

STUDENT/FAMILY HANDBOOK 2026-2027



“Made for More”

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ACCREDITED BY
NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND
COLLEGES



A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Welcome, Alma Mater, Philosophy	1
---------------------------------	---

Mission Statement and Our “Why”	2
--	---

Charism	2
----------------	---

History	3
----------------	---

Daily Prayers	3
----------------------	---

Admissions	4
-------------------	---

Schedule	4
-----------------	---

Academics

Graduation Requirements	6
-------------------------	---

College Gateway Program	7
-------------------------	---

F.I.A.T. Program – Christian Service	7
--------------------------------------	---

National Honor Society	7
------------------------	---

Promotion Requirements	8
------------------------	---

Course Selections	8
-------------------	---

Course Changes	9
----------------	---

Course Credits	9
----------------	---

Scholastic Policies

Course Weight	10
---------------	----

Level Descriptions	10
--------------------	----

Grade Point Average	10
---------------------	----

Honor Roll	10
------------	----

Criteria for Year-End Academic Awards	10
---------------------------------------	----

Marking System	11
----------------	----

Examinations	12
--------------	----

Homework Policy	12
-----------------	----

Make-up Work	12
--------------	----

Incompletes	12
-------------	----

Progress Reports	12
------------------	----

Academic Probation	12
--------------------	----

Academic Integrity	16
--------------------	----

Artificial Intelligence Policy	17
--------------------------------	----

Computer System and Internet Acceptable Use Policy	17
--	----

School Environment

Address Changes	22
Assemblies	22
Automobiles and Parking	22
Backpacks	22
Books	22
Buses	22
Cafeteria/Kitchen	23
Campus Ministry	23
Card-Playing / Gambling	23
Cellular Phones	22
Chapel	24
Chewing Gum	24
College Visits	24
Dances / Proms	24
Defiance and Disrespect	25
Electronic Equipment	25
Field Trips	25
Fighting	26
Fundraising	26
Homeroom/Flex Period	26
Food and Beverage Items	26
Gymnasium	27
Leaving School Sponsored Events	27
Litter	27
Lockers	27
Loitering	27
Lost and Found	28
Mandated Reporting	28
Media Disclaimer	28
Retreats	28
Roseanne Barker Library and Learning Commons	30
Safety Evacuation Procedure	31
School Cancellation	31
School Counseling	31
School Store	32
Senior Portraits	32
Snowballs	32
Stealing and Vandalism	32
Telephones	32
Trespassing	33
Tuition Policy	33
Unauthorized Use of School Name	33

Upperclassmen Privileges	33
Video Surveillance Cameras	34
Visitors	34
Visitors-Student Safety and Health	34

Student Policies

Attendance	35
Class Pranks	37
Class Truancy	37
Discipline	37
Dismissal	37
Dress Code Policy	38
Eviction from Class	40
Liturgy Day Dress	40
Non-Uniform Days	40
Hairstyles	40
Public Displays of Affection	41
Racism	41
Safety Measures	41
Sexting	41
Smoking/Vaping	41
Threats (implied or direct)	42
Weapons	42
Harassment Policy	42
Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan for the Diocese of Fall River	44
Hazing	48
Drug and Alcohol Policy	50
Massachusetts “Drug-Free Zone” Bill	50

Discipline Policy

Teacher Detentions	51
Administrative Detentions	51
Saturday Detention	51
Suspension	51
Search and Seizure	52
Disciplinary Contract	52
Transfer / Expulsion	52
Expulsion	53
Board of Review	53

School Health Services 54-60

Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities 61

Athletic Department Policies

Academic	62
Attendance	63
Award Criteria	63
Captains	64
Dress Code	64
Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco	64
Early Dismissal	65
Equipment	65
Hazing	65
Injuries	65
Locker Room	66
Practice	66
Role Models	66
Spartan Sportsmanship Pledge	66
Transportation	67
Bishop Stang Concussion Policy	68

Resource Telephone Numbers

75

Safe Environment Requirements to Minister/Work/Volunteer in the Diocese	76
--	----

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. We hope that students and parents will always be conscious of Bishop Stang High School's traditions and requirements. This handbook contains general information, both curricular and co-curricular, rules and regulations and the discipline code. Bishop Stang High School is structured in order to secure the most favorable conditions for learning, to promote the fullest development of its students, and to carry out its mission based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and His church. In every interaction with students, Bishop Stang High School will do justice both to the demands of the common good of the school and to the best interests of the students involved. Please read and familiarize yourselves with this handbook.

Administrative Team

<i>James Benson</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Daniel Dias</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Casey Racicot</i>	<i>Vice Principal</i>
<i>Cara Healey</i>	<i>Dean of Students</i>
<i>Nate Greene</i>	<i>Athletic Director</i>

ALMA MATER

Alma Mater we acclaim thee
Great and noble school we love
Holding up the torch of learning
Blessed by fire from Heav'n above.

Cheer for Stang High – loving Mother
Chant her praises – sing her fame
Wave her banner raise her colors
As we cheer her glorious name.

Though the years pass swiftly by us
Through them all we will be true
To the lessons learned here daily
And our pledge to you renew.

Alma Mater staunch and loyal
Sons and daughters we shall be
To your Spirit – strong yet gentle
Pledge we now our loyalty.

PHILOSOPHY

Bishop Stang High School is a four-year, co-educational school operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River to provide students with an education built on and directed by the message and teachings of Jesus Christ as expressed in the Roman Catholic tradition. Such an education should offer structured opportunity and guidance for spiritual, intellectual, moral, cultural, emotional, social and physical growth. It should value academic excellence while providing for the academic needs of a diversity of students, encouraging individual development and offering the experiences of Christian community. It should foster awareness of the complexities of life in the twenty-first century and attempt to provide knowledge and values to deal effectively with these complexities as responsible citizens.

Bishop Stang High School intends to graduate students who

- have knowledge of and personal experience with Jesus Christ, which will enable them to choose to be active Christians;
- are prepared to meet the requirements of the next step after high school - further education, work, marriage, family and community life;
- have positive self-images based on self-knowledge, moral integrity, service to others and an appreciation of all life;
- have the skills necessary to be clear thinkers, effective communicators and responsible decision- makers;
- understand freedom, peace and justice in the context of Gospel values and exercise their responsibility to work toward the realization of these values.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bishop Stang High School is a Catholic, college-preparatory school called to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by “making known the goodness of God.” We holistically educate a diverse student body in a respectful, nurturing and disciplined environment. Our school family inspires young people to excel in learning and life through growth in faith, integrity, knowledge and service.

Our “Why”

We exist to inspire the growth and development of our students by sharing our passions, faith, and love. We foster talents and ignite voices to encourage students to live out their gifts from God.

CHARISM

MAKING KNOWN THE GOODNESS OF GOD

We remember our past, rooted in the message of Saint Julie Billiart, handed down to us by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who first staffed Bishop Stang High School. Saint Julie dedicated herself to the education of the poor and responded to Christ’s love in serving the needs of others with true goodness of heart. All at Bishop Stang High School strive to make

Saint Julie our inspiration as we respond to her example of making known the goodness of God.

HISTORY

Bishop Stang High School was dedicated in September 1959 as the first Diocesan Catholic high school in the southeastern region of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is named after William Stang, the first bishop of the Diocese of Fall River, and originally staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Bishop Stang High School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, a nationally recognized non-governmental organization. Bishop Stang High School is also a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, a designation awarded by the United States Department of Education.

DAILY PRAYERS

Prayer to St. Julie Billiart

Almighty and eternal God, You called St. Julie Billiart to respond joyfully to the love of Your crucified Son in dedicating herself to the education of the poor. Grant that her prayer and example may inspire us to respond with love of His Cross in serving the needs of others with true goodness of heart. Amen.

Grace Before Lunch

O God, bless this meal and give us the grace of Your presence. May we always be grateful to You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for this year's theme *Theme: Made for More*

Heavenly Father,

As we begin this new day, remind us that we are **made for more**—more kindness, more courage, more faith, and more love.

Help us to grow in wisdom, serve one another with compassion, and use the gifts You have given us to glorify You.

May our words and actions reflect Christ in all we do, and may the Holy Spirit guide our hearts to choose what is good, true, and just.

Bless our Bishop Stang community, keep us safe, and inspire us to become the people You created us to be.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ADMISSIONS

Bishop Stang High School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to all students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

SCHEDULE

The schedule rotates on a seven-day cycle. All students must remain in the school building during the school day.

Daily Schedule

1 st period	8:00 – 9:10	70 minutes
Homeroom/Flex period	9:13 – 9:46	33 minutes
2 nd period	9:49 – 10:41	52 minutes
3 rd period	10:44 – 11:36	52 minutes
Lunch	11:39 – 12:07	28 minutes
4 th period	12:10 – 1:20	70 minutes
4 th period	11:39 – 12:49	70 minutes
Lunch	12:52 – 1:20	28 minutes
5 th period	1:23 – 2:15	52 minutes

Liturgy Schedule

Announcements/ 1 st period	8:00 – 8:45	45 minutes
HR	8:48-8:58	10 minutes
2 nd period	9:01 – 9:46	45 minutes
3 rd period	9:49 - 10:34	45 minutes
HR	10:37 – 10:42	5 minutes
Liturgy	10:42-12:01	79 minutes
Lunch 4 th period	12:04 – 12:29 12:32 – 1:27	22 minutes 55 minutes
4 th period Lunch	12:04 – 12:59 1:02 – 1:27	55 minutes 25 minutes
5 th period	1:30 – 2:15	45 minutes

ACADEMICS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A total of 26 credits is required for graduation. Every student must take and pass a minimum of 6.00 credits, including theology, English, and mathematics for each of four years, regardless of accumulated credits. As a graduation requirement, every student must complete a Christian service hours during both the junior and senior years.

Requirements are:

Theology 1.0 credit in each of four years	4 CREDITS
English 1.0 credit in each of four years	4 CREDITS
Mathematics 1.0 credit in each of four years	4 CREDITS
Science 1.0 credit in Biology, and 2.0 credits in electives	3 CREDITS
Social Studies 1.0 credit in World History, 2.0 credits in U.S. History	3 CREDITS
World Languages Two years required in the same world language	2 CREDITS
Fine Arts Performing Arts Visual Arts	0.5 CREDIT 0.5 CREDIT
Physical Education	1.5 CREDITS
0.5 Health; 0.5 PE Activity; 0.5 PE Activity As an option, students may elect to earn 0.5 credits for participation in school-sponsored interscholastic sports in their freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Specific requirements are published in the <i>Program of Studies</i> book.	
Elective Courses	3.5 CREDITS
Christian Service F.I.A.T. Program	
Service in all four years is a graduation requirement.	

College Gateway Program
Beginning in their sophomore year, students have the opportunity to participate in dual enrollment programs. College credit earned in an approved program will be recognized as credit earned toward Bishop Stang's graduation requirements. Dual enrollment courses will be recognized on the transcript and will be factored into the Bishop Stang GPA using the same weight as Honors courses.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE F.I.A.T. PROGRAM

All students are required to participate in at least one F.I.A.T. activity each year. The word “fiat” refers to Mary’s answer to the angel Gabriel when she said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you have said.” We are using F.I.A.T. as an acronym for **Faith In Action Together**. Mary’s *fiat* was her “yes” to bringing Christ into the world. Our *fiat* is our “yes” to bringing Christ into the world.

Each F.I.A.T. service includes an educational, service, and reflective component, all of which are essential to the program and therefore required. Students will be provided with a list of possible service opportunities. Students may also find their own service opportunity and get approval from Mrs. Dias or Mrs. Tarantelli. Once you complete the service activity, you will complete a Google Form where you will document your service and write a reflection essay.

Each year, all students will participate in a F.I.A.T. service activity.

- Freshmen and sophomores will participate in a service activity, but do not need to complete a set number of hours.
- Both juniors and seniors must complete at least 10 hours of service for their approved FIAT activity.

The completion of a F.I.A.T. activity for all four years with all three of its components is a graduation requirement.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Sr. Teresa Trayers, SND Chapter of the National Honor Society follows the purpose and rules of the constitution of the national organization: to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and develop character. Membership in the National Honor Society is an honor not bestowed automatically, nor based solely on students’ academic standings.

Students may not apply for membership to the National Honor Society. Membership is granted only to students selected by the NHS Faculty Council.

Eligible students (current sophomores or juniors with a weighted GPA 3.65 min.) are sent a letter informing them of their nomination for membership. Nominees must meet the NHS

Adviser who will outline the nominee's responsibility for the creation of a portfolio. Submitted to the faculty council, the portfolios are reviewed and voted upon. A simple majority vote suffices for membership. Disciplinary issues, such as, but not limited to, academic dishonesty may lead to non-selection by the faculty council. The council will notify students by letter of the decision. A detailed description of the selection process is in the [chapter's by-laws](#).

Following Induction, all members are expected to uphold the standards of Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service. All members are required to complete a service obligation. Every member is expected to complete a minimum of 20 hours of community service per year of membership (10 FIAT hours count towards NHS service requirements). Upon completion of the service requirement, each member is to deliver a completed service form to the chapter adviser(s) specifying his/her activities.

An individual who is a member of NHS is reminded that their membership is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of a year commitment that applies both in and outside of school. Members may be disciplined for violating major school rules or for any of the policies (academic dishonesty, drug and alcohol, etc.) outlined in the chapter's by-laws. Those placed on probation by the NHS Faculty Council must realize that further violations will more than likely lead to dismissal from membership. If a member is dismissed and wishes to appeal the dismissal, an appeal to the President must occur within 30 days of the date of the dismissal letter. Any students who are dismissed or resign from NHS will never again be eligible for membership or its benefits.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Students **must** meet all credit and course requirements annually to qualify for promotion to the next grade. All grades must complete the F.I.A.T. activity requirement.

Students who fail courses must make up the failed courses in summer school or with tutors. Students may not repeat failed courses during the school year. When students require the services of summer schools or tutors, Bishop Stang High School provides topical course guides indicating the content to be covered and the material for the competency tests which must be successfully completed prior to returning to the school. A grade of "P" (pass) will be substituted for failing grades completed in summer school or tutorial, and students will receive full credit for the course.

COURSE SELECTIONS

Student course selection is one of the most important student activities at Bishop Stang High School. Registering for courses is a cooperative effort involving teachers, guidance counselors, department chairpersons, administrators, students and parents. All students should develop long-term academic plans which consider their academic strengths and weaknesses as well as their professional goals and the school's graduation requirements. In February, all students receive registration materials for the following year; the updated Program of Studies is published annually and designed to assist students and their families in planning their secondary education; this document is posted on the school website. The document describes all courses offered including course levels and credits. Before selecting

courses, parents and students have ample opportunity to review these materials and to consult with guidance counselors and teachers.

After student course selection is completed, students are expected to keep the courses they selected unless there is a compelling reason to suggest a change. Random changes will not be made.

COURSE CHANGES

Course selections may be changed only within the constraints of the master schedule. Course selections may be changed by school administrators when the school is unable to offer a course because of very low enrollment, when students' level placements must be raised or lowered to match their academic ability, when students' schedules are not academically sound or consistent with the school's policies, when scheduling conflicts must be resolved, or when students or faculty are faced with rare, extenuating circumstances.

All students or faculty must make change requests to the appropriate school counselor in writing. All schedule changes must be reviewed by teachers, department chairpersons, school counselors, and the Principal. After the first four weeks of a course, students who withdraw from any course will receive a "Withdraw Pass" if they are passing the course or a "Withdraw Fail" if they are failing the course. These grades will become part of the permanent record. Students who remain in the same course but move to a higher or lower academic level will not be considered as withdrawing.

