak with the district to report the incident or behavior. Bus drivers may forward a written report to the principal if a student has been uncooperative with the bus policies. A student committing a serious infraction or receiving a second written report will be liable for having his/her bus privileges suspended and/or another consequence.

UNIFORM POLICY

Uniform items must be purchased from the vendor, FlynnO'Hara Uniforms, or obtained from the Home and School uniform exchange. Substitutions, purchased elsewhere, will not be considered as meeting the uniform requirements.

All students are required to comply with the uniform policy. Uniforms are worn from the first day of classes in the fall to the last day of classes in June.

Students who are not in compliance with the uniform policy or who present with unusual or distracting hairstyles or excessive or inappropriate jewelry may require a conference with the teacher and a consequence. This is defined as the following:

Girls— hair must be a uniform, natural color; extreme hairstyles are prohibited. Hair accessories are limited to simple white, gray, black, yellow, navy or uniform plaid hair bands, scrunchies or clips; jewelry limited to a watch, religious medal and stud earrings; makeup limited to light applications and simple colors.

Boys— hair must be a uniform, natural color; extreme hairstyles are prohibited. Jewelry is limited to a watch and religious medal.

If a serious reason prevents a student from wearing the required uniform for a day, a note from his/her parent explaining the reason and requesting an exception must be sent to the homeroom teacher.

Dress Down Days take place throughout the year. On those days, a student is expected to dress in clothing that is appropriate and modest for an educational setting in a Catholic school. No mini-skirts or shorts less than knee length (same length as PE shorts), no tee shirts with inappropriate language or designs, no bare shoulders or midriffs, and no tight fitting clothing will be permitted.

The principal reserves the right to restrict the attendance of or impose a consequence on a student whose hairstyle, makeup or jewelry is excessive, extreme or disruptive to the good order of the school community.

VACATION

Our school calendar includes extended time off at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter as well as ample summer vacation. Arranging extensive vacations should be limited to these opportunities to minimize the disruption to the learning process for the student.

Requests for homework/classwork prior to departure will be honored at the teacher's discretion. Make-up lessons or tutoring will not be given by the teacher(s) upon the student's return. The parents will assume sole responsibility for reviewing work missed while a student is on vacation. Make-up testing, when possible, will be at the discretion of the teacher and at a time selected by the teacher beginning on the day after the student returns from vacation.

The rescheduling of oral presentations, if and when possible, will be at the discretion of the teacher. Long-term projects assigned before the vacation, but with a deadline during the vacation, will be due on the day the student returns. Penalties for lateness will begin that day.

Grading in-class participation or contributions to group work, where applicable, may be lowered to reflect the work that a student misses while absent.

VISITORS and VOLUNTEERS

All visitors, including parents, must enter the school building through the main door, sign in at the office, and wear a visitor's pass. Parents may not go to a classroom, auditorium, cafeteria, or recess yard to speak with a teacher, staff member, or student without prior arrangement at any time during or after the school day.

At morning arrival, students may enter the building through the bus loop door, the car loop door or the front door. Except to take care of business in the main office, parents are not permitted in the building during morning arrival. A student who arrives after the 8:35 AM bell may not be accompanied to the classroom by his/her parent except in the case of PreK students.

All volunteers need to provide documentation of the necessary clearances. In addition, they must submit evidence of having completed the Safe Environment and Mandated Reporter training. Additional information will be available during the year from parish personnel or from the president of the Home and School Association. The list of approved volunteers for OLMC Parish is transmitted to the school periodically. Only those parents whose names appear as cleared will be able to volunteer.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Student Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity

For the 2021-22 school year, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School ("School") has established rules and precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants (collectively, "COVID-19") at School. Even with implementation of these rules and precautions, the School cannot guarantee that your child or anyone else, including family members, will not be exposed to or become infected with COVID-19. I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19, and the inherent risks of exposure to those who may be infected with COVID-19 and that COVID-19 infections have been confirmed throughout the United States, including cases in the City of Philadelphia/County of Bucks, as well throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I voluntarily assume the risk that I/my child/my household members may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 as a result of or in connection with my child's attendance at school and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and/or even death.

I acknowledge that the CDC and state and local public health authorities continue to recommend social distancing, cloth face coverings, and other protective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which may be updated at any time. I understand that the School has therefore put in place rules and precautions in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which may be updated at any time. While acknowledging that these rules and precautions may or may not be effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, I/my child/my household members agree to comply with such rules and precautions which may include, but are not limited to, wearing a face covering, hand washing, hand sanitizing, and social distancing.

I understand and acknowledge that the risk of I/my child/a household member becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 as a result of or in connection with my child's attendance at school may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, clergy; school staff; volunteers; students; and other parish, school, or archdiocesan workers, including their families. I recognize that the School cannot limit all potential sources of COVID-19 infection and due to the nature of the infection, cannot guarantee that I/my child/a household member will not become infected with COVID-19. I understand that a school environment with young children could create challenges with social distancing such that social distancing among students and staff in a school setting may not always be possible. I acknowledge the foregoing risks notwithstanding the vaccination status of me/my child/household members.

I acknowledge that, by sending my child to school, I am/my child/a household member is increasing risk of exposure to COVID-19. I voluntarily assume full responsibility for any and all risks of illness or injury associated with my/my child's/my household members exposure to COVID-19.

In consideration for providing my child the opportunity to attend school, both my child and I voluntarily agree to release and agree to hold School (and its associated parishes), the Archbishop of Philadelphia, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and their respective clergy, employees and volunteers (collectively, the "Released Parties") harmless from, and waive on behalf of myself/my child, my heirs, and any personal representatives, any and all causes of action, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses and compensation for damage or loss to myself/my child that may be caused by any act, or failure to act of the Released Parties, or that may otherwise arise in any way, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attendance at School or participation in School activities, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

I understand that this release discharges the Released Parties from any liability or claim that I/my child, my heirs, or any personal representatives may have against Released Parties with respect to any bodily injury, illness, death, or medical treatment that may arise from, or in connection to, my child's attendance at school, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attendance at School or participation in School activities.

I certify and represent that I have the legal authority to waive, discharge, release, and hold harmless the released parties on behalf of myself and the student named below. By acknowledgement and acceptance of the School's handbook (including any addenda thereto), I acknowledge that I have read this Student Release and Waiver of Liability and fully understand its terms.