COURSE CREDITS

Full-year courses earn one credit. Semester courses earn one-half credit. No credit is earned for courses not completed for reasons of withdrawal, incomplete work, or a failing grade. Such withdrawals are indicated on students' transcripts. Withdrawal from courses could affect students' eligibility for membership in the National Honor Society.

SCHOLASTIC POLICIES

COURSE WEIGHT

The weight of each course at Bishop Stang High School is determined by the level assigned each course. The school does not place students in tracks but rather in levels which are consistent with their strengths and weaknesses in each discipline.

LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

College Prep:	Learning skills for students who have identified difficulties in certain content areas
Advanced College Prep:	Characterized by detailed content requiring skills of application, analysis, and evaluation of course content
Honors:	Indicated by superior academic performance, ability, and work ethic
AP:	An Advanced Placement course, which is college-level study

GPA

At the end of the 2021 academic school year, a new GPA scale was implemented based on the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education GPA calculator. Our GPA remains a 4.0 weighted scale with a 65 as our passing grade. Our College Prep and Advanced College Prep level courses are weighted at 100%. Honors level courses earn an additional .5 in weight and Advanced Placement courses earn an additional 1.0 in weight.

ACADEMIC HONORS

The school recognizes students for outstanding academic achievement based on their cumulative average. Academic honors are awarded at the following levels:

Academic Distinction	Cumulative and posted at the end of each quarter
President's List — Highest Honor	95 or higher
High Honors	90–94
Honors	85–89

DEPARTMENTAL ACADEMIC AWARDS

At the conclusion of each academic year, each academic department will recognize three students in each grade level for distinguished achievement, effort, and growth within the discipline. Department faculty will select one recipient in each of the following categories based on the criteria outlined below.

Awards are intended to recognize different dimensions of academic excellence and development. A student may receive only one award within a department during the same academic year.

Outstanding Achievement

Recognizes a student who has demonstrated an exceptional level of academic achievement and mastery within the department during the academic year.

The recipient:

- Achieves at an exceptional academic level in coursework, assessments, projects, and other measures of learning;
- Demonstrates deep and consistent mastery of the knowledge and skills associated with the discipline;
- Exhibits intellectual curiosity, initiative, and a willingness to extend learning beyond course requirements;
- Models strong academic character and serves as a positive example for peers; and
- Sustains a high level of excellence throughout the academic year.

Effort & Perseverance

Recognizes a student who has demonstrated exceptional effort, perseverance, and commitment to learning within the department. This recognition is not dependent upon earning the highest grades in the discipline; rather, it honors sustained work ethic, resilience, and dedication.

The recipient:

- Demonstrates consistent effort, preparation, and commitment regardless of outcome;
- Responds to challenges and setbacks with resilience and a willingness to improve;
- Seeks assistance when appropriate, responds constructively to feedback, and applies feedback to future work;
- Demonstrates a positive attitude and consistent engagement in the learning process; and
- Exhibits sustained dedication throughout the academic year.

Growth & Improvement

Recognizes a student who has demonstrated significant and meaningful academic growth within the department during the academic year.

The recipient:

- Demonstrates measurable improvement in academic performance, skills, or understanding over the course of the year;
- Shows increased confidence, independence, and ownership of learning;
- Demonstrates meaningful improvement in effort, engagement, or approach to learning;
- Successfully addresses or overcomes identifiable academic challenges; and
- Exhibits a sustained trajectory of growth and development throughout the academic year.

Selection of Recipients

Each academic department will select one recipient in each category at each grade level, for a total of three departmental award recipients per grade. Selections will be made collaboratively by department faculty based on the criteria above and their professional assessment of each student's performance, effort, and growth over the course of the academic year.

The same student may not receive more than one award within the same department in a given academic year. Each department will give pick 3 students per category

MARKING SYSTEM

The school year is divided into four quarters of approximately 45 days each. Bishop Stang High School uses numerical percentage marks, with 65 percent as the lowest passing grade.

Final grades are determined by the following process:

The final grade for **semester courses**:

- First quarter mark=40%
- Second quarter mark=40%
- Final exam mark=20%

The final grade for **full-year courses**:

- Each quarter mark=20%
- Mid-Term Exam mark=10%
- Final Exam mark=10%

EXAMINATIONS

Mid-term and final examinations of 90 minutes are administered in January and May/June respectively. Alternative means of assessment are used as determined by the Department Chairpersons/Academic Board. All students are required to sit for examinations on scheduled days and times except for reasons approved by the Principal.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework assignments are an integral part of the learning process. Assignments, which are not completed or not completed on time will affect students' grades. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and verified for completion when due. Homework will be incorporated into each quarterly grade. (The percentage is defined by each discipline.)

Study and reading assignments are as valuable as any written work. Completion of these assignments will also be verified in a timely manner. Students who repeatedly fail to complete homework may receive administrative detention.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students who have been absent from class due to illness or some other valid reason are responsible for contacting their teachers upon return to school to arrange mutually acceptable schedules for completing missed class work, assignments and examinations. All make-up work is to be done as soon as possible, subject to the policy of each teacher. Teachers inform their classes at the beginning of the school year of their own make-up policies.

INCOMPLETES

The designation "incomplete" is sometimes used in lieu of a grade in instances of extended absence due to illness or an extraordinary circumstance. Incompletes must be made up within the first two weeks of the next quarter unless there are extenuating circumstances.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Every quarter all students receive electronic mid-term progress reports for each class. These reports are posted on the Parent/Student Portal. At the beginning of the year, parents or guardians will be notified of the posting dates.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Purpose & Overview

Bishop Stang High School is committed to the academic success and holistic development of

every student. This protocol establishes a structured, compassionate, and consistent process for supporting students who experience academic difficulty. Academic probation is a formal intervention — not a punishment — designed to identify challenges early, mobilize school and family resources, and create a clear pathway for recovery. Academic probation status is reviewed after each quarter grading period.

Definition of Academic Probation

A student is placed on Academic Probation when they fail one (1) or more courses at the end of any quarterly grading period. The number of course failures determines the level of intervention required, as outlined in the Tiered Response Protocol below.

Tiered Response Protocol

Step	Trigger	Involved	Required Actions
Tier 1	Fails 1 course at end of quarter	Counselor, Student, Parent/Guardian, Teacher(s)	• Student meets individually with School Counselor • Counselor contacts parent/guardian to discuss academic concern • Teacher(s) of failed course(s) provide written input on performance, attendance/engagement, and remediation strategies • Counselor develops Remediation Plan with student input; plan shared with parent/guardian and placed

			- in student file - Progress reviewed at next quarter end
Tier 2	Fails 2 or more courses at end of any quarter	Principal, Counselor, Family, Teacher(s)	- Family meeting with Principal and School Counselor required within 10 school days of quarter end - Academic standing and trajectory formally reviewed - Updated Remediation Plan established with family input - Formal Academic Probation Notice issued and signed - Specific, measurable academic targets set for next quarter - Support resources assigned (tutoring, study hall, etc.) - Student and family acknowledge conditions in

			writing
Tier 3	Fails 3 or more courses — End of Year	Principal, Counselor, Family Review Committee	● Full Academic Status Review conducted at year-end ● Academic Review Committee convenes to assess all factors ● Two outcomes possible — see End-of-Year Review section below ● All decisions documented and communicated in writing ● Appeal process available per School Policy

End-of-Year Academic Status Review

For students who fail three (3) or more courses across the academic year, the Academic Review Committee — comprising the Principal, Vice Principal for Academics and Student Life, and School Counselor — will conduct a comprehensive review. Two outcomes are available based on the totality of the student’s academic record and circumstances:

Outcome A: Involuntary Transfer

A student may be asked to transfer when sustained academic failure demonstrates that Bishop Stang is not the appropriate placement at this time.

- Applies when repeated interventions have not produced improvement
- Family is notified in writing with clear rationale
- Counselor assists with transition planning
- Student records transferred promptly and professionally

Outcome B: Continued Enrollment with Contract

Where extenuating circumstances (medical, family crisis, mental health, etc.) significantly impacted academic performance, the Committee may authorize continued enrollment under

a formal contract.

- Circumstances must be documented and verified
- Clearly defined Intervention Plan required
- Conditions, expectations, and timelines specified in writing
- Student and family sign Academic Continuation Contract
- Regular check-ins with Counselor (minimum bi-weekly)
- Non-compliance with contract terms may result in transfer

Academic Continuation Contract — Required Components

When a student is granted continued enrollment under Outcome B, the Academic Continuation Contract must include all of the following:

- Documented extenuating circumstances and supporting evidence
- Specific, measurable academic goals for the coming year
- Defined support resources (tutoring, counseling, accommodations)
- Attendance and behavior expectations
- Quarterly academic benchmarks and review checkpoints
- Consequences for failure to meet contractual conditions
- Signatures of student, parent/guardian, Counselor, and Principal
- Contract duration and renewal/termination conditions

Confidentiality & Student Dignity

All academic probation proceedings are confidential and handled with sensitivity to student dignity. Information is shared only with school personnel who have a legitimate educational need to know. Students and families are treated as partners in this process at every stage.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic honesty is an expected standard of behavior in any institution of learning. Plagiarism, copying the work of other students, or using any form of notes during examinations without the approval of teachers are forms of cheating. Such incidents warrant a grade of zero. Should a teacher suspect an instance of academic dishonesty, the teacher should inform the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible. The Principal, the student's school counselor and NHS advisor (where appropriate) are informed of all cases of academic dishonesty.

Forgery of signatures and computer tampering will not be allowed. These incidents warrant an in-house suspension. If a second incident of any act of dishonesty occurs, the student will be placed on an integrity contract for the remainder of his/her years at Bishop Stang High School.

A third offense may result in expulsion.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty*:

- copying another student's work or sharing the answers to a homework assignment, report, research paper, project, etc.;
- allowing another student to copy your work;

- having another individual (friend, student or family member) complete part or all of an assignment for you;
- sharing your network password so another student has access to your files;
- using **any** digital device to electronically distribute or receive information relating to their assignments, quizzes or tests;
- using any type of “cheat sheet”;
- using AI tools such as ChatGPT without teacher permission; and in a manner consistent with teacher direction and instruction (i.e. submission of chat logs); **see below
- using unapproved materials (quizzes, tests, exams, assignments, notes, projects, etc.) previously assigned;
- using Cliff Notes®, Spark Notes®, etc. instead of reading the assigned literary work;
- watching a video of a literary work you were assigned strictly to read;
- being absent in order to avoid handing in a project on the assigned due date;
- being absent in order to avoid taking a quiz or test;
- accessing your teacher’s gradebook to change your grade;
- using phony data on your lab report;
- using a word translator to assist in completing a world language assignment;
- avoiding telling your teacher that he/she has mis-calculated your grade;
- plagiarizing in any way.

****Any other instance determined by the administration to be academically dishonest***
Artificial Intelligence Policy for Use in Academic Work

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Bishop Stang High School is committed to preparing students not only for academic excellence but for thoughtful and ethical participation in a rapidly changing world. As artificial intelligence tools become increasingly present in academic and professional life, it is essential that students understand how to engage with these technologies responsibly. The use of AI in academic work is governed by a dedicated policy that outlines permitted and prohibited uses, disclosure requirements, detection practices, and consequences for misuse. All students and families are expected to read and understand the Bishop Stang High School Artificial Intelligence Policy, which is available as a supplement to this handbook. Questions regarding the AI policy should be directed to the student's teacher or to the Principal.

[Bishop Stang AI Policy Supplemental Handbook](#)

COMPUTER SYSTEM AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Bishop Stang High School strongly believes in the educational value of technology and recognizes its potential to support and enrich the curriculum and student learning process. Our goal in providing student access to the school’s network is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Bishop Stang High School will make every effort to protect users from any misuses or abuses as a result of

their experiences with the network or the internet.

Students/users are responsible to know the regulations of BSHS regarding network services and personal electronic device guidelines. Use of the network, internet, and personal electronic devices is a privilege and not a right. Any student/user who disregards the regulations will be liable for disciplinary actions. These actions may include, but are not limited to, loss or limitations to network services, loss of electronic device privileges, school disciplinary actions and/or referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Computer System and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

Bishop Stang High School believes in the educational value of a computer system, the Internet and other technologies and recognizes their potential to support and enrich the curriculum and the student learning process. Our goal in providing a computer system, Internet access and other technologies is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. This agreement would apply to the use of individually owned technologies in the form of personal communication devices when used on school grounds, at school functions, or for school-related purposes. This agreement would also apply to school owned technologies used outside of school. Use of the computer system, the Internet and other technologies is a privilege and access entails responsibility. School cannot prevent the availability of all inappropriate material on the Internet and other technologies. The use of the system, Internet and other technologies is subject to this acceptable use agreement and the rules, regulations and policies of the school, the Department of Education and the Diocese of Fall River. The school supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for a student computer system and Internet access and other technologies.

Acceptable Use The computer system, Internet access and other technologies has been established for an educational purpose. The user understands and agrees to the following:

- The use of the system, the Internet and other technologies must be consistent with and in support of the educational goals and objectives of the school's curriculum and mission statement.
- The use of any material in violation of any law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trademark or trade secret.
- The purchase or sale of any product or service, or any other commercial use, is prohibited.
- The listing of any advertisements or political materials is prohibited.
- Illegal activities of any kind are prohibited.

Behavior The user is expected to follow the generally accepted rules of computer use/Internet and other technologies etiquette. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Always use the system in an ethical and respectful manner.
- Use appropriate language.

- User shall not reveal his/her name, home address, personal telephone number or any other personal information. User shall not reveal the personal information of any other person.
- User shall not disrupt or congest the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies in any manner.
- User shall not post anonymous messages.
- User shall not access, create, or distribute harassing, defaming, discriminatory, abusive, pornographic, fraudulent, obscene, racist, sexist, or threatening material or imagery.
- User shall not attempt to access blocked Internet sites.
- User shall only use school approved, licensed software and shall not use other programs or applications or download any information without the permission of the head of school.
- User shall not use the account or password (if the school assigns one) of another user or attempt to impersonate any other person.
- Confidential information should not be transmitted over the Internet or other technologies.
- User shall report any known or suspected misuse of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies to the head of school. User shall not make any false complaints against any other user.
- User shall not access any "chat rooms" unless access has been approved by the head of school.

NOTE: *User may be given an e-mail account on the computer system. User shall not sign up for or access any e-mail service offered through the Internet or other technologies. Bishop Stang High School explicitly prohibits user from having any access to any e-mail services unless it has been specifically approved for a limited time and purpose by the head of school. If user has been granted approval to use e-mail, user understands that e-mail is not private. Any messages received that relate to or are in support of illegal activities, or that are prohibited by this acceptable use agreement, or that make the user feel uncomfortable, shall be reported immediately to the head of school. User shall not send messages or use the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies in any manner that they would not be comfortable seeing reproduced publicly.*

Services Bishop Stang High School makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, with respect to the use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies. Use of any information obtained through the use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies is at the user's own risk. Bishop Stang High School does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet or other technologies or for any damage user may suffer as a result of use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies including but not limited to, loss of data or interruption of service. Bishop Stang High School is not responsible for any financial obligations arising from the unauthorized use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies.

Security Security on any computer system or other technologies system is a high priority. If a user identifies a security problem, he/she shall notify the head of school immediately, without discussing it or showing it to another person. Any user identified as a security risk will be subject to disciplinary action, up to, and, including expulsion.

Vandalism Vandalism includes, but is not limited to, any attempt to harm or destroy the computer system, hardware, software, or data of school, another user or of any other agency or network that is connected through the Internet or any other technologies. Vandalism will subject the user to disciplinary action, up to, and, including expulsion, and may involve a referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Password If the school uses passwords, user understands that the password chosen is for personal use only and shall not be shared with any person, except as directed by school. The password may be changed at any time according to the needs of school.

Monitoring The computer system and all communications and information transmitted by, received from, or stored in the computer system or other technologies, including e-mail, are the property of the school. User should not expect that his/her use of the computer system, Internet and other technologies is private. User has no expectation of privacy in any use of the Internet or computer system or other technologies. Bishop Stang High School has the right, at any time, to access, monitor, and disclose any and all use of the computer system and Internet and other technologies, including but not limited to, back-up files, e-mail messages and the transmission, receipt or storage of information in the computer or other technologies as it deems necessary. Monitoring will be conducted to ensure system integrity and to ensure that all users are using the computer system and Internet and other technologies responsibly and according to this acceptable use agreement. ***User acknowledges and expressly consents to school accessing, monitoring, and disclosing his/her use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies at any time at school's discretion.***

Termination Bishop Stang High School has the sole right at any time, with or without cause, to terminate or suspend any user's access to, and use of, the computer system and/or the Internet and/or other technologies.

Responsibility User understands that the computer system, the Internet, and other technologies are to be used only for educational purposes. Any violation of the terms of this acceptable use agreement may result in loss of computer system, Internet privileges, and other technologies disciplinary action, up to, and, including expulsion, and appropriate legal action.

The Internet and/or any other technologies links users around the world and provides access to a wide variety of information and resources. The law affecting the Internet and/or other technologies is developing and changing daily. No acceptable use agreement could identify each and every inappropriate use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies through school property. Bishop Stang High School is the sole judge of whether the use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies is consistent with this acceptable use agreement and its decision shall be final. If user is unsure whether use of

the computer system, Internet or other technologies is appropriate, user shall confer with the head of school. School reserves the right to modify this acceptable use agreement at any time in any manner.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of this user I have read this acceptable use agreement and understand that access to, and utilization of, school computer system, Internet access and other technologies is intended and designed for educational purposes. I understand that security cannot be made perfect and it is possible that an industrious user could make use of the computer system and Internet and/or other technologies for inappropriate purposes. I will instruct my child regarding the acceptable behavior and restrictions as noted in this acceptable use agreement and any additional restrictions that I may have. **I have specifically reviewed the monitoring section of this acceptable use agreement and expressly consent to school's accessing, monitoring, and disclosing this child's use of the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies at any time at school's discretion.**

I agree to release and hold school, the Department of Education, and the Diocese of Fall River, and their agents, employees, and representatives forever harmless and indemnified against and from any and all liability, loss, damages, costs, claims, and/or causes of action, including any legal fees in defending such claim, resulting from or arising out of this student's use of, or inability to use, the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies.

I also agree to release and hold school, the Department of Education, and the Diocese of Fall River, and their agents, employees, and representatives forever harmless and indemnified against and from any and all claims or right of actions for damages which this student has or hereafter may acquire either before or after the student has reached majority, including but not limited to property damage, and including any legal fees in defending such claim, resulting from or arising out of this student's use of, or inability to use, the computer system and/or Internet and/or other technologies.

By electronically signing the handbook, you agree to the terms set forth in this **Computer System and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement**.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

It is expected that all members of the Bishop Stang High School community accept the school's purposes and policies and, by virtue of their presence here, choose to contribute to a respectful, pleasant, and responsible environment. All of the following regulations and expectations have been established to ensure the order necessary for the smooth functioning of the school.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Any changes of address, telephone number, parish or other pertinent information must be submitted to the Registrar/School Counselor.

ASSEMBLIES

All school assemblies are considered extensions of the school's academic program. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a dignified manner appropriate to the occasion. Attendance at graduation practice is required for all seniors who wish to participate in the commencement ceremony.

AUTOMOBILES AND PARKING

Students are allowed to park their cars in the area allocated for students. Cars are to be operated safely on school grounds and at speeds not exceeding 10 m.p.h. The property of the adjacent parish, St. Julie Billiart, **is not to be used as an entrance to school grounds. This is a one-way "Exit Only" route Monday through Friday.** Students are not permitted to go to the parking lots during school hours unless escorted by a member of the faculty, staff or administration. All cars must be registered with the Vice Principal. Parking permits will be issued and must be displayed at all times on campus and on St. Julie's overflow parking. Any cars without a clearly displayed parking permit may be towed at the owner's expense.

Overflow parking for underclassmen is in the section of St. Julie's parking lot that is located closest to Slocum Road. Parking at St. Julie's is a privilege and all school rules and regulations apply.

BACKPACKS

Backpacks/bags should not be left unattended at any time. During lunch, backpacks should be stored in lockers. Backpacks may **not** be worn during class or brought to the cafeteria during lunch.

BOOKS

Once students' schedules are finalized, students are advised to write their names on the inside front covers of their hard-copy books so that proof of ownership is clearly established. Textbooks are rentals from eCampus and must be returned at the end of the academic year, or students will incur the cost of each book not returned.

BUSES

Students who use public transportation to and from school, or school buses, must conduct themselves appropriately, respecting the properties and rights of the bus company and of other passengers. Students acting inappropriately are subject to school penalties and may be barred from using bus services. Students are advised to use caution when boarding or departing from all means of transportation, public or private. All school rules apply to

students on buses.

CAFETERIA/KITCHEN

Students may bring their own food for lunch and snacks. Microwaves are not available for reheating food. The kitchen is open throughout the school year to purchase hot or cold food during first and second lunch. Breakfast is available from 7:15 to 7:45 AM and snacks are available after school until 3:15. Students may not go to the kitchen for snacks during the school day.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

It is the goal of the Campus Ministry program to help all members of the Bishop Stang community to develop and deepen their personal relationship with Christ, to provide opportunities for growth in their faith and spiritual development, and to continually offer praise and worship, giving thanks to God in all things.

The Campus Ministry Team is composed of the Campus Minister, faculty, and students. The team offers opportunities for leadership development, religious formation, and pastoral care. With the help of the Campus Ministry Team, students plan and facilitate prayer services, liturgies, and retreats. All members of the community are welcome to participate in the shared work of this integral component of the school. Students may not be in Campus Ministry without supervision. Students must check-in to quiet study/ flex period prior to reporting to Campus Ministry.

CARD-PLAYING/GAMBLING

Inappropriate games/hobbies, and gambling are not permitted on school property.

CELLULAR PHONES

To limit distractions and disruptions during the school day, cell phones may not be used and must be powered off from 8 AM to 2:15 PM. At the start of first period, all students must put their phones in the teacher's lock box. At the completion of first period, students will move their phone to their homeroom lock box where the phone will remain for the duration of the day. The lock box will remain locked in the homeroom for the entire day. At 2:15 PM, students will return to their homeroom to retrieve their cell phone from the teacher in the room. If a student is to be dismissed early, the student must show their dismissal slip to their homeroom teacher to receive their phone. If a student arrives at school after the homeroom/flex period, their phone will be turned in at the main office and stored in the main office.

In the event of an emergency, the homeroom teacher will bring the lock box out to the evacuation site and return phones to the students.

If a student refuses to turn in their phone or is found with their phone throughout the school day disciplinary measures will be taken including suspension. Repeated incidents could result in transfer or expulsion.

If a student has a diagnosed medical condition requiring access to their cell phone, documentation must be provided to the nurse who will issue a pass and communicate with

the teachers.

Taking pictures/video at school without prior permission from an administrator is strictly prohibited. The phone will be confiscated and given to the Dean of Students. Any pictures/video will be viewed by an administrator or designee. Any inappropriate pictures/video may result in administrative action up to and including transfer or expulsion. Any online posting of pictures/video that is detrimental to the reputation of the school will result in disciplinary action.

Text messaging or accessing any form of social media during the academic day is strictly prohibited. The phone will be confiscated and given to the Dean of Students. Text messages will be viewed by an administrator or designee. Any inappropriate messages may result in administrative action up to and including transfer or expulsion.

CHAPEL

The Annunciation Chapel is available to all members of the Bishop Stang High School community for quiet prayer and reflection. Some school liturgical and para-liturgical services are conducted in the chapel. Masses for the entire school are held at St. Julie Billiart Church. The chapel is only to be used for religious activities.

CHEWING GUM

Chewing gum is not permitted at any time on school property. Violations are subject to an administrative detention.

COLLEGE VISITS

Students who wish to meet with college or armed services representatives must obtain passes from the School Counseling Department Administrative Assistant. These passes must be signed by a member of the School Counseling Department and the teachers whose classes students will miss. Teachers have the final decision regarding dismissal from classes for students who wish to attend such meetings. Juniors and seniors requesting permission to visit college campuses must inform the Dean of Students before the scheduled visits. Students are responsible for contacting their teachers prior to these visits regarding missed class work, assignments and examinations. Juniors and seniors are allowed to make up to three visits each year. Parents must notify the school in writing and verification from the college is needed. Attendance at a college fair does not qualify as a college visit. College visits are recorded as an excused absence and absent from classes.

DANCES / PROM

Students attending Bishop Stang High School dances are expected to conduct themselves in the Catholic school tradition. Modesty is the theme for both dress and behavior, on and off the dance floor, during the dance. Inappropriate dancing is not allowed.

Students who attend a school-sponsored dance/prom, etc. will not engage in provocative dance; i.e. grinding, inappropriate physical contact or public displays of affection.

The Rules for Dancing include:

- sexually suggestive dancing is unacceptable (i.e. “front to back” dancing)
- no “Public Displays of Affection” (PDA).
- bags are subject to search
- all students may be subjected to drug/alcohol detection
- cell phones must be turned off during the dances and may be used only before entering the dance or at the conclusion of the dance. In the case of emergency, students should contact a dance administrator. When there is a designated photo area at the dance, students may use cell phones to take appropriate pictures.
- any student bringing a guest to the dance is responsible for his/her guest’s behavior and must complete a Request to Attend B.S.H.S. Dance form at least one week prior to the dance. This form is due to the Vice Principal at least 48 hours prior to the dance.
- no food or drinks are permitted to be brought into the dance. Drinks and food are available at the dance.
- all students should be off school grounds no later than 15 minutes after the dance has ended. As a courtesy please make certain parents/guardians have correct pick-up times.
- students are required to bring B.S.H.S. identification in order to enter the dance.
- students **must arrive by 8:00 pm and cannot leave before 9:00 pm** without parent permission.

Students violating dance policies will be asked to leave the event. Appropriate disciplinary action will be determined.

DEFIANCE AND DISRESPECT

Students who display defiance or disrespect toward any member of the administration, faculty, or staff are subject to suspension or expulsion.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

In order to minimize distractions and disturbances during school hours, electronic devices other than approved tablets or laptops are not to be used or played in or near the school during the academic day. Violation of this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic equipment. A second offense within a school year will result in an administrative detention. A third offense within a school year will result in a Saturday detention and confiscation of the equipment until parent/guardian pick up. Audio/video recording or the taking of photographs is not permitted without teacher permission. The inappropriate use of electronic equipment may result in suspension or expulsion.

FIELD TRIPS

Only field trips which provide educational value to the course are allowed. Permission slips are given to students and require a parent/guardian signature.

Well in advance of the scheduled field trip, all participating students must request permission from all teachers whose classes they will miss. **If a student is in poor academic standing or has exceeded the number of allowed absences in a quarter, any of that student’s teachers or administration may deny the request to attend a field trip.** All school rules apply on all field trips.

FIGHTING

Fighting on school property is not tolerated. **Regardless of blame or provocation**, students involved in any fighting on school property are minimally subject to in-house suspension.

FUNDRAISING

Bishop Stang High School strives to minimize the number of fundraising activities. All such activities must be approved well in advance by the Director of Advancement in consultation with the President. All fundraising dollars must be processed and run through Bishop Stang High School. Money should not be handled by faculty, staff, coaches or parents' personal accounts.

Each grade holds fundraisers to raise funds for their senior year activities. These fundraisers must be approved through the Dean of Students and the Vice Principal.

HOMEROOM/FLEX PERIOD

Each day of the cycle will include a 33 minute flex period. Each flex period is designated as meeting times for the majority of the school's co-curricular activities. This time may also be used to receive extra help from teachers. Students who are not in scheduled meetings are required to remain in their homeroom for quiet study.

Guidelines for Homeroom/Flex Period

- The flex period follows period 1 every day with the exception of Liturgy days, early dismissal days, and special assembly days.
- Flex period has a 14 day rotation (two 7 day cycles).
- ALL students must go to their homeroom and take a seat so that attendance may be taken. **ACCURATE ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL FOR SAFETY REASONS.**
- ALL students who have an organized meeting/class **MUST** sign out to the designated meeting.
 - Students in StuCo, NHS, and Student Ambassadors should notify their teacher of meeting days ahead of time. Attendance will be taken at those meetings.
- All other students will remain in the room for a quiet study.
- **NO ONE LEAVES THE ROOM WITHOUT A PASS.**
- Students may not leave the room to go to the library/Campus Ministry unless they come to their classroom with a note from a teacher.
 - Students may not go to the library to pick up printing or study during flex time unless they have a pass.
- Students may only use headphones for an educational purpose and should ask permission before doing so.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS

All food and beverage items must be consumed in the cafeteria. Except in the cafeteria, open bottles (seal has been broken) and beverage containers are not permitted in the school building at any time. The only exception to this is water bottles. Water bottles may be used before, during and after school. Cold water filling stations are located throughout the school building. Glass bottles may not be brought into school at any time. Any unapproved open

bottles and beverage containers will be confiscated and disposed of. **Students are not permitted to order food/beverages from outside vendors during the school day.**

GYMNASIUM

Students are not allowed to use the gymnasium area before, during, or after school without specific permission and **supervision by faculty members** who assume responsibility for students' behavior. No food or beverages are allowed in the gym except during specified activities.

LEAVING SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

Students who exit any school-sponsored event prior to its end will not be allowed to re-enter. Admission charges will not be refunded. Students leaving on-campus events must exit school grounds immediately and not loiter.

LITTER

A sense of pride in Bishop Stang High School should motivate all students to dispose properly of litter on school property. Students are responsible for disposing of their trash at all times.

LOCKERS

Students are assigned lockers and may only use this assigned locker. Lockers must only be secured with combination locks provided by the school. There is a \$10.00 replacement fee for all lost or stolen locks. **All lockers must be locked.** Lockers must be locked with school issued locks. Failure to do so may result in loss of property. Students should not keep valuables in their lockers. Valuables may be held by the Vice Principal or Dean of Students for safe-keeping during the school day. Bishop Stang High School accepts no responsibility for students' possessions lost or stolen from lockers. Students using the boys' or girls' gymnasium lockers must entrust anything of value to their coaches or physical education teacher. **Locker room/lockers are to be used only by in-season athletes. Locker rooms are not intended to be storage areas.**

Nothing permanent or inappropriate should be attached to lockers. First offense will be an administrative detention; second offense will be the loss of locker privilege. The condition and contents of lockers are the student's responsibility. All lockers should be cleaned during the weeks when mid-term and final examinations are held. Abuse of one's locker may result in the loss of locker privileges. The administration of Bishop Stang High School retains the right to inspect any locker at any time if the administration believes that the content of any locker is not in the best interest of the school. Any tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances will be confiscated and dealt with appropriately. Parents or guardians will be notified and disciplinary action will be taken. Locks and lockers are the property of Bishop Stang High School and thus may be inspected by custodians for repair or searched by administration as needed.

LOITERING

Loitering in areas such as the gymnasium, main lobby, trophy lobby, backstage, lavatories, parking lots, stairwells, and hallways is prohibited. Students should report directly to class without loitering. During a class period, students who leave their classrooms must have a pass from the teacher and must sign in and out.

After-school loitering is not allowed in the main lobby, classrooms, halls and in the parking

lots at Bishop Stang and St. Julie's.

LOST AND FOUND

Any questions regarding lost or missing items should be directed to the Vice Principal.

MANDATED REPORTING

Bishop Stang High School abides by Massachusetts General Law chapter 119, section 51A. This law mandates that all cases of **suspected** abuse and/or neglect be reported to the Diocese of Fall River – Office of Safe Environment. The administration, faculty, and staff of Bishop Stang High School are mandated reporters.

MEDIA DISCLAIMER

Photographs and videos of students may appear on the school website, yearbook, brochures, school-produced DVD's and other publications. Parents/Guardians who do not wish their children's photographs to be placed in school-related publications must indicate that on the form provided at the beginning of the school year.

RETREATS

Required Class Retreats

All students are required to participate in annual class retreats. These retreats reflect the philosophy and mission statement of Bishop Stang High School and are an important part of our total academic program.

Any conflict or concern which would prohibit a student from participating in these required days of reflection must be submitted in writing to the Campus Minister, who will then address the situation with the administration.

Retreat Leadership

Serving as a retreat leader is a privilege, not a guaranteed right.

Students who wish to miss class in order to lead a retreat must meet all of the following requirements at the time of the retreat:

Requirements for Retreat Leaders

- Good standing with attendance — no excessive absences or patterns of missing class
- Good academic standing — passing all current courses with satisfactory progress
- Good behavioral standing — no active disciplinary concerns or outstanding consequences
- Written or verbal permission obtained from each teacher whose class will be missed prior to the retreat

Expectations of Retreat Leaders

Retreat leaders are ambassadors of the Bishop Stang community and are expected to serve as positive role models who reflect the highest ideals of our school's mission. Leaders must be actively and meaningfully involved in the facilitation of retreat activities for the full duration of the retreat — leadership is not a passive role.

Students whose conduct or level of engagement does not reflect the spirit and expectations of retreat leadership may be returned to class at the discretion of the Campus Minister or supervising faculty. Patterns of misbehavior or misconduct may limit a student's opportunity to serve in this role in the future.

Additional Retreats Beyond Required Class Retreats

Students who wish to participate in any retreat beyond their required class retreat — including optional, elective, or leadership retreats — must meet the same standards expected of retreat leaders.

Requirements for Additional Retreat Participation

- Good standing with attendance — no excessive absences or patterns of missing class
- Good academic standing in all current courses
- Good behavioral standing with no active disciplinary concerns
- Written or verbal permission obtained from each teacher whose class will be missed prior to the retreat

Principal-Approved Retreat Participation

In certain circumstances, a student who does not meet the standard requirements for additional retreat participation may be approved to attend a retreat with the explicit permission of the Principal.

Such approval may be granted when it is determined to be in the best interest of the student's personal or social development, including but not limited to:

- Students who would benefit from connection with positive peers or a supportive community experience
- Students navigating personal, social, or emotional challenges for whom a retreat environment may provide meaningful support
- Students for whom participation is recommended as part of a broader plan for school engagement or well-being

ROSEANNE BARKER LIBRARY AND LEARNING COMMONS GUIDELINES

The Roseanne Barker Library and Learning Commons supports the mission and curriculum of the Bishop Stang High School and assists students in becoming lifelong learners,

independent readers and respectful, responsible, ethical citizens. The library and learning commons houses curriculum-rich print, video, and audio collections as well as several electronic databases and a comprehensive website, The Virtual Barker (<http://bishopstang.libguides.com/home>). It is a member of the MassCat library consortium as well as the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) and through their sponsorship the library and media center is able to offer additional electronic databases as well as interlibrary loan and other services. Electronic devices are available for student use, allowing access to word processing, the online library catalog, internet, and numerous electronic resources.

Students must sign into the library and learning commons during Quiet Study as well as their lunch period and before or after school. Students must be on time. Students who arrive after the bell are late and should have an appropriate pass. Students will remain in the library and learning commons for the entire period. **Library hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

The following rules apply at all times:

- No food, candy or drinks are allowed.
- After school, phones must be on silent or vibrate.
- Adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy at all times. Disregard for these regulations will result in severe disciplinary action.
- Work quietly without disturbing others. After school, anyone causing a disturbance will be asked to leave. During the school day, students who are disruptive or uncooperative are subject to assigned seating or administrative action.
- Students are to remain seated at all times.
- Chairs should not be removed from their locations.
- Students must bring appropriate study materials to study.
- After each period, the area should be left in perfect order with chairs pushed in.

Policies/Procedures to keep our library and learning commons running smoothly:

- All items taken from the library must be checked out.
- Books and magazines may be checked out for two weeks.
- DVDs may be checked out for one week.
- Reference materials do not circulate.
- All lost items must be paid for.

SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Students should be thoroughly familiar with the exits from each room, hallway and floor of the school building. Before evacuating the school building, teachers should close windows and doors. Students should proceed quickly, quietly, and in a calm, orderly manner to the pre-assigned homeroom station, lining up single-file by homeroom. Homeroom teachers will take attendance at this time. If the fire alarm sounds before or after school hours, everyone must evacuate the building immediately and report to the closest parking lot. Any adult supervising a group of students remains in charge of that group.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

In the event of inclement weather, structured alternate learning day, school cancellation, an

emergency school cancellation, or a delay, announcements will be sent to parents via Parents Web, posted on our web page, and will be broadcast on Boston and Rhode Island radio and TV broadcasts.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The function of the School Counseling Department is to assist students and parents in school-related issues that affect educational development. Counseling services include academic and some personal counseling, career awareness, standardized testing and assistance in course selection.

Students receive scheduled appointments from the school counseling department. Parents/Guardians and students are also free to request appointments at any time.

Standardized testing programs administered at our school include PSATs, SATs, and Advanced Placement exams.

The department adheres to the school's general policy of confidentiality except when the safety or well-being of students or other members of the Bishop Stang High School community may be jeopardized.

2026-2027 Counselor Breakdown

Counselor	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Nicole Dias ndias@bishopstang.org 508-996-5602 x421	A-E	A-D (Fortier)	A-D (Kearney, Lovegrove, Manning)	A-E (Ferrara, Manning, Moniz, Thadeu)
Margaux Pham mpham@bishopstang.org 508-996-5602 x487	F-M	E-Me (Wilkie)	E-L (Delk)	F-N (Campbell, Verissimo)
Marisa Hamel mhamel@bishopstang.org 508-996-5602 x468	N-Z	Mi-Z	M-Z (Harris)	O-Z (Botelho)

SCHOOL STORE

The Bishop Stang School Store is located in the Main Office. The store is open during break period and other designated times.

SENIOR PORTRAITS

Senior portraits must be taken at Jen Lima Photography Studio to be included in the yearbook. (School dress code must be adhered to.)

SNOWBALLS

Because of the possibility of serious injury, students may not make or throw snowballs on school property. Students who do are subject to administrative detention.

STEALING AND VANDALISM

Both stealing and vandalism constitute serious violations of respect for Bishop Stang High School and the members of the school community. Parents of students damaging school property are liable for monetary restitution and/or necessary repair or replacement. Any students stealing or vandalizing at Bishop Stang High School or at any other school may be subject to transfer or expulsion and police notification when appropriate. This policy applies to the cafeteria as well.

TELEPHONES

For emergency phone use during the school day, students must obtain a pass from a teacher and report to the Main Office.

TRESPASSING

School property is not to be used for student gatherings after school, in the evenings, on weekends, or whenever school is not in session. Skateboarding and rollerblading are not permitted on school grounds. Any activities on school property must be supervised by school personnel.

TUITION POLICY

As a part of the enrollment process, each family must indicate the Guarantor who will be responsible for tuition payments by establishing a FACTS Payment Plan. The FACTS payment plan allows families to pay in full, or choose a 10 or 11-month payment plan. The guarantor is required to notify the school if there are any missed payments. All outstanding fees will be added to the FACTS agreement if left unpaid. If an account becomes delinquent, and no attempt is made to bring the account into good standing with the school, the following actions may be taken: students may not be allowed to take exams; students may not be allowed to register, or return for the following year; students may not be allowed to participate in extended school, club, or organized trips; and students may not be allowed to participate in athletic extracurricular activities. Senior tuition must be paid in full prior to graduation. A diploma will not be issued until all outstanding balances with Bishop Stang are settled. A delinquent account may also be sent to a collection agency.

Refund Policy

Both the registration and re-registration fees are non-refundable. The Guarantor is responsible for 1/10 of the total tuition for any month or any part of a month that a student attends Bishop Stang High School. For transfers during the school year prior to April 1, a refund will be processed for any overpayments made. After April 1, no refund will be processed.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial aid applications are required each year by March 1 and completed through FACTS Grant & Aid. In addition to financial aid, several scholarships are available each year. Scholarship awards are based on need, academic achievement and involvement. Working at the school's Gillette Stadium concession booth is required of families receiving more than \$1000 in financial aid.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOOL NAME

No student, or student's parent or guardian, without the express prior written authorization of the school's President, may utilize the school's name, or identifying logo, for any purpose. Any unauthorized use of the school's name or identifying logo may subject the student to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and/or legal action.

UPPERCLASSMEN PRIVILEGES

Seniors choose their own parking space at the beginning of the school year.

Juniors and seniors may be dismissed from school (at 1:20 p.m.) on days when they have no Period 5 class (Exceptions – Liturgy or Penance Services). **These students must sign out in the Main Office before leaving** and remain in complete uniform until they exit the building. Students leaving school may not return until the end of the school day (2:15 p.m.). Students

who remain in school must be in complete uniform and in a supervised area. Violations may result in loss of these privileges. Upperclassmen who cut classes may lose these privileges. Juniors and seniors with excessive tardies, excessive absences, or failing one or more classes, may lose their privilege of signing out or leaving during fifth period.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Video surveillance cameras are used at Bishop Stang High School to promote a safe school environment for students, staff and visitors and diminish the potential for personal and school loss or destruction of property.

VISITORS

All visitors to the school must report to the Main Office to obtain visitor identification passes, which must be worn while in the school.

Any student wishing to visit as part of our Spartan-for-a-Day Program, must contact the Admissions Office. Any presently enrolled student wishing to bring a student visitor needs the permission of the Vice Principal.

VISITORS - STUDENT SAFETY AND HEALTH

Except as set forth herein, to protect the safety and well-being of students, **individuals who are required to register as sex offenders under Massachusetts law or the law of another jurisdiction are prohibited from entering or remaining on school property or attending school-sponsored activities held on campus.** This prohibition applies to all registered sex offenders, including parents, guardians, relatives, guests, volunteers, vendors, and other visitors.

A registered sex offender who is the parent or legal guardian of a student may communicate with school personnel and participate in matters concerning the student's education through telephone, email, video conference, or other arrangements established by the school. **Parent or guardian status does not, by itself, authorize access to school property.**

When necessary for the transportation of the registered sex offender's own child, the school administration may establish a specific drop-off or pick-up procedure that does not require the individual to enter a school building or otherwise access areas of campus occupied by students. The individual must comply with all directions and restrictions established by the school administration.

The President, Principal, or their designee may authorize a registered sex offender to enter school property for a specific purpose when the administration determines that such access is necessary or legally required. Any authorization must be obtained **in advance** and may include restrictions concerning the date, time, location, duration, manner of entry and exit, and supervision of the individual while on school property. Unless otherwise expressly authorized, the individual must report directly to the Main Office, remain under the supervision of a designated school employee, and leave school property immediately upon completion of the authorized purpose.

STUDENT POLICIES

Bishop Stang High School attempts to create a community based on mutual respect, concern and sense of purpose. These shared responsibilities are reflected in all of the following policies.

ATTENDANCE

Bishop Stang students are expected to be academically responsible, and communicate with their teachers any absences (non-medical related) that could impact their academic status. Good attendance is a necessary component of a student's education. For this reason, excessive absences from school are not acceptable. All student absences must be verified with a telephone call from a parent or guardian by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the student's absence. For the convenience of parents and guardians who must call early, the Attendance voicemail accepts messages 24 hours each day, seven days a week. Students should email teachers for assignments when absent from school.

Any foreseen extended absence should be reported by letter to the Dean of Students **at least one week in advance**. Students are responsible for contacting their teachers at least one week prior to the first day of the extended absence. Assignments given to students must be satisfactorily completed. **Failure to communicate with teachers prior to or regarding an extended absence, such as vacation, may result in lost credit or opportunity to make-up missed assignments.**

A student who is absent from school without authorization is considered truant.

Students and parents are advised that extended weekend pleasure trips can only hinder a student's academic progress. Such trips should be avoided. The day before and the day after a school vacation (Thanksgiving, Christmas vacation, February vacation, and April vacation) are required school days. Student absences on these days will be considered unexcused. Any schoolwork and assessments given on these days can only be made up with the approval of administration.

Upon returning to school after unforeseen, legitimate absences, students are responsible for contacting their teachers immediately regarding all schoolwork missed. This work is to be completed as soon as possible but no later than 5 days after the student returns. **When students are absent, they are not permitted to attend or participate in any co-curricular activities, including athletics. This policy also applies to students tardy after the beginning of Period 3 (10:49 a.m.) unless previously approved by the administration.**

Excused Absence

Absences for the following reasons will be considered excused absences: college visits, bereavement, court dates, and documented doctor's visit. All other absences are unexcused.

Excessive Absence

Any student accumulating six unexcused absences in an academic quarter will meet with the

Dean of Students/Vice Principal and parents will be contacted. The student may receive a failing grade of 64 or the actual grade, if lower, in that class for that quarter. In addition to any educational penalties, the student may be excluded from extracurricular activities and social events. Students with more than six unexcused absences in a quarter will be placed on an attendance contract.

Should a student miss class on **more than six** occasions (absent includes tardies and early dismissals) in a given course in a quarter, the Principal may direct that a “failure for lack of sufficient attendance” be recorded for that quarter. In the **fourth quarter** this policy applies when a **senior** misses class on **more than four** occasions. A review of the quarter failure may be requested if extraordinary circumstances exist. Vacations or trips are not reasons for review. The Administration reserves the right to limit co-curricular/athletic participation for students with excessive absences.

At eighteen unexcused absences, a student may be withdrawn from Bishop Stang. The school administration reserves the right to designate absences as excused or unexcused.

Tardiness

Students are considered tardy after the 8 a.m. bell. Students who arrive after 8 a.m. must report to the Main Office to obtain late slips and must present their student ID at this time. No students tardy for first period are allowed into first period without late slips from the office. Going out to breakfast and missing first-period class or quiet study is also considered a class cut. A class cut results in a Saturday detention and zero for all work missed. Once students arrive on school property, they must remain until normal dismissal time.

Students may not make up academic work missed due to unexcused tardiness. They may receive "0"s for all graded academic work that was due during that time and will be held responsible for all academic content covered.

The Dean of Students records all tardiness. To accommodate emergency situations which may result in tardiness, all students are allowed **five tardies per quarter**. Students who exceed this limit receive a(n):

1-5 unexcused tardies	Warning from Dean of Students
6 unexcused tardies	Administrative detention
7 unexcused tardies	Administrative detention and loss of privileges
8 unexcused tardies	No after-school activities, parent meeting with Dean of Students, and academic consequences
9 unexcused tardies	1 day in-school suspension and are put on an attendance contract

The administration reserves the right to limit co-curricular/athletic participation for students with excessive tardiness. Juniors and seniors with excessive tardies may lose their privilege of signing out or leaving during fifth period.

SKIP DAYS

Should a significant number of students (including members of a particular team, club or organization) be absent on a particular day, the administration reserves the right to require medical verification, require students to make up school days, or impose disciplinary consequences when students have missed school without prior authorization.

CLASS PRANKS

Bishop Stang does not condone class pranks and reserves the right to impose sanctions if, in the opinion of the administration, damage occurs, safety is compromised or the school climate is disrupted.

CLASS TRUANCY

Students must be present for all assigned classes or activities. Students should never leave classrooms or activity areas without permission; all such actions will be considered a class cut. "Skip" days are not approved by the administration.

Any student who cuts class(es) will receive a grade of "0" for work missed. The first offense will result in a Saturday detention and the administration reserves the right to suspend the student. The school reserves the final right to determine the legitimacy of absences, tardies, or dismissals.

DISCIPLINE

Bishop Stang High School students may be held responsible for conduct outside the school's jurisdiction. The school officials may hold students responsible for any conduct on or off school property that violates school rules, common decency, or civil laws, and therefore reflects negatively on their school community. Such student behavior may be a cause for student suspension or expulsion. The school shall provide for student discipline procedures. The procedures shall be communicated to parents and students. Examples of behavior that may subject a student to discipline, include, but are not limited to, behavior that (1) disrupts the educational process; (2) endangers a person or property; or (3) violates a policy of the school, Department of Education, or the Diocese of Fall River.

DISMISSAL

Once students arrive on school property, they must remain until normal dismissal time. Before school hours, students may not arrive and leave the school grounds. Students should not schedule personal appointments during the school day. If such appointments are absolutely necessary, students must have notes signed by their parents or guardians indicating the **date, time, and reason for the appointment**. The notes should be submitted to the Dean of Students before 8 a.m. Students who fail to bring notes must have their parents or guardians call the Dean of Students. Text messages to your child will not be accepted as dismissal notification. If the Dean approves the dismissal, students are responsible for contacting those teachers whose classes they will miss in order to obtain all assignments and homework. Students must be in school through the end of period 3 (11:36

AM) to receive credit for a full day of school. **There should be no early dismissal on class Penance Service Days.** We request that parents schedule appointments at another time. All students must adhere to this policy, regardless of age. School personnel confirm all dismissals with students' parents or guardians.

Students who miss classes because of school-related dismissals, such as field trips, retreats, athletic events or other co-curricular activities, must seek the prior approval from all teachers whose classes they will miss. Students are responsible for all assignments and homework.

Students with approved early dismissal must sign-out in the designated three ring binder in the main office. Any parent/guardian picking up a student for early dismissal must sign the student out in the binder provided in the main office. (This excludes students who are dismissed by the school nurse.)

DRESS CODE POLICY

The purpose of the dress code at Bishop Stang High School is to enhance the appearance of the student body and promote self-esteem and pride in performance. The School Administration retains the right to send home any student whose appearance is deemed unacceptable. This includes excessive use of makeup or jewelry, nose rings, nose studs, body piercing, gauges, chokers.

GIRL'S UNIFORM	
YEAR ROUND UNIFORM OPTIONS (Allowed for Quarters 1, 2, 3 & 4)	
Required Top: Lands' End button-down blouse with logo. White or blue. Long or short sleeves. Must be tucked in.	
Optional Top: Lands' End uniform sweater/fleece with logo. Must be worn over a uniform blouse.	
Optional Top (for Q2 & Q3 ONLY): Bishop Stang (maroon/gray/white) sweatshirts, issued by the athletic department or purchased from the school store. Must be worn over a uniform blouse.	
Required Bottom Option 1: Lands' End uniform plaid skirt. Solid, black tights must be worn under the plaid skirt. <i>The skirt must: sit at the waist (unrolled), <u>have a hem that falls at or below the student's fingertips when standing straight, arms relaxed at sides.</u> Please note: If skirt is altered above this length, students will be required to purchase a new, properly sized, replacement skirt or wear the uniform pants.</i>	
Required Bottom Option 2: Lands' End khaki pants. Belt must be worn with pants.	
Required Accessories: Dress shoes. Closed toe and back. No type of athletic shoes, boots, clogs, sandals or slippers.	
WARM WEATHER UNIFORM OPTIONS: (Allowed as an option only for Q1 & Q4)	
Required Top: Lands' End polo shirt with logo. White or maroon. Short sleeves. Must be tucked in.	
Required Bottom Option 1: Lands' End uniform khaki skort. Solid color socks must be worn with the skort. Grades 9 & 11: NEW Skort must: sit at the waist (unrolled), <u>may not be altered shorter</u>, logo must remain at bottom hem.	
Grades 10 & 12 (1 year only): OLD Skort must: sit at the waist (unrolled), <u>have a hem that falls at or below the student's fingertips when standing straight, arms relaxed at sides.</u> Please note: If skort is altered above this length, students will be required to purchase a new, properly sized, replacement skort, wear the uniform shorts, or year-round option.	

Required Bottom Option 2: Lands' End uniform khaki shorts. Belt and solid color socks must be worn with shorts.

Required Accessories: Dress shoes. Closed toe and back. No type of athletic shoes, boots, clogs, sandals or slippers.

BOY'S UNIFORM

YEAR ROUND UNIFORM OPTIONS (Allowed for Quarters 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Required Top: Lands' End button-down shirt with logo. White or blue. Long or short sleeves. Must be tucked in.

Optional Top: Lands' End uniform sweater with logo. Must be worn over a uniform shirt.

Optional Top (for Q2 & Q3 ONLY): Bishop Stang (maroon/gray/white) sweatshirts, issued by the athletic department or purchased from the school store. Must be worn over a uniform shirt.

Required Bottom: Lands' End khaki pants. Belt must be worn with pants.

Required Accessories: Lands' End uniform necktie or bowtie.

Required Accessories: Dress shoes. Closed toe and back. No type of athletic shoes, slippers, sandals, clogs or boots.

WARM WEATHER UNIFORM OPTIONS: (Allowed as an option only for Q1 & Q4)

Required Top: Lands' End polo shirt with logo. White or maroon. Short sleeves. Must be tucked in.

Required Bottom: Lands' End uniform khaki shorts. Belt and solid color socks must be worn with shorts.

Required Accessories: Dress shoes. Closed toe and back. No type of athletic shoes, slippers, sandals, clogs or boots.

Uniform Provider: Lands' End School; landsend.com/school or 800-469-2222

- Uniforms should be kept tidy and worn with pride without holes or alterations.
- No buttons, pins or other extraneous objects may be worn on students' uniforms unless prior approval is obtained from school administrators.
- Uniforms may not be altered in any way.
- Short skirts are not appropriate and are not allowed.
- Uniform shirts must be worn under $\frac{1}{4}$ zip fleece or school sweater/sweatshirt.
- Plain white t-shirt may be worn under the uniform top.
- Hats may not be worn in the school building at any time.

Only due to medical emergency would a student be exempt from complying with the uniform code. The exact nature of the emergency should be communicated to administration or nurse. Parents will be notified of the decision. The administration will determine the proper dress code for the student in question. Every effort should be made to wear school colors. Pajama pants must not be worn.

Uniform infractions, which are not immediately correctable, may result in the student being sent home.

EVICTION FROM CLASS

It is a very serious matter when students are asked to leave class due to disruptive behavior. Students must report to the office of the Vice Principal or Dean of Students. Students who are asked to leave class may receive a Saturday detention and parents/guardians will be notified.

LITURGY DAY UNIFORMS

On days that liturgy is celebrated or students attend a liturgy on behalf of Bishop Stang, students are required to wear the year-round uniform.

Girls:

- Lands' End button-down blouse with logo (tucked in)
- Lands' End uniform plaid skirt or Lands' End khaki pants (with belt)
- Black tights must be worn under the skirt
- Dress shoes

Boys:

- Lands' End button-down blouse with logo (tucked in)
- Lands' End khaki pants (with belt)
- Lands' End uniform necktie or bowtie
- Dress shoes

NON-UNIFORM DAYS

When students are not required to wear uniforms in school, they are to be appropriately attired. All tops worn by both males and females must have sleeves. No halter tops, tank tops or short skirts are allowed. **Shorts/skirts may be worn if at an appropriate length.** Tops or pants that expose midriff areas are not permitted. Clothing that is offensive or immodest will not be tolerated. Torn clothing (especially jeans with holes) may not be worn to school on non-uniform days. Hats are not to be worn in the school building. Other than earrings, girls may not have visible piercings. Students must conform to the hairstyle policy. It is the expectation that students adhere to the theme for dress down days as these days help build school spirit. Students with three (3) or more administrative detentions for uniform violations forfeit their non-uniform day privilege.

HAIRSTYLES

The administration reserves the right to take appropriate action whenever it deems a hairstyle to be unusual. An unusual/extreme hairstyle is constituted by, but not limited to: mohawks, faux-hawks, shaved lines/designs, unusual/unnatural colors, hair that covers the eyes, or excessively long hair. Unusual accessories including but not limited to flowers, bandanas, etc. may not be worn. Boys must be clean-shaven or wear a neatly trimmed beard.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Inappropriate public displays of affection are not permitted within the school, on school grounds, on school buses/vans, and at school-sponsored events.

RACISM

All forms of racist language, and/or symbolism, implied or direct, is completely contrary to the mission of Bishop Stang High School. This includes, but is not limited to, speech, written word, and all forms of media in or out of school. Due to the harm that racist acts cause to the community, violations of the school's racism policy will result in consequences including suspension and possible expulsion.

SAFETY MEASURES

Measures taken to ensure some degree of personal safety include requiring all visitors, lecturers, and sales people to obtain and to wear visitors' identification passes while on school property. All exterior doors are secured. Students should not open exterior doors for anyone or for any reason during the school day.

Student IDs must be carried on the person in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at all school-sponsored events. Students arriving late must produce their ID when signing in at the Main Office. Students who cannot provide ID when requested will receive an administrative detention. Any lost student ID must be reported to the Vice Principal. The student ID replacement cost is \$5.00.

SEXTING

Sexting is defined by the State of Massachusetts as "sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer, or other digital devices." This can include sending intimate pictures or video via text message or through apps such as Snapchat and Instagram.

The electronic transmission or receipt from one minor to another of any photograph or video that depicts nudity may constitute illegal sexting. Students engaged in sexting will be subject to serious disciplinary consequences which may include expulsion from school. In addition, the school administration may report instances of sexting to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) or local law enforcement for appropriate investigation as to violations of the law.

SMOKING/VAPING

Massachusetts State Law prohibits smoking or vaping in a school building and on school property. Smoking or vaping is prohibited at all times in the school building, in its parking lot, playing fields and other property. This prohibition applies to faculty, staff, parents, and all visitors to the school. Smoking or vaping on the sidewalk in front of the school building is not allowed. This policy includes cigarettes, cigars, pipe or any other matter or substance containing tobacco, as well as the use of electronic cigarettes (e cigarettes), personal vaporizers, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookah, vaping devices, mod systems, pod systems or any similar systems.

It is a violation of Massachusetts law for any minor to knowingly possess any tobacco product, nicotine product, or nicotine dispensing device. In addition, the use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and vaping carry known health risks that can be very serious. The use of any tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and/or vaping in any form is prohibited on school property and at any school events. Any type of electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), including but not limited to, e-cigarettes, "vaping", "Juuling", or "dabbing" devices, will be considered drug paraphernalia and a violation of our school and

athletic department Drug & Alcohol policies. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary consequences which may include expulsion from school.

THREATS (implied or direct)

Bishop Stang High School is a Catholic school where respect for every member of the community is expected. Students who use profanity, threatening or violent language, (This language includes, but is not limited to, phrases such as, “I am going to kill you”, “I am going to blow up this building”, or “I am going to sabotage this school’s computer system.”), inappropriate language or hate statements, or exhibit rudeness, discrimination, disrespect or defiance are subject to administrative action including but not limited to suspension or expulsion. This applies to, but is not limited to, any verbal, non-verbal, or written communication.

Any threats made regarding oneself, others, or school are always taken very seriously. The minimal disciplinary action is out-of-school suspension. The student may not return to school without documentation from an out-of-school professional who is not a member of the student’s family. This documentation must indicate that the student is of no danger to self or others.

WEAPONS

Students in possession of any weapons, including all types of, but not limited to, knives, chains, guns, mace, pepper spray, toy and water guns, whether on their persons, in their lockers or vehicles, are subject to administrative action which may result in a student’s suspension or withdrawal from the school.

HARASSMENT POLICY

Bishop Stang High School is a community in which all members have the right to feel both safe and respected, and to live, work, and learn in an environment that is free from harassment. (Bullying and/or cyber bullying is a common form of harassment.) Behavior that undermines these rights will not be tolerated. It is this school’s policy that no member of the school community may harass another member. In all cases of harassment, the school will maintain confidentiality to the extent possible.

Some examples of harassment include, but are not limited to, the following:

Physical	
Bumping into someone	Unwelcome or unnecessary touching, patting or hugging
Pushing or shoving	Pinching, grabbing
Standing in someone’s way	Hitting or punching
Standing too close	
Verbal	
Threats	Extorting money
Sexual stories, jokes or rumors	Notes, letters, graffiti

Inappropriate email or instant messaging, blogging	Pressure for sexual activity or date
Insults	Racist remarks
Non-Verbal	
Obscene gestures	Sexting
Picture or drawings	Staring at someone's body
Gestures or looks (winking, licking lips, suggestive body movements)	Pantomiming in an insulting way
Hazing	Intimidation (bullying)
	Social media posts
Procedure	
Any harassment complaint should be reported to:	
School Administrator	School counselor
Teacher	Coach
School Nurse	Campus Minister

Complaints can be filed informally or formally.

Informal Complaint:

- Student verbally (or in writing) files a harassment complaint.
- The complaint is investigated by the administration.
- Administration may suggest peer mediation or some other form of appropriate, effective, or corrective action.
- Administration will continue to monitor the situation, encouraging continued communication between the accused and the administration, as well as between the complainant and the administration, in order to prevent the recurrence of the conduct and minimize the burden on the student who has been harassed.
- A student has the right, at any time, to end the informal process and go forward with a formal complaint.

Formal Complaint:

- The student and parents complete the "Bullying Prevention and Intervention Incident Reporting Form".
- The alleged harasser and his/her parents/guardians are notified of the formal complaint.
- Administration conducts a thorough investigation.
- Administration will take appropriate, effective, and corrective action.
- Administration will continue to monitor the situation, encouraging continued communication between the accused and the administration, as well as between the complainant and the administration, in order to prevent the recurrence of the conduct and minimize the burden on the student who has been harassed.
- Both parties are notified of administrative decisions made to ensure the safety of all students.

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for the Diocese of Fall River

“Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.”

The body of Catholic social teaching opens with the human person, but it does not close there. Individuals have dignity; individualism has no place in Catholic social thought. The principle of human dignity gives the human person a claim on membership in a community, the human family.” (Taken from Byron, William J. S.J., *Ten Building Blocks of Catholic Social Teaching*. (2010). America: The National Catholic Weekly. American Press Inc.)

This plan is to be an addendum to the parent/student handbook, and it will immediately become part of the policy book of the Diocese of Fall River. The plan will be available on the diocesan website as well as each school’s website.

I. Definitions

The Diocese of Fall River and Bishop Stang High School prohibit bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation as defined below. Bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation can occur on or off school property, and during or outside of school hours.

“Bullying” is the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, and educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim’s property; places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyber-bullying. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

“Cyber-bullying” is bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include: the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions included in

the definition of bullying. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

“Retaliation” against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

“Hostile Environment” is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student’s education. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

“Aggressor” is a student or a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional, who engages in bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation.

“Target” is a student against whom bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation has been perpetrated.

“Staff” includes, but is not limited to, educators, administrators, counselors, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities, support staff, or paraprofessionals. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

Bullying shall be prohibited: (i) on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a school district or school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school and (ii) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Nothing contained herein shall require schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions or programs. (Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 § 370)

II. Formal Procedure for Reporting

Students are to report any and all bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation to teachers or staff.

Staff and teachers are to report any and all bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation to the Vice Principal or designee.

Parents, guardians, and others are to report all bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation to the Vice Principal or his or her designee.

This reporting may be done verbally or in writing. This reporting of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation may be made anonymously; however, no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report. The Vice Principal and his or her designee will respond to and investigate all **credible** reports of bullying, and ensure proper documentation. This investigation will provide for the following:

- **Safety of the target**

The Vice Principal or designee will take steps to assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidents. Responses to promote safety may include but are not limited to: predetermining seating arrangements in the classroom, at lunch, or on the bus; identifying a staff member who will act as a “safe person” for the target; and altering the classroom schedule to reduce that aggressor’s access to the target. The Vice Principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during or after the investigation, as necessary.

- **Protection of the reporter, witness, or provider of information during the investigation**

The Vice Principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies for protecting a student who has reported/witnessed or provided information during an investigation of a bullying situation. These responses may include but are not limited to the same responses noted for the safety of the target.

- **Notification, including the parents of both the target and the aggressor, as well as notification of law enforcement**

- a. **Parents/Guardians**: Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the Vice Principal will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor of this, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be circumstances in which the Vice Principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00.
- b. **Notice to another school**: If the incident involves students from more than one school, the Vice Principal or designee will notify by phone any and all schools so that each may take appropriate action.
- c. **Notice to Catholic Education Center**: After determining that bullying has taken place, notice should be given immediately to the superintendent or his or her designee.
- d. **Notice to law enforcement**: At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, if the Vice Principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the Principal or designee will notify the local law enforcement agency. Notice will be consistent with the law and locally established agreements with the local law

enforcement agency.

III. Investigation

The Vice Principal will promptly investigate all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation the Vice Principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. The Vice Principal or designee (or whoever is conducting the investigation) will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the Vice Principal or designee, other staff members as determined by the Vice Principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The Vice Principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

IV. Determinations

The Vice Principal will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the Principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The Vice Principal will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2) determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary.

Depending upon the circumstances, the Vice Principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's or aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The Principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the Principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

V. Range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against an aggressor for

bullying, cyber- bullying, or retaliation.

Each school in the Diocese of Fall River will include bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation into the age appropriate disciplinary code that is included in the student/parent handbook. These disciplinary codes may include, but are not limited to, suspension and expulsion.

- VI. **Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.**
- VII. **At the discretion of the Vice Principal or his or her designee, counseling or referrals to Catholic Social Services will be made available to targets, aggressors, and/or family members.**

*****Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent the school administration from taking disciplinary action against a student for conduct that does not meet the definition of bullying, as defined above, but nevertheless is inappropriate for the school environment.***

Amended 12/16/2013, Reviewed 7-31-25

HAZING

Hazing is not tolerated. Chapter 269, sections 17-19 of Massachusetts General Law is reproduced below and being provided in this handbook to you as required by law.

***MASS. GENERAL LAWS CH. 269 CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE CH. 269, S.17-19
CRIME OF HAZING***

269:17. HAZING; ORGANIZING OR PARTICIPATING; HAZING DEFINED

Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

269:18. FAILURE TO REPORT HAZING

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

269:19. Copy of secs. 17-19; issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to an unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team, or organization acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group team, or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibilities to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to

the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

As educators, the staff of Bishop Stang High School is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from drugs and alcohol.

Bishop Stang High School's drug and alcohol policy and ongoing wellness program are intended to create a drug-free school and reflect the drug and alcohol policies in the other diocesan high schools.

Students possessing, using or under the influence of drugs or alcohol in school, on school property or at school activities is considered a very serious offense. Possession of drug paraphernalia with or without residue, including all vaping devices, is a violation of the school's drug and alcohol policy. A meeting with parents, student and school administrators must occur before the student can return to school. Once heard, the administration will determine actions to be taken which may include transfer, suspension, mandatory drug testing, mandatory counseling, and placement on a disciplinary contract.

If a student violates the drug and alcohol policy a second time, (while at Bishop Stang High School) the second violation may lead to an immediate transfer. Parents will be notified of a second violation and will have the opportunity to be heard.

Students who are selling or distributing any illegal substance to others are subject to immediate expulsion and appropriate law enforcement officials will be notified by the administration.

MASSACHUSETTS "DRUG-FREE ZONE" BILL

The state's 1989 legislation created a drug-free zone around public and private schools. Dealers convicted of selling drugs or drug paraphernalia in Massachusetts within 1,000 feet of school property are given a mandatory two-year sentence and could face up to 14 years in jail and fines up to \$10,000.

In order to keep Bishop Stang High School a drug-free school, the school reserves the right to invite law enforcement officials to the school property for random and unannounced searches.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

TEACHER DETENTIONS

Teachers are required to assign detentions for classroom infractions, tardiness, missing homework, disruptive behavior, and other behavior inconsistent with the school's academic and personal conduct policies. Students who receive detentions must arrange transportation accordingly. Students are subject to administrative detention if they fail to report for teacher detention.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTIONS

School administrators and teachers may assign administrative detentions for chronic/serious violations of the school's disciplinary code or repeated failure to complete assignments.

Administrative detentions are held after school from 2:20-3:00 p.m and take precedence over all non-academic activities. Students must be in complete uniform. Students will present detention slips, which have been signed by their parents or guardians, to detention proctors. Failure to return signed slips will result in an administrative detention the following scheduled detention day. Failure to report for administrative detention will result in Saturday detention.

SATURDAY DETENTION

Saturday detention is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon and may be assigned by an administrator for failure to report for administrative detention, flagrant disruption of classes, missing classes or assigned activities without permission, defiance or disrespect, profanity or inappropriate language, inappropriate use of automobiles, leaving the school building or property without permission of school administrators, insubordination or in conjunction with suspensions.

SUSPENSION

Students are suspended for failure to report for Saturday detention, use or possession of tobacco products, possession of drug paraphernalia with or without residue, including all vaping devices on school property or school activities, stealing, forgery, computer tampering, vandalism, defiance or disrespect, skipping school, fighting, gambling, weapons, threats, chronic disruptions, flagrant insubordination, the inappropriate use of electronic devices, and any other warranted infraction of school rules.

Students on in-school suspension are required to attend school in complete uniform. It is the responsibility of the suspended student to complete the day's schoolwork. Any tests scheduled for the day of suspension must be taken on that day or no credit is given. Any homework or projects due on the day of suspension are to be submitted on that day or no credit is given. Students on in-school suspension must leave campus at 2:15 and are not eligible to participate in any after school activities. The length of the suspension is determined by administration.

Students on out-of-school suspension will be required to complete all work assigned during the suspension, but will receive zero for all missed work including tests and quizzes. Students on out-of-school suspension cannot participate in any after school activities. The

length of the suspension will be determined by administration.

Parents/guardians are notified personally of all cases involving suspension.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

When the administration has a reasonable suspicion to believe that a student possesses or is concealing any illegal or harmful item, or any item in violation of school policy, a search may be conducted. Parents/Guardians shall be notified of all student searches. If any illegal or harmful material, or any item in violation of school policy, is found as a result of the search, it may be given to the police.

The school hereby notifies parents/guardians and students that lockers, backpacks, and cars on school property can be searched at any time by an administrator in the school. Police searches of student lockers and cars on school property may be permitted with an administrator present.

DISCIPLINARY CONTRACT

Students who exhibit a continuous disregard for the rules and regulations of Bishop Stang High School, including those with an excessive number of administrative detentions or suspensions, are placed on disciplinary probation. At that time, a contract is drawn up by the Vice Principal and signed by the student and parents. The contract states the requirements by which the student may remain at Bishop Stang High School. Violation of the terms of the contract may result in transfer/ expulsion. Students who are on disciplinary contracts are ineligible for any leadership positions (elected or appointed) within the school. Any student who is placed on contract during the school year will forfeit their leadership position. This includes sports captains. Contracts are confidential.

TRANSFER/EXPULSION

Students may be asked to transfer for the following reasons:

- any threat regarding individual or school safety,
- the use, sale and/or possession of drugs/alcohol/vaping devices,
- possession of a dangerous weapon, facsimile of a weapon, or inappropriate social media postings that contain weapons,
- conviction of a criminal offense,
- assault,
- infraction of the tobacco products rule for the second time during the same school year,
- refusal to permit a search,
- violation of Disciplinary Probation Contract,
- poor academic performance,
- excessive absenteeism or tardiness,
- third infraction of Academic Dishonesty,
- fourth violation of the electronic equipment policy,
- inappropriate use of any video/picture equipment or social networking sites,
- chronic disregard for the rules and regulations of Bishop Stang High School,
- an infraction which is against school philosophy or Catholic tradition,
- tampering with or vandalizing any school safety or security devices in or out of the school building.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is mandatory for students who are found to be selling or distributing any illegal substance. Expulsion is also mandatory for students who refuse to transfer when asked to do so by the administration. An expulsion becomes part of the student's permanent record.

The education of a student is a partnership between the parent and the school. School administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines the partnership is irrevocably broken and reserves the right to require the withdrawal of the student.

BOARD OF REVIEW

A Disciplinary Board of Review is convened when a student has violated Bishop Stang High School's standards in such a way as to jeopardize their placement as a student at the school. Any rulings from the board can be appealed to the President. Appeals may only be filed with new information that was not present at the time of the review. Appeals must be heard within three (3) business days from the time the decision is sent; decisions of the President are final.

Board Membership

Membership, when possible, consists of:

1. Principal (chairperson)
2. Vice Principal or Dean of Students (presenter/non-voting)
3. Three teachers
4. School counselor (non-voting)

Board Procedure:

1. The Vice Principal or Dean of Students will present the full disciplinary record and incident.
2. The school, student, and student's family will present their information and position.
3. After the school, student and student's family members have made their presentations, board members may ask questions.
4. The school, student, and student's family will be given the opportunity to respond to the other's presentation.
5. Board members may ask questions after each response.
6. The chairperson will determine if a second round of responses and questions is needed.
7. The meeting will end when the school, student, and student's family have finished their presentations and responses.

The Principal of Bishop Stang will notify the board members, student, and student's family of the final decision by phone. A written confirmation of the decision will be communicated to the student's family.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

School Nurse

The primary role of the school nurse is to support student health and academic success by providing healthcare assessment, intervention and follow-up for all children within the school setting. The school nurse has many roles within the school community some of which include:

- Link between school, students, families, healthcare and other community providers
- Maintaining school health records, monitoring immunizations, managing communicable diseases, and assessing the school environment to prevent injury and ensure safety
- Assessing student health status and making referrals
- Member of the crisis team
- Administering medications per MDPH guidelines
- Performing classroom teachings on health-related topics
- Providing emergency care
- Implement state mandated health screenings and referrals

The school nurses in the Diocese of Fall River are available daily and only during regular school hours. Therefore, there will not be a nurse during before school morning care, early dismissal days, after school activities, sports, and extended care. In the event of a medical emergency during before or after school activities, 911 services may be activated followed by parent/guardian notification. If a student participating in before or after school activities has specific medical conditions, such as anaphylactic allergies, seizures and diabetes, the school nurse will meet with the parent/guardian to develop an emergency action plan to have in place in the event of an emergency. This plan will also be shared with the appropriate school staff that will be taking care of the student.

Anaphylaxis/Allergy

All parents/guardians of students with a known anaphylactic allergy (food, insect stings, medications, latex, etc.) must notify the school nurse of the child's allergy. A meeting with the nurse will be scheduled to develop an allergy management and prevention plan which will include an anaphylaxis emergency care plan signed by the licensed prescriber. A minimum of two up-to-date epinephrine auto-injectors along with a licensed provider order for the epinephrine, a signed parental authorization form and a Food Allergy Action Plan from the physician are also required.

Health and Emergency Form

A Health and Emergency Form must be completed at the beginning of each school year and returned to the school nurse within 2 days. This form gives information on how to reach parents in case of emergency and provides updated health information on your child from year to year. Notify the school nurse of any changes in emergency contact information or state of health during the school year.

Remember, in the event of an accident or illness, the school must be able to reach the parent or another person who will assume responsibility for the student.

Health Emergencies

Please notify the school nurse of any medical condition which may cause an emergency situation for your child (e.g. allergic reaction to food, insect bites or medication, asthma, diabetes, seizures). The school nurse will work with you in developing a care plan to meet your child's health care needs.

Illness and Injury in School

If a child becomes ill during school hours, the nurse or main office will call the parent to make arrangements for the child to be dismissed from school. Serious injuries at school will be handled by having an ambulance take the child to the closest emergency room. Parents will be notified immediately if an ambulance is called. It is extremely important that all emergency contact information be up to date.

Students who are ill must obtain a pass from their classroom teacher in order to report to the nurse's office.

Upon leaving the nurse's office, students receive either passes to return to class or to be sent home. The Vice Principal is notified of all dismissals issued by the school nurse. **Only the nurse may dismiss students to home for medical reasons. Students may not arrange their own medical dismissal.** If the nurse is not available, students should report to the office of the Vice Principal.

When to Keep Your Child Home

Unless otherwise directed by the school nurse, children must remain home if they have any of the following:

- Temperature of 100 degrees or more within the past 24 hours. The child may return to school when fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Ibuprofen).
- A severe cold with fever, sneezing and thickened nasal discharge.
- A cough that keeps the child awake at night, worsens with increased activity, or is combined with other symptoms.
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea- The child must stay home for 24 hours after the last episode.
- A rash or skin condition that has not been diagnosed by a doctor. Please have these identified and treated for 24 hours before returning to school.
- "Pink Eye" or conjunctivitis - A draining, itchy eye that is red must be treated with antibiotic eye medicine before the child returns to school.
- Drainage from the eyes- Child must be seen and cleared by a physician to return to school.
- A severe or persistent earache.
- Live head lice. The child must receive appropriate treatment before returning to school.
- In addition to the foregoing, children should remain home if directed by the school nurse.

Medication Policies

In order to comply with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 94C, the following are requirements for the administration of medication to students during school hours. The school nurse is responsible for administration of medication in school. Faculty and staff may administer an EpiPen in emergency situations if they have completed the EpiPen training.

- All medications, prescription or over the counter medications, require a physician's order and a completed parental/guardian authorization form or the medication cannot be given. Over the counter medications include, but are not limited to, cough drops, cough medicine, eye drops, Acetaminophen, and Ibuprofen.
- Medication orders must be renewed at the beginning of each school year and expire at the end of the school year.
- Whenever possible, medication administration should be scheduled at times other than during school hours.
- All medications must be delivered to the school nurse by the student's parent/guardian or a designated adult. Students are not permitted to bring medications to school.
- All medications must be delivered in a pharmacy labeled container or in the manufacturer's medication container. Medications in plastic bags, envelopes, etc., will not be accepted.
- The pharmacy labeled container can be used in place of a physician's order **only** in the case of short-term medications such as those medications given for ten days or less (antibiotics). If the school nurse has a question about the medication, she may request a licensed prescriber's order.
- Parents/guardians may retrieve medications from the school nurse at any time. All unused, discontinued or outdated medications must be picked up by a parent/guardian at the end of the school year or it will be destroyed.

When to Contact Your Child's School Nurse

Sharing significant health information with your school nurse is extremely important in keeping all students safe especially during emergency situations. Please feel free to contact your child's school nurse at any time with questions, concerns or health updates, including but not limited to the ones listed below.

- Your child has a **medical condition** which may bring about an emergency situation for your child (e.g. allergic reaction to food, insect bites or medication, asthma, diabetes, seizures).
- Your child requires **medications or treatments** during the school day. Your school nurse will meet with you to discuss a plan of action and provide you with all required medication/ treatment forms that must be completed before any medication/treatment can be administered.
- There has been a **change in your emergency contact information**. Please notify the school nurse right away if there is a change in your phone number or job. If you rely on a cell phone, please provide the school nurse with that number.
- You have concerns about your child's social and emotional wellbeing.

- Your child has received a ***new medical diagnosis*** or there is a change in their health.
- Your child has ***allergies or has developed a new allergy***. All parents/guardians of students with a known anaphylactic allergy (food, insect stings, medications, latex, etc.) must notify the school nurse of the child's allergy. A meeting with the nurse will be scheduled to develop an allergy management and prevention plan which will include an anaphylaxis emergency care plan signed by the licensed prescriber. A minimum of two up-to-date epinephrine auto-injectors along with a licensed provider order for the epinephrine, a signed parental authorization form and a Food Allergy Action Plan from the physician are also required.
- Your child has ***health issues*** that may affect school performance, e.g., vision or hearing, attention deficit disorder.
- Your child has been ***hospitalized***.
- Your child has been treated for a ***contagious or communicable disease*** such as chicken pox, flu, strep throat, whooping cough, pneumonia, or head lice.
- Your child receives a ***head injury/concussion***. If your child has been diagnosed with a concussion, please contact your school nurse as soon as possible. Prior to returning to school, the school nurse should be provided with documentation from the health care provider that includes confirmation of the diagnosis and any necessary accommodations for the school day, including restrictions for physical education classes and participation in athletic activities. The school nurse will discuss details of the support available to your child when you call to discuss the head injury.
- Your child has received a ***recent injury*** that requires accommodations for gym or in the classroom. Injuries may require written medical clearance from a healthcare provider to return to school or physical activities. Students who return to school with casts, air casts, crutches, splints, arm slings, wheelchairs, canes and/or immobilizers require a doctor's note that includes: (1) clearance for student to return to school; (2) any restrictions from physical education and recess; (3) confirmation from the physician that the student has been properly instructed in the use of the medical equipment provided. Students having stitches/staples or surgical procedures also require a written doctor's note with clearance to attend school and list any restrictions from physical education and recess.
- There has been a recent ***change in your family***, such as a birth, loss, or serious illness.
- There has been a change in your child's ***health insurance***, or you need help with obtaining health insurance for your child.

Health Screenings

All health screenings are performed by the school nurse in accordance with Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations. Students may also be screened at any time during the year at a teacher or parent's request.

If screening results indicate the need for follow-up care by a physician, parents/guardians

will be notified. If necessary, the school nurse can assist with obtaining a follow-up evaluation by a physician.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Early detection of vision and hearing issues is essential because many vision and hearing deficits can be corrected if they are identified early. Vision and hearing issues can impact a child's ability to learn in many ways. Poor vision can affect a child's gross motor development, and hearing issues may affect speech.

According to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, section 57, students require vision screening "in the year of school entry, annually through grade 5, once in grades 6 through 8, and once in grades 9- 12". Students require hearing screenings "in the year of school entry, annually through grade 3, once in grades 6 through 8, and once in grades 9 through 12".

If you have any concerns, at any time, about your child's hearing or vision, please contact your child's school nurse for assistance.

Postural Screening

The State of Massachusetts mandates that all students in grades 5 through 9 be screened for scoliosis. The purpose of postural screening is to identify early signs of spinal problems. Most scoliosis and other spinal issues can be easily treated if they are detected early. Parents are notified before screening so that students are dressed appropriately. Girls and boys are screened separately, and privacy is respected at all times. It is requested that girls wear a bathing suit top, halter top or a sports bra, under their clothes on the day of the school screening, as this type of clothing facilitates better examination of the back.

SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment)

This health screening is required by Massachusetts law and is to be done once in middle school and once in high school. Students in grades 7 and 10 in the Diocese of Fall River will be screened. SBIRT is intended to identify substance use risk behaviors and to improve health safety, resilience and success in students. SBIRT screening requires a structured, 1:1 conversation between a trained school professional and a student to build trusting relationships around education, behavior and support related to substance use. Parents and students will be given the opportunity to opt-out of the screening.

Growth and Development Screenings

Following Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, section 57, students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 will be screened for growth-related issues and their BMI is calculated. This information is kept confidential.

Other Screenings

School nurses may also conduct periodic dental screenings to assess for dental decay in children and head checks on an as-needed basis for head lice.

**Parents/guardians may request, in writing, that their child not participate in a screening*

program. This request must be submitted in writing each year and be specific to which screening you do not wish your child to participate. Please contact your school nurse with any questions.

Physical Examination Requirements

All students entering grades PreK, K, 4, 7 and 11 are required by law to provide the school nurse a physical examination form with age appropriate immunizations documented by the physician. Additionally, any new or transferring students must provide this documentation as well and the physicals must be dated within 12 months of school admission. Updated physical examinations are required every 3-4 years.

For students entering Kindergarten, the physical exam must show documentation of a passed vision screening (done within the previous 12 months). Evidence of a comprehensive eye examination is required for those students who have failed the screening and for students diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay.

Students entering kindergarten must also present documentation of lead poisoning screening.

Physical Examination Requirements for High School Sports: MIAA rules state that any student who wishes to try out, practice or play a sport is required to have a current physical exam (within thirteen months) on file in the nurse's office **before** being allowed to try out or practice. If the physical exam expires during a sports season, the student must have a new physical on file prior to the expiration date of the previous physical or will be unable to play.

Tuberculosis Assessment

Per MDPH guidelines for Tuberculosis monitoring and prevention, a [TB Risk Assessment](#) should be performed by a health care provider in order to determine TB risk and if further testing is necessary. MDPH advises that each school-aged child have a TB Risk Assessment completed and documented on the physical exam form. In addition, a school nurse may request a TB risk assessment by a medical provider and documentation of risk level and follow up testing (if applicable) under these listed circumstances:

- Birth, travel to or residency in a high-risk world region including Africa, Asia (except Japan), Pacific Islands, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Mexico, Central or South America, the Caribbean
- Exposure to an individual with diagnosed or suspected TB disease
- Household contact to individual with positive TB test (TST or IGRA)
- Parent and/or guardian or household member from a high-risk world region
- History of immunosuppressive disease or medications that might cause immunosuppression

Immunization Requirements

Students entering all grades must meet current Massachusetts Department of Public Health immunization requirements. School health records are reviewed periodically to determine the immunization status of each student. If it is found that immunization updates are needed, school nurses will telephone parents/legal guardians or send notices home.

School Immunization Law, Chapter 76, Section 15 of the General Laws of the State of Massachusetts, requires that all immunizations must be up to date for children to attend school. Massachusetts General Law allows for the school to exclude any child from school whose immunizations are not up to date.

Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program. Requirements apply to all students, even if over 18 years of age.

Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools, School Health Services, 2024

ATHLETICS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students have the opportunity to participate in the clubs, organizations, and athletic programs available at Bishop Stang High School. Students are strongly encouraged to involve themselves in such activities.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The following clubs and organizations are sponsored at Bishop Stang High School:

Art Club	Liturgical Choir & Ensemble	Soul Sistahs
Book Club	Math Team	Spanish Club
Business Club	Model UN	Spartan Science Squad
Campus Ministry	National Honor Society	Spartunes
Captain's Club	Newspaper	Sports Media Club
Catholic Athletes for Christ	Origami	Student Ambassadors
Diversity Council	Peer Mentors	Student Council
E-Sports	Portuguese Club	Team Earth
Expedition Club	Pro-Life Committee	The Fellowship
Forensics & Debate Team	Robotics Team	Theatre Company
Knitting Club	Rosary Club	Trivia Club
Literary Magazine (Ethos)	Social Media Committee	Yearbook

*Please note: Co-curricular clubs and activities may vary year to year.

ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics are a part of the curriculum at Bishop Stang High School. The entire coaching staff embraces the philosophy of the school and desires to teach students and athletes to live out Christian values in all aspects of their lives. The detailed athletics policy, including attendance requirements, academic eligibility, and school policies regarding drug/alcohol/tobacco, are published in the following pages of this handbook which is distributed to all Bishop Stang High School students.

The following interscholastic athletic activities are sponsored at Bishop Stang High School:

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Cheerleading	Dance Team	Girls and Boys Lacrosse
Cross Country	Girls and Boys Basketball	Sailing
Field Hockey	Girls and Boys Ice Hockey	Softball
Football	Swimming and Diving	Spring Track & Field
Golf	Winter Track	Strength & Conditioning
Girls and Boys Soccer		Girls and Boys Tennis
Volleyball		

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Unless otherwise specifically noted, all policies and rules contained in this handbook are intended to align with and adhere to the applicable guidelines, rules, and regulations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

All students participating in a sport must register online through FAMILY ID each season and have an up-to-date SWAY test. Family ID registration includes the following requirements for participation:

- Complete registration, including all permissions, medical history and concussion training (required annually)
- A valid student physical (required annually, completed within the previous 13 months)
- Up to date SWAY Test

ACADEMIC

A student may not fail more than one academic course in the marking period preceding the contest or sport in which he/she wishes to participate. The Athletic Director and Principal reserve the right to remove a student from practice or play due to a student's inability to meet academic or behavioral expectations. Students who fail 2 classes will be ineligible to participate until the next marking period.

ATTENDANCE

A student who chooses to participate in athletics at Bishop Stang High School makes a commitment to his/her team and, therefore, must attend all practices and games. Events such as funerals, medical issues, serious family commitments, (i.e. weddings) religious events or school sanctioned academic events are considered excused absences. The student athlete or a parent/guardian must inform the Head Coach prior to the absence. To request an exemption for any other reason, the parent or guardian must request a waiver from the Athletic Director one week prior to the absence. Athletes who fail to comply with this rule will be subject to suspension or dismissal from the team. If a waiver is granted, the student athlete may still be subject to a suspension and his/her position on the team is not guaranteed upon return. During vacations and holidays, all team members must be at all practice sessions and at all games. During April vacation, only varsity contests will be scheduled. JV and freshman teams will be off from game competitions and practice over April vacation. No practices or games that are under the school's control will be scheduled on Sundays unless there are extenuating circumstances. On the day of an absence, (excused and unexcused) no student will be allowed to participate in any athletic practice or game. This is also in effect for any student who is tardy beyond the beginning of period 3 (10:29 a.m.). Excused absences for specific school reasons are determined by the Vice Principal.

AWARD CRITERIA

Every athlete who completes a season of participation will receive a letter or certificate of participation. Athletes who are suspended from participation in athletic contests are not eligible for a letter or certificate.

To earn a letter in a varsity sport, the athlete must participate in varsity competition in 25% of the periods normally played during the season. A period means quarters in sports such as football, basketball, and soccer. It means innings in sports like baseball and softball. All seniors who participate for two consecutive years automatically earn a letter. Coaches have the right to award letters to anyone they feel has met individual team requirements.

The following are the normal standards. If a season is shortened, the standards will be adjusted:

Sport	Season	Periods/Points
Cross Country	7 meets	10 points
Field Hockey	16 games	8 halves
Football	10 games	10 quarters
Soccer	18 games	9 halves
Volleyball	20 games	10 sets
Basketball	20 games	20 quarters
Track	6 meets	10 points
Ice Hockey	18 games	13 periods
Sailing Team	9 meets	3 meets
Swimming and Diving	8 meets	10 points
Baseball	18 games	32 innings

Golf	16 matches	4 matches
Softball	18 games	32 innings
Tennis	16 matches	4 matches
Lacrosse	16 games	16 quarters

Cheerleading Team – Varsity Cheerleaders, who cheer with the Varsity Team at games and in cheer competitions will earn their letter award. Subsequent varsity seasons receive a varsity award and a bar to indicate an additional season of varsity cheering. Junior Varsity Cheerleaders receive a certificate of participation.

Dance Team – Varsity Dance team members, who dance with the Varsity Team at practices and team competitions will earn their letter award. Subsequent varsity seasons receive a varsity award and a bar to indicate an additional season of varsity dancing.

All athletes who letter for the first time receive the chenille ‘S’. They also receive an appropriate insert for each sport in which they first letter. Athletes who letter again in the same sport receive bars to indicate additional years as a letter winner.

CAPTAINS

A captain is a special athlete. This athlete has been selected from among his/her peers because he/she has special qualities. A captain is a leader. As a captain one must be ready to stand head-and-shoulders above his/her teammates. One accepts and follows the athletic training rules. One is a captain at all times. One not only represents himself/herself, but also one’s teammates, school, and coaches. Captains are loyal. If a teammate needs encouragement, a captain provides it. If there is a problem, the captain works collaboratively and transparently to resolve it.

Captains who fail to live up to these standards will resign their captaincy. A student who is on disciplinary contract is not eligible for captaincy.

DRESS CODE

Each team has its own dress code for traveling to away games. Athletes are expected to dress neatly and appropriately while traveling to contests.

DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO

A student who chooses to participate in athletics at Bishop Stang High School also chooses to be drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free in and out of season.

Athletes must refrain from the use of, possession of, being in the presence of, or in being in pictures/video of drugs, alcohol, vaping devices or tobacco products of any type.

The Bishop Stang Athlete must be in good standing as a citizen of the Bishop Stang community and the community at large.

Consequences for violation of the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco rules when not in school, on school grounds, or school buses, vans, or at school-sponsored events:

First time in a four-year span

Parents will be notified by the school administration of any violations.

MINIMUM PENALTIES:

The student shall lose eligibility for the number of regular season events equaling 25% of the entire season. These events must be consecutive and immediately following the violation. The athlete shall remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation.

Subsequent violation in a four-year span

A meeting will be held with all involved parties (see above). **MINIMUM PENALTIES:**

The athlete must participate in mandatory counseling as directed by school administration.

The athlete will be suspended from participation in athletic contests for the equivalent of one full season (this may carry over to a second sport). A third offense will result in a full year suspension from athletic participation.

Note: Diocesan and school policies supersede Athletic Department rules.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Over the course of a given season, there are some sports that will require an early dismissal from school in order to attend an away contest at an opposing school. All students who are to be dismissed early must request permission from the teacher or teachers whose class they will be missing, at least 24 hours in advance. The teacher reserves the right to deny the student dismissal in the event that they are not fulfilling their entire responsibility as a student. Additionally, if a student is to be dismissed from a class that they are currently failing, that student will not be permitted to leave early and must attend class.

EQUIPMENT

Each athlete is issued equipment appropriate for the sport. This equipment is loaned to the athlete who is responsible for its return within one week at the end of the season. Equipment not returned must be paid for by the individual athlete. Bills for unreturned uniforms/equipment will be issued one week after the final game/contest.

HAZING

Hazing is prohibited. Hazing means any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Refer to specific hazing policy on page 43.

INJURIES

Injuries must be reported to the coach and the trainer. An insurance claim form must be completed for all injuries that require medical treatment. Our athletic insurance coverage is set up to pay medical bills that are not covered by the individual's insurance. The claim form must be filled out at the time of the injury, even though the individual's insurance is supposed to cover the individual's bills. There is a 90-day limit for filing claims.

The choice of physicians, hospitals, medical walk-in centers, therapy centers, etc. is up to the parent and athlete. Neither Bishop Stang High School nor the trainer will make recommendations concerning these choices.

Bishop Stang student-athletes are required to use the SWAY Concussion management program. Our goal is to create a safer environment for our student-athletes through education, awareness, and clinical care.

LOCKER ROOM

Locker room use is for in-season athletes only. Lockers will be assigned by coaches when applicable. All valuables must be locked in a locker or given to the coach to be secured. Any student stealing may be subject to transfer/expulsion.

Locks will be available for purchase. Students should contact the Athletic Director to purchase a lock.

The locker rooms should be kept clean and orderly. No food or drink (other than that supplied by the trainer or coaches) should be brought into the locker room. Students may not take pictures or video in the locker rooms at any time.

PRACTICE

The department policy on attendance is already stated. Athletes who are legitimately absent should inform their coach. Athletes are responsible to know the practice schedule. Each individual team has its own manner of handling canceled practices or games. Make certain you are aware of your team's policies. No practices or games (that are under the school's control) will be scheduled on Sundays unless there are extenuating circumstances.

ROLE MODELS

Whether the athlete chooses to or not, he/she is looked upon as a role model by the other teammates, students, opponents, and adults. When with his/her team or when attending other sporting events in support of classmates, the Bishop Stang athlete is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and not get involved in crowd rowdiness or inappropriate behavior, including fighting. The school reserves the right to take disciplinary action in all these situations.

SPARTAN SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE

All persons participating in Bishop Stang Athletics, at home or away, must adhere to the **Spartan Sportsmanship Pledge**. This pledge is rooted in the school's mission to be people of integrity who are called to "make known the goodness of God." School officials reserve the right to enforce these standards at all times.

As a coach, student-athlete, parent/guardian or fan/attendee, I promise the following:

- to engage in and encourage sportsmanlike conduct at all times;
- to act in a respectful and cooperative manner to all coaches, parents, student-athletes, participants, officials, and attendees;
- to engage in and encourage behavior which supports the health, safety, and well-being of all others;
- to maintain a positive attitude, and to be a role model for students, fans, and community members;
- to engage in and encourage behavior which supports fair play;

- to refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol prior to or during participation in a school athletic event;
- to refrain from the use of profanity;
- to treat all others with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, or ability;
- to refrain from verbal or physical threats of abuse aimed at others;
- to treat all facilities used by Bishop Stang with respect.

I understand that failure to abide by this policy may result in being removed from athletic/school events and/or suspension from school/events. I understand and agree to the Bishop Stang Spartan Sportsmanship Pledge.

TRANSPORTATION

Athletes are to display proper behavior at all times when being transported to and from games. Misconduct could lead to dismissal from a team, or further disciplinary action. Students are not permitted to transport themselves to athletic events, unless granted permission from the Athletic Director. Written permission from parent/guardian with advanced notice is required in order to be considered.

Bishop Stang Concussion Policy

Bishop Stang High School is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our students. The following concussion policy utilizes the latest in medical research to prevent and treat head injuries. It is in full compliance with MIAA policy and with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Law Chapter 166: An Act Relative to the Safety Regulations for School Athletic Programs:

Documentation

All head, face or neck injuries sustained prior to each season must be reported by parents in the Concussion Reporting section of the Family ID registration and will be reviewed and documented by the Athletic Trainer. Coaches will be informed prior to the beginning of each season of all students within their program who have previously experienced concussions. Parents and students must report any head, face or neck injury immediately to the school Athletic Trainer and/or the Athletic Director. Sway testing must be completed prior to the freshman and junior year and bi-yearly for transfer students.

The school may use a student's history of head injury or concussion as a factor to determine whether to allow the student to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity or whether to allow such a participant under specific conditions or modifications.

In the event of a head injury or suspected concussion sustained during extracurricular activities, the school Athletic Trainer will obtain a Department of Public Health 'Report of a Head Injury During Sports Season Form' from the student's coach or parent if the injury occurred outside of the school's extracurricular activity. The school Athletic Trainer will keep record of the forms to report to the Department of Public Health at the end of each school year.

Each student who is removed from practice or competition for a head injury or suspected concussion, or loses consciousness, even briefly, or exhibits any signs and symptoms of a concussion shall obtain and present to the Athletic Trainer a Department of Public Health Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form. The form must be completed by a physician, licensed Athletic Trainer in consultation with a physician, licensed nurse practitioner in consultation with a physician, licensed physician assistant under the supervision of a physician, or licensed neuropsychologist in coordination with the physician managing the student's recovery.

Exclusion from Play

Any student, who during a practice or competition, sustains a head injury or suspected concussion, or exhibits signs and symptoms of a concussion, or loses consciousness, even briefly, shall be removed from the practice or competition immediately and may not return to the practice or competition that day.

If a head injury or concussion is suspected by a coach, teacher, volunteer, or parent/guardian, the student should be removed from athletic participation immediately and the school

Athletic Trainer or school nurse must be notified. The Athletic Trainer or nurse will evaluate the student for a possible concussion and refer to a medical provider as necessary.

In the event of a possible head injury or concussion in extracurricular athletics, the coach or volunteer will communicate the nature of the injury directly to the parent in person or by phone immediately after the practice or competition in which a student has been removed from play for a possible head injury. The coach must also notify the Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer or school nurse within the next business day after removing the student from participation. The Athletic Trainer or school nurse will then evaluate the student and notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the incident. If a concussion is suspected, the student will be referred for further evaluation by a medical provider. The student may only begin the return-to-play once the Athletic Trainer has obtained written medical clearance from a medical provider and has also been cleared by the Athletic Trainer.

Return to Play:

Athletes should complete the following step-wise process prior to return to play following concussion:

- Removal from contest following signs and symptoms of concussion.
- No return to play in current game or practice.
- Medical evaluation following injury. (ImPact, 2010)

Criteria for return after a concussion/brain injury/ head injury (must complete all of the steps below):

1. Clearance from a medical professional in writing as defined by the concussion law. Bishop Stang's Athletic Trainer has the final decision regarding return to play.
2. Normal Sway testing.
3. Completed supervised graduated return to play protocol. Each step should take 24 hours. The steps must be completed without return of any symptoms. If any symptoms occur, the athlete returns to the previous asymptomatic step, after 24 hours has passed.
 1. **Symptom-limited activity** - daily activities that do not exacerbate symptoms (eg. walking).
 2. **Aerobic activity** – stationary cycling or walking at slow to medium pace. May start light resistance training that does not result in more than mild and brief exacerbation* of concussion symptoms.
 3. **Individual sport-specific exercise** - if sport-specific training involves any risk of inadvertent head impact, medical clearance should occur prior to Step 3 (eg, running, change of direction and/or individual training drills away from the team environment).
 4. **Non contact drills** – exercise to high intensity including more challenging training drills (eg, passing drills, multiplayer training) can integrate into a team environment.
 5. **Full Contact Practice** - participate in normal training activities.

6. Return to game play

Return to Academics

In the event that a student suffers a concussion, the school will implement a graduated school reentry plan based on accommodations prescribed by the student's medical provider and facilitated by the school staff, including the concussed student's teachers, guidance counselor, school nurse, Athletic Trainer, and parent(s)/caregivers. This plan supports the student's return to academic activities, and provides a framework for a return to full academics, a written accommodation plan for the student and communication on what temporary accommodations and supports are necessary for the student to use in the classroom to the student's teachers. Any student who is utilizing academic modifications or accommodations for symptoms related to a concussion are ineligible to begin a return to play in athletics. The concussed student may only begin the return to play protocol in athletics once the physician has cleared them for a full return to academics AND cleared them to begin the protocol. The student diagnosed with a concussion must be completely symptom free at rest in order to begin graduated reentry to extracurricular athletic activities. The student must be symptom free at rest, during exertion, and with cognitive activity in order to complete the graduated re-entry plan and be medically cleared to play under 105 CMR 201.011.

Education

All coaches, the athletic trainers, volunteers, school nurses, athletic director, student-athlete parent(s)/guardian(s), and student-athletes involved in Bishop Stang Athletics are required to complete the Concussion Education Course offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) on an annual basis. A link to the NFHS Course can be located on the Athletics page of the school website: www.bishopstang.org.

The Athletic Director will maintain a record of annual NFHS Course completion for all coaches, licensed Athletic Trainers, volunteers, student-athlete parent(s)/guardian(s), and student-athletes.

In order to minimize sports related-head injury, the Athletic Trainer, coaches, and volunteers will teach form, techniques, skills, and promote equipment use to minimize sports-related head injuries. Coaches may also prohibit athletes from engaging in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that endangers the health or safety of an athlete, such as using a helmet or any other sports equipment as a weapon.

Sway Medical Concussion Management Program

Bishop Stang student-athletes are required to use the Sway Medical Testing in order to participate in athletics. Administered by the Athletic Trainer and/or Athletic Director, Sway is a testing tool combining balance and cognitive assessments to evaluate recovery during a concussion. Our goal is to create a safer environment for our student-athletes through education, awareness, and clinical care.

National Federation of State High School Associations

A Parent's Guide to Concussion in Sports

What is a concussion?

-A concussion is a brain injury which results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness ("knocked-out") to suffer a concussion.

Concussion Facts:

-It is estimated that over 140,000 high school athletes across the United States suffer a concussion each year. (Data from NFHS Injury Surveillance System)

-Concussions occur most frequently in football, but girl's lacrosse, girl's soccer, boy's lacrosse, wrestling and girl's basketball follow closely behind. All athletes are at risk.

-A concussion is a traumatic injury to the brain.

-Concussion symptoms may last from a few days to several months.

-Concussions can cause symptoms which interfere with school, work, and social life.

-An athlete should not return to sports while still having symptoms from a concussion as they are at risk for prolonging symptoms and further injury.

-A concussion may cause multiple symptoms. Many symptoms appear immediately after the injury, while others may develop over the next several days or weeks. The symptoms may be subtle and are often difficult to fully recognize.

Signs and symptoms of a concussion:

SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS, FRIENDS, TEACHERS OR COACHES

Appears dazed or stunned

Is confused about what to do

Forgets plays

Is unsure of game, score, or opponent

Moves clumsily

Answers questions slowly

Loses consciousness

Shows behavior or personality changes

Can't recall events prior to hit

Can't recall events after hit

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE

Headache
Nausea
Balance problems or dizziness
Double or fuzzy vision
Sensitivity to light or noise
Feeling sluggish
Feeling foggy or groggy
Concentration or memory problems
Confusion

What should I do if I think my child has had a concussion?

If an athlete is suspected of having a concussion, he or she must be immediately removed from play, be it a game or practice. Continuing to participate in physical activity after a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, increased risk for further injury, and even death. Parents and coaches are not expected to be able to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the job of a medical professional. However, you must be aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion and if you are suspicious, then your child must stop playing:

When in doubt, sit them out!

All athletes who sustain a concussion need to be evaluated by a healthcare professional who is familiar with sports concussions. You should call your child’s physician and explain what has happened and follow your physician’s instructions. If your child is vomiting, has a severe headache, is having difficulty staying awake or answering simple questions he or she should be taken to the emergency department immediately. (NFHS, 2010)

Works Cited

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Resources

"Consensus statement on concussion in sport: the 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport– Amsterdam, October 2022." British Journal of Sports Medicine. 10.1136 (2023); 57:695-711.

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Halstead, Mark E., and Kevin D. Walter. "Sport-Related Concussion in Children and Adolescents." American Academy of Pediatrics. 126.3 (2010): 597-615.

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"Returning to School After a Concussion: Guidelines for Massachusetts Schools." Massachusetts Department of Public Health. (2018).

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The policies stated here are not considered all inclusive. The administration of

Bishop Stang High School acts on any situation which is deemed detrimental to any individual or to Bishop Stang High School as a whole. The President is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and for just causes may waive any and all regulations at his discretion.

“All Schools in the Diocese of Fall River are subject to the policies of the Diocese of Fall River. The policy manuals of the Diocese of Fall River replace and supersede any contrary statement of policy, procedures, programs, or practices, including but not limited to, any such statement contained in any handbook or manual prepared by any school in the Diocese of Fall River”.

****These manuals are available to be read at the Catholic Education Center, 423 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720.**

RESOURCE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Al-Anon/Alateen	866-362-4427
Birthright (New Bedford)	508-996-6744
Catholic Social Services	508-674-4681
Family Resource Center	508-994-4521
New Bedford Crisis Center	508-996-3154
The Women's Center	508-999-6636
Samaritans Southcoast	866-508-HELP
Smokers Quit Line	1-800-QUIT-NOW



450 Highland Avenue Fall River, MA 02720
Telephone: 508-675-1311, ext. 6511 ~ Email: osecchancery@dioc-fr.org

SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS TO MINISTER/WORK/VOLUNTEER IN THE DIOCESE

THE ESSENTIAL THREE

All persons aged 18 and older must be approved by the Office of Safe Environment (OSE) prior to ministering, working, or volunteering in the Diocese. The approval process begins by completing the “Essential Three” as outlined in the Diocesan Policy for the Protection of the Faithful. For purposes of the Essential Three requirements, the term applicant is used.

1. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

All applicants will complete a CORI Acknowledgement Form which requests a clear copy of a valid, government-issued photo identification, provide 10 years of residency, and verification of the form by a Diocesan representative. If further steps are required in the processing of a criminal background check, and/or an issue arises regarding an adverse CORI, a representative of the Office of Safe Environment will contact the applicant. CORIs are conducted every three years for all who work, volunteer, or minister in the Diocese.

2. SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

All applicants must complete the Safe Environment Training. The training can be accessed on the Diocesan website at <https://www.fallriverdiocese.org/safe-environment/essential-three/>. The applicant must register online at CMG Connect under the Diocese of Fall River to begin the training if an account has never been created. If an account already exists, then log in using your credentials. Once the applicant is logged in, they will complete the required training with a Q&A session. Please note that these videos cover sensitive material. If anyone has any questions, please contact OSE. Training will be renewed every three (3) years or when directed by the OSE.

Spanish: On-line training is offered in Spanish. Please choose when registering. **Portuguese:** A written transcript of the safe environment training in Portuguese is available through OSE. **Hearing Impaired:** A written transcript for the safe environment training is available through OSE. **Live Training:** Please contact the OSE for this option. Each renewal you must take the next training module along with acknowledging a code of conduct.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

All applicants will be provided with a respective Safe Environment Code of Conduct. When taking the online training, the Code must be read and acknowledged online. All who minister, work or volunteer in the Diocese are always subject to a Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct does not expire; however, it will be acknowledged every (3) three years along with taking the next training module or when directed by the OSE.

Minors: (under the age of eighteen) are **not** required to complete the Essential Three. However, a minor who is an employee or a volunteer within the Diocese and is in contact with minors or vulnerable adults must be assigned to an “Essential Three” compliant adult to fulfill their obligations as an employee or volunteer. A minor together with the parent/guardian and respective Diocesan supervisor will sign a Diocesan Youth Code of Conduct each year. Once the applicant has attained eighteen years of age, and not enrolled in high school, they will be required to complete the Essential Three.

Each Diocesan facility, i.e. parish, school, or program, has a representative who can assist in the verification process of the CORI Acknowledgement Form. If you have any questions regarding CORI processing, please contact the Office of Safe Environment.